

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Tuesday 24 April 2018 in Blackawton Village Hall at 6:30 pm**

Present: Cllrs Rake, Joyce, Coe, Thomas, Mallyon, Lewis-Davis and Perry, 27 members of the general public, four representatives of Linden Homes, and A Thom (Clerk).

1. Welcome & Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Rake commended the great effort all round in dealing with the problems caused by the snow. He thanked the many people who helped out in both large and small ways. The snow raised questions about planning to deal with future events. Suggestions are welcome.

The last year saw the resignation of Cllr Chris Wills from the Parish Council after 38 years of service to the community. The vacancy has been filled by Cllr Steve Thomas. The December 2017 Parish Council meeting was held at Blackawton Primary School. The meeting heard about the School becoming a UN Rights Respecting School. Cllr Rake commented that the relocation was very worthwhile and he hopes it will be repeated.

The Town Farm development has commenced construction using the approved plans. An air ambulance night landing site has been established and is operational. This is an example of how the PC works best - letting other do it and helping where it can be useful. In this example the PC submitted the planning application. The defibrillator is another example.

The PC has accumulated sufficient reserves to manage calls on funds and to be prepared in case of a government cap on precept increases without a referendum. The churchyard wall repairs were a the key risk. We now have a proactive maintenance program in place to prevent damage and make early repairs. The PC was able to decide it has appropriate reserves and the precept demand was reduced by £1,500 this year.

2. Eight Commercial Units

Cllr Rake explained that the Parish Council has started to work with Linden Homes to plan the construction of eight new commercial units in late 2018. The parish will be given five and can build a further three. Whether to build the last three and how to pay for them needs to be decided, as does the units' long-term management.

3. Linden Homes

A representative described the build process. The build will take approximately 18 months – with an end date of June/July 2019.

Some questions were asked: The underground LPG tanks have been moved for safety reasons. No building traffic comes in via Main Street. The residences are well insulated but there are no longer solar panels (which were expected). There is a Site Manager who is the first contact to sort out any issues with the build. He can escalate the enquiry in need. There is a monitored enforceable Policy to manage noise from radios on site. Linden Homes has weekly contractors meetings and monthly project meetings. Removal of the yellow sign at Halwell was suggested, as were air source heat pumps. There is water attenuation tanking to help with control of rainwater run off.

4. Blackawton Primary School

Mrs Rodwell-Lynne said that budget cuts are a concern however the School is just in the black and no staff have been lost. Student numbers are booming. The development is expected to increase demand. The School received a £7,000 grant to promote UNCRC. Students will be participating in 'make a difference week' in July as part of an ethos to 'think globally act locally'. There is no exchange for assistance received - the reward is in the doing.

5. Blackawton Community Website

The Clerk described the new website under construction. Community groups, businesses and others are invited to advertise what you do.

6. Health

There is a public meeting in Dartmouth on 14 May 2018 to discuss local health services – particularly the failure to provide six inpatient beds in Dartmouth.

7. Sewage

The PC is looking into the adequacy of the Blackawton sewage treatment plant. The Environment Agency monitors more often than normal. We are waiting on a reply from South West Water.

8. Celebration of Blackawton's Volunteers

The speakers were followed by a gathering to celebrate Blackawton's many fabulous hard working volunteers.