**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2015**

**AT 7.30pm**

**IPPLEPEN VILLAGE SIDE HALL**

**In attendance**: Coun.Mrs.Northwood (Chair)

 Coun.Vallance

 Coun.Mrs.Calland

 Coun.Mrs.Cleasby

 Coun.Mrs.Wilson

 Coun.Carnell

 Coun.Tompkins

**The Clerk:** Mrs.Fay Olding

**District & County Councillor:** Coun.Dewhirst

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

**Apologies:** Coun.Farrow, Coun.Popham, Coun.Smith

**Chair:** Coun.Mrs.Northwood

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

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public.

**SPEAKER:** Chairman of Abbotskerswell Parish Council – Coun.Kevin Eales

 Chairman of Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

 David Munden

Coun.Eales gave a very comprehensive presentation on how far Abbotskerswell had got

with their Neighbourhood Plan. The first approach was community engagement. This was

achieved by sending out an initial flyer advertising two workshops to explain what a

Neighbourhood Plan was and for the Community to have a say in what should be included

within the Plan. Following this exercise, a questionnaire was written and sent to every

household, local businesses, and organisations in the Parish. The next stage will be to

analyse the information from the questionnaire and then to write their draft plan.

Mr.Munden pointed out that a plan of this enormity takes time, money and sometimes the

need for specialist help. Grants are available through TDC and Locality to cover a certain

amount of the costs involved.

The Chairman thanked Coun.Eales and Mr.Munden for coming along to speak to us and for

all the information which will certainly assist Ipplepen Parish Council, who are now in the

early days of starting our Neighbourhood Plan.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT from Coun.Mrs.Northwood**

This has been my first year as Chairman of the Parish Council, and so consequently the first time I have had to make a report for our Annual Parish Assembly.

It is a time to be able to look back at the year gone, and the achievements that have been made, and a time to look forward to other works still to be completed, and I am sure, to new works that will come to light, as we, as a Parish Council strive to do the best we can for this, our village.

Firstly, looking ahead, and not very far ahead, so put the date in your diaries, as on 25th May we will once again be celebrating the age-old tradition of Beating the Bounds. A Committee, led by Cllr. Chris Popham has been organising the day and I know he and Cllr. Rob Vallance have in fact already walked the route to make sure that all is well in hand. I would like to thank everyone involved with taking the time to attend meetings and do all the necessary arrangements for such a day. The weather is the only thing that we cannot arrange, but I am sure everything else will make for a wonderful day, which as previously, has been a community event for everyone, and for which I am sure we would also all like to thank the respective landowners for allowing us to walk on their land, to enable this tradition to continue.

With regard to administrative matters, the Parish Council has now started working towards developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Ipplepen, which will give the community a substantial say in how our own very special village will develop over the next 20 years. You have just heard of the progress that Abbotskerswell have made with their plan, and we will be advising parishioners of our work and progress and hope that many of you will also “come aboard” and help us to formulate our plan.

Secondly, I now turn to the year gone by, although I do not propose to tell you myself of all what has happened, but will leave that to the Chairs of the various sub-Committees.

However, as you know, in a couple of weeks’ time we not only have a general election, but also local Council elections too. As far as Ipplepen is concerned we now know that both Cllr. Rob Vallance and Cllr.Chris Popham will not be standing as Councillors again. I know I speak for everyone when I extend massive thanks to them both for all the years they have given, and for all they have achieved for this parish. Again, thanks to you both.

I must also mention, our very own Parish Clerk, Fay Olding. Last September we commemorated her 25 years working in this capacity with a surprise gift of flowers, a silver engraved bookmark and a presentation booklet. Again, I say to you Fay, Thank you. Although those two words do not seem much, I know how heartfelt they are meant by everyone here tonight, and how your help and advice is invaluable to us all.

Finally, I would now like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors for all the work that they have done this year, in the various groups and for working tirelessly for the benefit of the village. My own grateful thanks go to them all also for the support that they have given to me in my year as Chair.

**COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Coun.Dewhirst**

Last year saw a number of changes to the makeup of the District Council. Firstly the youngest member of the Conservative Group defected to UKIP and then later two further Conservative members joined the Independent Group putting the Council into no overall control. The Independent Council Group Leader, Cllr Haines, then joined the Conservatives in an Informal Executive and a number of Independent Councillors became Shadow Portfolio Holders.

Strata, the Council’s new computer services company started at the beginning of November. A joint venture with East Devon and Exeter City Council. This company now provides all computer services and printing to the Council. We had a rocky start because Members were presented with Scrutiny rules designed to stifle comment and obscure decisions however I now sit on this Committee which meets at Exeter City Council offices. Let’s hope it is successful – if it does not provide our Council with our requirements, then we have dug ourselves a very deep hole from which to extricate ourselves.

Community Infrastructure Levy came into existence at Teignbridge – this is a charge of £70/m2 on new build properties in Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton and Kingskerswell rising to £200/m2 here in Ipplepen. The charge is to provide money for essential infrastructure such as roads and schools, however developers have already found a loophole by classifying their developments as Self Build which is not chargeable!

The big news however is the proposed changes to the recycling regime at TDC. Firstly there will be a weekly collection of food waste in a small bin along with bottles, tins, plastics, paper and cardboard for which you will be given a sack. The black bin will continue to be collected fortnightly and your green waste bin will only be collected if you pay an additional £35 on top of your current Council tax. Additionally the refuse lorry fleet will be replaced two years later than originally planned – hence the recent spate of breakdowns. Nearly 8,000 TDC residents have signed a petition calling for this scheme to be scrapped.

Finally from my Community Fund I disbursed £500 to the village hall for the phase 2 extension, £300 to the Ipplepen Youth Club for games equipment, £250 to the Carnival Club for electrical equipment, £250 to the British Museum Portable Antiquities Scheme to help in the archaeological dig, £100 to Ipplepen History Group for Ipplepen Remembers and £100 to the village hall for TV equipment.

At County Hall the low point came when the Conservatives refused to allow Devon’s Youth Parliament members leave to speak to the Full Council, a truly shocking incident that showed an uncaring and unattractive side to the County administration. Following this my colleagues and I called for a special Extraordinary Council meeting to debate the lack of transparency in Council decisions. We called the process fundamentally flawed and attempted to debate the closure of Children’s homes and Old People’s Homes – however despite almost every opposition Member speaking we heard not one word from the Conservatives until the Leader replied on their behalf that he had listened to out arguments and he rejected them! I do not need to tell you the result of the vote. The following month the rules were quietly changed to allow members of the public to speak to our Council.

I sit on the Farms Estate Committee and supported Farm Wise, an event designed to take children on the food journey from field to plate, at the Westpoint Arena near Exeter. Last October Devon County Council farm tenants and 1400 primary school children from primary and special schools from across Devon attended this event. Farm Wise emphasised the importance for children to make that link between food production and what they eat and drink. It doesn’t just come packaged from a supermarket but has had a life before that. Coppa Dolla Farm a breeder of pedigree limousin beef, and dairy farm and ice cream maker Fairfield Farm, both in Teignbridge South, were there helping youngsters make this event a real success.

I was involved in the publication of two hard hitting County Reports. Our first on the appalling Educational Outcomes of Children in Care and those eligible for Free School Meals. We recommended a number of measures including: work to restructure the Virtual School; strengthening the role of the corporate parent; that good practice in the effective use of pupil premium is shared across schools and that placement stability for Children in Care be given an even higher priority. It is gratifying that all of our recommendations were accepted and implemented and we look to the autumn to see the results of the hard work being put in to improve the lot of these disadvantaged children.

The second report was on the controversial subject of Child Sexual Exploitation. This report was effectively hidden from view by being published on Christmas Eve – fortunately Spotlight got wind of this ploy and the Report has been widely read.

