

## **WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2003 AT THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY**

**Present :** Cllr P Glanvill (Chairman), Cllrs P Bricknell, D Brown, R Brown, Mrs A Follett, G Gerdes, M Golby, Mrs G Parkin, S Stokes, Mrs D Wilson

County & District Councillor John Glanvill, approximately 15 members of the public and one member of the press were also present.

Mrs Belinda Price, Clerk to the Parish Council took the Minutes

**MINUTES :** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2002 were confirmed as being correct.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :** Cllr Philip Glanvill commenced his report by advising that the Parish Council had had another busy year overseeing the running of the Parish and dealing with the ever-increasing bureaucratic workload. The year started with the sad death of Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith, a Parish Councillor for over 30 years and Chairman since 1997. She was a lady who led from the front and always spoke her mind. During the year two other Councillors were lost – Cllr Mrs Brigitte Lewis to work commitments and Cllr Bernie Limb to the new Code of Conduct and Register of Interests. These Councillors were replaced, one from each village as follows: Cllr Graham Gerdes (Woodbury Salterton): Cllr Keith Shell (Woodbury) and Cllr Mrs Gina Parkin (Exton).

One of the highlights of the year was the Golden Jubilee, celebrated in all three villages with a variety of street parties, family discos, fireworks and the giving away of the celebration mugs to the children. Thanks to all the organisers of these events who helped to ensure their success.

One of the duties of the Parish Council is to provide funding for various causes within the parish. This year the Community Grant Scheme assisted Exton Village Hall to redecorate following the floods of two years ago and Woodbury Village Hall with the purchase of stage extensions/steps.

The Chairman continued by remarking that the real downside of being a Parish Councillor is the never-ending bureaucracy that is imposed upon the Council. It is important to remember that the twelve elected members perform their duties as volunteers and although some are retired others still hold down full time jobs and others have young families. The paperwork and regulations being forced upon the Council are almost backbreaking. A typical example would be the Emerging Draft Devon Waste Management Plan which is so large it completely fills a briefcase. This must be read, understood and commented upon within the next four weeks.


Two public meetings have recently been held in Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton to discuss the Emerging Draft East Devon Local Plan. Both meetings were well attended and the Parish Council's reply, including the results of questionnaires handed in at the two meetings, has been sent off to the District Council. The vote expressed at those two meetings was very much against any expansion in all three villages and this follows the conclusion of the Parish Appraisal some ten years ago. More recently the same opinion was confirmed in the Village Design Statement following two and a half years of public consultation. The VDS can be used as a blue print for many planning issues being supplementary planning guidance having already proved its worth in helping to determine many applications.

Finally Cllr Glanvill thanked PC Jim Shanks, the community policeman, all the voluntary wardens and the volunteers who keep an eye on the play areas and attend forums and committees and the Clerk and his fellow Councillors who have all given him tremendous support during the year.

**ACCOUNTS :** The Clerk read out a report on the finances stating that the 2001/02 accounts had now been audited and referred Parishioners to the Income & Expenditure Account, copies of which had been circulated to all those present. She advised that the 2002/03 accounts would be presented to Council at the June meeting.

The financial year 2002/03 saw grant aided expenditure from East Devon District Council in the sum of £1338 to install electricity to the play area at Exton and a capital grant, also from EDDC of £3143 towards new play equipment at three of the five play areas at Exton, Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton. This was match-funded by the Parish Council also in the sum of £3143. Other funds received included donations of £333.70 from EDDC & £100 from Clinton Devon Estates towards the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and a small grant of £65 from Devon CC towards the maintenance of the Parish Paths. The sum of £315 from EDDC towards maintenance of the Gulliford Burial Ground was also received.

The Council tax set by EDDC has risen quite steeply this year. An increase from Devon CC of 18%, the Police Authority's increase of 39.9% and that of EDDC itself of 6.4% have together made for much larger bills for the residents of this Parish. Anticipating this, the Parish Council made strenuous efforts to keep its requirement as low as possible. Unfortunately, a small rise of £1800 was necessary to keep pace with above-inflation increases but this represents only the second rise in 7 years.

 10.3.04



Other than general administration, this year's budget includes £4670 for environmental costs & £2500 worth of grants. The 5 play areas have been allocated a total of £2625 and the Parish Paths Scheme £300. We have set aside £236 for the allotments to cover site rent and contingencies, £150 for the Gulliford Burial Ground, and £1000 for repairs & maintenance of Parish Council assets.

The Parish Council elections which will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> May this year. Anybody who would like to know more about becoming a Councillor is most welcome to contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors about what it involves. Most people who live or work within 3 miles of a Parish are eligible to become Councillors for that Parish and it is a most worthwhile and interesting job, although rather overburdened with bureaucracy just at present. Lack of experience is not a stumbling block as there are training sessions available and lots of help from the more experienced Councillors and myself. I have some leaflets here if anyone would like to take one at the end of the meeting.

**COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** : Cllr John Glanvill told the meeting how hard he had tried to keep the recent rate rise down. He had received 17 phone calls and 12 letters on the subject and many people are just not in a position to be able to pay. Unfortunately central government funding had been cut and had Devon CC raised its budget by only 5% it would have meant the loss of 500 teachers, 2500 libraries and a tremendous cut in highways services.

The emerging Local Plan would be examined in May. Axminster and Honiton are desperate for new houses. If Broadclyst goes ahead there would be no need to build in Woodbury Parish. Cllr Glanvill continued that he was very concerned about the state of the planning at East Devon and said he found it difficult to live with the current planning system with so many retrospective planning applications. He felt that the government should be in strong penalties.

The forthcoming boundary changes whereby Woodbury Salterton becomes part of Raleigh Ward seemed to be all wrong. Again, Cllr Glanvill had tried very hard, together with the County solicitor, to stop this particular change.

Finally, on the subject of the retirement bungalows in Woodbury, Cllr Glanvill advised that he had had a few run-ins with EDDC on the subject of allocation. He felt strongly that Woodbury Parishioners should be entitled to put refuse

**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL SERVICES** : The Chairman welcomed Tony Matthews representing Devon County Council Highways who spoke most informatively on the Authority and the speed limits and traffic speeds in the area. There are 28 members of staff in the local office, the majority concerned with road maintenance but also including road safety, bridleways and footpaths.

The Department of Transport sets the rules on speed limits which are apparently unnecessary where the character of the road keeps the speed down. A speed limit does not imply that it is a safe speed and a limit can only be set depending upon the condition of the road and the environment. The criteria for a 30mph is a built up area with development in depth on both sides of the road. The criteria for a 40mph limit is partially built up with 50% of frontages developed. A speed limit area must be a minimum of 800 metres long.

Speed cameras are very effective where they are placed but speed tend to increase immediately after the camera has been passed. The cost of cameras is high and they can only be placed where statistics show a need due to sufficient numbers of accidents. An interactive sign has recently been used to good effect in the area - particularly Woodbury. Unfortunately there is only one in East Devon although it is hoped that another one will shortly be forthcoming. These signs however, are only effective for short periods of time as drivers become used to them and ignore them after approximately 10 days.

Questions and answers were as follows:

A request for road markings at Exton on the A376 was considered a good idea: the suggestions of a roundabout at the Arch was deemed a good idea in principle and there was no reason why it should not be followed up although previous schemes had involved considerable changes to the Arch, none of which had found favour: the problem of the use of Town Lane and Castle Lane as rat runs was a difficult one as although the speed of vehicles was not appropriate it was inside the speed limit: speed limits on rural roads had been considered by the Government who had considered making a limit of 40mph on all rural roads but even 40mph is probably too fast for most lanes; the problem of signing them without being too intrusive was also a problem: the question of slavish adherence to statistics etc, particularly with regard to the new houses at the Drakes was discussed; if speed cameras can only be supplied where statistics show sufficient accidents, why is the village of Woodbury being forced to change the junction outside Drakes, prior even to the houses being built? This is due to a need to ensure highway safety.

**"THE ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCILLOR"** : Cllr Bob Collyer, a Member of the County Committee and EDDC General Purposes Sub Committee spoke on the pros and cons of being a Parish Councillor. He advised that PCs had to have the ability to listen and have the qualities of integrity, honesty and endeavour. The Parish Council is the most important rung on the ladder, made up of ordinary honest people, who spend hours at long meetings without many pats on the back or even thanks. Persistence is also very important.

The new Local Code of Conduct was originally felt to be very intrusive but ultimately not many Councillors felt they had to resign. Cllr Collyer continued that continuity was very important, as was the inclusion of young people into the Parish Councils, together with people from all walks of life in order to give balance to the decision making process.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
10-3-04



**RESOLUTIONS :** No written resolutions had been received.

**ANY OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** Items raised by the Public included parking on the corner beside the Church in Exton and rubbish in the car park in Woodbury. Praise was given for the Highways Dept following the repair of a pothole in Woodbury Salterton within 24 hours of it being reported.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and all the speakers for giving up their time. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith' or similar, with a stylized flourish at the end.

10-3-09



## **WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2004 AT THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY**

**Present :** Cllr P Glanvill (Chairman), Cllrs R Brown, G Gerdes, Mrs G Parkin, C Salt & S Stokes.  
County & District Councillor John Glanvill, District Councillors Mrs Ann Liverton & Ben Ingham, PC Jim Shanks, Dave Collings (EDDC Enforcement Officer) & approximately 35 members of the public were also present.  
Mrs Belinda Price, Clerk to the Parish Council took the Minutes

**MINUTES :** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2003 were confirmed as being correct.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :** Cllr Philip Glanvill commenced his report as follows:

The future, so I'm told is in e-mails, websites and broadband, of course they are all served by those calming, reliable and easy to use machines called desktop PCs, which never break down on a Saturday morning or run out of ink later the same day or fail to spring into action as your right index finger caresses that smooth button of your friendly cheese resistant mouse. No, the dinosaurs amongst us are having to move forward despite the frustrations of modern technology. The Parish Council is moving with great gusto into this new future. The clerk has had an e-mail address for the council for some time now and Councillor Salt is coordinating the setting up of a Parish Council website and you the parishioners of Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton, since I believe Exton already has it, need to register your interest online in order that we may all benefit from Broadband; if you need the address contact the clerk.

Without a doubt the most time consuming duty of any Parish Councillor is to visit planning sites and then enter into discussion and debate at the fortnightly meetings. Indeed, one meeting each month is dedicated to planning matters and Councillors take their decisions, not always unanimously I might add, very seriously since a lot of time is spent taking into account the feelings and views of the local people who will ultimately have to live with whatever structures are erected. And so the VDS kicks into action as a reference guide not only to the Parish Council but also to the District Council and ideally the architects who are drawing up the plans. This guide should never be taken lightly since it too is a reflection of local residents who, whilst accepting that our villages can never stand still, wish to see *building design and densities which fit in with the rural character of our area*. Many Councillors feel the process falls on its face when the District Council makes its decisions since there is poor communication and feedback to our Parish especially over minor amendments which can move an entire structure a few feet or add windows, garages and porches which the Parish Council is never told about.

Many villagers in Woodbury will breathe a sigh of relief when the conversion of Fairfield Nursing Home into flats is complete at Easter this year, but a continuing watchful eye will be needed to ensure that the agreement between Developer and Planning Authority over the replanting and future maintenance of the trees surrounding the site is enforced since many feel the three new structures have been built too close to the boundary screen.

I am sure many of you will have noticed the new sign on Woodbury Village Green which was paid for by the generosity of the Mary Heywood-Browne Memorial. Repairs to the bus shelter, soon to be completed, and the planting of spring bulbs at the village approaches are also included and our thanks go to Reg Brown for coordinating this village asset.

