

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER, 2014

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind - Chairman
Steve Mammatt
Eddie McLaney
Geoff Stewart
Yanine Tarr
Paul Williams
John Woodley

S.Hams District Councillor: Ian Bramble
Devon County Councillor: Rufus Gilbert

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Cllr. Roger Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Hind.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Defibrillator – Roger wrote to Mr. Peace of St. Austell Brewery regarding a donation towards this but has not yet had a response. The Cluster Meeting has been postponed, awaiting new date.

The Affordable Housing site – not moving forward mainly due to weather. Parishioners are asking whether there will be a footpath.

4. REPORT FROM SOUTH HAMS COUNCILLOR BRAMBLE/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GILBERT

Cllr. Bramble reported that there had been two meetings in October, Council and Executive.

AONB Funding – the three main providers of money are SHDC , DCC and Defra. All three have indicated that they will fund for 2015/16 at the same level. Further discussions will go on with regard to funding as up and until the end of this year DEFRA was responsible for unspecified liabilities i.e. redundancies. DEFRA will now treat this as a grant.

Of the total Council Tax we only retain just over a quarter, 72% goes to DCC, 9% to SHDC for services 10.6% Police 4.9% Fire 2.8% to Town and Parish Councils. It is important that we keep Council Tax down to a sensible level.

Business Rates – on budget. Capital expenditure – major projects on budget. This is the first year under which we can keep 50% of monies collected. As with all Government schemes nothing is straightforward. Those Councils who over- collect will pay a levy and we collect quite a lot. Last year pooled Business Rates gave us £90,000 over and above. A number of businesses have appealed this and this may well leave pooled authorities short. South Hams have withdrawn for next year.

Cllr. Bramble also advised that it is now possible for the public to film and report at Council Meetings and that our Council should be aware of this.

South Hams are trying to move away from the name “Affordable Housing” and will instead be referred to as “Local Homes for Local People”. Parishes rely on landowners offering land for sale. This needs assessment, how many do we need to build over the next 5 years. If the Council says we need 80 houses in our Parish then we need to accept this. Cllr. Hind said that if this was the case then there would be a revolt and questions would be asked as to how SHDC arrive at these figures.

A lot of property has not been sold, does this bear any relationship to demand. Cllr. Bramble will arrange more meetings with other parishes but it would be even gloomier if we had no Neighbourhood Plan in place.

TAP fund – deadline for application for monies 31st December 2014. Cllr. Hind suggested that we use this for the Play Area and Car Park in the New Affordable Housing being built.

Cllr Gilbert suggested that we buddy up with Kingsbridge – contact Martin Johnson 01548 857073.

There are two other sources of funding – Community Reinvestments Projects Fund. In order to qualify we need to be building 10 or more houses in the same area. We do qualify and this could go towards cycle paths, foot paths, and fibre optic cables.

There is still money in the Locality fund and this will not be carried over. We would need to apply to this fund by April 2015. Amounts would be in the region of £5-600.00. Sue to download forms regarding this.

With regard to the AONB Cllr. Hind asked why there had there not been a more violent refusal to the Potato Processing Plant. Cllr. Bramble replied that the AONB put forward objections to this. Cllr Stewart stated that at the Planning meeting which he attended regarding this the AONB supported the application.

Cllr. Hind felt that business rates appeared to have no relevance to the affordability to pay it. With regard to Affordable Housing, the question was asked as to why we don't build council houses but the Council have no intention of building Council Houses in the near future.

Cllr Hind also asked why do we need more houses. Cllr. Bramble replied that due to supply and demand house prices were too expensive so this will help drop the price. It was also noted that roads are not adequate nor is the sewage and infrastructure. Cllr Gilbert pointed out that we are only agents for the Government. Cllr. Stewart was concerned as to where all these people who we are building houses for will work. Is the Government asking us to pay for people who come here to live and not work.

Cllr. Bramble explained that most people work as they have to get a mortgage on these properties and we cannot dictate where people can or cannot buy a property. Due to consistent underbuilding this has suddenly caught up with us. Councillor Stewart also felt that Government should also put money into businesses too.

Cllr. Bramble reported that the development in Loddiswell has been sold mainly local people; some locals who were born in Loddiswell have been turned down. It has almost become racial and has become quite unpleasant.

With regard to infrastructure – roads, railways etc. this is a world-wide problem, governments throughout the world do not like spending their own money on infrastructure. Cllr. Gilbert said that no-one has a right to buy their own house but have a right to housing. Mrs Thatcher had us all believe that we had a right to buy our own home but unfortunately there is a whole section of people who will stay in the rented sector.

Cllr. Gilbert asked the meeting whether the Defibrillator was installed. Cllr Hind to chase up St. Austell Brewery regarding this. This was reported

under "Matters arising from the previous meeting" and discussed before Cllr. Gilbert arrived at the meeting

Libraries – it has turned out that the libraries have been charged Business Rates , now putting Libraries into Trusts and Charities so there will be a saving there and it seems there might be a better future regarding them.

Tough Choices – having read through the document sent out by the Council very little affects Churchstow.

It was reported to the meeting that Torr Quarry are proposing to charge £3.50 for DIY building waste as builders are leaving rubbish to be disposed of to their clients to avoid paying to dump this. There was some concern as to how this was going to be worked out. Would it be £3.50 per item or per load? There was also a concern that fly-tipping would increase if this were the case. Cllr Gilbert replied that at least we were one of the Councils that did take people to court regarding this.

Electoral Review – 62 County Councillors will now be reduced to 60. Teignmouth to lose one and South Hams to lose one. Too early to comment.

Speeding in Churchstow, Cllr. Gilbert reported that Peter Brunt would respond formally and very robustly. It has been agreed that there is a problem with speeding in Churchstow and it will be dealt with. The 30 mile per hour signs will be moved outwards.

Cllr. Hind was concerned about the speed in which people drove up Aveton Gifford hill towards the Bantham Cross Roundabout. Personally he feels coming out of his drive is now very dangerous. He would like a sign and it was suggested that he contact Adam Keay regarding this.

5. MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 8TH OCTOBER 2014

The Minutes of this meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Hind.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

Churchstow would like to move towards a Dark Sky Policy – The Clerk passed on an email received from Mr. J. Graham regarding the lighting on both Bantham Cross and Palegate Roundabouts. Cllr. Hind to write to SHDC regarding this.

Cllr. Hind asked how we now move forward with our Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Bramble replied that there is a 6 week period before design can be approved. The Open meeting was already six weeks ago and Minutes have been posted on Notice Board etc. which is evidence of consultation inviting action and comments. Cllr. Bramble suggested that we now set up a Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee and he would join it.

