

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at Allways End Methodist Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's I Vigus (Chair), D Barber, Mrs T Brock, R Gibson, C Gillett, R Milton, Mrs H Warne and Miss R Warne.

In attendance: District Cllr E Ley, Mr M Sanders, Mr G Collier, six members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

99/12/15. To receive apologies. There were no apologies.

100/12/15. Mark Sanders, Local Fire Service Risk Manager, Devon & Somerset Fire Service, to talk about prevention and protection to help local communities protect themselves.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow public participation in this item. Mr Sanders said that part of his role was to get out to the 51 communities he covers and to attend Parish Council meetings to discuss how communities can help the Fire Service. The Fire Service is looking at how it can achieve its priorities of Prevention, Protection and Response with a decreasing budget. He noted there has been a 50% decrease in fires in the last decade. The Fire Service want to have named contacts in communities and need to be able to identify vulnerable people. A Community Emergency Plan would identify local contacts in case of an emergency. Free fire home safety visits can be arranged and advice on smoke and sensory alarms is given. 90% of homes have smoke alarms but only 60% work. Mr Sanders answered questions on smoke alarm batteries and commercial fire safety advice. The Clerk will send Mr Sanders email address to Mrs Ward. Mr Sanders was thanked for attending the meeting and he handed out some free smoke alarm testers.

Mr Sanders left the meeting.

101/12/15. Future of Allways End Methodist Hall. It was agreed to add this item to the agenda. Geoff Collier, Methodist Church Steward, introduced himself to the Council and said that he looked after the finances. The Methodist Church is a registered charity and has to achieve the best it can when disposing of its assets. The decision on the future of the hall will be made by the Circuit Meeting and they will have to take advice from professional valuers and surveyors. It has been noted that the hall is used quite a lot in this community. Mr Collier said he felt the community would like to continue using the hall and

he would like to support the community. The community, the County Council and District Council have all put money into the building and he felt that it was not morally acceptable to take the hall away from the community. He suggested that an option could be for the Methodist Church to own the freehold and to offer a lease for a time limited period (the time period to be decided) for a peppercorn rent. It would be a repairing lease and the £400/£500 cost of the fire and storm insurance would have to be paid annually in addition to the rent. The building would be put in order before the start of the lease. A planning application will probably be made to change the use of the Methodist Chapel to residential before selling it. The money raised would be used to fund a youth worker for the South Molton Circuit. Molland Chapel might also be sold. Cllr Ley asked how much the hall would cost to purchase and it was thought it could be around £100,000 but the Methodist Church might be willing to sell it for less. A valuation would need to be done. Mr Collier was thanked for coming to the meeting.

Mr Collier left the meeting.

Cllr Ley discussed the funding possibilities if the Council wanted to consider purchasing the hall. There is a possibility of £4000 from the Local Communities Fund and £40,000 from the S106 agreement for the planning approval for residential development at Blackerton. There is also the possibility of funding from the Batsworthy wind turbines.

Standing Orders were resumed.

102/12/15. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

103/12/15. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2015 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

104/12/15. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda. It was noted that East Anstey Primary School are fundraising because they hope to build a hall at the school.

105/12/15. Public Question Time. A parishioner reported that a drain had collapsed leaving a hole on the side of the road at Tuckers Moor. It has now been repaired.
There will be work on the road between Woodburn Cross and Barton Cross to install fibre broadband.
A Christmas lunch will be held at Allways End Methodist Hall on December 10th and tickets will cost £10 each.

106/12/15. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council.

60216 Prior approval for change of use from agricultural building to two dwellings (Class Qa & b) Hilvera Farm, East Anstey. Applicant: Mrs A Dalton. Comment: East Anstey Parish Council support the granting of approval.

b) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDC. No decisions received.

c) **Any other planning matters.** No other planning matters.

107/12/15. Highways

a) **To note, for reporting to DCC/SCC, any highways problems and to note works that have been carried out.** Cllr Mrs Warne said there had been a problem with leaves blocking the drain outside the school but this had been dealt with after she reported it. The drain outside Wyndham is blocked with silt. Councillors were encouraged to report highways problems to DCC online.

b) **Any other highways issues.** The B3227 is being used as a diversion route from the A361 while maintenance work is being carried out on a bridge. A pothole on the B3227 was reported to have caused seventeen punctures to eleven cars. A lorry also left the road and went through a fence to a field belonging to Cllr Milton.

108/12/15. To receive the following reports:

a) **District Cllr.** Cllr Ley suggested that the Parish Council should express an interest in purchasing Allways End Methodist Hall to secure it for the community. An offer could be made to purchase it in its present state. There is S106 money from planning approval for development at Blackerton which could be used towards this. Cllr Ley also suggested the Council could make an application to the North Devon Community Fund. East Anstey is also one of the ten parishes who will get funding over twenty five years from the wind turbines at Batsworthy. The Clerk will make an application to the North Devon Communities Fund.

b) **County Cllr.** No report.

c) **Police.** No report.

109/12/15. Finance:

a) **To approve invoices for payment.** It was resolved to make the following payments: W C Dart - £816.00 grass cutting and strimming at the Village Green (chq no 228)

Mrs J Larcombe - £114.66 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 229)

Mr Dart will not be able to cut the grass in future so the Council will need to ask for tenders. This will be discussed again at the next meeting and enquiries will be made about possible contractors.

b) **To consider the budget for 2016/17.** It was agreed that £2 per household should be added to the 2015/16 Precept for 2016/17. The Precept for 2016/17 will be agreed at the next meeting.

110/12/15. Play Area

a) **Any points to note from the weekly inspections.** Cllr Vigus had carried out the inspections since the last meeting and he said there was nothing to report.

b) **To agree who will carry out inspections for the next month.** Cllr Gillett will carry out the inspections until the next meeting.

c) **Any other matters arising.**

111/12/15. Defibrillator – to consider prices. Cllr Mrs Warne said there was no need for a group of people to receive training as defibrillators give instructions when they are used. Cllr Mrs Warne and Mrs Wynne will be attending a brief training session at West Anstey. There was some discussion on where the defibrillator should be sited with the options being in the village or at Allways End Methodist

Hall. BT offer the facility to site defibrillators in phone boxes that are no longer in use if the Parish Council purchases the phone box for £1. The Council purchased the phone box from BT several years ago so this option might not be available. There is a lot of funding available for defibrillators and Cllr Mrs Warne is following this up. This will be an ongoing item on the agenda.

112/12/15. Matters Brought Forward at the Discretion of the Chairman. No matters brought forward.

113/12/15. Correspondence received by the Parish Council. An email had been received from Mrs Ward, Chair of the Dulverton and District Yong People's Project, asking if the Parish Council could make a contribution of £17.50 per week towards the running costs for this term. This amount is 7% of the cost and reflects that 7% of the membership is from East Anstey. The Parish Council decided they could not make this contribution. There was no other correspondence.

114/12/15. Date of the next meeting: The next meeting will be held on 6th January 2016 at 7.30pm at Allways End Methodist Hall.

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