One of the biggest expenses for the Parish Council is the maintenance of our five play areas which require a continuing program of repair and refurbishment as well as the volunteers to do the weekly checks on equipment safety to meet the strict criteria laid down by the insurance company. The Exton play area now has the benefit of both water and electricity and most recently has a newly planted boundary hedge – which incidentally we are still looking for a volunteer to water. The task of checking and cleaning up litter and dog mess is one which deserves one of the biggest thank-yous of the evening since it can be hard work and at times a little frustrating when people fail to use the litter bins provided. Hermann Arndt who has been looking after the two Woodbury play areas is retiring after three years and the Parish Council is now looking for a successor, so if any volunteers to take over are here please contact the clerk. So a big thank you to Hermann and to Mrs Ngaio Southand for Woodbury Salterton and Robert Gittings for Exton not forgetting the Footpath Warden, Mrs Jane Tucker.

June looks to be a month of change for not only will the Parish Council be looking for a third Councillor for Woodbury Salterton, which will greatly ease the burden on our two existing Councillors especially with some of the complex issues arising at Greendale. So if you or anyone you know may be interested the clerk will soon have the relevant forms. But also our local Police Constable Jim Shanks will be retiring after patrolling our Parish for many years to be replaced by WPC Corrine Sycamore, a local girl who already knows the area well, but has a tough act to follow since Jim has achieved a great deal in his time with us and we thank him and his colleagues for their hard work.



Finally, my thanks go to all the Councillors who have given me so much support during the past year, volunteer wardens whose tireless work behind the scenes can so easily be overlooked and of course the most important thank you of all is to our clerk Belinda Price for all her hard work and advice during the year.

**ACCOUNTS :** The Clerk read out a report on the finances as follows:

I have provided you with copies of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003. These accounts have been audited but if you have any questions relating to them I will do my best to answer them. The accounts for this year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 are obviously not yet complete but will be presented to Council at their June meeting. However, I can give you a brief resume of their contents. The financial year 2003/04 saw grant aided expenditure from East Devon District Council in the sum of £1100 to install water to the play area at Exton. This was insufficient to cover the cost of the installation and the shortfall was kindly made up by the Exton Jubilee Committee in the sum of £400. A capital grant also from EDDC of £2230 towards new play equipment at Exton and Woodbury Salterton was match-funded by the Parish Council, also in the sum of £2230. The Parish Council has also negotiated capital sums from Gerald Wood Homes and Redrow Homes of £2500 and £1000 respectively. Other funds received included approximately £700 from the Trustees of Mary Hayward Brown which has paid for the sign on Woodbury Village Green, a small grant of £50 from Devon CC towards the maintenance of the Parish Paths, £330 from EDDC towards the maintenance of the Gulliford Burial Ground and £92 from the sale of parish maps, footpath leaflets etc.

Moving on to the Precept for the year 2004/05. As usual, the Parish Council has made strenuous efforts to keep its requirement as low as possible. Unfortunately, a small rise of £1900 was necessary to keep pace with above-inflation increases but this represents only the third rise in 8 years and was absolutely necessary in order to maintain the Parish.

Other than general administration, this year's budget includes £4980 for environmental costs & £2400 worth of grants. In addition, the 5 play areas have been allocated a total of £3850 and the Parish Paths Scheme £300. We have set aside £260 for the allotments to cover site rent and contingencies, £150 for the Gulliford Burial Ground, and £1000 for repairs & maintenance of Parish Council assets.

Every year the Parish Council sets aside £1000 as a community grant. Any bona fide group or society can apply for consideration for an allocation of part of the funds and application forms are available from me from June to the beginning of September for consideration at the October meeting. I am very pleased to be able to report that the Parish Council was able to assist the Netball Club and the Primary School in Woodbury this year – the former to purchase new equipment for the junior section and the latter towards the purchase of a new cover and roller for the swimming pool.

We have at last been allocated a third seat in the Woodbury Salterton Ward which means we will be advertising a vacant position for a councillor next month. The election will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> June and anyone who would like to know more about becoming a Councillor is most welcome to speak to me or any of the Councillors about what it involves. Most people who live or work within 3 miles of the Ward are eligible to put their names forward and it is a most worthwhile and interesting job, although rather overburdened with bureaucracy just at present. Lack of experience is not a stumbling block as there are training sessions available and lots of help from the more experienced Councillors and myself.

Just before I finish I would just like to remind you all of the Parish Council noticeboards in each village. On the boards are details of forthcoming meetings, each Councillor and his or her telephone number, the Clerk's address and telephone no and the numbers of the various Wardens. Agendas for every meeting are posted at least three days prior to the meetings. Additionally they often contain posters advertising events and/or services. They are well worth keeping an eye on as they are always kept well up to date and may have information of interest to you.

**DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

**District Councillor Mrs Ann Liverton** spoke of the boundary changes and Parishioners fears that the changes were not for the better. She continued by saying that she had been made most welcome by the Parish Council and the Woodbury Salterton ward members in particular and hoped that everyone felt that the changes had been worthwhile. She would continue to hold surgeries as often as possible for as long as people were using them as she found them to be very useful but she was not always able to attend Parish Council meetings due to her duties as Chairman of EDDC.

This year's Council Tax was the lowest in Devon and Councillors had fought very hard to keep the Rural Aid budget. 80% had been saved. She concluded by saying that she had divided the annual meeting of EDDC and the Town and Parish Councils into two in an effort to meet the widely differing needs of the two groups.

District Councillor Ben Ingham advised that although this had been his first year as Councillor for Woodbury, he had in fact been a District Councillor for Lympstone for nine years, so although he had had to feel his way around Woodbury and get to know the area, he was already well versed in his duties generally. He added that it was a real pleasure to attend Woodbury's meetings as they were more relaxed than the meetings at Lympstone.

He felt that he and his fellow Councillor had an excellent record with planning – in fact a 100% track record on upholding the PC's recommendations when a site visit was involved. However, there had been a change of structure at EDDC which had resulted in the abolition of the Western Area Planning



Committee in an effort to meet the stringent timing guidelines put down by Central Government. He felt that this was putting Officers in a difficult position as decisions when taken should be the right ones – if applicants win on appeal then the Officer has got it wrong and this may in part be due to time constraints.

**County & District Councillor John Glanvill** apologised for attending late due to his attendance at an Executive meeting at EDDC. He spoke briefly on the future of the Council Tax and the ability of people to pay. He advised that Devon CC have a policy of attending to potholes within 48 hours of being advised and finished by advising that the Social Services budget was the most difficult to set and was one of the most important aspects of County Council work.

**COMMUNITY POLICEMAN'S REPORT:** PC Jim Shanks advised that the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary had a new Chief Constable and continued to introduce changes in its organisation of resources during the last year. There were also changes in procedure with the introduction of European rights and diversity issues. WPC Corrine Sycamore has joined the Budleigh team as the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager. Woodbury Parish is in area 4 BCU (Basic Command Unit) and the Officers operate from Budleigh Salterton police station. PCs Shanks, Chapman, Fleming and Sycamore are the Neighbourhood Beat Managers for their respective parishes.

**The Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for East Devon:**

1. To reduce the fear of house burglary by 5%
  2. To prevent any further increase in the rate of growth in anti-social behaviour
  3. To reduce the number of thefts from vehicles across the District
  4. To reduce drug misuse and associated criminal behaviour, disorder and fear in the community
- PC Shanks concluded his report with log statistics and thanked the Parish Council and its Members for their continuing support.

**PLANNING ENFORCEMENT** – Dave Collings, Enforcement Officer at East Devon District Council spoke on planning enforcement in the area. His aim was to introduce the meeting to the duties of the Enforcement Officer, how a breach of planning control is investigated and the options that are available in resolving it. These are achieved in the following order:

1. **Initial investigation of complaints:** It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to monitor developments in the area and be alert to unlawful activities so they can be dealt with promptly. The Enforcement Officer's first visit to the site of the alleged breach of control is crucial and his approach should be carefully considered. He may or may not call on the complainant at the time, especially if his next visit is to the contravenor if he lives next door.
2. **Establish whether there is a breach of planning control:** A careful research of the planning history of the location is then carried out. It may be necessary to obtain further information from local knowledge. Consideration of the site as a whole must be given to determine whether there is more than one breach and to identify the extent of the planning unit.
3. **Options for action:** When it has been established that a breach of planning control has occurred there are a range of options
4. **Consultation and Sources of Information:** In order to decide on the appropriate action, further information and advice may be required. Consideration should be given to informing nearby residents that action is being contemplated.
5. **The Enforcement Notice:** The local planning authority may issue an Enforcement Notice where it appears that a. there has been a breach of planning control; b. that it is expedient to issue the notice having regard to the development plan.
6. **Alternatives to Enforcement Notice:** The issuing of an Enforcement Notice is not the be all and end all of planning control. There are other powers or action that may be more appropriate to take, giving a quicker and better result than an Enforcement Notice.

With the new and substantially improved powers to enforce planning control the position of the Enforcement Officer within the local community continues to be an important role and with increasing public awareness, the duties continue to expand.

Mr Collings concluded by advising of the various telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of his department and advised that anyone wishing to contact the department was most welcome to do so.

**RESOLUTIONS:** No written resolutions had been received.

**ANY OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** Items raised by the Public included a request for speed cameras in the Parish; a request for a period set aside for the public to speak at Parish Council meetings; a query as to whether the Parish Council would consider holding meetings in the villages of Woodbury Salterton and Exton; a complaint that something should really be done to address the traffic and parking problems at the junction of Station Road, Exton and the A376; a request that the problem of the height of the station platform at Exton be addressed as a matter of urgency.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and all the speakers for giving up their time. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

*John* 21-3-05



## **WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2005 IN THE CHURCH ROOMS WOODBURY**

**Present :** Cllr P Glanvill (Chairman), Cllrs P Bricknell, R Brown, Mrs A Follett, M Gooding, Mrs G Parkin, C Salt, K Shell & C Silverthorne  
County & District Councillor John Glanvill, District Councillors Mrs Ann Liverton & Ben Ingham, WPC Corinne Sycamore & 4 members of the public were also present.  
Mrs Belinda Price, Clerk to the Parish Council took the Minutes

**MINUTES :** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004 were confirmed as being correct.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :** Cllr Philip Glanvill commenced his report as follows:

In my report this year I am going to highlight some of the events of the year which starts with our local WPC Corinne Sycamore who took over this area in June. Corinne recently held a surgery at the Village Hall to enable residents to voice some of their many worries. The item at the top of the list was the possibility of an anti-social behavioural order being placed on two particularly unruly individuals and Corinne was hoping that the questionnaires supplied would help to secure this order once residents had returned them. We also heard of the need for more volunteers to act as neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and she urged residents to report even minor incidents to help the police build up an accurate picture of all events.

The subject of misbehaving youths leads on to a more recent communication received from EDDC that of the proposed closure of the public conveniences. The Parish Council was only informed about this proposal in January giving us no time at all to adjust the parish precept for the coming year. At present it costs EDDC £4000 to run this building of which £900 is spent on rectifying vandalism. At a recent meeting in the council offices at Sidmouth it came to light that Woodbury was quite unique in rural areas with such high vandalism costs and maybe if more residents reported the vandalism, which mainly takes the form of graffiti to the outside of the building, the individuals responsible could be apprehended and the future costs of the public conveniences would be reduced. The PC is giving considerable thought as to how it can justify taking on this expense and it may well be that community grants and donations will have to be adjusted downwards and possible charging for the use of PC open areas for fetes and charity events.

