

MARWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
Report of the COUNCIL MEETING 29 October 2015
Marwood Methodist Church Hall, Guineaford

Before the meeting a member of the public asked if the large pothole along the road of Longpiece could be reported and repaired. Cllr Latham said this had been reported before but he will report it again.

Cllr Tucker had brought Mike Kelly (NDC Planning Manager) to the meeting so that he could address the Councillors. Mr Kelly said he had received a number of complaints from residents concerning the Planning Committee and the application for the new development at Prixford and he will prepare a detailed response and inform the Council in due course. The Chairman thanked Mr Kelly for attending.

Cllr Latham acted as Chairman and called the meeting to Order at 19.42

Members Present: Cllrs C Latham, Mrs S Darling, R Berry, C Wallis

Apologies: Cllr S Button, A Skentelbery, T Bigge. PCSO Kingdon

In Attendance: Cllr F Tucker. M Kelly (NDC Planning Manager), two members of the public. M J Measures (Clerk to the Council)

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 10 September 2015

Cllr Tucker said the Minutes were wrong and he wanted them changed. On a Point of Order, the Clerk reminded Cllr Tucker that it is Parish Councillors who decide the accuracy of the Minutes and not District Councillors. Cllr Tucker said that he did not say that *“the school could close”*. The Clerk said the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting state *“when Cllr Tucker addressed the meeting (NDC Planning Committee), he produced a letter from the Head teacher of Marwood Primary School inferring that Mr Dobson had said that if the new houses were not built the school could close”*. Minutes provide a written documented account of what was said and agreed at the meeting and cannot be changed unless the reporting of those actions is inaccurate. The Chairman proposed that the Minutes, as written, be accepted. They were agreed and signed as a true record. Cllr Tucker gave each Member and the Clerk a copy of a letter he has written to “Dear Resident” detailing his comments and reporting the “financial gains” of £34,000 for the village; £34,000 for the school and £12,000 towards secondary transport, as a result of the planning decision. *(copy of the letter is attached to Minutes)*

County and District Councillor Reports

Cllr Tucker briefly commented on the “Public Open Space – PRIXFORD” priorities for projects led by the Parish Council. This matter was further discussed under item 5. He also said he is pleased to see that “legal highs” are to be banned.

Police Report

In the absence of PCSO Kingdon the Clerk said one crime had been reported namely *“the interference with a vehicle in PRIXFORD”*.

Correspondence

Correspondence is sent by the Clerk to Members, by e-mail. He highlighted the continued road closures at Bradiford and along the B3230. Members commented on the lack of information on the signs in Bradiford as they do not show the diverted route to be unsuitable for heavy lorries. He mentioned the need for comments concerning the future of the North Devon Records Office.

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders so that Mike Kelly could inform the Council of the details of the “Public Open Space – PRIXFORD” projects. Information had been received from the Project and Procurement Officer, North Devon Council.

Mr Kelly said that from April 2015 the Government amended planning requirements for developments particularly relating to public open spaces and specific projects for the funds have to be identified as soon as possible. The funds available are stated in Minute 4571. He said a possible project could be the provision of play equipment at the new development of the proposed houses in PRIXFORD. Projects can be led by the Parish Council or any other community or sports group. Standing Orders were reinstated.

Finance

Invoices were passed for payment: The Clerk reported the balance at 29 October as £9203.46 (*Includes DCC P3 grant of £2000, and half-year precept/grant*)

Transparency Fund. The Clerk reported that he has completed the application questionnaire concerning the Transparency Fund for Smaller Authorities in order to apply for funding towards providing a web site for the Parish Council. There is now a requirement to publicise more financial information on a web site as the Parish Council has a turnover of less than £25,000 a year.

Bank Mandate. It has become necessary to remove former Cllr Tamlyn from the mandate. Cllr Mrs S Darling and Cllr C Latham will be included on the mandate as signatories and the Clerk will be a non-signatory as the person to receive bank statements, etc.

Planning Matters/Applications

60129 - *To site temporary mobile home on land to allow full time management of cattle and sheep rearing at Whitefield Down, Whitefield Hill Muddiford.* **Recommend : Approval**

Reports from Councillors

Footpaths (P3). Cllr Wallis said that more work is needed on bridleway 33 and other work on footpath 18. He is in contact with DCC Rights of Way Officer.

Highways. Cllr Wallis reported that he had “discovered” three drains along the B3230 at Milltown when he had removed some residue/soil from the embankment which had built up over the years. In the past these drains should have been cleared by the DCC Parish Lengthsmen. The cost for clearing and maintaining will come from the TAP Fund.

North Devon Communities Fund.

Members agreed to support the application from the PTFA at Shirwell School who are seeking funding to help with groundworks for making good a piece of land to be used by children attending Shirwell School. Twenty percent of its pupils live in Marwood Parish. The Clerk emphasised there is no cost to the Parish Council.

Little Silver Quarry

The Clerk informed Members that NDC Officers are waiting for a reply from Mr Baillie concerning his planning application.

Cllr Tucker and Mike Kelly left the meeting at 20.20

Notice Boards

It was agreed to defer this matter until after Christmas. The Clerk asked Cllr Wallis to look at the noticeboard in Kings Heanton and to make the necessary temporary repairs.

North Devon Council Notice of Vacancy of Councillor

The Clerk reported that he has been informed by North Devon Council that no request for an election had been received from the public and therefore the Parish Council will follow a procedure to co-opt a new Councillor. There are no set rules regarding the co-option of Councillors and it was agreed to discuss the details of the procedure at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.35

Malcolm Measures