**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 2016**

**AT 7.30pm**

**IPPLEPEN MILLENNIUM CENTRE**

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

Coun.Carnell

Coun.Mrs.Calland

Coun.Mrs.Cleasby

Coun.Mrs.Wilson

Coun.Mrs.Hutchings

Coun.Tompkins

Coun.Henderson

Coun.Smith

**The Clerk:** Mrs.Fay Olding

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

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

**Apologies:** Coun.Farrow

**Chair:** Coun.Mrs.Northwood

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

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public.

**SPEAKER: Mr.Phil Wise from Teignbridge Neighbourhood Watch** advised that there is now only one co-ordinator left in Ipplepen and recruitment of further members would be very welcome. The Teignbridge Neighbourhood Watch works from Teignmouth Police Office and any local crimes are reported to them and in turn reported to the local co-ordinators together with any scams that are currently being spread around such as telephone calls asking for bank details etc. With the shortage of police and community support officers coming out to local villages, all parishioners are now becoming more the eyes and ears in their own neighbourhoods and if they see anything suspicious they should report it straight away and dial 101. **Action: The Clerk to put a recruitment advert in the next parish magazine.**

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

I can hardly believe that another year has gone by since our last Parish Assembly - a year which as always, has seen the Parish Council very busy with a variety of work. An evening like this gives us 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 in hand 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 our village.

This time last year we were looking forward to the age-old tradition of Beating the Bounds. We were truly blessed with a wonderful day both weather-wise and for the community to come together to enjoy such a special day.

At the present time we are working towards another event – one which will see all villages and towns throughout the U.K. commemorate in their own way. Here in Ipplepen we are planning a Picnic in the Park on Sunday 12th June to mark the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Please make a note of this date in your diaries, and keep an eye out for more details in the forthcoming editions of the Ipplepen magazine and on posters which will be displayed around the village.

With regard to administrative matters, you will recall that last year the Parish Council held various exhibition days to gather villagers’ thoughts of what we should include in a Neighbourhood Plan. We have collated all this information and are now ready to forge ahead to develop this Plan, which will give this community a substantial say in how our own very special village will develop over the next 20 years, especially with regard to residential building development, employment and business opportunities, community facilities, our environment etc. We cannot stress enough how important this plan will become. Legislation states that the plan cannot be formulated by the Parish Council alone, but must have parishioners actively involved, and we give a big thank you to the people who have come forward to be a part of the steering group. It is vital that we now proceed with all this work so that the plan can be drawn up to protect the future of the Parish of Ipplepen.

I am not going to report on other works that have taken place over the last year, but will leave that to the Chairs of the various sub-Committees.

During this last year we have welcomed on board our new Councillor, Mr. Richard Henderson, and already appreciate his input into the Council. I now give thanks to our very own Parish Clerk, Fay Olding, who has been a constant support to me in my term as Chairman, and whose 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. We have had many visitors and speakers at meetings, all of whom have been so impressed by the standard and commitment of these men and women who give so much of their time for the benefit of the village. My term in the position of Chairman is now coming to an end, and so I give my own most grateful thanks to them all for the support that they have given to me whilst being Chair. It has been an honour for me to be the Chairman for the last two years, and I wish every success to whoever takes over this position next month.

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

September last year saw the introduction of Teignbridge’s new Recycling Scheme designed to stop the extremely worrying drop in recycling rates across the District. A new fleet of vehicles has been leased and recycling has been turned into a weekly collection with separate cardboard and food waste collections. Landfill continues in the same way every two weeks and most controversially garden waste now has to be paid for in a new £35 annual charge.

TDC has put forward a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission on a future Council size. The review has been triggered because more than 30% of the Council’s current wards have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average. The last review of electoral arrangements was in 1998-99, when the number of councillors was reduced from 58 to 46. This time the Council’s recommendation is that its current level of 46 elected members should be retained on the grounds that the Council would be able to ensure it can continue to provide an effective decision making process; provide effective arrangements for the management and delivery of its business, responsibilities and regulatory functions; support extensive and effective involvement in community leadership and representation and respond to the challenges facing Teignbridge and its local communities, as the population continues to grow. It will be interesting to see if Ipplepen remains a single Member ward.