Devon County Council is committed to sustainable transport and one of the environmentally friendly ways this can be achieved is to encourage travellers away from cars onto public transport and bicycles. To this end a cycle way around the coastline of Devon is proposed with a cycle link between Topsham and Exmouth along the Exe estuary being a priority. The PC is supporting Exton residents in their request for the cycle way to be built on the river side of the railway as a safer and more interesting route for cyclists than the narrow and steep lanes of Exton and as the consultation period has now begun in earnest the PC will be involved in this new venture to ensure the best possible outcome for all concerned. Planning, with all its consultations, hurdles and local input is one of the most time consuming and frustrating of all PC business. It is without doubt one of the areas where EDDC and the PC rarely find accord and the process has now been streamlined by EDDC in order to meet government set targets. The unfortunate sidekick to targets is the parameters on which they are set and with the explosion of house prices and the value of building plots it is understandable that so many people are attempting to gain permission in the present climate. The downside - and there always is one - is the pressure placed upon planning officers at EDDC and the frustration for the PC when considerable time is spent on debate to arrive at a recommendation, only to see it overridden at the next stage. The issue of travellers buying land and then setting up homes on that land without building permission has become very topical and Woodbury Salterton is presently suffering with such a problem. The whole community is following EDDC's handling of this situation since the repercussions of the travellers being successful in this planning minefield could be enormous on the parish.

Finally my thanks to the many volunteers who do so much outside PC meeting but who make such a difference to the surroundings we all enjoy. I of course refer to our play area wardens, Robert Gittings, Ngaio Southand and Anna Eyres, our footpath warden Jane Tucker and our tree wardens, Sally Elliott, Andrew Latham and Peter King.

My thanks also extend to all the Parish Councillors for their hard work and support and most important of all, our clerk Belinda Price for her advice, patience and good humour.



# ACCOUNTS : The Clerk read out a report on the finances as follows:

I have provided you with copies of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004. These accounts have been audited but if you have any questions relating to them I will do my best to answer them. The accounts for this year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 are obviously not yet complete but will be presented to Council at their May meeting. However, I can give you a brief resume of their contents. The financial year 2004/05 saw grant aided assistance from East Devon District Council in the sum of £4000 to assist with improvements to Woodbury Salterton Village Hall. Two capital grants also from EDDC totalling £4246 towards new play equipment at Exton and Woodbury Salterton were topped up by the Parish Council to make a total of almost £7000 spent on play equipment in the Parish. Other funds received included £300 from EDDC towards the maintenance of the Gulliford Burial Ground and £70 from the sale of parish maps, footpath leaflets etc.

Moving on to the Precept for the year 2005/06. As usual, the Parish Council has made strenuous efforts to keep its requirement as low as possible. Unfortunately, a small rise of £1105 or 5.8% was necessary to keep pace with above-inflation increases. Unfortunately, due to the severe financial cutbacks of the District Council, next year may well prove to be a different story with no play area grants available and the possibility of having to find £4000 for the upkeep of the Woodbury public conveniences.

Other than general administration, this year's budget includes £6178 for environmental costs & £1667 worth of grants. In addition the 5 play areas have been allocated a total of £3775 and the Parish Paths Scheme £300. We have set aside £60 for the allotments to cover site rent and contingencies, £150 for the Gulliford Burial Ground, and £1500 for repairs & maintenance of Parish Council assets.

In the past the Parish Council has set aside £1000 as a community grant. This was open to any bona fide group or society who could apply for consideration for an allocation of part of the funds. In the year 04/05 the Parish Council has been able to assist the Local History Society with £112 towards the costs of hiring the Village Hall for an exhibition, and The Scouts and Guides of Woodbury with £1500 towards the costs of repairing their hut roof. Unfortunately this scheme may well have to lapse if the Parish Council decides at its April meeting to meet part of the costs of keeping open the public conveniences.

As ever, before I finish I would just like to remind you all of the Parish Council noticeboards in each village. On the boards are details of forthcoming meetings, each Councillor and his or her telephone number, the Clerk's address and telephone no and the numbers of the various Wardens. Agendas for every meeting are posted at least three days prior to the meetings. Additionally they often contain posters advertising events and/or services. They are well worth keeping an eye on as they are always kept well up to date and may have information of interest to you.

## DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

**County & District Councillor John Glanvill** spoke briefly regarding the Council Tax and the difficulties with the social services budget. Education had been treated well but there was a backlog of maintenance on highways who niggled along quietly behind the scenes getting as much as possible done. He advised that he would not be defending his Devon CC seat at the elections in May but he thanked everybody and said that he had enjoyed working with them all. He continued by saying that Devon CC was in the process of selling the airport but he hoped they would retain an interest, thereby looking after the ratepayers of Devon. His last four years on the County Council had been most enjoyable with no majority of any one political party.

Moving onto the District Council, he said that his view was that there should be more access to the democratic process. The new system at EDDC had been forced upon them by central government but it is very important for District & Parish councillors to make their views heard.

**District Councillor Mrs Ann Liverton** spoke of the travellers in Woodbury Salterton and advised that EDDC offices had spent a lot of time and money on the matter. This year the District Council had hit further budgetary constraints and the proposed closure of public conveniences was a result. This was very unpopular but their provision is not a statutory requirement. East Devon is not good at communications but it had learnt a lot over the last months. She personally had fought hard to keep the Rural Aid Scheme but unfortunately had failed. However, there is a small emergency pot should a Parish Council be desperate.

A new waste and recycling contract is in the process of being negotiated with a greater door to door collection of recycling. The future might bring weekly recycling and fortnightly refuse collections. She advised that she had had a couple of surgeries in Woodbury Salterton and listed to problems on housing and highways.

She finished by thanking the Council and Clerk for all their assistance over the past year.

**District Councillor Ben Ingham** advised that EDDC had failed to take into account the fact that they were 99% sure of getting less money from central government but were still shocked when it happened. The new precept works out at about 5% - it could not have been higher or it would have been capped by central government. He apologised to the PC for misguiding them on the proposed closure of the public conveniences. He had tried to postpone the inevitable and had failed. He disagreed with the short term gain of closure, compared with the costs of re-opening or rebuilding at some time in the future. The next full meeting of EDDC gave Members a chance to challenge the Leadership. He felt it unlikely that the current Leadership would continue after 2006.

Councillors then answered questions and much emphasis was put upon the new planning system at EDDC. It was stressed that the District Ward Member can still ensure that applications go before the



planning committee, but it was important that Parish Councils ensured that their Ward Members were aware of their views.

**COMMUNITY POLICEMAN'S REPORT:** WPC Corinne Sycamore gave her report as follows:

The Devon and Cornwall constabulary has continued to change over the past year. Our new Chief Constable Maria Wallace has continued to push neighbourhood policing as her number one priority. The Exmouth Neighbourhood Beat Managers Team have now been given two further positions within the area so that should assist the existing officers on the team to spend more time on their own beats. There has also been the introduction of two new laws that are both very controversial, they are the new hunting Act and the new licensing Act. The impact of the two new laws are still unknown at this time and hopefully I will be in a better position next year to tell you more about how they effect our parish. We have also been given our very own Police Community Support Officer Stuart Penny who now has access to a vehicle in order to come out and perform foot patrol within the parish.

I have compared all the crimes and incidents in the parish from March 04 to March 05 and have found the following:-

	2003/2004	2004/2005
SERIOUS ASSAULT	0	0
ABH / GBH	6	8
COMMON ASSAULT	9	10
HARRASSMENT	4	0
SEXUAL OFFENCES	1	2
ROBBERY	0	0
OTHER VIOLENCE	2	0
DOMESTIC BURGLARY	7	9
OTHER BURGLARY	13	18
THEFT OF VEHICLE	8	4
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	42	33
VEHICLE INTERFERENCE	7	4
SHOPLIFTING	1	0
OTHER THEFT	35	15
HANDLING	1	0
FRAUD AND FORGERY	7	13
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	48	50
DRUG OFFENCES	3	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>172</b>

There have been a total of 479 incidents in the parish this last year compared to 511 the year before that. The biggest change has been in vehicle crime this including theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles and interference with vehicles. In all of these categories this year there has been a great drop. We have had a couple more burglaries this last year but not a great leap. All of the fraud crimes have not actually been committed in the parish but have affected people within the parish, the crime having taken place elsewhere in the UK. It is a bit disappointing to see that we have been plagued with the same amount of criminal damage to last year. Steps are in place to deal with this problem so hopefully this time next year we should see a significant drop. As most people are aware I held a public meeting on problems with anti-social behaviour. This was very well attended -around 50 to 60 people came out. The venue unfortunately was a little small but we all coped with it and I will learn by my mistakes. It was a productive evening in as much I have now heard peoples concerns and can now start acting on this information.


Since the meeting two of the parish's biggest offenders have sat down with Gerry Moore and myself. Gerry works for the community safety team. A civil contract has been agreed between ourselves and the two young men concerned. This situation is being monitored very closely and hopefully will make a difference to the parish. Any further problems will mean that the court will get involved with an anti-social behaviour order.

I have enjoyed my first year in the parish which has included many challenging situations and incidents. The most fulfilling part of my role has been that I have engaged in working with the local primary schools and have had a chance to speak with all of the pre-schools on the patch and hopefully this has started links for my future years working within the parish.

**RESOLUTIONS :** No written resolutions had been received.

**ANY OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** No other items were raised.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the speakers for giving up their time. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

 22-3-06



## **WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2006 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY**

**Present :** Cllr P Glanvill (Chairman), Cllrs P Bricknell, R Brown, K Dentith, Mrs A Follett, G Gerdes, M Golby, Mrs G Parkin, K Perry, K Shell, C Silverthorne & S Stokes  
District Councillors John Glanvill & Mrs Ann Liverton & 13 members of the public were also present.  
Mrs Belinda Price, Clerk to the Parish Council took the Minutes

**MINUTES :** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2005 were confirmed as being correct.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :** Cllr Philip Glanvill reported as follows:

Once again the PC has had a busy and demanding schedule of meetings covering many diverse and routine matters from toad crossing signs to the possible closure of the public conveniences adjacent to this hall. The subject of the public conveniences surfaced at many meetings throughout the year with the PC eventually entering into an agreement with ED covering the future running of this building. The PC will pay ED approximately £4000 per year with ED administering the day to day running.

The subject of affordable homes was discussed again last year with two public meetings in Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton village halls both of which were well attended by many interested people looking to either rent or buy into shared equity ownership. The matter is ongoing and a recent meeting with a newly formed Housing Trust should result in the process moving forward to the planning stage, but there may well be more public meetings to iron out any local issues.

Planning is of great importance to the applicant and one of great complexity for those resolving the application. We in this PC are lucky to have many councillors of experience who have attended planning courses or who have a professional background making for sound recommendations by the PC. With his vast experience as a councillor Reg Brown has put together a planning guidance document for use primarily by councillors but also by agents and applicants as a comprehensive guide to this process and it is now available to other PCs across East Devon.

During the year we have had three extended meetings when Tony Matthews or Meg Booth have attended to listen to parishioners concerns about traffic speed and the use of minor roads by HGVs. We are most grateful for the interest and time spent by these two officers in meeting with the PC and I am very pleased that the resulting traffic surveys back up parishioners worries. Solving the problems will take time but the possibility of a School Travel Plan for both Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton are being looked into which will help reduce traffic speeds at these two hotspots and new signs recently erected by Greendale have already gone some way to reducing HGVs in particular areas.

We have many dedicated conservationists within the parish but the one individual who deservedly needs mentioning is Sally Elliott. Her tireless work with trees and getting toad crossing signs erected in White Cross Road is worthy of special praise. She is presently producing a list of trees within the parish for inclusion in the Great Tree Hunt initiated by EDDC and anyone who feels a tree which has a human story attached should contact her. The conservation theme continues with the Rock Environmental Treatment Scheme. The County Council in conjunction with Aggregates UK Ltd currently has funding for community projects and last year the PC put forward a scheme to erect an information panel and bench at Blackhill Quarry both of which will be erected in April for the benefit of anyone wishing to know the history and future of the quarry together with its flora and fauna. We thank DCC and Aggregates UK for their support and for the hard work of the team headed by Reg Brown and Graham Gerdes who coordinated the project.

