

## Membury Parish Council

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### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Membury Village Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** D Burrough (Parish Council Chairman), Stephanie Jones (Clerk) and 39 Parishioners.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Andrew Moulding (Devon CC). Cllr Paul Diviani (EDDC), Cllr L Warren PCSO Hayley Widger and Mrs S Bell.

**1. Welcome and introduction by Councillor Mrs Deborah Burrough**

Cllr Debbie Burrough opened the meeting and welcomed all who had attended. As PCSO Widger was unable to attend the meeting Cllr Burrough read out part of her report concerning an incident which occurred on 31/3/16 where damaged was done by a large vehicle or tractor to a hedge and stone wall at a property in Membury. PCSO Widger also stated in her report that she will attend local events to offer crime prevention advice or any other help.

**2. The Minutes** of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

No questions or comments were raised relating to the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting.

**4. Police Report**

A written report was received from PCSO Hayley Widger. Jeremy Wallace asked whether the incident mentioned in her report was the one which occurred at Webble Green and was informed that it was.

**5. Report from County Councillor Andrew Moulding**

A written report was received from Councillor Andrew Moulding. No questions or comments were raised relating to his report.

**6. Report from District Councillor Paul Diviani**

A written report was received from Councillor Paul Diviani. No questions or comments were raised relating to his report.

**7. Report from the Parish Council Chairman Councillor Deborah Burrough**

Cllr Burrough reported that nine councillors were elected onto the Parish Council at last year's election with six of them being new to the Council. After the resignation of the last Parish Clerk, Sarah Tennant, Stephanie Jones was appointed as the new clerk in July. Details were given of the planning applications validated and decided from April 2015 to March 2016. Cllr Burrough announced that Jeanette Tuck, the Internal Auditor, had decided to retire and thanked her for all her work over the past few years. Cllr Burrough reported that a new internal auditor had been found to replace Jeanette. East Devon District Council (EDDC) had adopted their New Local Plan at a

Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were thanked for all their hard work, especially Alex Tasker. Cllr Burrough also thanked the Clerk and all the Parish Councillors for their support and help in dealing with their council duties during the year.

**8. Consideration of all other reports.**

Written reports were received from the following:

Alex Tasker (Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group), Simon Foster on behalf of Jason Hawkes (Flood Warden), Roger Clemens (Membury Tree Warden), Tracey Leganski- Senior Teacher (Acorn Multi Academy-Membury Community Primary School), Molly Barrell (The Membury Mercury), Nigel Cook (Membury Merry-makers), Richard Barrell (Membury Village Hall), Joy Yapp (Membury Playing Field), Robbi Robson (History Society) and PCSO Hayley Widger (Police Community Support Officer- Axminster Neighbourhood). No questions or comments were raised relating to these reports

**9. Budget, Precept and Council Tax for 2016/17**

Cllr Barrell reported that the Council Tax for the year 2016/17 had increased for a Band D property in Membury by 4% and the Parish Councils' portion was an increase from £17 per year to £26 per year. The reason for this was twofold. Firstly, the Council was now having to pay the Clerk. In the past Nick Yool had not charged the Council for doing the work of the Clerk, but now, like every other Parish Council, Membury was having to pay for a clerk. Money had been put aside and only a third of the clerks' salary for this year had had to be passed onto parishioners. However, as funds decrease more will have to be added to the precept over the coming years to pay for a clerk, but the Council will keep this as small as possible. Secondly, there is a lack of funds being devolved from the Government to County and District Councils and therefore less to Parish Councils. This coming year the Parish Council will have to cover the costs of two elections (Police & Crime Commissioner & the EU Referendum). Also, road maintenance has been devolved to Parish Councils, but without the funding. Therefore, the precept has had to increase in line with other Parish Councils. Cllr Barrell was thanked for his report.

**10. Neighbourhood Plan**

Alex Tasker gave the meeting an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan to date. He thanked all who had attended the consultation event held in the Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Neil Parish MP had come along to the consultation and had taken away two draft copies of the Neighbourhood Plan, one of which he intended to give to Greg Clark, Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government. Around 30% of the Parish had attended this event which included some younger parishioners. Everyone who attended was asked to complete a questionnaire indicating whether they were in favour of the Plan or not. Alex emphasised the fact that it was vitally important that the Neighbourhood Plan could demonstrate that it had the backing of the parish. The reason for this was the parish were asking for a small amount of development over the lifetime of the Plan which was contrary to what East Devon District Council were stating for the parish in the Adopted Local Plan 2013 – 2031. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were arguing that the Plan reflected the views of parishioners and that was the essence of the Plan. The Plan also reflected what the Government wanted i.e. that local people had control of their locality. The rate of development being asked for in the Neighbourhood Plan was of a similar rate as that in the past. If the parish was not allowed any development it would stagnate. Membury was not the only parish in this position. There followed a discussion with a number of questions being asked. At the end of the discussion Jeremy Wallace proposed that a mandate was given to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group asking them to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan as, so far, most respondents to the questionnaire were in favour of continuing with the production of the Plan. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Richard Barrell. When put to the vote the majority attending the meeting were in favour of the mandate. Alex Tasker was thanked for his report and the continuing work he and the Steering Group were doing on the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 11. Public Forum

Ron Martin asked what was happening about emptying the tough. Cllr Debbie Burrough replied that there had not been a Parish Council meeting since they last spoke and because of the costs involved she would take it to a future Parish Council meeting. Ron said that a plan should be put into operation to empty it on a regular basis. Jeremy Wallace reported that he had been asked to look at the sump and currently it did not need emptying. It had already been emptied twice over the winter period.

Alex Tasker asked if the Parish Council could take up with Devon County Council Highways why they were trying to repair the dislodged pipe that was coming down into the village. Two attempts had been made to rectify the situation, but it had not improved. Instead of the water running down the side and into the storm drain, as it used to before Highways put their engineering work in, it now went round the front of the Post Office and into the village. These works had made the situation worse. Bill Foster reported that he had spoken to the Highways Engineer and there was a stone which was blocking the pipe and Highways would return at a later date to repair the pipe.

Cllr Richard Barrell asked what the position was regarding getting a defibrillator for the parish. This had not been progressed any further since last years' Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Barrell suggested that it was looked into again. A discussion took place into the merits of having a defibrillator and what would be involved. Cllr Debbie Burrough said it could be brought to a meeting of the Parish Council. Ron Martin said that he was asked to look into getting one about eighteen months to two years ago by Harry Tennant and Nick Yool. He said a defibrillator was a fantastic piece of equipment, but he had concerns over the logistics of having one. Where would it be kept? There was talk about having a dedicated team for the defibrillator, but if the parish decided on this option there needed to be two people on call to deal with any cases needing the defibrillator. For people living in the outlying parts of the parish it would be quicker to call the emergency services. Ron was thanked for his advice on this matter.

Alex Tasker asked what was happening with the wall at Star Cross which was damaged last March by a Morrisons lorry. Nobody knew who owned the wall so it was still in a state of disrepair. Cllr Debbie Burrough said that the Council would try and look into finding out who owned the wall and then getting it repaired.

Cllr Debbie Burrough read out to the meeting a proposed resolution on planning applications which had been written and proposed by Cllr Bill Foster and seconded by Jeremy Wallace. The resolution read 'Bearing in mind the Home Secretary's remarks about the need for transparency and respect for the Electorate, this assembly calls on East Devon District Council to show its respect by publishing every planning application in local newspapers as well as notifying affected neighbours'. Planning applications used to be advertised in the local paper (Midweek Herald), but this stopped and people in the parish were saying that they did not know what planning applications had been submitted. Cllr Debbie Burrough reported that during the last year she had put notices up in the Post Office and on one other noticeboard of all planning applications validated for the parish by East Devon District Council. It was suggested that residents in the parish should be made aware of how planning applications were advertised. Concern was raised that not everyone in the parish had access to the internet and not all neighbours were notified of applications. A discussion took place as to whether the newspaper was the best place to advertise planning applications. A suggestion was made that perhaps it may be better if the district council ensured that neighbours within a certain perimeter of the application site were notified of any applications which might affect them. Harry Tennant thought that the current system should remain in place as due to the economic climate the district council would say that the current system was a more economic use of ratepayer's money. Mike Bell thought the district council should review the way that residents were notified of applications and a simpler and less complicated system should be sought to notify residents of all planning applications in their neighbourhood. Cllr Phil Pearse said that if the district council were to advertise all planning applications in the district it would take up too much space in

a newspaper. Cllr Debbie Burrough was in favour of the proposal but thought realistically it would not be achievable. She said that the Parish Council would put this proposal on the agenda for the next meeting.

**12. Chairman's concluding remarks**

Closing the meeting the Chairman, Cllr Debbie Burrough, said there had been a fair discussion on all the topics raised during the meeting and the Parish Council would follow these up at their next meeting. She thanked Jeremy and Sharon Wallace for providing the refreshments and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and showing an interest in the Parish Council.

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**

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