

Shute Parish Council

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The Councillors were summoned to attend the Annual Assembly of the Parish and a meeting Shute Parish Council held at Whitford Hall on Thursday, April 7th 2016 starting at 7.30pm. The following matters were discussed.

Annual Assembly of the Parish

Those present:- Cllrs Bill Marshall, Richard Orsman, David Plowman, Peter Rugg (Chairman), Ella Sweetland, Rick Wood. Andrew Moudling (DCC), Ian Chubb (EDDC). Carol Miltenburg (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paddy Magrane and John Pearce

1 Chairmans report. Cllr Peter Rugg

Shute Parish Council - Chairmans report for the year 2015 to 2016

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council and it is nice to report we have made some progress on some long outstanding issues but others are proving very hard to resolve.

We have held 9 meetings over the past year and in our efforts to reach more of the residents we now also meet at Shute School – our Annual Meeting will be held there in May – as well as in Whitford and Umborne. We have held the precept at the same level as last year £4,800.

The roads between Lilylake and Three Sycamores have now been resurfaced by Devon Highways, it is not perfect as a small section was omitted but a vast improvement on its previous state. The Council have campaigned for many years to get this section improved and the repairs were only undertaken due to the efforts of Rick Wood, Richard Brain (our Road Warden) and all the other volunteers in the Road Team. Without their work clearing the gullies the resurfacing would not have happened. We have also worked with Colyton Parish Council under the EDDC Parishes Together Scheme and the local landowners to enhance and repair the drainage of the roads at Lilylake and in Lodge Lane in Shute. The lane at Lilylake now does not flood and the flooding in Lodge Lane is considerably reduced. Richard and the Road Team will be keeping an eye on the gullies to keep them open.

We have taken the Shute Parish Burial Ground under our control and over the coming year will be making improvements to the area. We have made a start by getting the hedges laid and cutting back trees. I would like to thank our Burial Ground committee for all their work. We must also thank Iris Morton the Church Warden at St Michaels for the time and help she has given in resolving our queries and Karen Hussey of Potters funeral directors for her advice.

One of the major issues for the Council have been problems with two planning issues in the Parish which have been rumbling on for several years. The Council are still campaigning to resolve these and will continue to do so. I still have to report (as I did at this meeting last year) that EDDC planning department still do not seem to care or listen but we will not give up.

I would like to thank our District and County Councillors Ian Chubb and Andrew Moulding for all the help they have given us over the past year and for representing us at the Knowle and Exeter. I also thank our Parish Councillors who put in many hours on your behalf without payment and Carol Miltenburg our Clerk. Finally, I also need to thank all the volunteers amongst the residents of the Parish without whom life here would not be as pleasant as it is.

2 County Councillors report.- Cllr Andrew Moulding

I am pleased to present my annual report as County Councillor for the Axminster Division. Amongst the topics debated in the Place Scrutiny committee, which I have chaired this year have been Public Transport, Young People and Employment, the Library Service, Civil Parking Enforcement, Flooding, Speed Limits, Broadband and the condition of pavements.

County Council Budget

Over the past five years the County Council has needed to make savings of £174 million. This year (2016/17) a further saving of £34 million has been required as a result of the Government's latest Comprehensive Spending Review. However, this has been eased by £8.4 million, thanks to additional Rural Service Delivery Grant and transition funding. The County Council's share of Council Tax is set to go up by 3.99% which includes a 2% Social Care Precept. As a consequence of the additional grant aid, the County Council has put additional funding into Social Care Resilience, Highways related emergencies, Highways Drainage and Safety Defects, Citizens Advice Bureaux and Dartington School.

Axminster Hospital

I have attended countless meetings with local doctors, the League of Friends, the New Devon CCG, etc. to enhance the facilities at Axminster Hospital. I was very disappointed with North Devon Healthcare Trust and the CCG for not re-opening the in-patient beds at the hospital, which is so important to residents of Axminster and surrounding villages. I very much hope that the hospital will remain vibrant with its day surgeries and outpatients clinics, which I hope may be extended, particularly if the RD&E are awarded the contract for the provision of health services.

New Electoral Arrangements

The Local Government Boundary Commission has determined the new arrangements for DCC divisions. I am not pleased that Shute & Whitford has been grouped with a great swathe of parishes stretching from Whimple in the west to Chardstock in the east. In the proposed new arrangements, Shute & Whitford is not related to its market town hub of Axminster. Together with two volunteers, I put forward a solution for each division, which resolved the difficulty of establishing divisions in Exmouth and Broadclyst with 2 councillors in each division. Each division would have had a market or coastal town as its hub. This suggestion was unfortunately not considered favourably by the Boundary Commission.

Highways matters

I am pleased that urgent resurfacing work has been carried out between Easy Bridge and Lilylake, although surprised that this has only taken place on the S&W end of the lane. Let's hope that the Colyton section, near Lilylake Farm is carried out in early course.

Parishes Together Fund

I am hopeful that the proposed work on the Beacon can be approved in the early part of the new financial year.

Cllr Moulding was asked questions on the travellers encampment in Shute Woods. He and Cllr Chubb will be meeting later in April to discuss what courses of action are available with the Planning Enforcement, Environmental Health and other relevant departments of EDDC. A question was asked about why Whitford was not on superfast broadband when the cable supplying Colyton goes through the centre of the village. The speed etc apparently depends on the location of the 'Green Box' the fiberoptic cable runs into.

3 District Councillors report.

Cllr Chubb spoke on the new recycling scheme which will begin to roll out across the district when the new fleet of vehicles arrives at the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017. A 'soft' roll out will be used to minimise problems and inconvenience where landfill waste is collected every 3 weeks and enhanced recycling weekly. Much of the 'landfill' waste will go to the new waste to power plant in Exeter. The EDDC recycling scheme is class leading within the UK. Residents will be given an additional 'gull sack' to place cardboard ready for collection. Cllr Chubb also reported that the reduced all day parking fees at the new car park in Axminster will continue for the rest of the year. Seaton Jurassic centre is due to open and the tickets will permit entrance for one year after issue. The EDDC move to Honiton is progressing and the relocation should take place in 2018. There will be an increase in electronic working within the office, and drop in centres will be introduced in the local towns. There will be a full office in Exmouth.

4 Police report. No report was presented to the Council,

The meeting ended at 7.45pm