Budgets – As Deputy Leader of the Lib Dem Group at Teignbridge I had my first real taste of trying to put together a Budget in February. Teignbridge Council proposed a Council Tax of £155.17 per annum for a Band D household or an increase of 3.33% which equals £5. This would increase the Reserves to £1.575m or 9.4%. The revenue budget would be £16.7m for the year.

With my Community Fund I disbursed the following for Ipplepen:

Ipplepen Cricket Club £500.00

University of Exeter (for local dig at Dainton) £280.00

Ipplepen Local history Group £200.00

Ipplepen Carnival Club £140.00

Ipplepen Parish Council Defibrullator £380.00

The award winning £110m South Devon Highway project is finally coming to an end. The project opened to traffic last December and with the exception of some additional work involving earth moving and landscaping the project is now all but complete. The next major project to affect this District will be the £28.5m scheme to improve the A382 between Newton Abbot and Drumbridges – this should come to Development Management in the early autumn. The project involves straightening the road, two roundabouts at Whitehills and Forches Cross, a pavement and cycle lane, a bridge at Forches Cross and a new link road from the hospital to Forches Cross.

Ofsted, in an unannounced inspection last year of Devon’s Children’s Services judged them as “Requiring Improvement” – this is actually an improvement on the last Inspection which declared them “Inadequate”. The Report declared that children who need help and protection services were requiring improvement, Adoption services were rated Good, Care Leavers were rated “Inadequate”.

As you know I visit the Atkinson Secure Children’s Home on a monthly basis and after a huge amount of lobbying and many reports I am pleased that we have secured a large investment in the grounds of the home, with play equipment, an all-weather running track, additional security fences and improvements to the Forest School. I have received a commitment to improve the staff areas of the home and after lobbying from all involved in the Home we have secured a seven figure commitment from the DfE for major improvements to the buildings. I heard last week that a new school regime will start in September with a maximum of three week holidays - something I have long advocated – these teenagers have almost always been absent from school during their lives and the intensive work done by the school is truly amazing.

Finally after two pre-Budget scrutiny meetings, with recommendations to Cabinet about concern at the continuing scale of reductions being imposed on local authorities and its failure to provide Councils with full details of the local government finance settlement in good time, we set a Budget.

So after a four and a half hour debate the Council confirmed that the final tally was a requirement Budget of £335.553m being an increase of £18.422 m on the previous year – this is topped up by Grants of £575.029m. This will be spread over 277,846 Band “D” properties with an average collection rate of 98.13%. This comes down to £1,207.62 per Band D property.

With my Locality Budget I disbursed the following for Ipplepen :-

£500.00 Ipplepen Cricket Club

£723.00 Defibrillator for Ipplepen

£536.00 Ipplepen Football Club

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

The balance at the end of the financial year 2015/2016 stands at £18,747.70 in the working account and £80,396.15 in the reserve account making a healthy total of £99,143.85 which includes various grants as explained below, that have not yet been spent.

Our main project for the year 2015/16 was the Toilet Block at the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately due to our endeavours in securing a grant from Viridor did not come to fruitition and therefore it was back to the drawing board for a cheaper version of the building. Further tenders were therefore requested and the new Contractor will hopefully start within the next few weeks. Further tenders will then be sought for the internal works.

The Precept for 2016/17 stands at £61,889.00 plus a council tax support grant of £3330.00 paid to us by Teignbridge District Council making a total of £65,219.00 for this coming Financial Year.

Funding is still being put together for the two footpath projects for the coming Financial Year i.e. Clampitt Road on to the A381 and along the A381 from Ipplepen to Two Mile Oak.The new bus shelter is still on going with the next step being applying for planning permission.

**PLANS REPORT – Coun.Tompkins**

It has been another busy twelve months for the Parish Council and Plans sub-Committee in providing numerous consultation responses to planning applications on a wide cross-section of development proposals submitted within the Parish. In the main, the majority of applications are still fairly straight forward, however, it has become noticeable that a trend is emerging whereby there are a greater proportion of controversial development proposals coming forward attracting local objection. Development where ever it is proposed has the ability to be an emotive subject and the Parish Council in its role as a statutory consultee strives to provide consistent and impartial advice and when appropriate, giving a local perspective to the development proposals from the wealth of local knowledge contained in its ranks.

