

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL held in the **Village Hall**
on **Tuesday, 16th February, 2010** at **7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: H.Tennant (Chairman) Mrs.D.Troake (Vice Chairman) Mrs. D.Burrough, Miss S.Little, R.Steele, A.Tasker, J.Wallace and N.Yool and 2 Parishioners.

APOLOGIES: K.Pearse, Councillor A.Moulding, Councillor P.Diviani, PCSO Amanda Jones

1. **THE MINUTES** of the Meeting of 4th January, 2010 were confirmed and signed as correct.
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
Local Government Reorganisation – Government had decided not to implement a unitary authority for Devon, but had granted Exeter unitary status.
Letter from Mark Williams, EDDC Chief Executive, thanking Membury PC for our support.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
Devon CC - Mobile Library consultation – it was felt a good service was being provided.
EDDC - Recycling scheme to be extended to the rest of the Parish in March.
Blackdown Hills 'Making it Local' grant application workshops.
Devon & Cornwall Police – Liaison Meeting Axminster 25th February.
EDF - intention to charge £23.21 monthly in addition to minimal electricity cost – Clerk to ask for light to be disconnected.
4. **PLANNING**
Crawley Farm – following the report of a burst slurry pipe and alleged unauthorised closure of James's Lane, the Clerk had obtained the following responses:
Devon C.C. : the road closure was unauthorised.
EDDC : not an enforcement issue – refer to Environment Agency.
Environment Agency : visited Mr. Dyer – “he is under no illusions how important it is that he complies with all the relevant legislation”.
E.A. asked for improvements to be made and will re-inspect shortly. No means of enforcing the emptying of the lagoon by gravity pipeline.

Blackmores – Planning Officer Paul Golding had made several site visits – EDDC considered the development to be “completely unacceptable” but that “it would not be expedient to take enforcement action to remove the unauthorised works because it is not significantly different from that previously approved”. EDDC had suggested a possible compromise including landscaping and “the complete removal of the dogleg staircase” It was felt that the glass panels should be replaced by the ballustrading shown in the application plans.
Old Orchard Bungalow, Waterhouse Lane – EDDC Enforcement Notice issued on 10th February. Landowner should comply by 19th April.

4. Planning continued.....

Parish Council Sub-Committee site visit – Rock Mill.

3 conditions of approval were suggested.

(i) the roof line of the new dwelling should be subservient to the existing.

(ii) the northern elevation should be constructed of stone, not render.

(iii) the roadside beech hedge should be retained at at least its present height.

Councillors did not feel qualified to comment on the more technical internal alterations to the listed building but noted that the work already undertaken appeared to be of a high standard.

Vercoe, Goodmans – alterations (LBC)

The Planning Sub-Committee had no objections to the internal alterations but felt that the proposed velux windows were inappropriate.

Councillor Steele asked why there were objections to the proposed velux windows at Goodmans but not those at Rock Mill. It was felt that these features were potentially more damaging to the classic proportions of Goodmans, but Councillors agreed that there was a need for consistency.

EDDC had arranged a Local Development Framework and Section 106 meeting for local Parish Councils in Membury Village Hall on Tuesday, 16th March at 6.30 p.m. Clerk to ascertain whether we are able to provide refreshments.

It was reported that an agricultural building was under construction at Challenger Farm without planning permission.

5. FINANCE

				£
Payments for Approval				
584	D. Warner	-	Footpaths	100.00
585	J. Wallace	-	Footpaths	105.00
586	Hall hire			44.00
587	N. Yool	-	Clerks expenses	21.30
588	Axe Valley Ring and Ride			50.00
589	Devon Air Ambulance			100.00
590	Citizen's Advice Bureau			25.00
591	Membury Mercury			350.00
592	K. Pearse	-	Playing field rent	20.00
Balance 31 st January 2009				
General Funds (including Clerk salary contingency)				7,574.89
Footpaths				2,217.76
Parish Plan				287.02
Flood Grant				<u>632.84</u>
				10,712.51

Clerk to attend a DAPC Training Course on risk assessment, preparing for audit, assessment of Internal Auditor etc. on 15th March.

6. HIGHWAYS

Devon CC Highway Superintendent had reported that potholes throughout Devon would be repaired on a priority basis according to road category. Unfortunately most of Membury's lanes were of the lowest category and he could not say when these would be repaired. He suggested that the Parish Council could ask for certain roads – e.g. James's Lane – to be upgraded.

Grit bin to be moved from Waterhouse Lane to Membury Court entrance.
Clerk had received a complaint regarding a child falling off her bicycle in James's Lane because of a pothole.

Problems to be reported to Devon C.C.

James's Lane potholes (again)

Deep pothole near the overhead powerlines on the Membury - Axminster Road.
Clerk to drive his car into the deepest one, take photographs and send them to the local TV station and press if the County Council failed to take action.
It was agreed to invite the County Council Highways official to explain the position at the next Parish Council Meeting.

7. FOOTPATHS

Annual return completed by Mr. Warner and Clerk and sent to Devon C.C.

Mr. Watkins had now taken over from Mr. Warner as Warden.

Clerk had contacted Devon C.C. re FP44 landslip – they had still not sent an engineer to look at it.

Damaged footbridges on FP12 reported to Devon C.C.

Mr. Watkins reported that the footpaths notice board in the car park was badly damaged by water and that Mr. Foster had volunteered to replace it. It was agreed that the costs should be met from the footpaths budget. Mr. Watkins raised the issue of re-opening Bond's Lane but Councillors agreed that flood prevention was of a higher priority.

8. PLAYING FIELD

Mr. Stevenson had obtained a quote for the safety surface:

Pressure washing safety surface	£1,108.00
Wet pour repair	£1,776.00

It was agreed that there were no funds available for this at present. It was felt that an attempt should be made to reconstitute the Playing Field Committee. Clerk to write Mercury article.

9. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Councillor Tasker had prepared a Flood Risk report and arranged a meeting with Environmental Agency and EDDC officials on 23rd February at 10 a.m.

The alarm system had been installed and was working although a comprehensive test was needed.

The Clerk was authorised to pay the expected invoice from Simon Duff Engineering for the alarm system by the end of February, the deadline for an EA/EDDC grant.

Councillor Tasker was thanked for all his hard work.

10. WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Tennant reported a change of approach to raising funds for repairs. He felt Parishioners should be given the opportunity to contribute and would write a Mercury article accordingly.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Assessment of Internal Auditor
Quaker Burial Ground
Annual Parish Meeting agenda, format and speaker.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

30th March
27th April (Annual Parish Meeting)
18th May (Annual General Meeting)
6th July
17th August
5th October
23rd November

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Foster reported that grit bins in the parish were in a poor state of repair. Clerk to compile a list and report to the County Council.