7. NAME OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr. Woodley has put forward two names regarding the above housing site and it was suggested that this should be offered to the Parishioners to also put their suggestions. Sue to contact Claire Grey to see if this is possible and to then put notice on Notice Board etc.

8. MAINTENANCE OF GRASS VERGES ETC

There was a discussion about the account which was then passed for payment.

9. QUERY FROM PARISHIONER REGARDING TRANSPORT

Cllr. Tarr has been involved with this and since speaking to the person concerned has heard no more.

10. SUPER CLUSTER MEETING – 26TH NOVEMBER, 2014, FOLLATON HOUSE

Cllr Hind and Cllr. Stewart to attend.

11. A.O.B

Cllr. McLaney asked whether there had been any more movement regarding the Potato Processing Plant, Cllr. Hind replied that the S106 still has not been issued. Cllr. Stewart felt that our only chance now of fighting this is through the AONB.

Cllr. Stewart also reported that it is now too dangerous to join the main Churchstow Road from his drive as recently someone went past doing at least 70 mph. If you look at the skid marks on the road this tells its own story.

Cllr. Mammatt reported that he had had a good response regarding the "little train" in Kingsbridge.

He has been asked to take on a Directorship of the Kingsbridge Tourist Board and in light of all his commitments will be resigning as a Councillor for Churchstow Parish Council.

Sue to put notice on Board asking for nominations to replace Cllr. Mammatt. Cllr. Hind thanked Cllr. Mammatt for his work over the last 12 years.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There is no meeting planned for December. If anything urgent comes up then a meeting will be called. The next meeting is Wednesday 14th January, 2015 in The Vestry at 7.30 p.m.

The following dates are for you 2015 diary:-

Wednesday 11th February, 2015

Wednesday 11th March, 2015

Wednesday 8th April, 2015 (this is just after Easter)

Wednesday 13th May, 2015

Wednesday 10th June, 2015

Wednesday 8th July, 2015

Summer Recess

Wednesday 9th September, 2015

Wednesday 14th October, 2015

Wednesday 11th November, 2015

Christmas Recess

Cllr. Hind thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9 pm.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER, 2014

Present: Councillors:

Roger Hind - Chairman
Yanine Tarr,
Geoff Stewart
Paul Williams

S.Hams District Councillor:

Ian Bramble

Apologies received: Councillors: Rufus Gilbert
Eddie McLaney

Steve

Mammatt

John Woodley

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Cllr. Roger Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTE S OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Hind.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk, Sue Fink reported that she had written to DALC – Lesley Smith and had received a reply regarding Sue taking the Minutes for the South Hams Society. They saw no problem as long as I was discreet and didn't discuss with either side any situation that might arise. Copy of email attached.

4. OPEN MEETING

Roger will Chair the meeting and open it to the parishioners for discussion.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parklands – still ongoing, the enforcement officers seem to be more active as there are quite a few enforcements for Churchstow. Councillor Williams commented that the Post Office/Shop Planning had been given approval.

Speeding – DCC are now going to take the matter of speeding through the village seriously due very much to Tony Puncher getting to grips with it and fighting their last suggestion that there was no speeding. This was due to the fact that the monitors were put in convenient places which didn't give the correct readings. Coupled with this and the Affordable Housing Development where there will be a table top in Pump Lane this should help reduce the speeding.

Defibrillator - Councillor Hind reported that St. Austell Brewery had offered to pay for the Cabinet and possibly the installation.

Councillor Hind will contact Zoll and Wel Medical to confirm prices etc and then make a choice as to whom we will buy from.

South Hams DC Ian Bramble advised the meeting that Councillor Hicks was planning a Cluster meeting with the Parishes on 23rd October – venue to be advised.

We should encourage some of our Parishioners to attend as well as anyone from the Council.

Councillor Hind and Councillor Stewart will attend. Information will be put on the website as soon as we receive it

He also asked if the Council had had any feedback regarding the fire at the Business Park.

On visiting last week he felt that the people involved were getting on with sorting things out whilst awaiting insurance companies reports.

Councillor Bramble also took a look at the Affordable Housing site and was pleased to see it progressing.

He also reported that there was money still in the Locality Fund for Councils to access for worthy projects around £4-600.00. Councillor Stewart suggested that we needed a new Notice board when it was re-positioned. The Councillors will give some thought as to anything else that might be needed before the deadline of April 2015.

Councillor Williams was concerned about the amount of hedgerow that had been taken out

at the entrance to the Affordable Housing site. Councillor Hind explained that this would be

put back but it will be splayed inwards and more trees will be planted on the site. Councillor

Williams was re-assured by this.

Councillor Stewart reported that whilst the lorries were moving around the above site he could hear these quite clearly so was concerned how much traffic noise would be heard

when the Potato processing plant was active.

The Clerk passed on a letter from Cllr. Tucker to Cllr. Stewart in his position as Treasurer regarding a reduction in payment to the Council.

Sue also notified the meeting that she had been approached by Matthew Scott-Tucker of Tozers Solicitors offering their services. We already use a local Solicitor Beers but will keep Tozers in mind.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12th November, 2014 7.30 in the Vestry at the Church House Inn.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.30 and the Councillors moved to the Church Hall for the Open meeting due to start at 8 pm.

Signed:.....

Date:

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Chairman: Cllr. R. Hind

NOTES ON MEETING RE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2014 - 2031

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Councillor Roger Hind who welcomed those attending and thanked those who took the time to respond to the leaflet sent out by the Council. out of 200 distributed we had a return of 11% (22 replies).

The Clerk, Sue Fink collated the results and presented them to the Council at a meeting last week. The agenda tonight is based on these results.

Councillor Hind stressed the importance of entering into the "Neighbourhood Plan" if we don't produce our plan then we cannot complain when development that we won't want is forced upon us. We have to be forward thinking and try and get this right as this Plan is to encompass the next 17 years until 2031. For more information please go to: <http://www.southhams.gov.uk/shneighbourhoodplans>

2. Discuss results of questionnaire

Housing – There was concern at the meeting that the Affordable Houses would be sold to

people from outside the area. Councillor Hind replied that his understanding was that initially it would be offered to people from Churchstow, then surrounding Parishes and then to Parishes further away. It was pointed out by Councillor Stewart that this site was an Exception Site which means people who can apply for a house should have a family or work connection to this area.

It was hoped that it would not be offered to people as far away as Plymouth, Torquay or Exeter.

The three houses for sale will be put on the open market.

