

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the Village Hall on Tuesday,
19th April, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT H.Tennant (Parish Council Chairman), 6 Parish Councillors, Devon CC
Councillor A.Moulding, EDDC Councillor P.Diviani and 38 Parishioners

APOLOGIES: Mrs. D.Byrde, Mr. & Mrs. B.Friend, Mrs. J.Hawkins, Mr. & Mrs. R.
Thomas and PCSO Amanda Jones

1. THE MINUTES of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2010 were confirmed and signed as correct.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Copies of the Parish Council's response to the Local Development Framework consultation were available from the Clerk.

3. FLOOD WARNING SIREN

Mr. A.Tasker outlined the current situation:-

After the flood in December 2008 which damaged several properties in the parish, the Parish Council set up a Committee to ascertain what had happened and what could be done to lower flood risk in the future.

After meetings with various officials a "filterstrip" was planted which, it was hoped, would slow the flow of floodwater. Householders affected were encouraged to improve their defences. It was felt that an alarm was needed and a simple ring around system had been set up. This was battery operated and required regular checking.

3 options were put to the meeting:

- (i) do nothing
- (ii) an Environment Agency maintained and funded siren in the car park.
- (iii) Parish Council to install sirens at intervals along the street.

Concerns had been raised regarding the possibility of the 141 dB EA siren causing damage to hearing.

Questions were asked about the siting of the sensor and how much time would the warning give. It was felt that this would vary with the intensity of rainfall.

Mr. J.Tuck suggested that householders could be prepared to contribute to the cost of a flood prevention landscaping scheme.

A show of hands indicated that 14 might be willing. It was pointed out that floodwater comes from both sides of the valley as well as down Bond's Lane.

Miss S. Little was concerned that people might be exposed to danger if they emerged from their homes when they heard the siren. It was agreed that everyone must know what to do and what not to do.

FLOOD WARNING continued.....

4 votes were taken:

Proposed Mr. C. Symington

Seconded Mrs. A. Tennant

That option (ii) should be adopted – an EA maintained and funded siren in the car park.

39 for 2 against

Proposed Mrs. R. Robson

Seconded Mr. C. Symington

That the sensor be placed at 75% of the height of the hump at the bottom of Bond's Lane.

39 for 1 against

Proposed Mr. N. Yool

Seconded Mr. R. Martin

That the EA be asked to incorporate a telephone autodialler

43 for 0 against

Proposed Mrs. S. Wallace

Seconded Dr. D. Jaffe

That the siren should NOT be “soft start”

11 for 23 against

Mr. D. Yapp reported that the EA had 3 levels of river flooding alerts. Insurance premiums could be reduced if flooding was prevented.

Mr. P. Castell said that WW2 sirens had a fluctuating note which was effective.

Mr. K. Hosking reported that the EA had told him that such sirens would not penetrate double glazing.

Mr. H. Tennant stressed that self-help was the key and that people should listen to weather forecasts.

Mr. J. Wallace proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Tasker for all his work on this issue.

4. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION/UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION VOTING SYSTEM REFERENDUM

Parishioners were reminded of the polls on 5th May.

A presentation was made to Mr. J. Wallace who was not standing for re-election after many years as a Councillor and Chairman.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Written reports were received from Councillors Andrew Moulding (Devon CC) and Paul Diviani (EDDC), Harry Tennant (Parish Council Chairman), John Stevenson (Playing Field Committee Chairman), Robbi Robson (Village Hall Committee Secretary), John Watkins (Footpath Warden), Richard Barrell (Merrymakers Chairman) and PCSO Amanda Jones.

REPORTS continued.....

Mr. D.Dodd thought that the date of formation mentioned in the Merrymakers report might have been incorrect.

Mr. J.Wallace said that the alarm/padlocks mentioned in PCSO Jones's report were available at the village shop at the cost price of £7.00p.

6. PARISH PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW

Protection of landscape features – many roadside hedgebanks had been damaged.

Footpaths – high standard achieved by the diligence of the Footpath Warden.

Highway maintenance – many potholes after the severe winter.

- James's Lane surface very poor.

Affordable housing - necessary to establish demand.

Local economy – essential to use and support the Village Shop.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. D.Dodd suggested the formation of a Membury Website Committee to gather information and decide how to use it.

A slide which had been removed from the playing field was auctioned and raised £65 for playing field funds.

Mr. J.Wallace proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council Chairman, Councillors and Clerk.