We found that there is no intelligence to suggest organised child sexual exploitation networks are operating in Devon however Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is likely to be happening in the county on a daily basis. The report called for an urgent new database to be set up to record and map instances of child exploitation. Other recommendations were that Police and social care should raise awareness on child sexual exploitation with district, city, borough councils, housing associations and businesses; Child sexual exploitation should be declared a priority Public Health issue; training on CSE should be given to all frontline staff including social workers, family practitioners, housing and licensing officers, all members and council officers and businesses; that all Devon & Cornwall police officers, police community support officers and specials receive CSE training and that there is rigorous monitoring of the Babcock LDP contract in terms of its programme to schools educating young people on the risk and threat of child sexual exploitation. These recommendations are all in the process of being implemented.

There are over 141,000 young people living in Devon and everyone needs to play their part to ensure all those under 18 live in a safe environment.

Finally from my Locality budget I disbursed £2,000 to Ipplepen Village Hall and made payments to Kingskerswell Village Hall New Roof Project, Abbotskerswell’s new sports area, Broadhempston Village Hall, enabled work to begin on Denbury’s new Sports Pavillion, helped Coffinswell Social History Project, Kingskerswell Library and the young Navigators, Ipplepen Archaeological Dig, Dame Hannah Rogers and Newton Abbot Rugby Club Under 18 girls team.

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

The balance at the end of the financial year 2014/2015 stands at £22,950.16 in the working account and £64,018.94 in the reserve account making a healthy total of £86,969.10 which includes various grants as explained below, that have not yet been spent.

Our main project for the year 2014/15 was the Toilet Block at the Recreation Ground. The Groundworks have been done and further funding is continually being secured, hence the healthy total in our reserve account. It is hoped that the next phase will commencing within the next few weeks.

The Precept for 2014/15 stands at £48,667 plus a council tax support grant of £4,130 paid to us by Teignbridge District Council making a total of £52,797.00, for this coming Financial Year.

Funding is now being put together for two footpath projects for the coming Financial Year i.e. Clampitt Road on to the A381 and along the A381 from Ipplepen to Two Mileoak. It is also hoped to have a new bus shelter at the Wellington Inn, for which money has already been put aside.

**PLANS REPORT – Coun.Tompkins**

The most important development since this time last year has been the adoption on 6th May 2014 of the Teignbridge Local Plan 2013-2033. The new Local Plan will constitute the Development Plan for the District and applications must be determined in accordance with the Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into effect on 27th March 2012 and its policies constitute material considerations which carry weight in the determination of planning applications. However, the Local Plan was prepared in accordance with the NPPF, so there should not be significant differences between policies in these two documents. It should be recognised that the Local Plan has primacy in determining planning applications.

Members will be acutely aware that the adoption of the Local Plan repelled and ultimately forced a developer to withdraw a much maligned planning application for 39 dwellings proposed on land off Foredown Road last year.

Another notable development during the last 12 months came on 13th October 2014 when Teignbridge Council introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (commonly referred to as CIL) following the approval of the CIL Charging Schedule by an Independent Examiner in April 2014 and adoption by Teignbridge Council on 31st July. CIL replaces Section 106 Agreements for the funding of infrastructure requirements arising from retail and residential developments.

As the Government is committed to a plan led system, then the next tier in the process as far as Ipplepen Parish Council is concerned is the preparation and adoption of its own Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan carries weight in the determination of applications alongside the Local Plan and gives the opportunity to shape development to meet present and future needs. From beginning the process to the eventual adoption of the plan which culminates in a public referendum (a yes or no vote) is anticipated to take approximately 12 to 18 months. We have now embarked on the journey and successfully registered our interest with TDC in producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Ipplepen. We will also be submitting an application for neighbourhood area status and will then be publicising and engaging with the local community and stakeholders to form a Steering Group. We would hope to attract support from the wealth of expertise that inevitably exists within the parish, so watch this space – Your Parish Needs You!