During the year both Derek Brown and Chris Salt resigned from the PC and I thank them very much for their contribution to the villages and wish them well for the future. By the same token we welcome Ken Perry and Kevin Dentith who have already thrown themselves into the busy workload of this PC.

Finally my thanks to the many volunteers who do so much outside PC meetings but make such a difference to the surroundings we all enjoy and I of course refer to our play area wardens Robert Gittings, Ngaio Southard, Anna and Lucy Eyres, our footpath warden Jane Tucker, our tree wardens Sally Elliott, Andrew Latham and Peter King and to Graham Joyce for his help with the allotments and Christmas tree lights.

My thanks also extend to all the Parish Councillors for their hard work and support and most important of all, our clerk Belinda Price for her advice, patience and good humour.





**ACCOUNTS :** The Clerk read out a report on the finances as follows:

I have provided you with copies of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. These accounts have been audited but if you have any questions relating to them I will do my best to answer them. The accounts for this year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 are obviously not yet complete but will be presented to Council at their May meeting. However, I can give you a brief resume of their contents. The financial year 2005/06 saw a cessation of grant aided assistance from East Devon District Council due to its precarious financial position which Mark Williams will take you through later in the meeting. This has involved the Parish Council in the extra expense of £2000 in this year and £4000 in future years, to keep the public conveniences open in Woodbury. Had the PC not agreed to pay this, the toilets would have closed and the site may well have been redeveloped. In addition, the lack of grants from EDDC for upgrading the play areas has resulted in the PC having to tighten its belt and whilst the equipment has all been kept in working order, no additional items have been installed. Grants towards the maintenance of burial grounds have also been withdrawn, thereby involving Woodbury and Lympstone PCs in £300 pa towards Gulliford Burial Ground. Luckily, Devon CC continue to pay a grant towards the maintenance of parish paths (the P3 scheme) and we received £955 for use in these areas this year.

Moving on to the Precept for the year 2006/07. As usual, the Parish Council has made strenuous efforts to keep its requirement as low as possible. Unfortunately, the future contribution towards the toilets and the necessity to replace play equipment has resulted in a precept of £27863, a rise of £2583 over last year's figure of £25280.

In order to keep this rise as low as possible we have had to cut back in other areas. This year's budget includes £5846 for environmental costs (a drop of £332) & £1150 worth of grants as mentioned previously. The BMX play area has been removed and the remaining 4 play areas have been allocated a total of £2761 (a drop of £1014) and the Parish Paths Scheme £300. We have set aside £210 for the allotments to cover site rent and contingencies and £250 for repairs & maintenance of Parish Council assets (a decrease of £1250).

We felt it was important to continue to administer the Community Grant scheme as an important way of assisting local societies and groups. We therefore set aside £1000 as usual for this grant. In the year 05/06 the Parish Council has been able to assist Woodbury Village Hall with £600 towards lighting and Woodbury PTFA with £100 towards the costs of putting on a play for the community. The remaining £300 from 05/06, plus a further £1000 for 06/07, will be allocated at the Parish Council meeting in November. Application forms are available from me and I have a few here this evening should anyone have a relevant scheme in mind.

Before I finish I would just like to remind you all of the Parish Council noticeboards in each village. On the boards are details of forthcoming meetings, each Councillor and his or her telephone number, the Clerk's address and telephone no and the numbers of the various Wardens. Agendas for every meeting are posted at least three days prior to the meetings. Additionally they often contain posters advertising events and/or services. They are well worth keeping an eye on as they are always kept well up to date and may have information of interest to you.

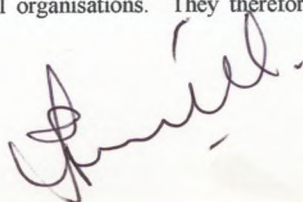
**EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL FINANCES & THE PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT – Guest Speaker, Mark Williams, Chief Executive of EDDC, spoke on the tight budgetary constraints being imposed upon EDDC by central government and the subsequent effect upon the Parish Council precept as follows:**

East Devon is the largest District Council in Devon & the second largest in the south west with 130,600 residents, 814 sq kl, 7 Towns and 61 Parishes. The Council has had 4 major inspections in 5 years with good reports on Leisure Services, Streetscene, Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Customer Access.

The large council tax increases by DCC, the Police and Fire Service are all collected by the DC but it only keeps 8% of the council tax bill. East Devon has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest percentage of pensioners in the country (34%).

In 1996/97 the average Band D property in England and Wales was £82.57 – EDDC Band D was £66 (80%). In the 2005/06 financial year the average England and Wales band D was £142.92. EDDC was £107.09 (85%). Overall England and Wales increase is 66% - EDDC was 56%. Nineteenth lowest council tax nationally.

In order to consider the cost of services it is necessary to distinguish between statutory and discretionary services. The Council is under pressure to spend more on statutory services to hit national targets – ie refuse & recycling/street cleansing. This leaves less money to spend on discretionary services ie toilets or grants to local organisations. They therefore have had to prioritise services and allocate budget accordingly.





EDDC gets their money as follows:

- Budget 06/07: 2.2% council tax increase
- Gross budget - £47.3million
- Benefits - £24.2m
- Government grant - £7.5m
- Council tax - £6.1m
- Fees, charges & interest - £9.5m
- Broad ratio: 30:25:45

"Free" bus travel has been a bone of contention in the press. Cost of half price scheme is £320k; government grant £640k. Cost of Devonwide Partnership membership - £1.35m. Funding gap = £390k or 7% extra charge on the council tax for every household young and old. EDDC will monitor costs and look to extend the scheme at the earliest opportunity.

The following are ongoing issues: Affordable Housing; Cranbrook; improved Customer Service; Streetscene issues; Community Safety/Anti Social Behaviour; Exmouth & Seaton Redevelopment.

#### DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

**District Councillor Mrs Ann Liverton** spoke of the two surgeries she had held in Woodbury Salterton, mainly to do with Planning & Affordable Housing which showed the deep concern that Parishioners had in this regard.

She agreed that EDDC had a problem with communication and said that regarding the free travel in the county a lot of heat could have been taken out of the situation had communications been better.

With regard to the local government reorganisation, she felt that Parish and Town Councils will become very import if District and County Councils are abolished in favour of regional government. She is very impressed with the expertise of many parishes and it was unfortunate that this expertise is not called upon more often.

**District Councillor John Glanvill** spoke briefly expressing the wish that we could go back to the old independent style of local government, without the political overtones that are now part of the system and apologised for being absent from many PC meetings due to health problems.

**District Councillor Ben Ingham** was not present and the Clerk read out his report as follows:

May I start by saying how enjoyable it has been working with the Members of Woodbury Parish Council throughout the last twelve months and with Belinda Price, Clerk to the Council. I value greatly the attitude of the Council, as I am sure the people of the Parish do as well. I have done my best to support the Parish, especially when called to do so and in addition, have worked together with Cllr John Glanvill regarding planning matters in order to protect the Parishes' interests as appropriate. I hope the Council and Parishioners will continue to contact me when they require my representation to protect our collective interests.

During the last twelve months there has been one particular issue for which I greatly regret not being able to secure the full financial support of EDDC. That is the maintenance of the public conveniences within Woodbury. I believe the attitude of EDDC was irresponsible. Yet again we see a disparity between the value for money meted out to council tax payers in Woodbury compared to that in our East Devon towns, yet it is you who effectively pay more. I could not condone the proposal of the controlling group at EDDC and discussed the issue with the Leader of EDDC. After agreeing to give Woodbury more time to budget for running your public conveniences, within two weeks the Leader had reneged on her commitment to you. At that stage I attempted to gain a vote of no confidence in the leadership of the controlling group, but failed to do so. I felt compelled to continue my objection by resigning the whip. As a result I am now an independent councillor and enjoy the freedom of being able to voice your concerns on your behalf more openly than previously. I hope the people of Woodbury approve of my stance. I admit to preferring my current position greatly.

In the last month I have just moved house, but not too far. So if anyone wishes to contact me, my new address is Ferndale, The Strand, Lympstone, EX8 5JS. I wish everyone all the best for the forthcoming year and look forward to working with your council whenever my help or support is required. I hope you have a successful meeting and do not stay up too late".





**County Councillor Mrs Christine Channon** was not present and the Clerk read out her report as follows:

Most of the issues which have arisen in Woodbury Salterton this year have focussed on either highway matters or planning. It is unusual for a County councillor to be heavily engaged with planning matters but the two industrial developments in the Parish have traffic implications for White Cross Lane. I consider the County Planning Officers to have been fairly sensible about the applications which have been put in so far but I will continue to monitor this carefully.

Dog Lane was in a bad condition but was resurfaced at the beginning of last May, however, I have noticed that surface water collects here after heavy rain and it is already damaging some of the resurfaced material. I was examining this lane one morning recently after such a downpour and was forced to reverse about a quarter of a mile back up the lane by a Devon CC minibus which had just turned the corner of White Cross Lane into Dog Lane. I, and the car behind me were reversing into blinding sunlight and it was very dangerous. On arriving at County Hall I rang the Director of the Environment and complained about the behaviour of this bus driver. I am informed that he was collecting children from a property in Dog Lane and that there is a trade union policy which states that if they are carrying children they should not reverse. I do not know whether anyone else has complained about such behaviour but if they do I would like to be informed. I was transporting two children at the time.

I have received a few complaints about traffic speeds in the village and will work on these over the coming year. I believe that we ought to first work on safer journeys to school and when this is cracked work out from there. The school has a new headteacher who started in January.

Marion Deacock, the Road Safety officer for our area, has offered to go into school and discuss with the Head and Governors a road traffic plan. I will join her and hopefully as soon as the new head has settled down we may move matters along fairly quickly. I was surprised how many children who attend Woodbury Salterton Primary travel in from outside the area.

Sally Elliot's plea for a Toad crossing sign for two months encouraged residents in other parts of Devon to also apply and I believe that four signs were erected. I hope that Sally's toads have had a safe passage across White Cross Lane and that when the outcome of the mating season comes to full term the toad population of East Devon will have been enhanced as a consequence. Possibly we may be harbouring some ridgebacks or other rare species.

I organise twice yearly visits with either Meg Booth or Paul Wilson to assess the level of highway maintenance which needs to be done in my ward. It has worked well in the past. Usually I ask the Parish to let me know of anything which is of concern to them, such as blocked easements, dirty signs, potholes, raised manholes, damaged verges, dangerous footways and so on. I then inspect them myself and finally drive the officer around the ward to see the problems for themselves. They record the problems and then send me a list with a time schedule attached for when they expect to complete the work. So far this has worked well but I do need to hear from the parishes of things which require attention. I hope to make my next inspection in April so it would be helpful to be notified of any matters which you consider require attention.

**RESOLUTIONS** : No written resolutions had been received.

**ANY OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

**Kilve Marchant**: Advised that parking on the Arch was so crowded that it was becoming impossible to run a business. He suggested restricted parking between 8.00am and 6.00pm. He and his fellow proprietors would enforce it by politely pointing out that restrictions were in place and he offered to pay the costs involved (£1000 per sign) if necessary. He also requested a crossing on the main road.

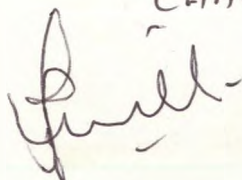
**Derek Meade**: Requested a speed restriction and traffic calming on the main road in Woodbury.

**Reg Brown**: Asked the public for reassurance for the PC paying for the public conveniences in Woodbury. He advised that the local churchyard would be full in two years and at present there was no contingency for that eventuality. He finished by advising that the Exe Estuary Cycle/Walkway was causing controversy in Exton as 97% of the local residents had requested scheme "C" which Devon County Council did not appear to be considering.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the speakers for giving up their time. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

CHAIRMAN

28/3/07.





## WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY.

**Present:** All members of Council were present.

District Councillors Glanvill & Liverton & 23 members of the public were also present.

