

EAST HARPTREE PARISH.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21st APRIL 2015.

Present: Mike Jennings (Chair), Paul Waldron, Liz Woodhatch, Andrew Jones, Stuart Jagger, Time Warren, Peter King and two others. Alan Butcher (Parish Clerk) took the minutes.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of the last meeting (22nd April 2014) were not available at the meeting.

Chairman's Report:

The Parish Council began the year with a full quota of councillors. During the year John Langhorn left the council with Andrew Jones being co-opted as a new Councillor in January 2015. Pauline Young resigned as clerk and left the council in September. She was warmly thanked by councillors for her service and gifted flowers. She was replaced from the September meeting on by Alan Butcher from Priddy.

The council were consulted by ANES on 14 planning applications during the year, one more than the previous year. The applications included two larger applications for dwellings at Pinkers Farm and land behind Yearten House in Water Street. The Pinkers Farm application was refused but the council has recently received a presentation about revised proposals for the site. The council also received a presentation about the development of eight houses off of Water Street and subsequently considered an application for the site. Following objections the application was withdrawn.

The Parish Council monitors parish highways and byways and reports problems and defects to the local authority highways department. As well as potholes, there have been several instances of blocked drains and gullies which cause local flooding. The Parish Sweeping Agreement remains in place and Paul Sperring continues to do an excellent job in this regard.

The stage 1 Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan has been completed and submitted to BANES and follow up comments and corrections made as necessary. Councillors remain concerned about some aspects of the summary of the plan prepared by BANES and are seeking to clarify these points. They are also concerned that the plan identifies a requirement of 10 – 15 homes whilst current and anticipated proposals could take this figure nearer to 25 homes. Parish Councillors continue to be involved with the evolving Chew Valley Area Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillors have also dealt with matters included the status of the village defibrillator where consideration is being given for the replacement of the current machine which is non-operational. The provision of high speed broadband has also been a matter of

concern as current plans indicate that a larger part of the village will not receive the speeds suggested.

During the year a number of administrative documents such as standing orders have been updated and a new website established which gives details of meeting minutes, financial information, councillors interests, etc. The council continues to support the playing field financially and has given a number of smaller grants in support of local organisations. The Parish Council received its requested precept as well as the government subsidy at the start of the year.

With an election due this year, I would like to thank councillors for their work and assistance during the year.

Peter King.

Other Matters: No other matters were raised.