

## EXBOURNE WITH JACOBSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2015 AT EXBOURNE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 p.m.**

Those present were Cllrs Luxton (Chairman), Blakeman and Cllr Mrs. R. Williams.

Lois Samuels and Louise Watts, the recently elected Borough Councillors for the Exbourne Ward, were also present.

There were six members of the public present.

**Apologies:** Cllr Lawson, who is away. His apology was accepted.

Two members of the public sent their apologies.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting – May 28<sup>th</sup> 2014**

A member of the public asked for copies of the minutes. He has not seen them on website or notice boards. The clerk stated there was only the one copy here this evening so it was not possible to let everyone have a copy. It was agreed to read them out. The member of the public also stated that the correct notice was not given for the Annual Parish Meeting. It should be seven days and this does not include the day of putting them up, the day of the meeting and nor weekends or Bank Holidays. The clerk stated for ordinary meeting the minimum is three days. The member of the public stated as the correct notice had not been given then the meeting was illegal. The chairman read out the minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr Blakeman that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Cllr Williams.

**The Chairman delivered his report.** The election concluded this year and Councillors Weeks and Glanville both decided not to seek re-election. The chairman thanked both of them for their commendable service.

The finances of the parish council are sound. Future potential spending has been ring fenced and as sensible contingency budget has been maintained. The chairman thanked the councillors for adopting cautious spending controls, the clerk and the Internal Auditor Ms. Fiona Rook.

The chairman thanked his fellow councillors for their unpaid efforts in undertaking the responsibilities on behalf of the community that they represent.

Planning continues to be a major part of our responsibilities.

Throughout the last year Borough Councillor Trevor Hill has been present at our meetings and when required has made representations to West Devon Borough Council. Sadly he has also decided to step down. He will be missed and on behalf of this council I express our sincere thanks for his assistance and guidance throughout his term of office.

Due to boundary changes we now have two new Borough Councillors and we look forward to meeting with them.

Highway matters remain high on the list of concerns. Certain successes have been achieved through our representation, but importantly we continue to maintain a good working relationship with these authorities. The chairman expressed grateful thanks to James McInnes, Devon County Councillor for the Hatherleigh and Chagford Ward..

The chairman then thanked Steve Attfield and Tim Laws, who are the councils two P3 Co-ordinators. The chairman is a frequent user of the footpaths and wished to convey his thanks to them for maintaining the rights of way to such a high standard.

The chairman then concluded by thanking the clerk, the internal auditor, Mrs. Fiona Rook, and all his fellow councillors for the hard work they do.

### **Borough Councillor's Report**

The clerk invited a report from the Borough Councillor, but none has been received.

### **County Councillor's Report**

The clerk invited a report from the County Councillor, but none has been received.

### **Parishioners Open Session**

Sally Hordern wished to echo the sentiments expressed by the chairman concerning Trevor Hill. He has been a very good representative.

She also wished to mention that DCC have painted the white line in the centre of the main road (Jacobstowe to Hatherleigh), but have failed to fill in the potholes. She asked if the council had done anything about it. She was informed they had not, but the clerk would send a report to DCC. Another member of the public mentioned the potholes in Holebrook Lane. These will also be mentioned. The chairman pointed out that DCC do have a section on their webpage where you can report potholes.

Mr. Stewart complained that the council was not engaging with the public. He wished to see posters put up on the telegraph poles. The council stated they were not happy about using the telegraph poles. Another member of the public stated it is a Conservation Area and the telegraph poles should not be used for posters, despite some organisations using them for this purpose.

The chairman responded stating posters are put up on notice boards (the clerk confirmed the notice board in The Burrow was now operational), the Hatherleigh.net website is used and the Parish Pump is used.

Mr. Brady stated if these medium are being used he did not see what else the council could do.

Mr. Stewart felt the website should be run by the council. The current members of the council did not feel they had the time to run a website and asked if anyone in the parish would like to run it.

Louise Watts suggested facebook. North Tawton Town Council has a facebook page.

At the next meeting the advertising for the Annual Meeting to be an agenda item.

Sally Hordern stated that West Devon hold an outreach at The Burrow on the first Friday of each month. No councillor has ever been. Another member of the public stated she found it difficult to talking to Councillors. The chairman stated she saw him and Cllr Williams at history group and why did she feel she couldn't talk to them? The member of the public did not respond.

Mr. Stewart asked what was the council's response to 'Our Plan'? It was being formulated a couple of meetings ago, but he had not seen it anywhere. The clerk responded by saying it can be put up on the notice boards and on the website.

Mr. Brady stated a meeting is being held on May 21<sup>st</sup> to see if people are interested in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Louise Watts stated it is an involved process and both of the Borough Councillors would provide assistance. Once they have their West Devon email address they will let the clerk have it and she can pass it on to the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 p.m.