

EAST HARP TREE PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 0796 8644 976

Email: eastharptreeclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council meeting held on 22nd April 2014 at 7.30pm in East Harptree Theatre

Present: - Chairman Mr Peter King, Councillors Mr Mike Jennings, Mrs Elizabeth Woodhatch, Mr Paul Waldron, Mr John Langhorn, Mr Stuart Jagger and District Councillor Tim Warren (until 20.00 hours)

APM 47. Apologies

Councillors Mr Peter King and Mr John Langhorn

APM 48. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2013

They were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

APM 49. Chairman's report.

The Chairman's report was distributed to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The report was shown to the two members of the public present. The report contained the following:-

Councillors

The East Harptree Parish Council began the year in April 2013 with the full quota of seven Councillors. There have been no changes to the Parish Councillors

Planning Applications

B&NES Development and Control consult the Parish Council for comments on planning applications in the village and those just outside the parish. From April 2013 to March 2014, the Council reviewed 13 planning applications (including tree works). This is a decrease of 2 on last year.

Highways Maintenance Matters

The Council monitor and report to the appropriate authority, all highways and maintenance issues. The Council are very concerned that there are a number of dangerous trees in the village that could pose a danger by falling. The Council have debated what can be done and the difficulty in knowing when a tree is liable to fall. The Council contacted the B&NES Arbourculturst who stated his limited position other than notifying landowners. The Council have recently put an open letter in the Chew Valley Gazette and Parish News, asking parishioners to be aware of trees owned by them. The very poor condition of the roads has also been brought to the attention of B&NES.

Parish Ranger

B&NES have started a Parish Ranger trial scheme in the Chew Valley area. The idea is that the Parish Ranger undertakes minor highway problems. This should be a quicker process than going through the normal channels in B&NES. The Clerk should be contacted if there are any problems and she can advise the Parish Ranger directly.

Road Sweeping

The Parish Council remain part of the Parish Sweeping Agreement. Mr Paul Sperring is doing an excellent job as Parish Sweeper.

Affordable Housing

Last year Guinness Hermitage offered to assist with the Parish Council's pursuance for affordable housing in the village, taking over from English Rural Housing. After discussions, Guinness Hermitage and the Council looked at possible sites in the village. There were a number of problems, one being that certain of number of houses would require cross subsidy. One site was offered by an owner if his farming land could be replaced. None of these options were found to be feasible by the Council and they left the matter with Guinness Hermitage stating that the East Harptree Parish Council support 9 affordable houses with no cross subsidy. They have not heard anything on the matter since.

Cores Strategy and Placemaking Plan

The Council and members of the public have been very active in assessing and producing site assessments for B&NES Placemaking Plan team. The final documents can be found on the Parish Council website. The Council at present are putting together as one document, the several character and landscape assessments received from some of the Councillors and the public.

Chew Valley Area Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council have elected to become part of the Chew Valley Area Neighbourhood Plan and 2 Parish Councillors have volunteered to become representatives to be part of the process of completing the Neighbourhood Plan. This is very much in its early stages.

Finance

The Clerk is also the Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer. The Clerk produces quarterly accounts for the Council to review and sign, as well as prepare the End of Year accounts. The End of Year Accounts is reviewed by an independent Internal Auditor before being sent to the External Auditor. Last year the accounts successfully passed inspection.

This year, the government provided a grant to local authorities to assist in the Council Tax. B&NES passed this on to town and parish councils. The Council are forewarned that that this grant may not be available next year.

Finally

I wish to thank the Councillors who volunteer their time in the valuable work as a Parish Councillor and of course our Clerk

APM 50. Councillors' (representatives) reports on other village organisations.
School Governors - Councillor Elizabeth Woodhatch reported to the Council that the school will have a new Head Teacher starting in September 2014. All is going well.
Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee – Councillor Elizabeth Woodhatch reported that they are working well together they have a new treasurer
Councillor Paul Waldron reported that the club rarely have meetings.
Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan – This has only recently been formed.
Charities – Chairman Peter King reported that they have a new Chairman, the last Chairman Charles Hill sadly passed away

APM 51. Open discussion

No comment from the members of the public present

APM 52. Any other business

None

End of Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman

Clerk