

BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday, 19th May 2009

at 7:30 The Parish Room, Buckland Newton

Present: Trevor Marpole, Nicki Barker, Alan Foot (AJF), Andy Foot (ARF), Mark Needham, Chris Osmond, Andrew Stone, Doug Morse

1. Apologies: Stephen White

2. Welcome by Chairman:

Cllr Marpole welcomed electors to the meeting.

3. Matters raised by Electors

3.1 Concerns were expressed regarding the development of the field adjacent to the Duntish crossroads, particularly with the continued presence of the containers. Cllr Barker will ask the Enforcement Officer to visit the site again to check when they will be removed.

3.2 Comments were made about the gateway put up by the village sign several months ago. Unfortunately the County Council have asked for its removal as they do not approve of the design.

Several residents are in favour of keeping a gateway as it was felt that it has helped reduce traffic speeds.

Cosmore residents have applied to the County Council to request something similar on the C12. *Parish Clerk to get in touch with Mr Richard Stubbs at DCC to establish what design of gateway would be approved.*

3.3 Chris Burnett enquired about the possibility of a community orchard in the village on part of the land being used for allotments.

The Parish Council had no objections to this idea but suggested consultation with the Allotment Association.

3.4 Various comments were expressed regarding the Conservation Area Consultation particularly regarding areas of interest within the village that it was felt should be included such as the water meadows, watercress beds, hedgerows and trees.

Cllr Barker advised that residents concerns would be taken into account and Cllr Stone offered to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to support the inclusion of other areas of interest within the conservation area.

3.5 Speed limits on certain roads within the village were discussed particularly Hilling Lane and Knapps Hill. However previous requests for reduction of the speed limits in these areas had not proved successful. The Parish Council would continue to note people's concerns and will contact highways again in the future.

3.6 Pam Lewis commented on the cutting back of the verge between Rose Villa and the Gagle of Geese. The verge had been covered in bluebells and other spring flowers and it was felt that highways had arranged the trimming back too early in the season. *Parish Clerk to do letter.*

Also mentioned was the mulch mowing of the churchyard as this appears to be having a detrimental effect on the wild flowers. *Parish clerk to do letter to the District Council asking whether grass cuttings could be collected at this time of year.*

4. Allotments

4.1 The draft Tenancy Agreement for the allotment land has been received for the Parish Council's approval.

Following a consultation with the Allotment Association, the Parish Clerk will write a letter outlining points of concern.

Once the final agreement has been approved, a further agreement will be drawn up between the Parish Council and the Allotment Association.

5. Play Area Improvements

5.1 The application for funding is progressing well. The steering committee will be having a meeting in June with representatives from the funding group as they require answers to several questions before proceeding further.

5.2 Following this meeting, the Parish Council will need to write to confirm their approval of the plans. It was suggested that members of the Parish Council and the steering committee need to meet up to mark out the boundaries for the new play area. *Cllr Stone will speak to Louise Trowbridge.*

6. Affordable Housing

6.1 Progress is now being made and the Homes and Communities Agency has provisionally pre-qualified the Trust's application for a grant.

6.2 Affordable Housing Trustees are to meet to discuss putting out a tender for the works, hopefully within the next month.

6.3 Some properties will be rented and some on a part equity scheme but this is an exception site and therefore has to remain affordable in perpetuity and properties cannot be bought outright.

7. Other Matters

The Parish Council raised a vote of thanks to Chris Burnett for erecting the Parish Room sign.

Next meeting Tuesday, 9th June 2009 at 8:00pm, Parish Room

Signed: _____

Date: _____