

BLACKAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2016 in Blackawton Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Rake, Joyce, Coe, Lewis-Davis, Hawkins (DCC), Hicks (SHDC), and A Thom (Clerk).

Guest Speakers:

Cllr Ralph Clerk (Strete), Alan Storah (SHDC Planning), Dr John Uhr Delia (Dartmouth Medical Practice), Jo Rogers (Blackawton Community Shop), Tina Rodwell-Lynn (Blackawton Primary School).

In addition to the above there were six additional members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr Perry.

1. Welcome & Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Rake welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance and interest.

He discussed changes which have taken place over the past year - with the loss of some members of the community, Cllrs Joyce and Perry joining the Council following the May 2015 elections and fare-welling Cllrs Donaldson and Wreyford, and SHDC's Cllr Hicks replacing Cllr Tucker following a change in Ward boundaries. He noted Steve Gale's departure from the role of Clerk after many years of service - for which Steve was thanked.

Blackawton Parish Council is actively working to increase the use of the Community website by the Parish Council and by others. It is looking into proactive maintenance of the Churchyard wall.

There have also been changes external to the Parish Council.

As DCC and SHDC are squeezed for funds there are increasing demands on BPC to take on services - such as the current buddle hole maintenance service - which will lead to changes in the management of the PC.

There have been challenging planning applications. It was noted that a Cavanna representative declined an invitation to attend the meeting because negotiations were not complete. Much has been learned and if such a situation were to be encountered again it is anticipated lawyers would be engaged early.

The PC is sent an increasing number of consultations, some of which seem to be a pretence of listening, and it will need to consider how to manage these. The changing demands on the PC require an increasingly professional approach. The Council will work to build a dialogue with the community, especially with those who engage less.

2. Neighbourhood Planning

2.1. Alan Storah, SHDC

Mr Storah outlined the place of Neighbourhood Plans as a material planning consideration. He commented that alternatives are a Local Plan, Parish Plan, Supplementary Planning Document (detailed local development guidance), Village Design Statement (with or without SPD), and commenting on planning applications.

He suggested that to decide which option to choose the Parish needs to consider:

1. What it wants to achieve, and
2. The best way to achieve it - most effective, time, money.

2.2. Ralph Clark, Strete,

Cllr Clark described the process being followed by Strete to develop its Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is being prepared by members of the community - not by the Parish Council. Strete is following the same general approach as Stoke Fleming, whose plan is more advanced, used.

A website is necessary to post minutes and progress reports.

Strete commenced the process with two well advertised open meetings.

Responses were categorised into logical headings e.g. roads, housing.

Grants are available from Locality in advance of the work being done.

A survey and guidance booklet were delivered, three ballot boxes provided for responses, with a £100 prize draw to encourage responses. A response rate of 47% (221/480) was achieved. Priority issues were identified, objectives decided, evidence collected and a draft policy developed.

Strete and Stoke Fleming groups are both happy to assist with more information and with guidance about the process.

The final Plan needs to be approved by an Independent Examiner and voted on in a local referendum (which is paid for by SHDC).

A Neighbourhood Plan can be expected to have a 15-20 year life span.

There was a spirited and engaged discussion about the role and usefulness of NPs in practice.

3. Proposed changes to local health care services

Dr John Uhr Delia briefed the meeting on the changes to the delivery of local health care services proposed by the South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group - which commissions all local NHS services. He described the changes from the viewpoint of the Practice - not on behalf of the CCG. The proposal involves a major restructure of the delivery of services with a new community based model of health care. The main local hospital will be in Totnes and Dartmouth Hospital and Minor Injuries Unit will close.

He advised that the proposal is waiting on approval from NHS England. After it has this approval the CCG will run a formal consultation process on the one proposal being made.

Dr Uhr Delia strongly encouraged engagement with the consultation in order to give feedback on the details of how the changes are implemented and to help to shape the implementation.

One group engaging with the process is the Townstal Community Partnership and people are welcome to become involved.

4. Community Shop - Phase 3

Jo Rogers thanked all of the Shop's volunteers for their ongoing support of the Shop.

The shop has requested an extension to its approval to use the portacabin while it looks for a long-term alternative.

She explained that the option which has been identified is a professional two storey extension on the end of the Village Hall. A formal feasibility study is required. The study is expected to cost of £5,000-£10,000 and grants are being sought. Whether the extension is viable and a comparison of options is required.

5. Blackawton Primary School

Tina Rodwell-Lynn explained that the School's Federation about seven years ago was a success. About 18 months ago it then became part of a large multi-academy trust which included Kingsbridge Community College and Dartmouth Academy. It is now part of a five thousand super-academy extending to Exeter and the South Brent side of Dartmoor.

Through the changes the School's priority remains the children.

She noted that recruitment and retention is a problem. There are two Executive Heads (Mark Oakshott and Michael Rolls). Heads of School need to have a teaching commitment. From September 2016 Tina Rodwell-Lynn will be the Head of School at Blackawton Primary School and Tom Pether will be the Head of School at East Allington Primary School. Both Executive heads are leaving.

There is a Forest School opening on Friday 27 May 2016 which all are welcome to attend.