**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 17th APRIL 2014**

**AT 7.30pm**

**IPPLEPEN VILLAGE HALL**

**In attendance**: Coun.Popham (Chairman)

Coun.Vallance

Coun.Mrs.Calland

Coun.Mrs.Northwood

Coun.Mrs.Cleasby

Coun.Smith

Coun.Mrs.Wilson

Coun.Carnell

**The Clerk:** Mrs.Fay Olding

**District & County Councillor:** Coun.Dewhirst who was unable to attend

**6 Members of the Public were in attendance**

**Apologies:** Coun.Farrow, Coun.Tompkins, Coun.Dewhirst

**Chair:** Coun.Popham

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the last Assembly were read and approved.

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public.

**SPEAKER:** Chairman of Ipplepen Local History Group – Mr.John Eastley

Mr. Eastley gave a presentation on the history of the Ipplepen War Memorial. Records show

that discussions began on the 17th June 1919 for a War Memorial in Ipplepen and the

building of the Cross commenced on the 27th June 1919. A collection was started and £85

was raised with the actual construction costing £65. The Memorial was dedicated on 4th July

1920 and the railings erected on the 25th June 1926. It is believed that the stone came from

one of the Tors on Dartmoor.

It is now the intention of the Ipplepen Local History Group to restore the Memorial by having

it professionally cleaned during July 2014 with a re-dedication ceremony taking place on

the 3rd August to celebrate the centenary of the First World War. Grants to do this work have

been successfully acquired from the War Memorials Trust Fund.

An application is also going to be made to list the Ipplepen War Memorial as a protected

Monument.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT from Coun.Popham**

It has come as something of a surprise that my second year as Chairman of Ipplepen Parish Council has reached its conclusion.

Over the last 12 months there have perhaps been no giant leaps forward, but in conjunction with the wider community there has been steady progress consolidating and concluding a number of objectives from the 2010-14 Parish Plan.  Plans for 2 new footpaths and the provision of toilet facilities and car park at the playing field have kept us hard at it and by the time you read this we hope to have broken ground on these projects.

The enthusiasm of the community to assist in the future of the community was typified by the response to the consultation for a transport plan and the next parish plan.  Over 300 surveys were returned.  The transport plan is now in place (copies available from the Parish Clerk) and the first sign of progress on what has, up to now, been something of an intractable problem is in the offing: a review of the 20mph zone with a view to urgently making it a legally enforceable 20mph limit.

Looking forward there are a number of challenges facing our community not least the Neighbourhood Plan.  Such a plan would give our community greater self determination in certain matters relating to the potential development and expansion of the village.  Our community remains a safe place to live, a friendly place to live and has a character that is not intimately tied to a larger town, nor does it face rural isolation.  Our community should continue to have a say in the safeguarding of that character.

The concept of an Ipplepen Neighbourhood Plan is however tied to the Teignbridge Local Plan and it remains to be seen how that holds up in practice.  There is nothing to be gained by expending a lot of time, goodwill and money on behalf of the community if ultimately all we have to show is a worthless promise.  For our community the first indication of the substance of the local plan will be the determination of the proposed Foredown Road development where there are significant pros and cons hanging on the outcome.  That decision is now in the hands of the Teignbridge Planners and the outcome is uncertain.

Ipplepen has a community spirit that is much envied and it has been a privilege to have been Chair of the Parish Council.  My thanks go to Mrs Fay Olding, the Clerk to the Council, my fellow Councillors, our District and County Councillors and all the people of the community for their help, encouragement and support.  It remains only for me to wish my successor 'fair winds and full sails'.

**COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – read by Coun.Popham in the absence of Coun.Dewhirst**

I was delighted to be chosen to represent Ipplepen on Devon County Council last May in an election with a turnout of 37.13%. The results were Keith Clements, the Green Party 139 votes, Jacqueline Stewart, Labour party 161 votes, Susan Doige, UKIP, 683 votes, Cllr Dennis Smith 1001 votes and myself with 1,396 votes. I would like to express my thanks again to Cllr Smith for a good fight.