The Chairman of Council, Cllr P Glanvill in the chair.

Mr D Atkins acting Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllr Hughes CC, Cllr Channon CC & the Clerk Belinda Price who was on sick leave.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 were approved and signed.

#### **Chairmans Report:**

The PC has once again had a busy and demanding schedule of meetings. We will soon be completing another four year term as the Parish's elected councilors and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May in this village hall the residents of the three parishes will have the opportunity to select the Parish and District councillors for the next four years. This election should not be taken lightly since the elected councillors carry a heavy burden of responsibility to administer the parish's affairs and financial matters at our fortnightly meetings and I would urge you all to speak to those standing for election and indeed to consider standing yourselves since there will be several vacancies.

Planning is an issue I mention every year and with good reason; more than 50% of our time is taken inspecting sites and discussing at meetings, during this past year there have been 28 applications in Woodbury Salterton, 29 in Exton and 60 in Woodbury many of which are straight forward and some highly complex and we are lucky to have many councillors of experience who make sound recommendations.

It cannot have escaped the parish's attention that our full time clerk Belinda Price has been seriously ill since last August and whilst she is now making steady progress and I should like on behalf of everyone to send her our best wishes and look forward to her full recovery. During her absence we have been fortunate that David Atkins has been able to fill the position of temporary clerk. David has vast experience both as a clerk at Newton Poppleford and chairman of Lympstone PC, this has manifested itself in the way he has slipped so easily into this position.

During the last month the PC has been meeting in the British Legion room at the rear of this building and we thank them for their co-operation. This is a temporary measure whilst the Parish rooms undergo renovation under the chairmanship of Reg Brown and the PC has had much pleasure in supporting this venture financially along with S.W.E.E.T. UK. The South West England Environmental Trust has given a grant to help towards the cost, this support made possible by a rebate from landfill tax within the Parish which can be distributed to local community projects.



During the year councillor Keith Shell sadly passed away after a long illness and we miss his plain speaking and commitment, our sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Finally my thanks to the many volunteers who do so much outside PC meetings but make such a difference to the surroundings we all enjoy and I of course refer to our play area wardens Robert Gittings, Ngaio Southard, Anna and Lucy Eyres, our footpath warden Jane Tucker, our tree wardens Sally Elliott and Peter King and to Graham Joyce for all his help with the allotments and Christmas tree lights.

My sincere thanks are also extended to all the Parish Councillors for their hard work, support and good humour and this year to both our clerks Belinda Price and David Atkins for their advice and patience.

**Accounts:** The Acting Clerk presented the report on the outturn for the current year and gave a resume of the income and expenditure for the year. ( full report on file).

**Reports:** County Councillor. Cllr Hughes reported.

The main concern over the past twelve months have been the cycle way through the village of Exton, and I am please to report that a major change of route was achieved by persuading DCC to re-examine the route and change their proposed route across Miss Pratt's field so that it will now run alongside the railway line. My reason for supporting this change was simply to end the second section of the route at the station car park so that when the third portion of the route is decided next year my hope is that route C will be adopted on the outside of the railway line along the frontage of the riverside.

The emergence of yet another route which makes use of the station platform and the railway land between the railway lines and the riverside has somewhat split the village so that are now no less than four routes to argue over!

The petition to re route the bus service so that Woodbury parishioners could have access to Topsham is so far unsuccessful, but I am aware that Stage coach are re-examining their routes in East Devon, particularly the routes that are commercial and not assisted by DCC.

I am pleased to have been able to assist with the refurbishment of the Parish Room with a grant from DCC to the value of £2000. I hope that the room with its new kitchen and toilet for the disabled will be of benefit to the whole community. DCC gave every DCC Councillor a sum of £6300 and this year I have found a project in Lypstone of £1950 plus VAT and another in Halsdon ward for £2000. So this year's allocation is nearly spent. I will have another allocation in 2007-08 and I will again ask Woodbury and Exton if there are any groups in the two villages that might be able to make use of a small grant. Of course the Parish Council will be included in my consultations.

I have dealt with a number of personal approaches from individual constituents but on the whole my representation of the people of Halsdon, Lypstone, Woodbury and Exton have been of a general nature. I have been included on a number of DCC working parties such as the future of Exeter Airport and Street Lighting. I have continued as a member of the Exe Estuary Partnership, of which I am the Chairman, and the Exeter Rail Working Party (Which looks after the line from Exeter to Exmouth). I continue to be a member of the Economy, Environment and Culture Scrutiny Committee and have the privilege of being the Chairman of the Devon Fire and Rescue Service. On April 1<sup>st</sup> Devon combines with Somerset to form the new Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Fire Service in the country. The merger should save the rate payer some three million pounds in the first five years of operation. I have been elected Chairman of the combined shadow Authority.



Once again my apologies and I will be at the next meeting of the Parish to answer any questions or queries you may have. Finally may I thank you all for your help and support over the past year.

Bernard C J Hughes

**District Councillors. Cllr John Glanvill.**

Referred to East Devons Council Tax demand and considered they had done well to keep it below government criteria. He reported further on the workings on the cabinet system, which he considered was bad news as it did not give all members the opportunity to attend meetings as the previous system did, he continued, he has fought very hard on housing matters to make sure that local people were able to be housed locally rather than incomers from outside the area. He referred to the elections in May when he hoped there would be more take up of candidacies and electors using their rights. It was also noted that he was on good relations with the area manager of the County Council and this has worked well to the benefit of the Parish. He thanked the Parish Council for the way matters had been handled in what he considered a very professional way, he gave his best wishes to Belinda Price & David Atkins.

Dr Keep raised the question of the pedestrian crossing at the arch., Mr Eric Ware considered a roundabout at that location might be a possibility as he was particularly concerned with the speed of traffic between 8 & 9 am, he considered speed must be reduced and that there should be reminders on Globe Hill about the bend approaching the arch.

**Resolutions:** No written resolutions had been received.

*Cllr Reg Brown gave an overview of the Role of a Local Councillor Attached to main Minutes.*  
**Any Other Matters Raised By The General Public:**

John Pervis suggested other types of speed control, such as on the road to Tavistock where a sign lights up and is controlled by solar panel, Rumble Strips could also be considered with particular reference outside the Post Office. He also considered that the construction lorries caused a major problem and that perhaps consideration should be given to a 20MPH speed limit.

Cllr John Glanvill made the point that the new gas pipe had been dug under the Roads which had greatly helped disruption, this had been negotiated by the County, NFU & District Council.

Mr Pateman of Exton raised the matter of a crossing in Exton near to the Bus Stop. Cllr Parkin responded saying a survey was being undertaken.

Cllr Gerdes reminded those present of the design statement in which consideration was being highlighted in respect of Traffic Lights in places of traffic concerns. There was also discussion and questions raised about the forthcoming cycle way. Cllr Reg Brown responded with an overview of the current position and answered questions raised by the public. He was thanked for his commitment and time spent on negotiations with the County Councils on behalf of Parish.

In bringing the meeting to a close the Chairman reminded those present of the impending retirement of Cllr Reg Brown, he had given a tremendous amount of time to the work of the Parish over many years and he was thanked for this.

**The Chairman closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance.**

*[Signature]* 19-3-08



I feel especially thrilled to be here in the capacity of a 'Facilitator'. I've never been one of those before... whatever it means. But it sounds impressive! Anyway, I'm going to talk about elections. There's nothing quite like local elections to quicken the blood, to generate a mood of fevered excitement to sweep through the community as polling day approaches! But there may be just a few who are yet to be gripped by the event, a mere handful, perhaps, which is why we use the opportunity tonight to try to stress, not only the importance of exercising your right to vote, but, rather more crucially, to have someone to vote for!

Because, there **are** those who need to be convinced about the necessity and effectiveness of a parish council, in today's world, we meet them and they tell us so. And there **are** those who may need to be reminded about a councillor's role, should they be tempted to stand, because there will be vacancies on our Council when this term ends; at least three, maybe more.

So, especially for those who might be tempted, let's take a look at some of our current responsibilities, just to give you some idea of what you might be letting yourself in for.

In general, these fall into three main categories:

- Directly representing the whole electorate within the parish; in our case, just to remind you, three villages comprising approximately thirteen hundred households (and still expanding), of which there are 120 listed properties, in an area extending from heathland summit to the Exe Estuary, and characterised by some of the most important environment designations in the statute book.
- Delivering services to meet local needs, and attending to planning issues.
- Endeavouring to improve, or, at very least, maintain, a sustainable quality of life in the parish, especially supporting the many groups and societies that flourish in our community.

As for the detail, specific individual powers may include:

The provision of community transport needs; local traffic measures; youth projects; leisure and recreation facilities; car parks; village greens, public lavatories; litter-bins; burial grounds; supervising the care and maintenance of ditches, gullies, and verges; grass cutting; allotments; bus shelters and seats; footpaths, bridleways, trees, and hedgerows, etc. etc. All of those are important local interests.

Parish Councils are empowered to raise a local precept to cover the cost of most of these local items and to allocate sums to a level of need, or priority, or for whatever else it feels to be appropriate, within permitted criteria. In addition to meeting the costs of the responsibilities referred to (and we now have to add the public toilets), the list also includes insurance's, fees, and emergencies when they arise; this year allowing for the costs of the clerk's sickness. In these circumstances, sometimes, difficult and unpopular decisions have to be made, on your behalf. Obviously, councillors are required to approve contracts as part of the administration of business, and do so scrupulously abiding by procedures and regulations, to eliminate misappropriation of funds. To this end councillors sign up to a strict Code of Conduct, and formally declare their personal interests. These days, an abuse of either provokes very substantial penalties.

Councillors serve on a number of public bodies, which includes Ring and Ride Management, Rural Public Transport, The Police and Airport Authorities, as well as local committees such as the Village Hall, and the Gulliford Joint Committee.

Its normal business is carried out at public meetings generally held twice monthly, officially with a short break in the summer. Unofficially, business continues to be conducted throughout the year; mostly dealing with planning applications, which represents the largest and most consistent single item on our agenda.



## WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

**Present:** All members of council were present:  
Also present:  
 District Cllrs David Atkins & Mrs Ann Liverton: County Cllr Bernard Hughes & 12 members of the public  
 Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Philip Glanvill in the chair  
 Mr David Atkins – acting clerk

**Apologies:** County Cllr Mrs Christine Channon: The Clerk - Mrs Belinda Price, on sick leave

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were approved and signed (previously circulated to members and tabled for those present). (P/S: Brown/Gerdes.) Unanimous.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman presented his annual report highlighting events and actions that had taken place during the year – not least the many planning applications received and the time and consideration given to the detail along with the members' site visits. As always he expressed his thanks to members and volunteers who give so much time to Parish matters and to Belinda Price and the acting Clerk David Atkins for their interest and advice. He advised those present that Belinda was soon to return to full duties after her last operation.

**Accounts:** The acting clerk presented the report on the outturn for the current year and gave a resume of the Income & Expenditure for the year (on file). Cllr Reg Brown referred to the Rockets Scheme and gave an explanation of the County Council's involvement. He advised that the Church Rooms had benefited considerably and recommended others to avail themselves of any such funding that might be available and to make applications. The report was noted and agreed (P/S: Gerdes/Bricknell)

**County Councillors:** Cllr Hughes referred to the Cycle way at Exton and updated the meeting on the current position in respect of the route to Topsham from Exton. He advised that he supported the concept of creating the path on the river side of the station but that it might be a temporary solution to use the route as agreed by the County Council. He also said that the matter of using the station platform as suggested by some residents would be looked into, which could overcome objections made to the County Council's proposal. Cllr Hughes continued that by saying that traffic lights would be installed at the junction with the A376, incorporating a new bus stop. As Chairman of the Fire Authority he referred to the service provision at Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton & Topsham. He also referred to the sale of the Airport and suggested that some funds could become available to help local schemes. It was further noted that he was not supportive of the social services being put out to private contracts. On the matter of the bus service through the Parish he noted the petition and advised that he had worked hard to achieve a change but Stagecoach were not prepared to consider it and the County Council would not support a subsidized scheme at this time. Cllr Reg Brown considered the scheme to be a viable one and suggested a trial be carried out. Gill Selley was thanked for her hard work in her presentation of the case and petition.



**WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY (cont)**

**Police:** PCSO Donna Baker reported on matters over the year and updated the meeting on current issues. The Chairman thanked her for her involvement in the Parish and surrounding area.

**Tree Wardens:** The report was presented by John Treasaden and covered the whole Parish. He highlighted many aspects of the work carried out in the area and the involvement of "The Great Trees of East Devon" project which had run for the past two years through the Countryside Service at EDDC. (Full report filed). The Chairman congratulated the team for their efforts on behalf of the community.

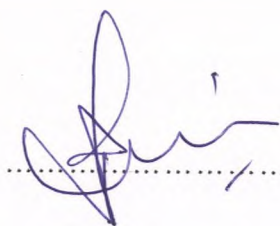
**Resolutions:** None

**Any Other Business:** The matter of the questionnaire in respect of the Arch parking and pedestrian crossing was raised and it was noted that the public would be kept fully informed of the feedback. It was reported that 150 responses had been returned and were to be collated by Cllr Kevin Dentith. Kilve Marchant asked if a further meeting would be called for more views to be expressed. It was noted that the matter would be further considered at the next meeting of the Council.

It was further noted that it appeared that a skate board area was being created in the Cricket Field by residents and whether the Council could formally provide such a facility was brought up. This, however, would be a very expensive scheme. The matter will be placed on the next PC agenda. The matter of the Cricket Club lease was referred to. It was noted that no major problems were to the fore and the principle was acceptable. The concern of dog fouling was also raised and noted.

**Closure:** The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.13pm.

Signed:



..... (Chairman):

Date:

26-3-09



## WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

**Present:** Cllrs Philip Glanvill (in the Chair), Ray Brown, K Dentith, Mrs A Follett, G Gerdes, M Gooding, D Moore, Mrs G Parkin, Mrs V Purday, K Perry.

**Also present:** District Cllrs David Atkins & Mrs Ann Liverton: County Cllr Bernard Hughes: PCSO Donna Baker, Mrs Sally Elliott (Woodbury Salterton Tree Warden): Mr John Treasaden (Woodbury Tree Warden): 11 members of the public and the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Belinda Price

**1. Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were approved and signed (previously circulated to members and tabled for those present). (P/S: Dentith/Gerdes)

**2. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman presented his annual report highlighting events and actions that had taken place during the year as follows:

I start my report this year by following on from the discussion about The Arch which took place at last year's meeting. During the year a meeting was held in this hall to gauge public opinion as to the best of seven options and as a result the PC made a recommendation to Devon Highways. The proposal for a zebra crossing with pelican lights between the corner of Kilve Marchant's shop and the footpath between the Post Office and Gilbrook junction goes before Highways Committee this month and if approved will be constructed during May or June with some restricted parking on The Arch.

In September Jules Limb, one of our councillors for Exton, moved out of the area and we thank him for his involvement and wish him well in his career promotion. His place has been most ably filled by Mrs Vanessa Purday who has already shown a keen interest in parish matters.

Land, one of the few things in life that can't be replaced, is under intense pressure to satisfy the needs of Government targets. In this parish the pressure is from several directions. Firstly, at the end of 2008 a Rural Housing Needs survey was taken and the result showed a continued and growing demand for this type of shared ownership housing. Secondly, the Local Development Plan will undoubtedly suggest the need for more general housing to be constructed along with the expansion of industrial sites. And thirdly, the cemetery in Woodbury, which is only twelve months or so away from capacity and despite the PC writing on behalf of the PCC to the Church Commissioners who own the land surrounding the existing facility, have been unable to secure a new site for the future. Then of course we have the perennial problem of the allotment waiting list with a great many villagers wishing to grow their own produce and a lack of an extra site.

The Woodbury Salterton play area has had a few problems during the past year because the owner is only renewing the lease on an annual basis thereby restricting any capital input, but we have three other secure play areas some of which will benefit from capital works during the coming year and I thank our Play Area Wardens Robert Gittings, Ngaio Southard, Anna and Lucy Ayres for their continuing good work.

Several years ago a small band of enthusiastic councillors and villagers undertook the task of producing a Village Design Statement which ultimately became supplementary planning guidance. It has now been decreed that a Parish Plan be drawn up to replace this very useful document. The team looking into the design of this plan is being coordinated by Reg Brown and during the coming year every household within the parish will receive a questionnaire, which we hope you will give your time to complete and return, so that the Plan can include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community. Our guest speaker Mr Greg Davis will no doubt enlighten us further.

The trees which enhance the appearance of our villages are looked after by our Tree Wardens, Sally Elliot, Peter King and John Treasaden and I thank them for their advice and dedication. The Christmas tree lights on the great Lime tree on The Green are the result of a lot of hard work by Graham Joyce and his merry band of helpers and we are very grateful for this festive gesture. Our Footpath Warden of thirteen years, Jane Tucker, is now being assisted by Judy Green, a keen walker, and will help Jane with the many miles of paths within our parish.

Our Police Community Support Office, Donna Baker, along with PC Simon Halloran come to most of our Council meetings and their input is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the continuing close working relationship the Council has enjoyed with the local police force.

Finally, my sincere thanks are extended to all the Councillors for their commitment, support and good humour and of course to our clerk Belinda Price for her advice and patience.



## WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

**3. Accounts:** The clerk presented her report as follows:

I have provided you with copies of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. These accounts have been audited but if you have any questions relating to them I will do my best to answer them. The accounts for this year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 are obviously not yet complete but will be presented to Council at their May meeting at which, as usual, you are all welcome. I will give you a brief resume of their contents.

The greatest part of our outgoings, discounting staffing costs, relate to the upkeep of the play areas, costs associated with ground & tree maintenance and the charge levied by EDDC for the public conveniences. The Parish Council continues to administer the community grant scheme whereby local groups and societies can apply for a share of the fund available. In this current financial year funds have been promised to Woodbury Primary School PTFA, Woodbury Salterton Village Hall, the Local History Society and Woodbury Tennis Club. In addition the PC is also committed to helping the Ring & Ride Scheme which is operated by Exmouth & District Community Transport Group and is a partnership between Devon CC, EDDC and the Parish and Town Councils.

Moving on to the Precept for the year 2009/10. The Parish Council continues to make strenuous efforts to keep its requirement as low as possible. Unfortunately, despite the credit crunch, the Parish Council's commitments remain similar, year on year. Environmental costs amount to almost £8000; rents and subs (which includes the toilets) to £5288. We set aside £3735 for general administration; £2800 towards play area maintenance and new equipment; £300 for footpath expenditure and £238 towards the running of the allotments. We felt it was important to continue to administer the Community Grant scheme as an important way of assisting local societies and groups. We have therefore doubled the sum set aside to £2000 this year. This will be allocated at the Parish Council meeting in November this year. Application forms are available from me and the scheme is advertised on the web site and in the Woodbury News nearer the time.

Before I finish I would just like to remind you all of the Parish Council noticeboards in each village. On the boards are details of forthcoming meetings, each Councillor and his or her telephone number, the Clerk's address, telephone no and e-mail address and the telephone numbers of the various Wardens. Agendas for every meeting are posted at least three days prior to the meetings. Additionally they often contain posters advertising events and/or services. They are well worth keeping an eye on as they are always kept well up to date and may have information of interest to you. In addition, I am pleased to tell you that the Parish Council now has the use of the [www.woodburydevon.co.uk](http://www.woodburydevon.co.uk) website which is run by Roger Stokes. Roger kindly adds all the Parish Council agendas, minutes and sundry notices onto the website on our behalf and we are most grateful for his help in this. The report was noted and agreed (P/S: Perry/Moore)

**4. Guest Speaker – Greg Davies from the Community Council of Devon speaking on Parish Plans**

Mr Davies gave a very interesting Powerpoint presentation and described what a parish Plan is and how to get it started, to promote awareness and encourage participation. There is a typical 60 – 70% response rate to questionnaires which is helped by delivering and collecting them. He advised that the key is in the Action Plan – don't forget to implement it. He showed a typical action plan. By products have included a number of successful grant applications for schemes identified through the Parish Plan which also has the benefit of raising awareness of the work of Parish Councils. Devon currently has 200 parish plans which is approximately 50%. In answer to questions he advised that funding was not widely available nowadays and PCs have to be creative in their quest for funding. District and County Councils might have funding available. He advised that although Parish Plans show the strength of feeling of what the community wants and can open the door to future funding to implement ideas within the plan, unfortunately they do not have any formal status or standing.

The Chairman thanked Mr Davies for an interesting and informative talk.

**5. District & County Councillors' Reports:**

**Cllr Mrs Christine Channon:** The Clerk read out the report in her absence as follows:

I am sorry that I cannot be with you this evening but I appear to be needed in three different places. I would like to thank Belinda, the clerk, Philip, the Chairman and the other Parish Councillors, especially the three who represent Woodbury Salterton for their help and guidance throughout the year. When you live in a different area it is essential to have reliable eyes and ears in other parts of your division.



# WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

### 5. District & County Councillors' Reports: (cont)

#### Cllr Mrs Christine Channon:

In some ways this has been a fairly quiet year. In the summer a planning application for the extension for the waste collection depot at Greendale Barton was once again turned down by Development Control at Devon CC on the grounds that it was outside both the Local Plan and the local Waste Plan. However the applicant went to appeal and the Inspector allowed the appeal. I do hope that the owners of the Greendale site will monitor with care the use of White Cross Road by HGVs as it already in a very poor condition.

I was asked to investigate some excessive stockpiling of road planings and other waste material on farm land in the Parish. Although it is the intention of the farmer to use this material around the farm for the maintenance of tracks and storage areas and he has a current Waste Management Licence Exemption for the storage and use of such material, because the material has been on site for some time it would appear that there has been a breach of planning control. However, the Waste Planning Authority have informed the resident that they are prepared not to take formal enforcement action subject to the waste material being removed by the end of May 2009.

The main problem in Woodbury Salterton this year has been the condition of the roads. Some of the larger potholes in White Cross Road have now been repaired but there are still a good number of other awaiting attention. The severe weather this winter has placed a considerable toll on our roads and I have been having a particular gripe about the C and D roads which run through my patch, some of which are in an appalling condition. Devon CC has taken action to repair most of the A-roads in the county but there are an awful lot more that now need some serious attention. This was an argument put forward at budget time and I will be looking at the out-turn budget to see if extra money can be found to carry out these urgent repairs.

#### County Cllr Bernard Hughes: Cllr Hughes reported as follows:

The main emphasis has continued on the as yet incomplete Exe Estuary Cycle Way and the final route it will take through Exton.

The main change has been the change of heart of Devon CC who had declared that the Exton Lane/Green Lane route would cease to be an interim route but be the permanent route. I am grateful for all councilors and parishioners who appeared in such numbers to persuade the members of Development Control Committee to recommend a fresh look at the problem. To date, the further investigations are incomplete but I am still hopeful that the route agreed unanimously by the residents of the village will prevail – that is route C – along the outside of the railway line for approximately 330 metres.

Meanwhile, the construction of the route from Lympstone Station to Exton Station is part completed with the completion programmed for the autumn of 2009 – ie this year.

Flooding has also been a major problem at various sites in the parish but the tremendous problem at Station Road/Mill Lane/A376 cannot be allowed to continue. Twice this past year the Village Hall was flooded and quite a number of houses affected, also several cars were washed away.