Proposal to go on Neighbourhood Plan

As only a third of the field has been sold there will be more land available once this project has been completed and the Parish would like to see smaller developments which will include houses that fit into the scheme with a lot of green spaces to encourage wildlife, gardens and sufficient parking for at least two cars.

The Parish would like to see these houses offered to people who have lived in the area for a certain amount of time and employed locally, similar to Salcombe. They do not wish Churchstow to become a dormitory village for people working in Plymouth.

Environment – 100% of the returns supported to protect the AONB

With regards to the AONB, a number of people asked what was happening to the proposed Potato Processing Plant.

Richard Martin volunteered to lead a small working party to liaise with Richard Honey the Barrister advising us and updated the meeting as follows:

A Draft S106 had been produced; this is the legal framework which contains conditions of building requirements. Councillor Stewart reported that £130,000 was to be paid towards the affordable housing planned for the Galmpton Site and the two sites, Galmpton and Bantham Cross were inexplicably tied together. Richard Martin thought that the Barrister, Richard Honey working on Churchstow's behalf might advise us whether or not he considers that this is inappropriate in this instance.

Proposal to go on Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hind suggested that we start this with a request to remove the lighting from the

Bantham and Palegate Roundabouts and just leave the keep left bollards lit. This would not only be a saving for the Council but would be the beginning of our quest for a "Dark Sky" policy for Churchstow. The new housing development will have low level lighting instead of street lights and this should be the policy in any further development – this was agreed by those attending,

Climate Change – the meeting agreed with the findings.

Proposal to go on Neighbourhood Plan

No large solar panel or wind farms on agricultural land. To encourage and support non-commercial installations. The new housing will have a communal heating system fed by wood pellets. There was a suggestion that solar panels should be fitted to new houses in the future.

Wildlife and Village Heritage – continue in current vein.

Employment – There was a suggestion from Richard Martin that if we wish to protect the AONB then if there is need for more commercial development then the area at Lee Cross owned by DCC although several years ago we fought against this development in the past. It was felt that there were ample commercial development areas with space at Torr Quarry and Loddiswell.

The Parishioners continue to object to Lidstone's Potato Processing Plant relocation plans and consider local employment would not be increase.

Proposal to go on Neighbourhood Plan

This should be limited to the existing Business Parks. (this is presuming that the Potato Processing Plant goes ahead.)

Village Amenities – David Reeves has very kindly offered some land for a "permissive footpath" from the Business Park to the Village.

It was felt that there would eventually be a need for a larger Community Hall which could house a number of facilities for the village i.e. a Doctors surgery. We have an area at the bottom of the affordable housing site which might be considered for this. The Council are looking at timescale of 10 years.

Speeding and traffic problems – The Council has been notified that the Police have admitted after considerable pressure from Tony Puncher that there is a speeding problem in Churchstow.

It was felt that some of the problems could be alleviated by the addition of a Table Top in Pump Lane. Councillor Stewart thought that a sign by the new play area "slow down Children at Play" might also help.

There was concern that drivers still turn right although there is a sign saying "no right turn". It was pointed out that this is a blue sign which is an advisory sign not a compulsory sign. It has been requested that a 20 mile an hour speed limit be imposed in Pump Lane but the Police do not want this as they would be obliged to "police it" and don't have the man-power.

Proposal to go on Neighbourhood Plan

To continue to investigate the possibility of a cycle/walking path between Churchstow which would join up to the proposed path that David Reeves has donated from the Business Park to the Village.

To pursue and to alleviate the problems regarding speeding within Churchstow

To investigate the viability of a new Community Hall and to find land for community use

Alec Jackson of 1 Elston House, Elston Farm asked if he could read out his letter to the meeting:-

" Sue, I do not have answers to all the difficult questions posed in the questionnaire, but I would like to express views on the over-all development anticipated.

Our forefathers bequeathed to us National Parks, the Green belt and AONBs, what will our legacy to the future – unrestrained urban sprawl, wind farms, solar panels and pseudo-industrial development?

Housing is needed but small-scale so as not to swamp the existing area and a mixture of private and affordable also appropriate to local employment demands.

The vast majority of existing housing in Churchstow Is unobtrusive and hidden from view (even the industrial site) siting of future development should also be appropriately positioned. The proposed Potato Plant is the very antithesis of this. Sited on the highest most prominent and visible plot in the area with 24 hr 7/7 light, noise and traffic aggravation it could hardly be more inappropriate.

Tourism is now the most important industry in the South Hams but people do not come to see more of the urban sprawl they have left behind at home. Protecting the environment and what is still left of rural life is not NIMBYism or preserving a museum, it is protecting the South Hams most important industry."

The above was greeted with wholehearted approval.

3. Land

Councillor Hind asked the meeting if anyone knew of any land that might become available, possibly Gifted to the community for amenity land, the Council would be delighted to hear from them.

Councillor Hind thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9 p.m.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

Present: Councillors: Steve Mammatt,
Yanine Tarr,
John Woodley,
Paul Williams

Eddie Maclaney

S.Hams District Councillor: Ian Bramble
County Councillor: Rufus Gilbert

Apologies received: Councillors: Roger Hind
Geoffrey Stewart

Members of Public attending: Mr. Phil Cridland

1. Welcome

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited County Councillor Gilbert to give his report as he was due at another Parish Meeting.

C.Cllr. Gilbert told the meeting that SHDC would be employing 16 more parking enforcement officers and it is hoped that this will help with more sensible enforcement on parking. It was commented that some of the enforcement officers were aggressive and instead of fining people who overstayed a couple of minutes they would be better fining those who created a traffic problem. C. Cllr. Gilbert then apologised for not being able to stay for the full meeting and left to go to the next meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hind and Cllr. Stewart

3. Matters arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising

4. Update on Local Plan and arrange date for Open Meeting

It was decided that the next Open Meeting would be scheduled for 8th October after a short Parish Council Meeting which will be held at 7pm in the Vestry. The Open Meeting will then be held in the Church Hall at 8 pm. as the Abbots room was booked for the 41 Club.

5. Planning Applications

1. Application No. 11/2123/14/F – Extension to Village Shop, Churchstow.

The Councillors felt it was of great importance to support this application for a much needed extension to this busy shop.

2. Application No. 11/2012/14/CU – Conversion of Agricultural Barn, Gratton Farm, Loddiswell.

Although this was out of time due to the Clerk being on holiday when it arrived, the Councillors agreed that this would have been approved. Although we had missed the deadline Cllr. Bramble suggested that we still write with the Council's approval.

