

WEARE GIFFARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Weare Giffard Village hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd. Nov. 2005

Present:

Acting Chairperson: Mr. D. Curtis

Vice Chairperson Mr H. Curtis

Councillors Mr. J. Ruston

Mrs M Herman

Mr R Randall

Mr. A Nickels

Parish Clerk Mr B Wittram

Also present County Councillor Mr. H. Barton, District Councillor Mr. W. Isaacs, PC. D. Simpson. Mr. K. Hughes. Mr. M. Gallagher. Mr. G. Dunn

Apologies: District councillor Mrs. P. Paddon. Rev.P. Dobbin

The minutes of 7th. Sept. 2005 had been previously circulated and approved as a correct record.

Declaration of interest: Item 21 Councillors Mr. D. Curtis and Mr. H. Curtis

Matters arising;

1. There has been a positive response re. the 2 matters raised with Torridge District Council Enforcement Officer who is pursuing the two matters and will report back.
2. Parish Path steps at Sunnyside. Councillor Randell has spoken to the D.C.C. Ranger. Who indicated that D.C.C. may undertake the repair. Councillor Randell will follow up when he attends the Parish Paths meeting at Rosemoor (9-12-05)
3. D.C.C Village Hall Grant funding meeting Parish Clerk contacted the Chair of the Village Hall Committee- nobody on the Committee could attend. The Clerk reported that there was good opportunity at present for grant funding for Village Halls.
4. Audit report. Clerk reported on three questions from the Audit Commission and that he has responded. Accepted.
5. Mrs. K. Hocking responded to the Council thanks for her service with a letter of good wishes to the Council which was read out.
6. Clerk is continuing to follow up issues arising from the Best Kept Village Report 2005.
7. Village sign- a volunteer has agreed to repaint in the Spring.

8. Grant of £100 has been paid to the Village Hall Committee in respect of the 04-05 grant.

9. Community Self Help Plan- Clerk reported that the planned meeting had been postponed to a later date.

AGENDA ITEMS.

10. PC. D.Simpson-Police Report/Speed Limit

PC Simpson reported that there had been no crime incidents reported for the Parish in the past year.

PC Simpson detailed the latest criteria for speed limits. It was agreed that the Clerk writes a formal letter to Mr. Bill Banton of DCC formally requesting a speed limit. County Councillor Mr. Hugo Barton agreed to support the request. PC. Simpson agreed to liaise with DCC re. the siting of speed survey strips if it was agreed to site a device

11. Village Web-Site.

Councillor Mr. A. Nickels introduced Mr. K. Hughes and Mr. M. Gallagher who outlined and distributed detailed plans for a Weare Giffard village Web Site. Mr. Gallagher agreed to set up and update a site; stressing that a successful site depended on groups within the village and its groups supplying up to date info.

Mr. Gallagher saw four benefits to the village. These being communication/information within the community, information and the promotion of the village for tourists/visitors, information for people who may be thinking of moving to the village and as a site of interest for all.

It was unanimously agreed to support such a proposal and reimburse Mr. Gallagher £110 this year to cover some of his expenses. This figure to be reviewed annually.

It was also agreed that the ownership of the site be transferred to the Parish Council.

12. Vacant post of Councillor

The Council agreed that the Clerk contact Jenny Cawsey of TDC re. the current regulations over co-option following the recent resignations

13. Parish Precept.

The council unanimously agreed to set the annual parish precept at £3000 for the year 2006-2007. This figure being unchanged from the year 2005-2006.

Clerk to return the relevant forms to TDC.

14. Parish Plan Update.

The Clerk reported that the initial survey questionnaires had been collected and that there had been an excellent response of over 65%. The next stage would be to collate the findings and present them to the village at a parish event in the Village Hall on Sat. Feb. 16th. from 10.30am. There will be an opportunity for people to comment/respond to the main issues identified at that event, which would then form the basis for a more detailed questionnaire based on the major issues.

The Clerk reported that the Steering Group was applying for funding for the Parish Plan expenses. The Council agreed to grant £200 to the Steering Group.

15. Strimming Tender.

Agreed to accept the tender from Mrs. AJ Cornick for the year 2006 (March-Oct). The price to the Council for 2 main cuts through the woods, 2 cuts around Church Meadow and 1 cut every 3 weeks to the area around the time seat and Village Hall be £400 to include labour and petrol.

It was agreed the Clerk writes thanking Mrs. Cornick for her efforts over the past year.

16. Strimmer

The Councils strimmer is uneconomic to repair it was agreed to pay Mrs. AJ Cornick £90 in 2006 for the use of her strimmer plus cord. This was agreed.

17. Notice Boards

The Clerk reported that the 3 notice boards that the Council are responsible for need varnishing.

Councillor Herman said her husband would revarnish the said boards.

18. Golf Club Brown Sign

Concern had been expressed that the Parish Council was not consulted re. the erection of a brown tourism sign directing Torrington Golf Club traffic through the village. Councillor Barton reported that Parish Councils are not normally consulted regarding such applications.

19. E-Mail

Members agreed to receive minutes and agendas by e-mail if they had such a facility.

20. Mobile Lengthsman.

Members were asked to comment on the service by DCC.

It was reported by the Clerk that there seems to be a communication problem whereby the Parish is not informed of visits.

Councillor Barton agreed to look into the matter

21. Planning.

1/1696/2005/FUL. A site visit had been undertaken – no objection from the parish.

22. Financial Report. 23-11-05.

Previous Balance 7-09-05

Inv. Acc. £1378.24

Bank acc. £1041.36

Cheques in:

28-09-05 £1500 TDC Parish Precept.

Cheques out:

11-10-05 100032 Weare Giffard Village Hall Grant (04-05) £100.

11-10-05 100033 RD and AJ Cornick Maintenance contract and strimmer repair £240

30-10-05 100034 Clerks wages and expenses £460

Balances

Inv. Acc. £1378.24
Bank Acc. £1741.36

23. Correspondence.

a) A letter had been received from Torrington Town Council re. the increase by Torridge District Council of their car parking charges.

The Council agreed with the sentiments in the letter. Clerk to write to Torridge expressing their concern.

b) Torridge Community Transport Association who run the Ring and Ride Transport Scheme for people who have difficulty using public transport requested grant funding. It was agreed to invite a representative from the group to the next meeting.

24. AOB.

Councillor Mr. H. Curtis raised the issue about the state of the Weare Giffard to Torrington road from Chopes Bridge- Clerk to write to DCC.

25. 2006 Meeting Schedule.

Clerk to circulate proposed dates

Date of next Meeting Wed. Feb. 2ND. 7.30 Weare Giffard Village Hall