Much has happened since and now I represent your interests on County Development Management, People’s Scrutiny, the County Farms Estate and I am Chairman of the Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee and the Stoneycombe Quarry Liaison Committee. I have also been a member of the Safeguarding Children Task Group looking into the plight of Children in Care in Devon – as part of this exercise I organised a meeting with the Chief Executive, the County Solicitor and the Leader of the Council to express my concerns that Children in Care were not being adequately protected by Devon County Council and to demand immediate action to start to rectify the situation. I am also on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Care Task Group, set up to look in to the truly dreadful educational outcomes of children in care. Finally as part of my duties as a Corporate Parent for Children in Devon I am a Regulation 33 Lay visitor to the Atkinson Secure Children’s Home in Exeter. Since being elected I have asked 24 questions to the Council on your behalf –I hope this is a record. Questions have ranged from details of the progress of the South Devon Link Road, to questions about pedestrian safety in Kingskerswell, to lack of interview facilities for Social Workers at their new offices in County Hall, to questions about rural pothole repairs and the lack of transparency in not publishing letters of objection to planning applications being determined by DCC.

From my County Councillors Fund I have disbursed £395 to Coffinswell Parish Council, £1500 to Abbotskerswell Village Hall, £750 to Broadhempston Village Hall, £2000 to Ipplepen Parish Council, £250 to Ipplepen Twinners, £2000 to Kingskerswell Community Centre, £1500 to Kingskerswell Navigators, £500 to the war Memorial Trust and £75 to Teign Archaeology.

Teignbridge District Council had a senior management reshuffle last year. They commissioned a Consultant costing £10,000 to advise them but strangely he did not produce a report identifying any findings. The outcome however has been obfuscation and a total lack of transparency as to how these decisions were made – at no point were elected Councillors allowed a vote on the fait accompli. We now have a Chief executive and four Business Leads however they are being paid at the same rate as the previous three Directors. The simple expedient of removing the Chief Executive has been found by many Councils to be a more effective way to save money.

The District Council has continued to shed services. Last year the Council took the decision to cease to support a large number of Public Toilets in the District – I am torn between pride at Ipplepen’s desire to support this vital aspect of public health and hygiene and rage that the District with its huge buying power and far larger budget should pass on its responsibility to those least able to pay for it.

Teignbridge is reviewing its Waste Collection Services. The Council set up the current waste recycling service and constructed the bulking station in 2003/04. The service has operated from the Forde Road Depot and bulking station since that date. The bulking station enabled Teignbridge to maximise the value of recyclables and generate over £600,000 a year to support service costs and helped recycling rates rise from 19% to 57%. Teignbridge, with a present recycling performance of 56%, has nationally remained in the top 20 Councils over the last 8 years and currently has dropped to 2nd in Devon for recycling performance.

Four proposals were considered: the No Change Option, the Minimum Option, the Value Option, the Gold Option and the Best Affordable Option. This last option has been selected and consists of a weekly Recycling Collection that collects mixed plastics and card separately alongside paper, glass bottles and jars and tin cans in the 55 lt boxes and a new reusable sack as well as food waste for composting in a new 50 litre outdoor caddy. Landfill will continue to be collected fortnightly in the black bins. There will be a £35 annual charge to collect garden waste in the 240 lt wheelie bin.

Although I fully support any proposal to improve and increase our recycling performance I believe the new charge is unfair because those with gardens will subsidise the rest and I believe it will increase fly tipping and many will use their black bins to hide garden waste.

The Teignbridge District Local Plan has now been found ‘sound’ by the government’s inspector. This has to be formally ratified by Members of the Council – but it now carries full weight in planning terms. For residents of Ipplepen it will have an immediate effect in that all planning decisions must be based on the Plan which defines our village to its current boundary and has very stringent controls on development in open countryside. For those of us who value our local district it will see a massive increase in housing being built around Newton Abbot, with consequential problems of congested roads, demands on local services and destruction of countryside around our market town.