3. Application No. 2_11/1818/14/F – Retention of existing polytunnel, replacement and relocation of existing shed, Merryfield Meadows, Aveton Gifford.

This arrived during August when the council did not meet and the Clerk was on holiday. The Councillors looked at the plans and this would have been approved.

4. Application No. 11/2257/14/tw – Tree Preservation Order, Whitehall Manor, Churchstow.

Cllr. Paul Williams told the meeting that he had an interest in this as he lived at Whitehall Manor.

The Councillors looked at the proposed plans and agreed that it was sensible to remove the two branches overhanging the drive. The Clerk to send off approval.

6. Update on Parklands Situation

Cllr. Tarr reported that the signs had been moved back from the road but were still there. Cllr. Bramble said that due to the economic situation there had been no enforcement on A Boards. It was felt that temporary signs, such as the Kingsbridge Show were acceptable but permanent signs are not acceptable and it looks a mess.

7. Update from Action Group regarding Lidstones

No report as such but Cllr. Bramble told the meeting that the advice was not to submit a Judicial Review until the 106 had gone through. It appears that the 106 for the Galampton site has not yet been signed and the two go hand in hand.

8. Leaflet Distribution

Each of the Councillors took leaflets and it was hoped that these would be distributed this weekend. The Council are hoping that people will be able to respond by 26th September in time to collate them. A meeting was then arranged for the 1st October to go through the responses and draft an Agenda for the Open Meeting on the 8th October.

9. Any other Business

Speeding – The Councillors felt that they had done everything they could so far but the police still insist there is no speeding through the village. They reported that the average speed was 35 mph. It was suggested that when the Housing Development starts there may be a way to get this reduced to a 20 mph limit.

The Police suggested that someone might go on a course on how to use a Speed Gun. Cllr. Mammatt is hoping to attend this. Cllr. Williams suggested speed bumps, The Council has already investigated this plus the possibility of 20 mph signs, virtual pavement etc. The Council will persevere with this and try to find a means to deter speeding before someone gets killed.

The Clerk asked if any of the Councillors wished to attend the DALC AGM and Conference on Saturday 11th October 2014. It was suggested that the Chairman, Cllr. Hind had attended previously and might be interested.

Cllr. Mammatt reported he is hoping resurrect the Kingsbridge and District Light Railway Co. a “little railway” that ran along the Quay.

It would cost about £20,000 to establish this, the track in itself would cost around £8000 and they would be looking for funding. Unfortunately it might have to run on the other side of the estuary as the wall on the original side is falling away. Cllr. Bramble said that although it has been agreed to mend the wall, funding had not yet been set aside.

Cllr. Bramble reported that Parishes responses to SHDC Local Plan has been extended to 3rd October, 2014. We would need to put in our suggestions otherwise they would not be included.

The Clerk, Sue Fink asked whether there would be any objection to her taking on the position of Minute Secretary to the South Hams Society.

Cllr. Williams said that he was on the Committee and had made this information available when approached to be a Councillor. There were other people on the Council who were members so it was felt this would not pose a conflict of interest for Sue. It was however suggested that Sue write to DALC and ask the same question.

10. Date of Next Meeting

There will be a meeting on 1st October at 7.30pm in the Vestry at the Church House Inn to collate replies from leaflet drop.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 8th October, 2014 at 7 pm in the Vestry room in The Church House Inn followed by an Open Meeting regarding the Local Plan at 8 pm in the Church Hall.

Cllr. Mammatt thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY, 2014

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman
 Geoffrey Stewart,
 John Woodley,
 Paul Williams

S.Hams District Councillor: Ian Bramble

County Councillor: Rufus Gilbert

Apologies received: Councillors: Yanine Tarr
Steve Mammatt

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Councillor Hind opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July were approved and signed as were the Minutes of the Open Meeting regarding the “Local Plan”.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: Steve Mammatt

3. Matters arising from the previous Minutes

There were no matters from the previous Minutes

4. Update on Local Plan – date of next open meeting

South Hams District Councillor Ian Bramble suggested that we should take this opportunity to make our feelings clear about using the brown field site where the proposed potato processing plant will be, that no further industrial buildings should be allowed. Since this application was approved there have been reports that this particular type of potato industry is in decline and therefore there would possibly be an application for change of use to a processing plant for chipped/cooked potatoes in the future.

The Planning Application submitted by Lidstones was a travesty and we should now take this opportunity to reject any change of use, unless it could be turned back to housing.

Councillor Williams said that at one of the meeting he queried the application for light agricultural use to light industrial use.

From this, it would only be a step for someone like Jewsons to make an offer.

Councillor Bramble suggested that at our next Open Meeting we invite Michael Hicks, Executive member responsible for Planning . He is prepared to come along and talk to Councils regarding planning permissions.

Councillor Hind was concerned that only a very few would turn up. Councillor Bramble felt that as long as it was advertised in advance, we should get interested people.

Councillor Stewart thought that although there were only a few at the last Open Meeting regarding the Local Plan, the suggestions that were put forward gave the Council an outline on what Parishioners expected in the Local Plan and this will be the basis to go forward.

Councillor Bramble had sent a couple of examples from other parishes and the Clerk brought a questionnaire from Malborough Parish which she will circulate amongst the Councillors.

It was felt that we could use these as a basis on which to do a leaflet to be circulated to all Parishioners by hand as well as on the web site, Facebook and notice board. Councillor Bramble will email a suggestion to the Clerk in order to explain to our Parishioners how important this Plan is and that this will be enforced until 2031. Unless we have some influence on our future our Parish will have no clout.

At the next meeting, we will ask everyone to sign in and when they speak, introduce themselves when they have any suggestions.

5. Planning Applications: 11/1407/14F and 11/1646/14F.

Both these applications were looked at by the Councillors present and they offered no objections. Clerk to send back signed forms.

Mary Mills Farm – information only as Planning has been granted. They have added more Earth Batter to the original plan.

6. Update on Parklands Caravan Park.

An Enforcement Notice has been served but there are more and more signs appearing. Councillor Hind will speak to Rating Department as it was suggested that there are people living there permanently.

7. Update on Action Group – Lidstones Potato Processing Plant

Councillor Stewart reported that the Secretary of State is not going to call in the application. Richard Honey is still reviewing the documents which Councillor Stewart, Richard Martin and SH District Councillor Ian Bramble have been sifting through in order to prepare his report as to whether we have a case to go forward to a Judicial Review. SHDC are under a lot of pressure to do the job properly.