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman, Clerk 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 say, once again Ipplepen has weathered another winter without the need of the grit spreader and little or no other major amenity issues to report.

This year in particular a lot of the Parish Council amenity group’s time and efforts have revolved around the Village recreational areas, which are thankfully well used and therefore always requiring maintenance or general repairs.

With this in mind I am pleased to confirm that, the new safety fencing has now been erected and is in place around the children’s play area at Tremlett Grove.

And at the Recreational Park behind the Village Hall.

A price for the new toilet block has now been accepted and work will soon

be underway.

Football nets have been replaced.

Two new benches are to be (have been) placed to complement the trees

planted by the Ladies of the WI.

The children’s Typhoon ride is about to be refurbished and a new wear

surface laid beneath.

And at long last, ongoing repairs to the skate park are completed.

Also, during this year as an amenity, the Parish Council has purchased and undertaken responsibility for upkeep, the Public Conveniences in Clampitt Road.

As part of its many duties the Amenities Sub Committee with the aid of the Parish Council has also inspected Parish Properties, overseen work contracts within the Parish and carried out various other general maintenance tasks, with many of the smaller repairs being undertaken by the Parish Councillors themselves thus keeping costs to a minimum.

I would therefore on behalf of the Parish wish to thank all members of the Amenities Group for the time that they give freely to the Community, often behind the scenes and un-noticed.

I would also like to thank Mr Dave Cartwright the Parish Handyman on behalf of the Parish for his continued hard work in all weathers, mowing grass, litter picking, and generally working hard on our behalf.

Finally, I would like to thank all other members of the Parish Council for their support throughout the year, and in particular our Clerk Fay Olding for her untiring assistance.

**HIGHWAYS** – **Read by Coun.Mrs.Wilson in the absence of Coun.Smith**

The Highways Advisory group continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis throughout the past 12 months. Minutes are kept and are available from the clerk. There were many problems primarily with potholes and flooding identified through the year and this has resulted in some extensive maintenance work being carried out in East Street and Ipplepen road. Large sections of East Street were resurfaced as the most economical way to deal with the many potholes that appeared there. It is expected that the work done in Ipplepen Road will alleviate the flooding issues we get from time to time.

Emma Nicks, the Highways Superintendent for the Ipplepen area, has been very helpful in trying to keep our roads in a reasonable state of repair and does her best to respond when called upon, given the limitations of the County Highways budget however, potholes will keep appearing and I urge parishioners to use the ‘REPORT IT’ service on the County Council website.

Our annual report on our Public Rights of Way has been submitted to Devon County Council and we have received a small grant towards the cost of any maintenance work that may from time to time be required. We had an issue early last year when a 4 X 4 type vehicle was abandoned in the Wrigwell lane bridleway and had to be removed by Teignbridge Council staff. This has resulted in a ‘horse stile’ being installed at Windthorn where the bridleway meets Tanyard Lane – thanks to Johnathan Rowland of Devon County Council for getting that organised.

During the past year the 20mph zone in our village has been changed to a 20mph limit which is now enforceable and it is good to see some of the ideas that came out of the parish Transport Plan initiated by Cllr Popham and the Transport Group being taken forward. You will see from the Highways Group minutes that some of the sustainable transport issues are also being worked on alongside some longstanding issues such as the persistent flooding at Caunter’s Close.

Finally a plea; inconsiderate and indeed illegal parking is causing problems in the centre of the village and I ask that parishioners remember that buses, services and delivery vehicles use this route. If they continue to encounter access problems there is a strong possibility that some of the services might be lost.

It just remains for me to thank Cllrs Popham, Cllr Tompkins and Cllr Mrs Wilson for their time and commitment.

**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, and for the support with the refurbishment of the kitchen and side hall. Mrs.Quick also thanked the Council and mentioned that it would assist large vehicles such as buses etc. to get through Fore Street, if a right of access white line was painted outside Jaxon Cider Press entrance. The one that is in front of her property opposite, is working well.

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm.**