As reported last year the Parish Council has now started the journey to deliver its own Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are one of the features of the Government’s new planning and localism legislation. Whilst the adopted Teignbridge Local Plan will continue to provide the main framework of planning policy during the plan period to 2033, the Neighbourhood Plan will add another string to the Parish Council’s bow in protecting against inappropriate development shaping new development in the future.

Ipplepen’s Neighbourhood Plan will be led, produced and finally owned by the community. It is likely to contain a vision for the parish, with aims and planning policies for improving the community, provision of new facilities and the allocation of key sites for specific land use purposes. It will deal with key issues like housing, employment, education, heritage and transport and most importantly, the environment.

An extensive round of community engagement events has been held which has attracted some 12 just men to form a Steering Group to drive the Plan forward. Once the plan is approved following a referendum of the whole parish and an independent examination, it must be accepted by Teignbridge District Council.

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**

The Parish Council are continuing to find that Teignbridge DC and Devon County Highways are withdrawing many services due to Government cut backs, therefore additional maintenance and repair work has been filtering down to Local level.

On several occasions this Winter the Amenities Group Sub Committee have been called on to provide distribution of sand bags due to flooding and also to attend to several fallen trees, in the future it would also seem that many other tasks such as grass and hedge cutting will also be passed on and become an additionally PC reasonability and expense.

As part of its responsibility’s 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, many of the smaller tasks now being undertaken by the Parish Councillors themselves so that we can keep cost to a minimum and stretch the budget.

The PC is pleased to say that a quote for the new toilet block in the Park has now been accepted and Mr John Hooper will soon have the building work underway.

Also in the Park, the PC are hoping this year to find additional funding for the refurbishment of the basketball court and to provide a range of adult exercise equipment.

Most will be aware that the Parish Council has now taken on responsibility for the Public Conveniences in Clampitt Road, the work of re-tiling the floors has now been completed, we next need to consider the rest of the building which is in need of general repair and an upgrade.

Finally, on behalf of Myself and the PC I 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 Dave Cartwright the Parish Handyman for his continued hard work in all weathers, mowing grass, litter picking, and all the many other duties he performs so well for the Parish.

A big thank you should also go to the many Parishioners of Ipplepen who have done they bit on behalf of the Village such as Grass Cutting, Litter Picking, Hedge Trimming and Weeding, Etc throughout the year, it all helps to make Ipplepen a better place to live.

And of course thank you to all members of the Parish Council for their support throughout the year, and in particular our Clerk Fay Olding, without whom I am not sure that we would function at all.

**HIGHWAYS** –  **Coun.Smith**

The Highways Advisory continue to meet a bi-monthly and minutes are publicised and available from the clerk.

Emma Nicks who was the DCC Highways Superintendent for the Ipplepen area, has been transferred out of our area and her role was taken by Tegan Preston. Tegan is now on maternity leave and the role is currently in the hands of Toby Stephenson whom I have yet to meet. Our County Councillor has given good support in trying to get essential works done around the village but the lack of funding is being reflected in the quality and timing of the work – the works that have been carried out at the Clampitt Road school access being one of the worst examples

The Annual Public Rights of Way inspection was carried out and submitted to Devon County Council in due time. Wrigwell lane bridleway was again the subject of a vehicle incident although this time the owner did get it removed. This has resulted in a ‘horse stile’ being installed at the Wrigwell end. We are still awaiting signage to mark up the footpath to Orley that was completed 3 years ago – otherwise our public footpaths are in good condition except for the Bickley Mill access to Mator Mator common and the bridleway from Hardup bridge to Bow that seems to be being used by motor cyclists.

Parisioners can see from the Highways Group minutes, reported at the Parish Council meetings, that some of the sustainable transport issues are being worked on and that the drainage work to alleviate the persistent flooding at Caunter’s Close has proved to be successful.

It just remains for me to thank Cllrs Hutchings, Cllr Tompkins and Cllr Mrs Wilson for their time and commitment and Cllr Northwood for her continued support.

**OPEN FORUM**

Thanks were given to the Parish Council on behalf of the community by Chris Popham and Rob Vallance for all the hours that the Councillors give to the Village.

**The meeting closed at 8.26pm.**