It was reported by Councillor Stewart that Richard Martin is concerned that he may be sued if this goes ahead and it was suggested that the Parish Council put their name to the report. Councillor Hind was concerned that not all the parishioners would be in favour of our stand against the application but Councillor Stewart pointed out that at the three meetings that were held were between 50-70 persons attending that all were against it and in favour that the Council would fight this.

8. Permission for Clerk to take CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration)

Sue reported that as we were a small Parish Council there may be a Bursary available and that the cost would be kept to a minimum. It was agreed that this would be very useful and Sue will now apply for a course.

9. Any other business

Locallity Fund - Councillor Bramble has monies available for a parish project. Councillor Hind thought this would help with local byelaws regarding signage, car parking, children's play area. Councillor Hind will draw up a list for Councillor Bramble who will then check that we can use this money for the above.

Defibrillator – ongoing. It was suggested that the Clerk write to David at the Church House Inn formally, to confirm that St. Austell Brewery are happy to have this on their premises.

Luscombe Maye Anniversary Oak – it has been decided that this should be planted on the Green by the Church – Sue to contact and arrange time and date

10. Date of next meeting

There is no meeting planned for the month of August, although we are hoping to put together an agenda for the next meeting regarding the "Local Plan" which should be held within the next few weeks. **The next Council meeting is 10th September, 2014**

As we nearly had a problem forming a quorum for this meeting, it would be helpful if everyone could let me know whether they will be coming or not in the future. If we then cannot form a quorum I can let everyone know the meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled for another date.

The Chairman thanked those that attended and the meeting closed at 9 pm.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2014**

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman
Geoffrey Stewart,
Yanine Tarr,
John Woodley,
Steve Mammatt,

Apologies received: Councillors: Eddie MacLaney
Paul Williams
County Coucillor: Ian Bramble

1. Audited Accounts.

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the audited accounts. Cllr Stewart had requested an extension of time as firstly the Clerk and then the Chairman were away on holiday. This would be sent off immediately once signed.

2. Planning Application: 11/1381/14, Osborne Newton, Aveton Gifford. Erection of Agricultural building.

The Councillors took time to look at the site plan and did not feel there were any grounds for objections.

3. Parkland Caravan Park.

Cllr. Woodley voiced his concerns about the amount of signs appearing. Cllr. Tarr agreed with him and has offered to contact them regarding this. The clerk will forward the Breach of Planning to Cllr Tarr regarding other signs and extra caravans.

4. Facebook

Cllr Mammatt agreed to set up a Facebook account for the Parish Council.

5. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9th July. 7.30 in the small meeting room at the Church House Inn

The Chairman thanked the Cllrs for attending and the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19.30 ON THURSDAY 8TH MAY, 2014

Present:

Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman
Geoffrey Stewart,
Yanine Tarr,
John Woodley,
Steve Mammatt,
Adrian Masters.

District Councillors: Rufus Gilbert
Ian Bramble

Apologies received: Eddie MacLaney

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Cllr. Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS LIDSTONE PLANNING ENTERPRISE AND THE WAY FORWARD

Initially there was some hostility towards the Parish Councillors and Cllr. Tarr reminded everyone at the meeting to cast their minds back when some years ago Churchstow had no council and if it hadn't been for the Chairman Roger Hind knocking on doors asking if anyone would join him in forming a Council then SHDC would have taken Churchstow over. She asked if this was what the parishioners wanted to happen again. This, to a degree diffused the situation and a debate started on how the village wanted to go forward regarding Lidstone's.

A number of questions were put to Council and District Councillor Ian Bramble gave a very eloquent explanation of the process that had led up to the decision by the Planning Department to grant this application. He went on to explain that the parishioners could appeal but warned that this would be a costly exercise and with no guarantee that we would win. He suggested that the best way forward would be to elect a sub-committee who would report back to the Parish Council. They would have to set up a fund to pay the cost of this appeal which would initially need to employ a professional Planning Consultant who would give an opinion on whether they had a case strong enough to go to the next stage, which is to instruct a Solicitor.

Richard Martin, who has been involved from the beginning of the process and who spoke for the Parish of Churchstow at the Planning Meeting has agreed to start this process, using the same team as before. They are: Richard Martin, Geoffrey Stewart, Ian Bramble, Graham Percival and Judy Martin. They will be approaching all parishioners to help with a fund towards the costs.

Cllr. Steve Mammatt suggested that the Parish Council start this fund by donating £500 this was agreed at the Council meeting following the Open Forum

The Open Forum then closed at 8.30. This was then followed by the monthly Parish Council Meeting.

3. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2013/14

Cllr. Geoffrey Stewart presented the Accounts for the year 2013/14 which were approved by the Council.

£5000 will be ring fenced for a Community/Play area which will be situated within the Affordable Housing Plan.

Cllr. Stewart would also like to explore different accounts in order to get a better interest rate.

District Councillor Rufus Gilbert reported that out of 4500 potholes that needed work we are down 700. Quality of repairs has improved with the better weather. Some of the potholes which were filled in temporarily are now been done properly.

District Councillor Ian Bramble reported regarding the Boundary Changes. At the moment we are under Thurlestone Ward but we will now come under Aveton Gifford Ward. One of the outcomes of this change is a reduction in Wards.

We are saving £700,000 per year by sharing with West Devon Borough Council. 80% of the council costs are in salaries. 8-10% of employees who leave will not be replaced. The Planning Department is one of the Departments that will be retained at full strength.

The Chief Executive tended his resignation earlier this year, 3 years prior to his retirement date. This was an unselfish decision to retire early. Two corporate directors below him would share his duties and this would be a saving of 60-70K.

The management level below will be reduced from 7 – 5 Heads of Department, they will have to apply for positions and will be subject to interview, to compete for these jobs. The quality of people we employ has to be high. This will take place over 12 months.

Investment will be in computer hardware as tax payers will expect the same level of service and better quality of hardware and software.

The annual cost saving is around 2,500,000.00 per year. By 2020 Government grants will be stopped, only paying for Statutory obligations. We are further forward than most councils with 40,000 homes, 700K/year saved so far, helps council tax bills.

Employees of SHDC are working under a lot of pressure and uncertainty regarding jobs, and I think they should be commended for that.

Cllr. Masters asked District Cllr. Bramble that regarding those people re-applying for jobs, would they be given redundancy if they failed to get a position.

District Cllr. Bramble replied that those people would be offered other lower positions, the feeling being that it is better to be in a job, even a lesser one.

District Cllr. Gilbert said that costs will be incurred in pension costs but provision is being made for this.

Cllr. Stewart wanted to know whether employees were charged for parking at Follaton House.

