

HOLCOMBE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.holcombedevon.co.uk

Minutes of General Meeting held Thursday 9th June 2011

1. Welcome

The Chairman offered a warm welcome to members.

2. Apologies

Councillor Humphrey Clemens, Fred & Carole Comber, Lin Watson, Kathryn Wolfendale, Martin and Janet Bowdler, R. Tupper, Carol Payne, Gill Parsons, George Rock-Evans.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 18th February 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as correct.

4. Matters Arising.

The annual accounts presented at the AGM had now been reviewed / audited by John Evans.

5. Current Association activities.

1. *Neighbourhood Plan.* The background to this plan is explained in the June edition of the Village Newsletter but once approved it will guide the development of the local area for the next 20 years. The Association is on the Steering Committee and will be actively involved in the discussions that will lead to a draft plan being produced for consultation in the Autumn. In the New Year, there will be a public referendum to hopefully approve the plan. The Chairman thought that the main issues for the village were likely to be road / traffic issues, housing, sustaining the village's amenities and the protection of the environment. He encouraged members to engage actively in the process and to return the questionnaire that was delivered to all households with the last village newsletter. Members agreed that this was an important subject and asked for a special meeting to discuss the draft Neighbourhood Plan when it was available. It is hoped that this will be in late October or early November if the consultation process has progressed far enough by then.

2. *Little Leigh planning application.* The Association had commented on this application seeking approval for a caravan and septic tank to be located on land outside the village envelope for a temporary period of two years. Whilst no objection had not been made, assurances were being sought that no extension to the two year period would be forthcoming and that approval would not set a precedent for further development on this land.

3. *Open Forum Follow up.* A summary of action taken following the February meeting was provided:

a) Crossing A379 at Smugglers Lane – This issue had been fed into the Neighbourhood Plan consultation as in the current economic climate there was unlikely to be any money available to make changes to this junction. The Association was also writing to Devon County Council to make sure that the issue was not forgotten.

b) Speeding issues – The Police have confirmed that the flashing speed sign at Holcombe Cross was working. They have also agreed to use a speed gun in the dip, with local residents being present, at a date and time to be agreed. The Secretary was also going to see the owners of the pre school nursery to ask if they could remind parents to watch their speed around the village when picking up / dropping off their children.

c) Smugglers Lane – The lane had been cleaned / swept and was looking more tidy. Humphrey Clemens has also asked the arboriculturist at Teignbridge District Council to look at some of the overhanging trees to see if they pose any threat. The meeting was particularly concerned about the garage that was in disrepair and the run-off from the failed Gatehouse development. It was generally felt that these were issues for the private landowners, but the matter will be raised with Humphrey Clemens to see if there is any further action the Council can take. It was also mentioned that

there had been a further problem with the SW Water pumping station in the lane last month but the utility company had responded quickly when notified of the issue.

d) Poor Parking – The problem of cars potentially blocking roads around the village had been highlighted in the village newsletter and clarification had been provided on when the village hall car park could be used e.g. when a church service is taking place.

e) Social activities – The Association had run a successful quiz night after the AGM and was going to run other activities such as the Tony Beard evening and Barn Dance.

f) Village amenities – The Association had written to Sainsbury's to see if they were going to run a shopper bus into the village but they are not; they have instead put some money into improving the existing bus service that goes past their new store. The Committee had also decided to plant some more bulbs to improve the look of the area (probably extending the existing planting along the main road and at the corner of Sweetbriar Lane).

4. *Lunches / Trips.* The monthly lunches continue to be a success and are very well attended. Dates have now been agreed until end 2012. The next day visit / trip is being planned for 28 July provided there is demand.

5. *Summer Fayre.* This is being held on Saturday 16th July. The Residents Association has been asked to organise the refreshments and members were invited to put their names on a list if they could help on the day or supply food.

6 Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations

The Village Hall Committee is keen to organise an event in the village next year and is setting up a separate committee to oversee this. The Association fully support this initiative and are looking for a member to join this committee; anyone interested was asked to put themselves forward

7 Any Other Business

1 The Village Hall Committee would like some help with tidying the gardens around the hall, and have two working parties on 23 June and 14 July starting at 2pm. Anyone who could assist was asked to Carole Comber.

2 A mobility scooter used by a member of the Association who had recently passed away was being offered, at no cost, to anyone who could use it.

3 With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympics taking place in 2012, the Committee had decided to defer the next Arts and Craft Exhibition until 2013.

7. Dates of future meetings and events.

Friday 9th September. General Meeting preceded by a talk by John Risdon on "Torbay's Glorious Coastline"

Friday 23rd September. Talk and entertainment by Tony Beard "The Wag of Widecombe". Ticket only event costing £6.50 (to include a glass of wine) with proceeds going to Devon Air Ambulance. Tickets available in August.

Friday 25th November. Barn Dance to "Red Shed"

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Date

Before the meeting, there was a very interesting talk by a volunteer of the charity "Shelterbox". The Association made a donation to the charity and members also kindly supported the charity.