I succeeded in arranging a meeting a few weeks ago where both your Clerk, Belinda, two councilors from Exton and two councillors from Lympstone were able to speak directly to officers. We left hopeful that a number of Highways problems in Woodbury, Exton and Lympstone were being acted upon.

The pedestrian crossing at the Arch was also sorted out this year and again I am grateful for the support from the Woodbury Councillors for all the time and effort culminating in a public meeting and a clear indication of the wishes of the village.

Most of my work at your county councillor is connected in some way to our highways and their problems. I have assisted quite a number of individual constituents in my ward with Education and Social Care problems – just day to day work that we are elected to help constituents with.

I have been pleased to help by recommending various projects at both Woodbury and Exton for grants from the member's locality fund – particularly the village hall, Lady Mary Courtney Millenium Green area and the burial ground on the Lympstone/Woodbury boundary.

I still have major involvement with the Devon & Somerset Fire Authority which sometimes involves meetings in London. The Devon and Somerset is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Fire Authority in the country and has influence at national level.

Finally, the traffic lights, bus stops and pedestrian controlled crossing at Exton are complete and will be in use in the next week or so. This means that many Exton residents will not have to take a risk every time they



## WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

#### 5. District & County Councillors' Reports: (cont)

##### County Cllr Bernard Hughes

join the A376. I am working to obtain a further pedestrian crossing near the Exton garage so that residents can cross the main road in safety to catch a bus.

I am at the end of my four year appointment as your County Councillor and I face the electorate again on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Can I thank the Chairman, Councillors and particularly a very helpful Clerk, Belinda for all their useful information and help.

##### District Cllr Mrs Ann Liverton: Cllr Mrs Liverton reported as follows:

I have tried to attend as many parish council meetings as possible during the year. The main issues have been the Boundary Committee's enquiry into local government in Devon, the subsequent judicial review and the various thoughts on that, then only yesterday the vindication of that review when the Boundary Committee was reprimanded by the High Court for the way it has handled the matter and the award of costs against them. Because of the various delays we still await the final outcome when the future of local government in Devon will be decided. It has been a difficult time for EDDC both officers and members alike as we have been functioning in a kind of vacuum, being unable to make very long term plans and for officers not sure how secure their jobs were.

The good news is that EDDC has frozen its share of the council tax for this coming year. The other main issue affecting services has been the 'systems thinking' introduced during the year, sometimes known as Vanguard. The first service to be 'revamped' was the Housing Benefits section. This department had not scored as highly as other council services during our annual audit and was chosen as the first department to be done – the results have been excellent. The staff have been revitalized by a much improved performance and of course, our customer (the person in receipt of benefits) has benefited by a faster and more efficient service.

The second service to be chosen was planning. This has been much more controversial, largely due to the emphasis on the 'customer' - in the case of planning, the applicant. This has caused some disquiet as objections, parish councils & other interested parties see themselves as customers too. The fact remains however that the applicant pays the fee and without the applicant there would be no service at all. Although there have been some cases which have caused problems the majority of applications are going through more quickly and efficiently – over 90% are dealt with by delegated powers with very little controversy. As always the very few that are controversial cause the most furor and the most work. What Vanguard did was to highlight those things that the Council was doing that it did not need to do but was done for historic reasons. One was that Parish Councils had the right to bring the application to the Planning Committee even when they were the only statutory consultee that disagreed and the other was the general requesting of comment by members of the public not directly affected by the application. Both of these resulted in extra work and costs and longer agendas. The ward member has the right to call in any application that they feel merits further debate and I have recently done so on an application in Woodbury Salterton which ironically this Council had very little problem with but the officer had doubts so it merits debate and as due to the shorter agendas the public, parish council and applicant now have the right to address the Development Control Committee, it greatly adds to the quality of debate.

I hope that after a period of time Parish councils may become happier with the process. In fact none of those issues brought to East Devon by Parish Councils alone have ever been refused and many appeals were lost by the planning reasons being too weak to hold up.

The next department being given the Vanguard treatment is Housing. As Chairman of the Housing Review Board I am pleased to see the way in which it is going and the enthusiasm of the staff in trying to improve their service.

Thank you Chairman for your support & courtesy during the year and your fellow councilors for their help and support and of course to the Clerk who is always ready with information and help when needed.

##### District Cllr Atkins reported as follows:

It is now 2 years since my colleague and I were re-elected to the East Devon District Council to cover Lymptone, Exton & Woodbury Wards. In my case it was a welcome return to the Council after a number of years. In my Colleague's case an immediate re-election. It is very disturbing to find that the previous use of full committee has been dispensed with and many other forms of management brought in by Government decree, for which there was no redress against the new system. That said, I have found that many of the



# WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

### 5. District & County Councillors' Reports: (cont)

#### District Cllr David Atkins

Officers I previously had the pleasure of working with are still there, many others having left in frustration at the new system created.

For my part I sit on the following committees/Working Parties now described as Scrutiny/Overview, Audit & Governance and Think Tanks. In my opinion this now creates even more paper for too much irrelevant information and much less Democracy, with little public attendance at meetings than when I was previously there, which for those who do not know was from 1972 -1974, shadowing St Thomas RDC and then from 1974 – 1991 representing many interests, not least from 1987 – 1991 that of Planning Chair. The new systems thinking approach now being trialled is, I believe, turning the clock back, so that Democratic discussions are less in the public domain and Officers as professionals, have been charged with much more delegated decision making, all in the interest of speeding up the process!! We are all expected to spend quite an amount of time being trained, whereas previously you learnt as you went along from senior established members. So much more information is now being presented via the websites and emails, thus members have the daily task of sitting in front of the screen digesting all that is provided.

I am pleased to report that the District Council has not increased its Council Tax this year and perhaps it is unfortunate that the Fire Authority and Police have again increased their charges at this time.

I am able to be contacted by phone or email from 8 – 10am most days on 01395 264003 or email [dga.potters@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dga.potters@tiscali.co.uk).

### 6. Tree Wardens' Reports

Sally Elliott and John Treasaden gave interesting descriptions of sites visited and work undertaken, including Fulford Way, Mirey lane, Woodbury Village Green, Parsonage Way and Park Way. Plantings on Bonds Lane are doing well and they are monitoring older trees on the Plantation with a view to health and safety. The tree wardens are working together to look at a number of sites where more trees could possibly be planted.

### 7. Police Report:

PCSO Donna Baker reported that crimes are mainly down in Woodbury and Exton but slightly up in Woodbury Salterton. Parking in all the villages continue to be a problem which is being closely monitored, particularly relating to the Marines' parking in Exton and parents at schools in the other two villages.

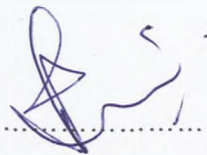
### 8. Resolutions

None

### 9. Any Other Business

The lights in Stokes Mead were brought up and the Clerk advised that she had been doing her best to get the County Council to repair them. They place the blame with the Stokes Mead development as the lights have never been adopted. Cllr Hughes advised that he would work with the Clerk in an effort to solve the problem.

**Closure:** The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.13pm.

Signed:  (Chairman): Date: 17/03/10



## WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL WOODBURY

**Present:** Cllrs Philip Glanvill (in the Chair), Ray Brown, K Dentith, G Gerdes, M Gooding, D Moore, Mrs G Parkin, K Perry, C Silverthorne.

**Also present:** District Cllrs David Atkins & Mrs Ann Liverton: County Cllr Bernard Hughes: Mrs Sally Elliott (Woodbury Salterton Tree Warden): Mr John Treasaden (Woodbury Tree Warden): approximately 40 -50 members of the public and the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Belinda Price

**1. Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were approved and signed (previously circulated to members and tabled for those present). (P/S: Perry/Dentith)

**2. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman presented his annual report highlighting events and actions that had taken place during the year as follows:

I started last year's report by highlighting the proposal for a zebra crossing near the Post Office. As you all know this has been built and is in use and although a few minor adjustments have been made to the speed reminders on Globe Hill and Broadway the crossing is well used and has proved a very worthwhile project for the safety of all those crossing this busy road. Our thanks go to District Councillor Bernard Hughes for his input in helping the project to fruition.

EDDC has asked all PCs to produce a Parish plan and at the back of the hall is a display of the plan in use by other parishes. A good many councillors and parishioners have got together to get this plan off the ground and more parishioners are now needed to help what is a large and time consuming project. When it is produced everyone will have the benefit of reading the plan and using it to further enhance our three villages. I should like to add my thanks to all those involved and can only hope that EDDC will consider making all parish plans supplementary planning guidance so that our views make a real difference to the way the villages progress.

One of the ways that the PC is able to keep its share of the Council Tax at moderate levels is the opportunity to apply for grants from various sources. This year we have applied for and will receive a grant of £4200.00 from the Rockets Scheme and this money will go a long way towards paying for the current works and improvements on the village green in Woodbury. The Village Hall, which is in much need of a kitchen refurbishment and the History Society in much need of a building, are jointly applying to DCC for a grant towards the proposed building works and extensions to the side of this hall but as of tonight have not yet been informed of any success.

This council has the advantage of many experienced members who understand the needs of their villages and possess the foresight to realise that progress is an essential part of survival. Ada Follett a councillor for many years was one such person. She knew everyone in Exton and got things done. Her passing is a great loss to us all. Graham Murrin has joined us to help fill the void but we are still short of one more councillor for Exton.

The footpaths around our villages are a most essential part of village life. Some paths more than others are in regular daily use and offer the opportunity for fresh air and exercise and have for the past 14 years been looked after by our footpath warden Jane Tucker. She has decided to hand the reins over to Tim Frampton and Judy Green and my sincere thanks go to Jane for her tireless and sometimes frustrating work in keeping the paths clear and trying to keep walkers on the paths and not to stray over farmers' fields with their dogs.

The issue of dogs came to a head at Woodbury cricket ground in Town Lane twelve months ago resulting in the first dog ban during the summer months. This was brought about because of dogs straying and defecating on the playing area and since so many children have now joined and participate, a real health risk had to be addressed. The ban will come into force again this summer.

We have many wardens who help the PC look after our villages namely Sally Elliot, Peter King and John Treasaden on trees; Robert Gittings, Ngaio Southard, Anna and Lucy Eyres on play areas and Graham Joyce erecting the Christmas lights on the Green. Your assistance and commitment in these areas is greatly appreciated.

Finally, my sincere thanks are extended to all the councillors for their support and good humour and of course to our clerk Belinda Price for her advice and patience.



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#### 3. **Accounts:** The clerk presented her report as follows:

I have provided you with copies of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. These accounts have been audited but if you have any questions relating to them I will do my best to answer them. The accounts for this year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 are obviously not yet complete but will be presented to Council at their May meeting at which, as usual, you are all welcome. I will give you a brief resume of their contents.

The greatest part of our outgoings, discounting staffing costs, relate to the upkeep of the play areas, costs associated with ground & tree maintenance and the charge levied by EDDC for the public conveniences. The Parish Council continues to administer the community grant scheme whereby local groups and societies can apply for a share of the fund available. In this current financial year funds have been promised to Woodbury Primary School PTFA, Woodbury Primary School Governors, the Local History Society, Maytree Pre School, Woodbury Village Hall and the Church Rooms. In addition the PC is also committed to helping the Ring & Ride Scheme which is operated by Exmouth & District Community Transport Group and is a partnership between Devon CC, EDDC and the Parish and Town Councils.

Moving on to the Precept for the year 2010/11. The Parish Council continues to make strenuous efforts to keep its requirement as low as possible. Unfortunately, despite the credit crunch, the Parish Council's commitments remain similar, year on year. Environmental costs amount to £9500; rents and subs (which include the toilets) to almost £5000. We set aside £3464 for general administration; £6800 towards new equipment in the four play areas for which we are responsible; £300 for footpath expenditure and £188 towards the running of the allotments. We felt it was important to continue to administer the Community Grant scheme as an important way of assisting local societies and groups and have again put away £2000 towards these worthy local causes. This will be allocated at the Parish Council meeting in November this year. Application forms are available from me and the scheme is advertised on the web site and in the Woodbury News nearer the time.

