

KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7.30 P.M. THURSDAY, 26TH APRIL 2018 IN THE MAIN HALL, AT KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

1. PRESENT: Cllr. B.J. Trott (Chairman), Cllrs. Bolton, Collier, Dare, Jones, Hodges, Huscroft, Mear, Seward, Cty./Dist. Cllr. Chubb, the Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and 20 members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs. Seward.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS: The Chairman introduced the guest speakers, local residents Luke Reed and Richard Kern, whose topic was Renewable Energies Available for Households.

They explained that among factors making renewable energy attractive for many householders in the area were the lack of mains gas, the fact that power generated could not be stolen, the lack of carbon dioxide emissions and the reduction in dependence on imported fuel. Many people had seen renewable energy as an investment, especially in the early days when the Government was offering good incentives to encourage uptake, though the feed-in tariff will be phased out in 2019. The fact that modern houses are better insulated has also helped contribute to a 36% reduction in carbon emissions from the 1990 base line.

The speakers then described the 9 categories of sustainable energy, which included solar thermal, ground and air source heat pumps, biomass, rainwater harvesting and wind turbines. They then presented various case studies, using as the basis of comparison the amount of level of gas emission in terms of equivalent numbers of sheep. The speakers concluded their presentation by reflecting on the impact of the development of improved battery storage on the viability of renewable energy at a domestic level and then responded to questions from the audience.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers for a thought provoking and entertaining presentation.

Refreshments were taken at this point.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Cllr. Hodges, seconded by Cllr. Huscroft proposed that these be approved. Agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING: None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr. Trott said that among the Parish Council's activities during the past year had been the hosting of a coffee morning for newcomers to the village. A major undertaking as far as future planning development in the parish has been work on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Trott thanked Dr. Heather Gibbard, Chairman of the Steering Group, and her team as the process is one which requires much detailed work. The questionnaires had been analysed and the results will be presented at a meeting in June. He encouraged residents to attend this and put forward their views and comments. An on-going matter is the campaign to get a speed reduction on the A35. Cllr. Trott said that progress may seem to be very slow but there is some comfort to be had in the fact that Highways England are trying to take an approach which is consistent along the whole of the route.

Two new services of benefit to the community are the provision of a defibrillator, located at the village hall, and the imminent provision of a night landing site on the playing field for the Devon Air Ambulance. Both these initiatives have been supported by the Parish Council.

He concluded his report by thanking his fellow Councillors and residents for their help during the year.

8. PLAYING FIELD REPORT : Cllr. Bolton said that Cllr. Trott had covered the forthcoming night landing site. Other than that, he said that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. He said that

he would be standing down as Secretary after many decades and that Mrs. Gibbs would be taking over.

9. SCHOOL REPORT : Cllr. Jones began the report by stating that the school has 15 employees, 11 on the teaching side and 4 no-teaching staff. Some are full time but most are part-time. The current school roll is 100 and maximum permitted class size for ages 4-7 is 30. Funding is received on a per child basis. It is likely that the new intake in September will be 11.

Improvements made to the fabric of the building have resulted in welcome reductions in heating costs. Further works are planned for the summer holiday period such as re-pointing and replacement of soffits and fasciae.

The proposed purchase of the field will make a huge difference to the school once all arrangements have been completed. Village facilities such as the playing field, hall and church continue to be used for various school activities.

Inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times is still a regrettable problem, despite the existence of two large car parks. It might be time to consider the introduction of road markings to help the situation.

Support from the Parent Teacher and Friends Association continues to be much appreciated.

10. THE COMMON : The Clerk said that the Parish Council had gifted £138 worth of maintenance work to the Hitchcock Trust during the year, mainly in the form of grass cutting. During the coming year it was likely that some tree work would need to be done and the stakes put in position to prevent damage from vehicles replaced. Monitoring and treatment of invasive species continues.

11. WEBSITE REPORT: Cllr. Mear said that the web masters had reported that there had been 8,000 viewing sessions during the year. The most popular page is still the Gallery, followed by events, Village Hall and Parish Council. The average session lasts 2 minutes and 15 seconds.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cllr. Seward said that the Parish Council was working closely with the Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Heather Gibbard. He stressed the importance of completing a Neighbourhood Plan as it enables the residents of the village themselves to decide where new building/expansion is located rather than having it imposed by others.

13. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Cty. Cllr. Chubb reflected on his first year as a County Councillor in a ward covering 20 parish councils and said that he was involved in committees relating to public rights of way and employment appeals among other matters. As far as issues raised by his Parish Councils are concerned the main areas are highway matters, rural broadband, drains and speeding. He welcomed the fact that as a dual-hatted Councillor he now could have an influence where there is a cross-over between District and County responsibilities, such as waste collection and disposal.

14. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Dist. Cllr. Chubb said that he was in his eleventh year as a District Councillor and was a cabinet member for Corporate Services. He said that £2.5 million savings would need to be made. He said that the relocation from Knowle was under way and it was hoped that the new Honiton office would be operational by early 2019. He welcomed the fact that the new three-weekly general waste collection system was going well and said that a green waste option was being added in the current year.

15. FOOTPATH REPORT : Speaking on behalf of Mrs. Penzer, the Footpath Warden, Cllr. Dare said that during the past year the river bridge between Fordhayes and Clifthorne had been repaired and new finger posts installed at Marsh Farm and Fordhayes. Footpath 22 which links into the Axminster network is at risk from river erosion and re-routing may be needed. As usual, all the paths have been

surveyed over the winter and reports sent into the Public Rights of Way team at Devon County Council. Anyone wanting to report a matter of concern about footpaths should contact Mrs. Penzer on 01297 34287.

16. SPEED LIMIT AND ROAD SAFETY ON A35: Cllr. Collier reported that a meeting with Highways England had been held the previous week but no real progress had been made. They are trying to rationalise the approach to speed limits on the section from Honiton to Hunters Lodge and so were not concentrating on Kilmington's specific issues.

17. PUBLIC FORUM : the following were among issues raised from the floor:

a) The loss of a Devon Bank during the development of a site within the village and the need for the contents of the Parish Plan to be re-enforced.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.