Cllr. Gilbert replied that this will end in 2014 and the new Council will review this in 2015. Half of Follaton House has been sublet so half of the cars parked there are not SHDC. A large number of the public come to Follaton House for different reasons and it would be unfair to charge for parking as many couldn't afford it.

He also went on to say that Cllrs. are charged parking when they visit County Hall in Exeter. It was also pointed out that none of the Councils charged for parking at their offices.

Cllr. Bramble said that although we don't charge for parking, we do sell our services i.e. payroll services from which we get a substantial income but this is not widely publicised.

Cllr. Stewart asked Cllr. Gilbert whether there was any reaction from Thurlestone regarding the Lidstone Pototo Plant as he felt it did affect them.

Cllr. Gilbert replied that he had had no adverse comment about the Potato Plant. He informed the meeting that he has been made Chairman of the Investment and Pensions Committee.

5. DEFIBRILLATOR

It was decided to go ahead and order this equipment. One of the councillors would speak to Dave at the Church House Inn regarding the confirmation of siting of this.

Cllr. Mammatt suggested that we had a sign near the front door of the pub directing the Public as to the siting of the Defibrillator.

6. PENDING PLANNING APPLICATION.

The Councillors all looked at the planning application for an Agricultural Storage Barn. At Mary Mills Farm, Sorley Green. There was a concern that this will be highly visible. Cllr. Masters was going to look at the area and report his findings back to the Council.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sue had received an email regarding Self Help Emergency Plans and asked if we had one. Churchstow has already got a certain amount of this in situ.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm and Cllr. Hind thanked everyone for attending.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The AGM – Wednesday 21st May 7.30 in Abbots Room.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL METING HELD AT 19.30 ON TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY, 2014

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman,

Adrian Master

Yanine Tarr

John Woodley

Steve Mammatt

Geoff Stewart

District Councillor: Ian Bramble

Apologies received: Cllr. Eddie MacLaney

Devon County Councillor. Rufus Gilbert

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Cllr. Roger Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTE S OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2014

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Hind.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

District Councillor Bramble commented that the Minutes taken were excellent and asked for this to be minuted.

Neighbourhood Plan.

This is an ongoing situation

Fibre Optic Cable

There were issues regarding this as it appears that Heart FM owns the cable. Cllr. Stewart asked if it would benefit the Parish if we could come to an agreement with Heart FM regarding the licencing and run this cable into the village, this would benefit the whole village and bring up the speed of our Broadband. Cllr. Bramble did say that BT could install a cabinet. It was suggested that as Heart FM was no longer at the Business Park that BT may buy it and then sell it to the Business Park. Cllr. Mammatt suggested that he would try and get more information regarding this. Cllr. Bramble will speak to Cllr. Gilbert as he has been dealing with something similar in another Parish.

4. UPDATE ON LIDSTONE PLANNING APPLICATION

Cllr. Stewart had had a meeting with Richard Martin and Graham Percival. Graham Percival went through how he thought we should tackle this, getting the information to Planning and Kati Owen.

Cllr. Bramble thinks this may take longer than we expected but we should have the Case Officer's report two weeks before 19th March, so we should receive this by 5th March. There were some outstanding issues regarding drainage. Cllr. Stewart thought we should get a list of 4 major points and suggested Visual impact, A.N.O.B. and Campaign for Rural England and that the Planning Department had not followed their own guide lines.

Cllr. Mammatt suggested that rather than noise level from the chillers we would be subjected to low frequency noise which travels a long distance. It is a low hum/vibration. Cllr. Stewart has also had a similar experience and described it as "a lorry idling its engine" and it manifests itself by vibrating through items in the house. Cllr. Hind agreed that we should be careful how we describe this noise, that this is not a loud noise but a low frequency hum which can be very disturbing.

Cllr. Bramble said that once he has this report he will not support the application and then it will go to The Development Management Committee and that would be the time to decide on what questions to ask.

Cllr. Stewart suggested that as the public are allowed in these meetings, maybe we should encourage parishioners to go which might make the Council realise that we are serious about this. Cllr. Stewart would be happy to contribute towards the cost of a coach to take people to the meeting and is looking into cost.

Cllr. Bramble did suggested that we might not get everyone into the Chamber due to fire regulations although it is possible to fit in between 40-50.

Cllr. Stewart suggested that the South Hams Gazette should also be involved, but we also had to accept that the reporter would also want a comment from the Applicant.

Cllr. Bramble suggested that we did not ask the questions before the meeting, as Kati Owen would most certainly then have the answers. These questions could then be posed at the meeting. He felt that the Council would not be against the application as there were employment implications. We could then prove that they haven't followed "due process".

Cllr. Masters said that if we had some really pertinent points we could have the upper hand and be able to ask "why haven't you done this?" He was also concerned that "due process" could be a double edged sword. It was decided that once we have the Case Officer's Report we ask Graham Percival to come up with some relevant questions. It was also suggested that Graham Percival would brief the spokesperson from the Parish – it is hoped that Richard Martin would agree to speak on our behalf. Cllr. Hind read out notes he had made regarding this which we can refer to at a later date.

Parishioners who wrote to the Police, where contacted but no-one has heard since the initial contact.

Cllr. Masters is going to contact Gordon Waterhouse who is an local Naturalist and he might have some suggestions regarding the environmental impact.

5. KINGSBRIDGE METAL DETECTOR CLUB

The letter from the Kingsbridge Metal Detector Club was circulated amongst the Councillors. It was decided that this would be put on the Notice Board so that Parishioners could contact them directly. This letter would also be put on the Council Website. Sue to write to the Club to inform them.

6. DEFIBRILLATOR – REPORT BY CLERK ON MEETING WITH GRAHAM WORRAL AND STEVE KERR

Sue met with Graham Worrall – Rotary and Steve Kerr – Heart Start to discuss other possibilities regarding the Defibrillator. Sue explained that we could purchase a defib. From Wel Medical for £400.00 and a waterproof cabinet for £450 with a 7 year warranty against the initial cost quoted of £1400 plus £600 for a cabinet. The difference would be that we would have to insure this and replace the battery after 5 years and the pads when used. We would also have to check this monthly to ensure it was in full working order. Heart Start would give training to any interested party free of charge.

It was agreed by the meeting that they would buy the defib. through Wel Medical, particularly as it was under warranty for 7 years as opposed to 4 year warranty. Cllr. Hind would speak to David, the owner of the Church House Inn regarding where the defib. could be situated. Once this has been decided Sue will apply for the defib. Sue will also write to Graham Worrall and Steve Kerr to thank them for their help and inform them of the decision made at the meeting.