Before I finish I would just like to remind you all of the Parish Council noticeboards in each village. On the boards are details of forthcoming meetings, each Councillor and his or her telephone number, the Clerk's address, telephone no and e-mail address and the telephone numbers of the various Wardens. Agendas for every meeting are posted at least three days prior to the meetings. Additionally they often contain posters advertising events and/or services. They are well worth keeping an eye on as they are always kept well up to date and may have information of interest to you. In addition, the parish council has the use of the woodburydevon website which is run by Roger Stokes. Roger kindly adds all the Parish Council agendas, minutes and sundry notices onto the website on our behalf and we are most grateful for his help in this. The report was noted and agreed (P/S: Perry/Moore)

#### 4. **Guest Speaker – Lesley Crocker, Communications Officer**

Ms Crocker gave a very interesting presentation on the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point which is a partnership between EDDC, Devon CC and Exeter City Council. Their plans to deliver a number of major developments in Exeter and East Devon have been progressing well recently and it is now expected that work on many of these developments will begin shortly – viz a new community at Cranbrook, an intermodal freight terminal, Exeter Science Park, Skypark, Flybe Training Academy and the expansion of Exeter International. These developments form part of a long-term vision for sustainable growth which the Growth Point partners have made a commitment to deliver. Their vision is to realise the full economic potential of Exeter and East Devon by providing a range of employment opportunities and new low carbon communities where people will have the ability to live in close proximity to where the majority of new jobs will be provided. Under the Government's Growth Point initiative a partnership has been formed with the South West RDA and the Homes & Communities Agency to maximize every opportunity to get these developments off the ground. Alongside improvements to the transport infrastructure and potential urban extensions in Newcourt, Monkerton and the southwest of Exeter, the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point has been recognized by the Government as an area with the potential for substantial economic growth.



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#### 5. District & County Councillors' Reports:

**District Cllr Mrs Ann Liverton:** Cllr Mrs Liverton reported as follows:

I have attempted to attend as many meetings as possible during the year. Sometimes the meetings clash with three other parish councils with which I am involved, especially following a Monday bank holiday and I am unable to attend all of them but trust that the Clerk or councillors will contact me if anything arises about which I should be aware. I am in touch particularly with the members who represent Woodbury Salterton who do not hesitate to get in touch when matters arise which affect that part of the parish.

I subscribe to the Woodbury News, a great magazine which keeps me up to date with local events and opinions.

I have also tried to attend social events in the village as and when possible. My husband was elected Chairman of East Devon District Council last May and as such I need to support him in his civic commitments. Some of the invitations for him to attend functions are quite late arriving and therefore it can be difficult to commit a long way in advance.

The Council made a very constructive criticism of the dire meeting called by East Devon District Council annually to liaise with parish councils. I attended and totally agree with the comments made.

Hopefully I have managed to persuade those that set the agenda to plan this meeting well in advance and to consult with parishes first so that the agenda matches the aspirations and concerns of the communities involved.

The most controversial issues by far relate to planning. Industrial sites and traveller sites cause the most controversy, followed by affordable housing sites.

Many of these are outside of the local development boundary and are exceptions to policy, thus creating much debate and vocal opposition.

Being a member of the Development Management Committee is extremely interesting but also a bit of a poison chalice.

Although the debate continues over the Ministers decision to grant Exeter unitary status, it appears that the rest of the Districts remain unchanged which means that East Devon District Council should remain in existence for some years to come. This may not be welcomed by some members of the public but at least the devil you know.....!

I would like to thank the Chairman and councillors for their unfailing courtesy during the year and the Clerk for her help in keeping me informed and updated on matters relating to the ward.

**Cllr Mrs Christine Channon:** The Clerk read out the report in Cllr Mrs Channon's absence as follows:

We have had two bad winters which have played havoc with our roads. This is particularly true of the lanes which span the village of Woodbury Salterton. In recent times DCC has made every effort to repair large potholes but I realise that the main roads took precedence over the C and D roads. It has been very frustrating though after repairs in Dog Lane and Toby Lane were carried out to see the damage which has been done by the careless driving of a tractor and heavily-loaded trailer along these routes. Highways are considering whether they can find sufficient evidence to take legal action. I carried out a site visit at the junction of Oil Mill Lane and the road which runs to Postlake Farm last week. The drain has broken here and Highways have promised that it will be repaired at the beginning of the new financial year. Considerable damage has been caused by heavy goods vehicles in the vicinity of the farm and that part of the road is likely to remain closed.

Other concerns have been to contain the development at Greendale to reasonable proportions and I will continue to monitor this.

I am sorry that Sally McCloskey is leaving the school. She has been a very successful head teacher and we wish her well in her new appointment. I understand that the governors are in the process of appointing a successor.

I would like to thank the Chairman, the Clerk and the Parish Councillors for their help and support. As I do not live in the parish your eyes and ears are very important to me so please keep relaying any complaints you would like me to deal with and thank you for inviting me to your social get-togethers.

I am sorry that I cannot be with you tonight but I am leading a Lent Group on Wednesday evenings at present. I hope you have a useful meeting.



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**District Cllr Atkins reported as follows:**

As you will know many hours have been taken up and indeed wasted over Unitary Authority status for Devon, resulting in the clock being turned back in respect of Exeter's bid to go it alone. I shall not comment further! This has meant that East Devon has been looking at ways of savings being made over all its functions and to this end you may now be aware that the Chief Executive Officer is, as of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, about to become CEO of South Somerset DC and East Devon on a shared basis (and Karime Hassan is splitting his time with Exeter CC for a 9 month period). Whether these unions will bear any fruit we will have to wait and see!

You will also be aware that due to the economic downturn and loss of interest on invested funds, car parking income and planning fees, there has been a big hole in our finances. To this end we are about to start a staff rationalization which the deputy leader of the Council assisted by others is to carry out over the next few weeks to make absolutely certain that savings are being made and staff fully aware of the extreme situation that the country now faces. It has been suggested that a parking charge be considered for all users of the Knowle car parks and this has started to concern some locals who live nearby on roads around the site.

I am pleased to report that in respect of the council tax for this year EDDC has increased its charge by 2.99%; DCC 1.98%; Police 4.95%; Fire & Rescue 3.74% and Parish Councils have averaged 13% which may be attributed to taking on more services.

I have been put back onto the Planning Committee (you may remember that I was Chairman of this committee some years ago). I also sit on Audit and Governance, Licensing and Enforcement and a member of the Disciplinary Committee!

I have to say that the cabinet system brought in by the government is not in my view operating in the best interests of local democracy and efficiency but is a tool to keep non-professionals out of being fully informed. My observation of the present position is that whilst some aspects of the work might well be speeded up there are many aspects of the system that appear on the face of it to create large amounts of paper for very little practical benefit or understanding.

**County Cllr Bernard Hughes reported as follows:**

Although there was a County Council election in 2009 with a change of political control, it is only in recent months that changes to the policies are becoming known. There has been a considerable tightening of belts as National government continues to require savings from "efficiencies". The new administration has produced and passed a budget for 2010/11 giving an increase of 1.98%, the lowest percentage rise ever set. The County budget is £1.2billion and this means that a band D property will be asked for an extra £21.69 per year or 42p per week. The County Council has invested extra money to care for Devon's most vulnerable children (£2.92 million), £2.7 million for adult and social care and £2.25 million for roads, this following Devon's worst winter for 30 years. In addition, Members' allowances have been frozen, the Chief Executive has taken a £7000 pay cut and we have paid by £20 million of debt which has saved £800,000 in interest charges at the same time as putting £8.15 million into reserves to deal with the difficult times that we all know lie ahead.

Personally I have resumed the Chairmanship of the Exe Estuary Partnership, the committee which looks after all aspects of the conservation and management of the estuary and the Chairmanship of the Exeter & Devon Rail working party, the committee that has the Avocet line within its care. I am also now a director of the PLUSS organisation which looks after several hundred disabled workers both in industry and in sheltered workshops.

The Exe Estuary cycleway is now moving towards its completion but there are still major problems at Exton. The route from the CTCRM to Exton Station is complete and work is going on at this moment to join Lymptone Station to CTCRM - this should be finished fairly soon giving a continuous cycleway from Exmouth to Exton Stations. The planning permission is in place for the route from Green Lane to Topsham and the construction is out for tender. The main stumbling block is still the section from Exton Station to Green Lane. Neither the Exton lane/Green Lane route is acceptable nor is the riverfront road route so I continue to press for route C as requested by a large number of Exton parishioners.

I reported last year on the near completion of the traffic lights at crossings at Station Road Exton. All is working well and this facility is very much appreciated by the people of Exton. I do get complaints from



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#### County Cllr Bernard Hughes reported as follows: (cont)

other constituents in Exmouth saying they do not like the occasional delays but we can't please all of the people all of the time!

The flooding situation is much improved at Exton. I allocated some £2000 from my community budget to help pay for the improvements. This has not been totally successful but during the recent heavy rain the village hall has not flooded - work still needs to be done to drain excessive water away to the river quickly. There were other improvements made at Mill Lane with the stream beds being dredged and new water gullies provided and ditches cleaned to provide extra water storage in time of flood.

I continue to support various village projects such as the proposed heritage centre and will help to facilitate meetings with County officers together with finding other possible sources of funding. I have also provided £500 from the community budget to St Swithuns parish church to pay for a hot water boiler which will help with the provision of refreshments when the church is used for recitals and community events.

I am aware of the various problems of speeding in certain parts of the Parish and I am hoping to persuade the Highways committee to give Woodbury village, particularly around the school, its 20mps limit. I have had another meeting with DCC officers reference another safe crossing point in the vicinity of Exton garage. I have also asked if a bus shelter can be provided for passengers travelling to Exmouth.

There have been several stretches of road brought to my attention where there is inappropriate use by excessively heavy goods vehicles. County officers are going to advise what action can be taken to regulate this nuisance activity.

#### 6. Tree Wardens' Reports

Sally Elliott drew attention to the definitive summary of the Parish tree survey project and study of 38 of the more distinctive trees along the lane. This was a project she undertook with Sylvia Wickenden. Each of the trees has been selected for their contribution to the landscape through their size, shape, bizarre appearance or landmark position. The trees border the lanes in the more rural parts of the Parish, away from the main settlements and are best viewed by walkers or riders.

Each of the 38 has a photograph, location map and girth (circumference) measurement. The photographs were taken in late March and early April of 2009 when the trees were largely bare of leaf thereby revealing their structure. Each individual map relates to a master map of the whole Parish, by number.

The introduction includes a very brief history of hedgerow trees starting with the written records of the Anglo-Saxon Charters and tracing their close association with social history down the centuries.

Apart from fulfilling an all-important role of recording the present for the future, I hope the file succeeds in promoting a greater awareness and appreciation of these wonderful natural features. We may pass them every day on commuter journeys but all too often take them for granted until they are no longer there.

John Treasaden reported on all the works and planning applications he had examined over the year. Trees had been planted at the end of Park Close and in the Cricket Field. He and Sally Elliott are working together to look at a number of sites where more trees could possibly be planted.

#### 7. Police Report: The Clerk read out the report in PCSO Donna Baker's absence as follows:

Although over all, crime is up, it is good to see that the figures for burglary are in fact very low at only 5 offences for the year. Theft from motor vehicles is up from 11 to 16 offences and this is mainly due to the on-going problem at the car parks on Woodbury Common. Despite having sent out numerous letters warning the public not to leave valuables on display in their vehicles, the problem continues. Criminal damage has decreased significantly with no real youth issues to speak of which is good. Drug offences were up significantly which was due to particular individuals arriving in the area; they are no longer living in the parish.

#### 8. Resolutions

None