Finally I have disbursed from my District Councillors Fund: £250 to Teignbridge Citizens Advice, Ipplepen Cricket Club, Ipplepen Local History Group, Ipplepen Youth Club and Ipplepen Twinning Association, as well as £150 to the Ipplepen Community Hub and £100 to the Ipplepen Film Society.

**FINANCE REPORT Report written by the Financial Officer**

The balance at the end of the financial year 2013/2014 stands at £17,233.62 in the working account and £39,160.31 in the reserve account making a healthy total of £56,393.93, which includes various grants as explained below, that have not yet been spent.

Our main project for the year 2013/14 was the extension to Orley Road Footpath making the route to Orley Common much safer for walkers. Also remedial works have been carried out at the Skatepark.

The Precept for 2014/15 stands at £44,495 plus a council tax support grant of £3,430 paid to us by Teignbridge District Council making a total of £47,925.00, for this coming Financial Year.

Funding is now being put together for our next big project, the new Toilet Block and extension to the Village Hall Car Park, with successful grants being obtained from Ipplepen Community Fund, Rural Aid, District Elector Fund, Investing in Devon, the remainder of the St.Mary’s Place Section 106 money and it is hoped a grant from Viridor will be forthcoming within the next few weeks. This all means that works can now commence on the first phase i.e. the new Toilet Block.

Also this year we are hoping to undertake a new footpath along the A381 from Ipplepen to Two Mile Oak. Grant money has already been obtained towards this venture, but further funding will still be needed.

**PLANS REPORT – Coun.Tompkins**

Having gone through various stages of consultation which were reported this time last year; the emerging Teignbridge Local Plan 2013-2033 was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination in June 2013. In the September, a Planning Inspector was appointed by the SoS to preside over a public examination of the submitted Local Plan. Following a further period of consultation in November of 2013, the Inspector was able to issue a Report which confirmed, subject to modifications, that he found the submitted Local Plan to be “sound.”

Earlier this month on the 9th April the Planning Inspector submitted his final and binding Report to Teignbridge District Council which concluded that the new Local Plan provided an appropriate basis for the planning of the District over the next 20 years. The new Plan is now likely to be adopted in June this year and will constitute the Development Plan for the District.

The adoption of the new Local Plan will now enable the Parish Council to initiate the preparation of its own Neighbourhood Plan. Government funding has been set-aside for this and with the assistance of the District Council as facilitators we will be seeking involvement from ‘as broad a section’ of the local community as possible for assistance in its preparation – this is most important if it is to be a truly “community-led” Plan. Neighbourhood planning will give the local community of Ipplepen the opportunity to identify and influence where sustainable and appropriate forms of development should take place within the parish having regard to the new Development Plan policies.

A case in point relates to the recently submitted application by Bloor Homes for 39 dwellings on land off Foredown Road. The Parish Council, at its Planning sub-Committee Meeting which was held coincidentally last night, has put up a robust consultation response which maintains an objection to the proposed development in terms of planning policy and sustainability grounds. With an adopted Neighbourhood Plan in place we would have more resilience to applications brought forward for inappropriate development within the Ipplepen.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and my fellow councillors who have served on the Plans Committee over the past year for their time and support.

**RE-APPROVAL OF PLANNING GUIDELINES**

There were no changes to the present Planning Guidelines for Ipplepen.

**AMENITIES REPORT** – **Coun.Carnell**

I am pleased to be able to say that, Ipplepen has once again come through a very wet and sometimes windy winter with little or no major amenity issues to report.

However, once again this has been another busy Year for maintenance and repair of the community’s assets.

Two of the larger repair bills during the last year have been, the new surface on part of the skate park and the replacement of a Climbing Net in the children’s play area, with both these repairs being necessary due to wear and tear this will be an area of expenditure which I feel will need to be managed with care in the future.