Cllr. Masters suggested that we might investigate having two defibs. available and one could be situated at the Business Park. We should contact Nick Tear?

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Bramble reported The Ward Boundary Survey had been published today and that the Council's recommendations had been accepted and Churchstow would fall in with Aveton Gifford.

He also reported that Council Tax would go up by 1.9% on last year. Example – Band D which is now £1540 would rise to £1570 a £30.00 per year increase.

Cutting of Grass – Cllr. Hind had spoken to Bernard Scot who has been exceedingly busy and cannot give us a commitment. Will speak to Rob Shaw_ Cllr.Hind will now contact the Groundsman Company for an indication of costs.

Cllr. Hind had received a request from the Treasurer of Churchstow Parochial Church Council asking if the Council would again pay towards the maintaining of the churchyard. We donated £300.00 last year and it was agreed that we would do the same this year.

Cllr. Masters reported that he had found a large number of empty glass bottles in a plastic bag thrown over the hedge at Sorley. He couldn't understand why anyone would stop in such a dangerous place to do this. Cllr. Woodley also said he had experienced similar and a number of Councillors also reported rubbish being left near their houses.

Cllr. Masters also reported to the meeting that Cllr. John Carter was gravely ill.

Cllr. Woodley reported that residents had received a letter regarding the cutting back of the hedge at Pump Lane as the Highways department was going to do some work on the road. They have been asked to get this done by the 1st March but certainly before the end of March. Cllr. Hind was to tell David Reeves not to cut this hedge.

Cllr. Bramble enquired as to whether we had any information regarding Bibio, affordable housing project. Cllr. Hind suggested they might be awaiting the decision regarding the Potato Processing Plant.

Cllr. Bramble also asked about the damage to the local shop. Cllr. Hind is to write to Planning Regarding the TPO on the fir tree and give them a "rocket".

Cllr. Stewart reported that both Church Hill and Tithe Hill had a river running down them and this blocks up every day and needs clearing out which he and another neighbour do regularly. He has spoken to the Council about this but no-one has come to have a look. Cllr. Woodley said that as long as he could remember this has been a problem. One suggestion was that a concrete gulley could be put in to divert the water away from the road.

Cllr. Mammatt reported that there was a waste paper bin outside Woodlands but it never gets emptied as it has never been adopted by SHDC. Cllr. Mammatt empties it but as it isn't owned by anyone, has asked if it possibly be taken away. Cllr. Masters is going to look into this. If it is removed then we would have to be very careful that everything is removed so that no accident can happen.

The meeting closed at 8.30. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be decided once the Case Officer's report has been received.

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 19.30 ON WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2014.

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman,
Adrian Master
Yanine Tarr

John Woodley
Steve Mammatt
Geoff Stewart

Devon County Councillor: Rufus Gilbert
District Councillor: Ian Bramble

Apologies received from: Eddie MacLaney

1. WELCOME

The Chairman Cllr. Roger Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting and suggested that as District Councillor Rufus Gilbert could only stay for a short while, he opened the meeting by giving the Parish Councillors a map of the Parish Council. He felt that even though we are a small parish there are some important roads running through it.

The major roads are marked in colours and Rufus will email the legend to The Chairman and Sue Fink – clerk. This will also include categories of roads, and levels of standards to which they should be kept. It was suggested that it might be framed for the future, copies could be made for all the councillors. Cllr. Mammatt would like to wait for a better file copy and he would then copy this and send out to all Parish Councillors, he also thought there was a few errors and a bit of the Parish missing.

Cllr. Gilbert suggested that Central Government has got to come up with some more money as the roads are getting worse, particularly after the terrible weather we are presently experiencing.

Cllr. Gilbert said that Devon County Council has been asked to offer possible land at Leigh Cross for use. This is pretty unlikely and left copy of letter of explanation with the Parish Council.

Cllr. Stewart went to meeting regarding this land but this never went further. It was pointed out by the Chairman that

1. One of our Parish Councillors – John Woodley farms this land.
2. That it only moves the problem further on.

Cllr. Gilbert asked if we had received the Defibrillator money. This was going to cost £1,400 and £700 for the cabinet and it was only guaranteed for 4 years when another one would have to be purchased, this was considered not to be practical. Graham Worrall will come to see us regarding another offer.

Cllr. Stewart suggested that now that they had a new clerk – Sue, that she could upload the Minutes onto the website once they had been approved.

Chairman, Cllr. Hind said that there had been a lot of activity lately on the website.

With regard to the Potato Processing Plant Cllr. Stewart asked if Cllr. Gilbert could help the Parish Council regarding the roads and asked if it was possible to find out whether there is a Highways recommendation.

It was also noted that objections had been put on the SHDC website and then taken off and then they re-appeared on the 31st January. These apparently had been taken out to be edited in case of bad language.

The Chairman Roger Hind asked Cllr. Gilbert what was going on around our area. Cllr. Gilbert reported that Slapton Line might be breached, that four houses in Torcross had been evacuated due to the weather. There was nothing that impacted on Churchstow.

He went on to report that Youth Centres were up for review as were Day Centres for the disabled. There will be a 45 day Consultation Process starting on 4th February.

The District Council has to make a saving 1 million per week. At present we receive £100 per child whereas other areas get £400 per child. Urban areas get far more than rural areas.

Cllr. Gilbert then made his apologies as he had another meeting to go onto. He wished The Parish Council good luck.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY, 2014

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Roger Hind as a true record of this meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Speeding - The Chairman had had a conversation with Sgt. Dave Green who had said that this was now in hand.

Top of Pump Lane – still not cut.

Fibre Optic Cable - Quba Sails are paying for the cable to be connected. Someone will need to nudge BT as up until a few weeks before Christmas they were unaware of the cable.

Neighbourhood Plan

It was felt that help was needed regarding this. Cllr. Bramble said there is a South Hams District Council website which has notes on Neighbourhood Plan. Click on “Your Communities” the “Community Planning” and scroll down to “Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders.”

Local Government Associations – he left copies with the Parish Council. There are 10 commitments on the pre-application for planning applications. This has some relevance to The Potato Processing Application. It could be argued that SHDC did not follow the pre-application plan as stated in their own website.

4. WHERE AND WHAT DO WE DO RE. LIDSTONE PLANNING APPLICATION

The Planning Officer Kati Owen has so far has not made any recommendations and needs more information regarding noise. She will then approach the Ward Member Cllr Bramble asking whether he would be happy for the decision to be made under “Member Delegated Authority” Cllr. Bramble said at the meeting that he will not support this and will ask that it goes to the Development Management Committee.

