

Holcombe Residents Association
Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2015

The meeting started with a very informative talk by Commander David Vaughan, Teignmouth Harbour Master.

1&2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mike & Barbara Hanson, Neil & Marty Howell, John Watson, Ros & John Partridge, David Molyneux, Carol Chambers, Janet Evans, Steve & Pauline Thomson, John & Erica Martin

3&4. Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 13th February 2015 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and all matters arising were covered on the agenda.

5. Association Activities

Committee Officers and Posts – Following the AGM, the new Officers were: John Bromley (Chair), Derek King (Vice Chair), Andy Watson (Secretary) and John Evans (Treasurer). Dave Dawson had taken on Membership Secretary and Dave Beavis Village Hall Representative.

Village Summer Fayre – The Association would be providing bacon baps on Saturday 11th July. Prizes for the tombola stall were being sought and should be passed on to any member of the Village Hall Committee.

Lunches / Trips – The final lunch before the summer break will take place on 22nd June (booking required). A trip to South Wales for 3 nights starting on 11th September is planned and there are few spare places - further information available from Derek King. A 2016 programme was being worked on.

Future events – An Arts & Crafts Exhibition was likely to be held in May 2016 and the Association was looking at doing a “Beating the Bounds” with a BBQ / picnic (details to be announced in the Village Newsletter). No Xmas event was being organised due to lack of demand.

6. Finances

The Association’s funds stood at around £3k and there was a further £500 in the bank account earmarked for the bowls group. The Association had made a grant of £150 to the Card Making and Craft Group for the purchase of a die cutting machine.

7. Planning Issues

Southdowns Road – Cavanna Homes had consulted on plans to build 18 houses and would be submitting a formal application shortly (see the June Village Newsletter). The Association had commented on the plans (see website for full details) and raised concerns regarding the position of the affordable housing, parking, narrowness of the road and absence of pavements, housing density and the pitch of the roofs. In addition, plans for a cycle path in the area had not been thought through.

Little Leigh – It appears that Leander Developments will shortly be submitting an application for 35 houses but no further details were available at the moment. The Association had asked DCC if a mirror could be positioned near the village hall to help motorists navigate this dangerous junction but apparently mirrors are not allowed under Department of Transport regulations.

Dawlish Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Little to report due to the elections. Members were again encouraged to think of infrastructure improvements in the village that could be financed from developer contributions (CIL money).

A379 realignment – Although the Seaglass development was nearing completion (show home open from 13th June), plans for the road realignment at Holcombe Cross were still awaited. The condition requiring no more than 8 apartments to be occupied, until road improvements had been made, was still in place.

8. Any Other Business

- a) Concern was expressed at the number of tents / vehicles that had recently appeared on a site at the top of Holcombe Down Road. It was agreed that Association would look into this matter and contact Teignbridge DC if necessary.
- b) A Ceilidh to raise money for Rowcroft Hospice on Friday 3rd July at the Richard Newton Hall was advertised.
- c) It was understood that the owners of Leigh House may no longer be interested in using the property and that the future of the property may lie in the hands of Torbay NHS Trust due to its financial interest.
- d) Some areas of the village had poor broadband speeds and it was not clear when fibre optic would be available. The Association agreed to do some research on this issue.
- e) The BT phone box at Holcombe Cross was difficult to access due to overgrown vegetation. It was agreed to report this matter although a possible outcome was that the box may be removed.
- f) The coastal path sign at the same location was also not clear and pointing in the wrong direction. This too will be reported to the relevant body.
- g) The estate agent, STAGS, was advertising land for sale just off Strawberry Lane and its “For Sale” board was obscuring the footpath sign. A member had already contacted STAGS to rectify this.
- h) There were rumours circulating that the coastal footpath near Smugglers Lane would be closed in late June for a few weeks whilst some work was done on strengthening the railway viaduct. Enquiries were being made to confirm this.
- i) The Association had attended a “Community Composting Day” to understand what was involved in setting up a green waste compost scheme in the village. For a variety of reasons (e.g. lack of a secure yet accessible site with electricity and water, cost, equipment needed and the poor quality of the output) the Association had concluded that it would not pursue this matter at the moment.

9. Next Meeting

The next General Meeting will be held on Friday 16th October 2015 when Helen Kendall (a local resident) will speak on the work of the Met Office.