

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH 7/6/2017

Meeting chaired by Steve White chairman of the Parish Council. Refreshments by Sue White.

Devon County Council Report.

Cllr. Barry parsons was unable to attend but he sent a report read by the Chairman.

He thanked those who supported him in the local elections. The county has tough decisions to make regarding the provision of social care, schools and infrastructure. The county has to make huge financial savings before 2020-21.

A new head of Highways has been appointed and also a new contractor so hopefully we may see an improvement in the condition of our roads.

Health issues are a major concern across the county.

Torrige District Council Report. Cllr. Phil Hackett

Waste review. At present TDC recycles 42-43% of its waste. The target is 50% by 2020.

Deepmoor landfill site is approaching the end of its life consequently black bag collections will be made fortnightly and green wheelie bins emptying will be limited to those who pay a fee.

Holsworthy Hospital. All the beds have been removed with no chance of them being returned.

Cllr. Hackett is currently the TDC member for Health and Well Being.

Patient Satisfaction Reports show a deterioration especially regarding the care of the elderly.

Grants have been obtained for the Youth Club and also to renew playing field equipment.

Boundary Review.

Following the next election Coham Ward will cease to exist and Black Torrington will join with Broadheath which is almost at Launceston.

Black Torrington Parish Council.

Village Hall Overflow CarPark.

Revised specifications have been obtained and these will be used to obtain quotations at a much lower price than previously.

War Memorial Repairs.

A quotation to be obtained for the removal of the pillars and damaged stone work and replace with a low wall of local stone.

Public Toilets.

TDC indicate that it wishes to hand over the running to the Parish Council and negotiations are underway to agree the financial consequences of this.

Website.

The existing website is far from satisfactory. Council is investigating applying for a grant for a fresh system.

Village Plan.

This is a work in progress and residents are encouraged to complete the questionnaires that are circulated. For the 25% of the community who do not have internet facilities alternative methods of communication will be developed.

Help and support for the Village Fete was requested.

Blake House Health Centre.

Dr. Howlett told the meeting that there are now 2350 on the Health Centre Roll.

Dr. Bromett from Northam will be on duty on Mondays and Asad will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) has once again turned down an application to extend the premises.

The future of Holsworthy Hospital as a bedded unit is doomed and Care in the Community is already badly stretched.

Fund Raising is progressing for the purchase of an ambulatory blood pressure monitor and a legacy has been received towards the cost of a new boiler.

Friends of BT Surgery have organised a raffle of a painting of Black Torrington in winter.

Membership of the Friends costs only £5.

A rota of volunteers to drive vehicle-less patients to the surgery is to be drawn up.

Dr. Hewlett stressed the difficulties faced by the practice when people failed to turn up for appointments. There were 250 missed appointments last year i.e. 5 per week.

Village Hall.

A regular report is included in the BT Times. The hall is not used as much as it could be and some events have not been well supported.

Playing Field.

The committee manages the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Fundraising and upgrading of equipment is a major task. Some of the playground equipment has been condemned and grants for replacement are being sought.

The Fireworks Night made £950 profit.

September 9th will be the sports based Fun Day.

It is hoped to provide lighting for the MUGA.

Youth Club.

A report was received from Graham Honey. The club offers a variety of activities for youngsters from 9 to 18 on every other Friday, The budget is tight so funding raising is important. There are twenty members and with some younger families moving into the community membership may increase. Any support from the community is always gratefully received

School.

There are twenty five children attending the school, three are new additions. Following its recent inspection by the Anglican/Methodist inspectors, the school's performance was rated as good.

The school netball team has been very successful against other schools.

Drop-in days have been arranged for parents to see the school in action. The children have raised a considerable amount for charities.

OkeRail. There was a comprehensive display of a campaign to reactivate the line from Okehampton to Exeter as a passenger service. The line ceased to carry passengers on a regular basis in 1972. There is a rumour that a trial commuter service may open in 2018.