Two persons from the Parish can attend, one for the application and one against the application. They will have three minutes each in which to put forward their point of view but Cllr. Bramble can speak for as long as necessary.

He went on to explain that the Parish can appeal a decision. That appeal can be made without cost to the Parish. He suggested that we consult with Graham Percival if he is happy to be involved.

If it goes to Building Inspectors they need to be seen that they have followed “due process” and they could be vulnerable at this point.

The Chairman was concerned that there are some parishioners that think this processing Plant might be a good idea.

Cllr. Stewart said that at the latest meeting there were approximately 50 people present and that the Chairman had done everything right. Only people against the processing plant were at the meeting and no-one came forward to back it. To his knowledge only one person had written in speaking for the application and they were from Malborough.

They were pleased to see a letter from South Hams Society speaking against the application Robin Toogood has also spoken against this application.

It was suggested that if the application was turned down, Lidstone’s might go to Michael Bakers field on the other side of the roundabout.

Cllr. Bramble felt that the initial meeting where 75 people turned out and the 2nd meeting where 50 parishioners attended was considered to be a good turnout. Cllr. Stewart felt that the meeting gave the Parish Council a mandate to work on.

What is our next step?

It was felt that the Parishioners were looking for leadership. Cllr. Stewart stated that he would like to become involved. At the time of the public meeting he was unsure if this would be the correct thing suggest. The rest of the Cllrs agreed that this was the way forward.

Cllr Tarr asked for clarification about funding a consultation. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would need 100% of the Parish behind this. There are a number of Parishioners who would be happy to help fund an action.

It was decided that Cllr. Stewart would speak to Graham Percival and Phil Cridland and possibly Richard Martin.

Cllr. Masters is going to give Cllr. Stewart the name of a contact for the Council of Rural England who lives in Galmpton.

There was a concern that if this Application was successful then the Affordable Housing which the Council worked extremely hard to get might be put in jeopardy as it may deter people buying some of the houses which will be on the open market.

Cllr. Tarr suggested that we need to communicate better with our Parishioners. There are many that do not know the historical reasons as to how the Parish Council was formed after the whole of the previous Parish Council resigned. It appears that many people do not realise that the Parish Councillors are all volunteers, none of whom were elected because not enough parishioners wanted to join the Parish Council

It was suggested that Sue, with help from the Councillors could up-date the website with background information informing people what the Councillors can do and are doing.

Cllr. Bramble passed on an Application Form, Sustainable Community Locality Fund to Cllr Hind regarding the defibrillator, Cllr Stewart will fill this in and the Chairman will sign this and return it to Cllr. Bramble.

Cllr. Bramble reported that at the end of the month there would be a report on the Ward Boundaries.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

All the Councillors had received a letter from Mr and Mrs. Haskins regarding the letter that as put on the notice board. It was considered sufficient that Cllr. Masters had already replied and answered the points made in their letter.

Cutting of Grass – The Chairman is to contact Highways department regarding this to find how much grass cutting will be done.

He has had an email from “The Groundsman” and will also be contacting Bernard Scott. Both will be asked to quote for the cutting of the grass. The Council would have to check that the correct insurance was in place.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting has been arranged for 25th February, 2014 - 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9 p.m. – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL THE LIDSTONE PLANNING APPLICATION MEETING HELD IN CHURCH HALL ON 21ST JANUARY, 2014

A meeting was arranged for 7 pm on 21st January for interested parties to look at the resubmitted plans for proposed Potato Processing Plant.

Approximately 50 people attended this meeting Chairman Cllr Roger Hind chaired the discussion.

Mr. Les Birt opened this discussion by asking whether Churchstow Parish Council supported the proposed plans. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council was not in support of this planning application.

Mr. Birt then went on to say that there appears to be a “false statement” which again appears In the application stating that the Parish Council had a positive site meeting and were in support of these plans. The Chairman said that at no time had there been a site meeting with the Parish Councillors and this was pointed out to the appropriate parties and should have been withdrawn. This has been stated again and is now considered a “False Statement”. Mr Birt felt it should be reported to the Chief Constable for investigation. He has already written to the Chief Constable regarding this.

The meeting felt that not much has changed since the last application apart from the addition of water collection. A lively debate on where the sludge would eventually go ensued.

As this is an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty there was also concern about the landscaping. A number of people who live in the area pointed out that nothing actually grows and certainly would not grow to any height hence the buildings would be visible from a great distance.

Mr. Birt also pointed out that the planning included "Cold Stores" but did not mention the addition of refrigerated plant. These would need 100 kw of electricity.

There was concern that there would be noise pollution and so far no noise evaluation has been done. He wondered if this had been deliberately left off the plans in order not to do an evaluation He felt quite strongly that this is "wrongful deception" and should be reported to the Chief Constable.

The only Noise Evaluation that has been done, was under factory conditions and only on one machine and not on the refrigeration plant.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should get someone to represent them legally, but there was some concern about using Parish monies for this, as not everyone in the Parish of Churchstow attended meeting and it would need 100% support against this application to fund this,

There was also comments as to why the plans were submitted as four separate applications, when, in commercial terms it should be one. The official answer was that this was the cheaper option, It was suggested that it was a way in which to avoid an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The meeting also felt that they should ask why screening was not included under Environmental Impact Development as this states it is a major development.

It was suggested that we should challenge the landscape character, effect on the skyline and light pollution.

Cllr. Adrian Masters commented that he felt that this Development is in the wrong place and suggested that an Action Group be set up that evening from the people at the meeting. Everyone agreed to this suggestion.

He then went on to ask if any person would come forward to front this, unfortunately no-one present felt they had either the time or the expertise to do this.

Cllr. Masters went on to suggest that interested parties visit the Parish Website to view the letters of objection Phil Crigland and Les Birt had sent to South Hams Planning Department.

Cllr Masters was upset that the "villagers" present did not feel strongly enough to do something about this and left the meeting.

Cllr. Hind suggested that a letter of objection will be posted on the Churchstow Parish Council Website for any interested party to read and use the information to send a letter to the SHDC with their objections.

Concerns were also raised about the amount of heavy traffic on our small roads especially if the business then expanded.

It was also asked if the proposed Housing Development had put in an objection as the new houses Being proposed were quite close to the Processing Plant and would be subjected to noise.

Mr. Birt offered to give copies of his objections to anyone who was interested in order that they might use his information to draft their own letter to both the Chief Constable and SHDC – the new contact at SHDC is Miss Kati Owen.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.