The PC have also been responsible throughout the year for among other things, the repairs and replacement of a variety of gates and fences, the supply of sand bags, inspections of Parish Properties and the overseeing of various Work Contracts within the Parish.

Thankfully, many of the smaller repairs continue to be undertaken by Parish Councillors thus keeping costs where possible to a minimum.

We now have in place a Salt Store in the Milliumium Centre Car Park that also houses the Grit Spreader, which luckily was again not required this Year.

Among the Planned improvements for the future twelve month’s we hope to see

1. The commencement of the New Toilet block in the Park, also

2. Plans are being worked on to put a Bus Shelter at The Wellington bus stop.

3. And a new perimeter fence and gate are planned for the Tremlett Grove Play

area.

Throughout the Year many of you will have seen our Parish Handyman Mr Dave Cartwright out in all weathers keeping the Village clean and tidy, mowing the grass etc and generally working hard on our behalf.

I am sure that you will all join me in thanking him for the grand job that he does.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council and Members of the Amenities Sub Committee for their support in this my first year as Amenities Chairman, and in particular our Clerk Fay Olding for all her help.

**HIGHWAYS** – **Coun.Smith**

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Highways Advisory Group members, Cllr. Mrs. Northwood, Cllr Mrs Wilson and Cllr. Tompkins for all their help and support – in particular Cllr Mrs Wilson who does the admin for the group. I should also thank Councillor Dewhirst for his support in prodding the South Area Highways team when they appear on occasion not to take action as required.

The group continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis to monitor progress and discuss potential improvements to highways and footpaths in and around Ipplepen. Matters brought to our attention by parishioners are also discussed and action taken where applicable.

As you all will know from the news coverage there was record rain fall in the south west peninsular and as we go forward I expect to see some damage to the roads in and around the village where the water has penetrated. We still have problems with potholes appearing but the priority for repairing is where these affect highways safety.

A reminder here that potholes along with faulty streetlamps can be reported directly to the County Council via the report it link on www.devon.gov.uk.

Reported incidences of overhanging hedges and dangerous trees have been very few and again these can be reported using the above link.

The annual inspection of footpaths has been done and the reports forwarded to Devon County. Further work has been carried out to the Moor Road/Totnes Road path (footpath 2). Maintenance throughout the year has been good and again I should like to thank those residents and landowners who help to keep them accessible throughout the year. Regular walkers will I am sure be pleased to see that there is now a complete footpath to Orley Common, although we are still waiting for it to be officially adopted and signed.

I had a call from PCSO Lisa Clubb advising that a vehicle had been driven up bridleway 7 from Wrigwell and been abandoned. Subsequently the vehicle was set ablaze and has since been removed by TDC. I would remind people that the footpaths and bridleways are just that and not intended for vehicles other than those carrying out maintenance. It has been suggested that engineering takes place to prevent access by motor vehicles but I am not convinced that that is a good use of public money.

Members of the public and councillors will know that, as a result of the consultation carried out during the year, we are seeking funding from grant bodies to regularise what has become an unofficial path from Park Hill to Two Mile Oak. There is still some doubt over land ownership which I expect to have confirmed in the near future and hopefully we will be able to get the work done in this year. We have been offered land by the residents of 55 and 57 Clampitt Road to extend the pavement from West Country motors towards the junction at the Toll House. South West Highways are providing a quotation as are others and it is hoped that we will be able to get this under way soon.

The footways in Clampitt Road and Croft Road have been slurry sealed and thus far the surfaces seem to be standing up well despite having vehicles parked on them

**OPEN FORUM**

Thanks were given to the Parish Council from Mr.Phil Domoney, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee for all the work projects undertaken by the Councillors, he felt that many parishioners did not realise the time and effort that goes in to the smooth running of the Village. Mr.Eastney also thanked the Parish Council for their support.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm.**