

HOLCOMBE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of General Meeting held on Friday 7 November 2008

1. Welcome and apologies.

The Chairman offered a warm welcome to members

2. Apologies

Gill Parson, Mr & Mrs Touhey, Mr & Mrs Behenna, Mr & Mrs Pearce, Bob Kelton?

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th September

The Chairman mentioned that in order to save costs, it was the intention to put future minutes on the website, rather than sending a copy to each member. However, if members did not have internet access, they should contact the Secretary to receive a paper copy.

The minutes were approved as a true and fair record.

5. Discussion of recent issues.

5.1. Coffee Morning – The third in the current series would be held on Monday 17 November in the Joan Copp room starting at 10.30am. The event was being run with the Church and invites had been sent out, although everyone was welcome. The possibility of having further coffee mornings was being explored with the Church, together with other activities such as a luncheon club, coach trips, and a bus coming through the village for older people; the viability and timing of such activities would very much depend on demand. Mr King also mentioned that the Church was planning a trip to the Champagne region of France in April 2009, details of which are in the Parish magazine and on the Village website.

5.2. Planning Applications – the main activity related to the appeal by the owners of Holcombe Hall against Teignbridge's refusal to grant approval for a substantial increase in the size of the nursing home. The Association would be writing to support Teignbridge's decision on the grounds that it was overdevelopment, would impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and the impact it would have on the junction of Holcombe Road / A379. The Secretary encouraged anyone who had previously written to Teignbridge to do so again, as the sheer number of objections was important. It was suggested that anyone writing should ask for their letter to be acknowledged and to receive a copy of the final decision notice. It was likely that an informal hearing on the appeal would be held. A couple of members spoke on their objection to the development, citing the sheer size of the extension, the impact it was having on selling properties in the vicinity, and that the expansion of nursing home places was not going to help local employment or necessarily benefit people looking for care in their later years.

5.3. Topics for future speakers – Members were asked to express their preference on the sort of areas we should be targeting on a sheet that was being circulated at the meeting. For next year, someone from Trading Standards had been lined up for the February meeting and Dr Gavin Haig (a local surgeon) had agreed to speak.

5.4. Christmas Fayre – The Residents Association would be running a stall at the Fayre on 6 December. Any items for sale (nearly new / unwanted gifts) would be gratefully received by Carol Chambers (888919) or the Secretary.

HRA General Meeting minutes Nov 08

5.5 Barn Dance –This will take place on Friday 27 November in the Village Hall on a similar format to last year, with the band “Red Shed”. Tickets priced £7 (to include a pasty) are now on sale from Committee members. Bring your own drink!

5.6 Arts & Crafts Exhibition – The date has now been set for 12/13 September 2009 and funding for the event was being explored, for example through Teignbridge District Council. Members were asked to be “creative” and consider putting in exhibits.

6. Any other business

6.1 The Chairman said that the Committee had decided to make a donation of £250 of Resident Association funds towards the recent development of the Village Hall, including the extension of the car park and re-siting of the children’s play area. The new facilities were a real asset to the village and being well utilised. Humphrey Clemens mentioned that Village Hall funds were particularly tight at the moment as they had moved the play area much earlier than originally envisaged.

6.2 Humphrey Clemens said that consideration needed to be given to the area at the back of the Village Hall car park which was presently empty. One possibility was to plant a few apple trees to form a community orchard, or to make a village herb garden. Another idea that came up was to plant violets, given the past association of the village. It was also suggested that grants could be obtained if a community orchard was considered or Wyevale could be asked to support / sponsor. The Village Hall Committee would consider the matter further at their next meeting.

6.3. The bank in front of the Village Hall had been recently trimmed to improve the visibility splay when exiting the car park. This had been a condition of the planning permission for the car park extension. Humphrey said that the area did need further tidying up and that the Village Hall notice board would also be moved to further improve visibility.

6.4. Although various potholes in Windward Lane had been marked up for filling, nothing had been done for some time. John Clatworthy said that filling only took place once there was £2,000 worth of work.

7. Dates of Future Events

Barn Dance – Friday 28 November 2008
General Meeting – Friday 13 February 2009

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed

Date

The meeting was preceded by an excellent talk by Phil Shears, Deputy Chief Executive, Teignbridge District Council on “Your District Council and You”.