

BLACK TORRINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Wednesday 25th June 2014

Cllrs. Present: P.Roberts (chairman), J.Nutt, C. Wright, M.Down, M. O'Donoghue, C. Adams.

Apologies Received: Cllrs Riches Mills, Bray and Harrington.

Invited Speakers: Hannah Presswell, Dr. al Doori, Kate Little (TDC), P.Hackett (Sheepwash Parish Council), G.Ilman (Village Hall Committee), M.Down (Playing Field Committee, B. Parsons (DCC).

1. Hannah Presswell has been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015. She told the audience of roughly three dozen about her training and preparation and the aims of the Jamboree. Each individual must raise £3300 to cover their expenses and to help subsidise scouts and guides from poorer countries. Cllr. Nutt brought the remaining Jubilee mugs and these were sold and raised £100 for Hannah's trip.

2. Dr. al Doori announced that he is now officially retired and the practice has been handed over to Dr. Alan Howlett although Assad will still work two days a week. There is no longer the imperative from central government for the practice to amalgamate with another local practice although the future for Holsworthy hospital remains uncertain. BT practice has consistently received the highest scores in various reviews. Assad thanked the community for the support that he and his family have received since their very first day here.

3. Kate Little, head of planning at TDC displayed a massive version of the local plan which will be distributed in disc form. It would seem that the community's wish for only five new houses is no longer valid as any developer can challenge it and any owner of a barn (even a pole barn) can convert it to three dwellings without planning permission. A six week consultation period starts now and then there will be another report to be submitted to the planning inspectorate before going on to the secretary of state.

4. Phil Hackett, Parish Clerk of Sheepwash, drew the audience's attention to the number of recent accidents, some almost fatal, experienced by motorists driving into the flooded River Torridge. The proposal is to install telemetric warnings on the approaches to three bridges, with information downloadable from mobile phones and websites. Funding is thought to be available but there may be an annual maintenance cost to local parishes but even this may be avoidable.

There was unanimous support for this project to go forward.

5. Gail Ilman, chairman of the Village Hall Committee informed the meeting about the plan to install a bar area. A landing- light facility may be positioned on the hall roof for use by Devon Air Ambulance. Negotiations are ongoing with the Highways Agency regarding the damaging effect of rainwater running off the highway and under the hall.

6. Mike Down, chairman of the Playing Field Committee thanked all those who have supported the fund raising activities. Under the new committee plans for development and refurbishment are now going ahead.

The AGM will be on 28th July and the annual Fun Day on 6th September.

Meanwhile, Will Frost is heavily involved in seeking funding for the Playing Field facilities, specifically for the MUGA which will require between £40 K and £60 K.

7. Allotments: So far there have been only three enquiries for allotments. Existing areas are already fully utilised. More information on demand for allotments will be required before any search for appropriate land is made.

8. Public Toilets: BT toilets are owned and maintained by TDC and are under threat of closure. It is estimated that it would put £1 per month on the average Band D Council Tax bill if the Parish Council was to take over responsibility for the facilities.

9. Parking Restriction: Some concerns have been expressed about the dangers caused by cars parked on the corner of Broad St. opposite the old shop. There were several suggestions about the action to take or even if action is necessary. The Parish Council will discuss the matter with Highways again.

10. Barry Parsons, County Councillor explained some of the difficulties we are all facing with the cut backs in budgets and staff although he did allude in a vague fashion, that there might be some funding coming our way!

The Chairman closed the meeting after thanking all those who give their time and efforts voluntarily for the benefit of the community and the village. Next year there will be elections and an opportunity for others to serve on the Council.