

Minutes for Churchstow Parish Council meeting
Thursday 10th August 2017- 8pm
The Church Hall, Churchstow

Present

Cllr Hind

Cllr Williams

Cllr Tarr

Cllr Woodley

Cllr Bramble - SHDC

Cllr Gilbert - DCC

Jody Fendick - Clerk

Apologies

Cllr McLaney

Cllr Stewart

Cllr Barrett-Burn

1. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES** Cllr Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs McLaney, Stewart and Barrett-Burn.
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.** The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and signed by Cllr Hind.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES.** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CLERKS REPORT Our VAS will be installed in the next week or two. We have no more information regarding the new housing proposal, other than the developer is to put a pre-planning application in soon. The community benefit land is still under the ownership of the liquidators. We are still looking at ways we can have/use the land for ourselves.

We are happy with the progress of the community gardening but realise that we cannot rely on the community's goodwill. So, we will engage a contractor once a month and ask locals to keep the grass cut in between the contractors visits.

Some residents questioned the appearance of the village and how we can, as a Parish Council, tackle this. We need to look at ways to keep hedgerows/overhanging trees tidy and cut back. We realise that the maintenance of this may not be possible for some of the older members of the community, so we need to look further into ways where we can support residents to look after the areas they are responsible for. It is possible that DCC may provide some funds to set up a community group to manage this. This would require the community to be actively involved. The Parish Council could set it up but a team of local volunteers would be needed to run it.

The Parish Council agreed to collect more email addresses to add to their mailing list, to keep locals up to date with any events that are happening locally. We are also hoping to start up our own Community newsletter/paper

1. Cllr Rufus Gilbert addressed the meeting and updated us with DCC's current situation concerning elderly care services in the local area, the issues they have with 'Bed Blocking' and how DCC intends to tackle the rising costs of these services over the next few years. He also drew our attention to the new school at Loddiswell and how pleased the local families in Loddiswell were with their new building.
2. Cllr Ian Bramble addressed the meeting. He spoke of SHDC and West Devon and Plymouth Council's intention to merge. He asked those present to consider the wider implications of such a merger. In particular, the increase in Council Tax that SHDC residents would have to pay. There is to be a consultation and the public are been asked to fill out forms/online questionnaires. The Parish Council have decided to hold an extraordinary public meeting next month to encourage locals to comment on the consultation. The date for this will be announced in the next week or two.

7. ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Community Benefit Land – This matter is still in progress. The developer has made an offer to purchase the land but nothing has been finalised yet.

Planning Issues – There are no current planning issues.

Meeting ended at 21.05