

EAST HARPTREE PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 17th MAY 2016.

Present: Peter King (Chair), Mike Jennings, Andrew Jones, John Darvill, Paul Waldron, Peter and Nicola Haigh and Alan Butcher (Parish Clerk) who took the minutes.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2016 were read by the clerk and agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report:

The following report was read out by Peter King:

The May 2015 election was uncontested with three councillors, Peter King, Mike Jennings and Andrew Jones putting their names forward. Following the election two further councillors, John Darvill and Paul Waldron were co-opted onto the council. Peter King was elected as chairman with Mike Jennings as vice chairman. There are still two vacancies which the Parish Council has been trying to fill but without success. Alan Butcher continued as clerk during the year.

A total of 16 planning applications were considered during the year with the proposed 8 dwellings at Water Street finally being approved by BANES. Recently, the Parish Council has considered applications for sites with 2 and 5 dwellings respectively in Church Lane. The application for 2 dwellings was withdrawn and the Parish Council objected to the proposal for 5 dwellings. The Parish Council also supported an application for agricultural buildings at Pinkers Farm.

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.

After a great deal of work from councillors the Place making Plan was submitted to BANES and is process of adoption. Concerns expressed last year about the level of development in East Harptree were allayed following correspondence with BANES and it was agreed that the application granted for the 8 dwellings at Water Street would

count toward the designated 10 – 15 dwellings included in the plan. The Parish Council has responded to the West of England Joint Spatial Strategy and is aware of the need for Bristol to increase the number of homes to be built over the next 20 years, the location of which has not been determined.

The Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan is now in draft and out for consultation with the referendum proposed for early 2017. Councillors have worked hard to incorporate East Harptree's requirements into the plan and have attended many meetings in the regard.

Following discussions with Clive Setter, the existing defibrillator on the wall of The Theatre was refurbished at no cost to the Parish by Clive Setter. The Parish Council agreed to purchase another machine via BANES to be sited at The Pavilion and this is now up and running.

The website continues to give 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. I would like to thank councillors for their work and assistance during the year.

Peter King.

Any Other Business.

Peter Haigh thanked the Parish Council for their continuing support for the Playing Field.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm