

**MINUTES OF MEMBURY'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in the **Village Hall**  
on **Tuesday, 24th April, 2012** at **7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** H.Tennant (Parish Council Chairman), County Councillor A.Moulding,  
District Councillor P. Diviani and 36 parishioners.

**APOLOGIES:** P.C.S.O. Amanda Wooster

**1. THE MINUTES** of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April, 2011 were confirmed and signed as correct,

**2. MATTERS ARISING**  
Flood Warning Siren - see Item 3

**3. FLOOD PREVENTION and SIREN** - Mr. A. Tasker

Mr. Tasker explained that the Parish Council had been considering 3 stages:

(i) short term : to encourage "self help" whereby householders improve the flood defences on their own properties.

(ii) Siren and autodialler :  
Siren should be commissioned a few days after this meeting. It will start with a verbal warning.  
Automatically reset.  
There will be keyholders to deactivate the system.  
Same sensor will activate the autodialler - 10 numbers.  
Recipients of these calls to alert other designated householders.  
The old original system now obsolete.  
Emergency Plan to be submitted for approval at next Parish Council Meeting.  
6 Flood Wardens proposed - only they should be outside during flooding.  
They will be covered by Parish Council insurance.

(iii) Long term solutions :  
Various landscaping schemes had been considered which could reduce the effects of flash flooding.  
A "filter strip" of shrubs and young trees had been planted in the watercourse above Bond's Lane.  
A holding pond below Challenger Farm had been considered but might not be very effective.  
There had been a suggestion of a 2 foot pipe to divert water into a nearby chalk pit - but such a pipe could easily block.

An Environment Agency officer had undertaken a LIDAR survey, checking contours to assess holding capacity.

The main problem was a lack of funding - a quote for one project under consideration was £9,000, 4 years ago. Some householders indicated a willingness to contribute.

**4. DEVON OIL COLLECTIVE** - Mr. N.Yool

Mr. Yool outlined a purchasing scheme which should greatly reduce the cost of heating oil. Anyone interested should contact him.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS**

Written reports were received from the following:

County Councillor Andrew Moulding  
District Councillor Paul Diviani  
Parish Council Chairman Harry Tennant  
Police Community Support Officer Amanda Wooster  
Merrymaker's Chairman Richard Barrell  
Footpath Warden John Watkins  
Tree Warden Roger Clemens

Chairman of Membury School Governors Marilyn Burrough gave a verbal report.

## **6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARISH PLAN**

The Parish Council had made some progress with many of the aims and suggested actions contained in the 2006 report. The notable exception was the aim "to improve the standard of highway maintenance" Despite constant pressure being applied to the County Council, damage caused by the severe winter had resulted in an unacceptable decline in the standard of Membury's roads.

## **7. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. J.Wallace asked why planning applications were no longer advertised in the local press. Councillor Diviani explained that EDDC was no longer required to advertise all applications but said they would continue to do so for those considered to be the most important, for example where listed buildings were involved.

Mr. R. Barrell, Merrymakers Chairman, outlined the proposed celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 4th June.

Mr. R.Martin said that he was in the process of arranging a First Aid Course.

There was considerable discussion regarding an incident whereby a Membury resident had been detained under the Mental Health Act after attacking a police car with an axe. It was felt that the individual concerned, and the wider community, had been let down by the authorities who had ignored warnings from parishioners of the deterioration in his behaviour.

The Parish Council was asked to write to the Mental Health authorities in Devon to ask what changes they had made to their procedures in the light of this case.

Mr. J.Wallace proposed a vote of thanks to Parish, County and District Councillors.