

MARWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING 10 September 2015
Marwood Methodist Church Hall, Guineaford

Members Present: Cllrs C Latham, Mrs S Darling, S Button, A Skentelbery, M Darling, R Berry,

Apologies: Cllr T Bigge, G Tamlyn, C Wallis

In Attendance: Cllr F Tucker. Cllr Mrs Davis, PCSO Kingdon M J Measures (Clerk to the Council) Six members of the public.

In the absence of Cllr Tamlyn, Cllr Latham acted as Chairman

4560. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 23 July 2015

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting 27 August 2015

Both sets of Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4561. County and District Councillor Reports

Cllr Mrs Davis reported on Devon County Council and the two National Parks call for more devolved powers and the free community courses launched to help lower alcohol consumption in the over-50's. The full report is attached to the Minutes. She will continue to report to the Council on the devolved powers.

Cllr Mrs Davis commented on the NDC Planning Committee discussion/decision on application for 12 dwellings in Prieford by saying that she was extremely disappointed that the report and information given by Paul Young of Devon County Highways was almost completely ignored as he put forward a strong case for refusal.

Cllr Mrs Davis left the meeting at 19.45 to attend Shirwell Parish

Cllr Tucker also commented on the same application as he is a member of the NDC Planning Committee. He said the voting was 8 – 2 in support of the application and that all points and information had been considered and he had voted FOR the application. Cllr Sue Button had attended the Planning Committee Meeting and she said she was very concerned and disappointed with the way the business was discussed as it did not appear to be a balanced discussion by members of the Committee. She said Cllr Tucker mentioned about affordable housing but did not report on the comments and feelings of residents of Prieford or emphasise the report from Devon County Highways who opposed the application. Cllr Tamlyn and Cllr Bigge had also attended the meeting and had made similar comments. In a letter from Cllr Tamlyn, he said that when Cllr Tucker addressed the 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. The Clerk asked Cllr Tucker for a copy of the letter, which in fact was an e-mail, received by Cllr Tucker on 2 September, (one week before the Committee date).

He gave the Clerk a copy which had not been seen by the Parish Council. Cllr Tucker said there is a need for affordable housing in the area and this was seen by the Committee as most important. Members commented that in their recommendation to North Devon Council it said that they also support the need for affordable housing but in this application it is in the wrong place.

4562. Police Report

PCSO Kingdon that there had been one reported crime in the last month, namely the setting fire to a horse trailer.

PCSO Kingdon left the meeting at 20.05

4563. Correspondence

Correspondence is sent by the Clerk to Members, by e-mail. He highlighted the request for "Volunteers for Victim Care".

4564. Finance

The following invoices were passed for payment. North Devon Council £569.72 (salary/fee/VAT for July-Sept); C Wallis £390.00 (TAP Fund); Marwood Methodist Church £250.00 and St Augustines & All Saints Church £250.00 (each half-year grants for cemetery maintenance); Marwood Matters £350.00 (annual grant); C Wallis £200.00 (DCC P3 Fund for footpaths); Information Commissioners Office £35.00 (data protection). The Clerk reported the balance at 10 September as £6482.62 (*Includes DCC P3 grant of £2000, TAP Fund and election budget and NDC Grants*). *The Chairman initialled the accounts ledger*

4565. Planning Matters/Applications

59759 – *Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling (class Q (a)) Whiddon Barn Milltown Muddiford*

Recommend : Approval

59795 – *Erection of electronic communications base station comprising a 25m lattice tower with antennas, dishes and ground based radio equipment cabinets installed within a fenced compound at Whitefield Hill Muddiford.*

Recommend : Approval

4566. Reports from Councillors

Rural Alliance. Two Members attended the last meeting and both said it was very helpful and that the Alliance is worth support.

4567. North Devon Communities Fund.

This Fund has been set up "kick-start" local projects and to encourage local action for projects and services. The Clerk corrected the previous information by stating that there is no fixed or maximum budget allocation; you do not need a partner Parish but any project must benefit more than one Parish; many projects can be supported. However, it also says that it is not possible to repeat a project that has already been given a grant through the TAP Fund. (This would include the grass and verge cutting along public footpaths/highways). The Clerk will keep Members informed.

4568. Little Silver Quarry

The Clerk informed Members that NDC Officers met with Mr Bailie and have subsequently met with NDC solicitors to agree a way forward to obtain a valid planning application to be registered.

4569. Notice Boards

The Clerk emphasised the need to replace the Parish noticeboards and he showed Members photo examples. They will not all need to be the same size. He will prepare recommendations and costs for the next meeting (22 October)

4570. Transparency Fund for Smaller Authorities

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out a new framework for local public authorities currently covered by the Audit Commission regime. The Parish Council has a turnover of less than £25,000 and therefore will be exempt from routine external audit. However, it will be necessary for more information to be published on Council websites (which will need to be set up and maintained) and an increase in administration. The Clerk will obtain costs for setting up and maintaining a website and administration.

The meeting closed at 20.47

Chairman.....Date.....

Members stayed behind until 21.25 to hear comments from the public concerning the NDC Planning Committee Meeting.