

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Tuesday 23 May 2017 in Blackawton Village Hall**

Present:

Cllrs Rake, Joyce, Coe, Wills, Mallyon, Lewis-Davis, Brazil (DCC), and A
Thom (Clerk).

1. Welcome & Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Rake observed that the Parish sadly lost its long serving Clerk, Steve Gale, in September 2016. Replacement cherry trees in the Churchyard will be dedicated to him on the anniversary of his death.

Cllr Rake thanked his fellow Cllrs and Devon County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins. Cllr Hawkins is no longer Blackawton's representative because of new electoral boundaries. Cllr Hawkins has been replaced by Cllr Julian Brazil.

Cllr Rake thanked Arthur and Carol Wotton for their splendid job as Footpath Wardens. Going forward this will be a split role, with an adopt a path scheme co-ordinated by Cllr Ruth Coe.

The main Planning challenge over the previous year has been the application for a solar farm at Oldstone Farm. Cllr Joyce represented BPC's objection to the application at the meeting of the SHDC Development Management Committee.

The door is always open at the PC's monthly meetings. All are welcome. The meetings are a 'clearing house' for community initiatives. The PC is supporting the installation of a cardiac defibrillator in the payphone kiosk, the maintenance of the playpark, and the creation of a night landing site in Blackawton. It is hoped to do more of that. The PC will lend assistance where it can.

**2. Toby Russell, Devon Air Ambulance Community Landing Sites
Development Officer**

DAA began flying until midnight out of Exeter at the end of November 2016. Its long-term vision is to offer a 24 hour service. A service until 2-3 am is realistic within the next 12 months. This is an extra eight hours in the dark of winter. The use of pre-surveyed sites saves 10-15 minutes and provides a safer service. The floodlighting also makes it easier to do things and to monitor the patient while on the ground.

Community landing sites are a community asset and are managed by the community. There are now 33 live sites and 150 in development.

A 10 metre lighting column with two LED lights shining teardrops of light is operated remotely via a mobile phone SIM. The UK Treasury has provided a grant which will fund the labour costs of the installation. The kit is funded by the community. Wormcharming and a Parishioner's sponsored ride on Dartmoor have raised over £3,000: providing the funds needed in Blackawton. In 29% of cases patients are take directly to a specialist hospital, not the nearest local one. The helicopter takes 11 minutes to make the journey to Blackawton from Exeter.

To create the Blackawton night landing site, it remains to obtain planning permission for the lighting column, carry out groundworks, and to finalise an arrangement with the Village Hall to connect to its electricity at a cost of £5-24/year.

3. Celebration of Blackawton's Volunteers

The speakers were followed by a gathering to celebrate Blackawton's many fabulous hard working volunteers was well attended and a great success.