

Dunkeswell Annual Report

Parish Councillors appointed at the 2011 contested local election, those co-opted in the interim and the parish council officers appointed at the election of Officers held at the Annual General Meeting of The Parish Council on 13th May, 2013 and appointment of chair for this meeting.

The Chairman:	Cllr John Barrow
The Vice Chairman:	Cllr Geoffrey Sworder
Planning Committee:	All parish councillors quorate at three
Tree Warden:	Cllr John Barrow
Footpaths Representative:	Cllr John Barrow
Other Councillors with no particular appointment;	Cllrs Vanetta Keitch, Donna Delamain, Brendan Procter, Andrew Luscombe, Philip Stevens, Andrew Maynard.

REPORTS

COMMUNITY POLICING - PCSO Anning

There were 31 crimes in 2012/13 (43 Crimes in 2011/12) (50 Crimes – 2010/11)

A continuation on recent years with a further decrease in recorded crime in the parish. Rural Honiton has seen a drop of 23% in the last year and is the lowest for the last seven years. This does not mean people should drop their guard, do still report suspicious behaviour and ensure that property is marked and secured.

The 'Stop a thief' scheme launched in April 2009 in conjunction with Honiton NFU is still ongoing. Alarms are available for people to borrow from the Honiton Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team, free of charge. We will visit you, explain how the alarm works, install one and leave it with you as a trial. We also continue to do Cross Border Operations with Avon and Somerset/Dorset Police to try and combat/reduce this crime – Operation Newmarket.

Speed Detection continues to take place by the local Neighbourhood Team and the Safety Camera Partnership.

Call 101 if you see something suspicious or want to report a crime after the event. Calls to 101 cost 15p per call, irrespective of how long that call lasts (landlines and mobile phones). In an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened, still call 999.

PARISH COUNCILS YEAR – Chairman John Barrow

Cllr Barrow was sad to see only two members of the public supported the meeting.

He reported that parish councillors met with DCC Highways recently to discuss the closure of the road through Dunkeswell – the road will be closed the last week in July for up to six weeks for work to Dunkeswell Bridge, the official diversion will be via Hemyock, but there will be a local one-way system put in place using Mill Lane and Shutes Lane to take light traffic only. Highways structural engineers also agreed at this meeting that the trees on Chapel corner should be topped to prevent the wind taking them over and destabilising the bank.

The parish council continues to salt the main route through the village in freezing conditions this is inexpensive and makes life easier for everyone in the village – salt was donated by DCC for free and the total spent this winter on labour to spread the salt was £85.

Cllr Barrow thanked everyone for their work in the parish this year; the parish council, district & county councillors, police officers and particularly Anne Barratt and her team of volunteers for their continuing work with the youth club.

YOUTH CLUB – Anne Barratt

We are celebrating ten years of Dunkeswell Youth Club. Opening in 2003 with much support from the Parish Council we have seen the club grow and evolve into what we currently have on Thursday evenings. Our register still has over 100 members and it is not unusual to have 50 attend in one evening.

Our thanks to the Parish Council for the enormous support you have consistently given us, right from the days in the old hall, seeing young people grow and become young volunteers for their club and eventually adult volunteers. We are so fortunate to have eight adult Youth Leaders, Charlie, Jo, Paul, Tia, George, Megan, Rosie and myself.

We have Young volunteers who have worked their way up to becoming committee members and support the running of the club and the Tuck Shop.

They all helped to make our Christmas party a success with magician Sean Moon. We also invited Sheldon Youth Club to join us for the party making our numbers over eighty that night.

The following week pre-school joined us and the Round Table kindly brought Father Christmas up the hill on a float. Keeping us in the festive spirit, we then went carol singing around the estate and raised money for the Pre-school funds, it was a good effort by all concerned but undeniably cold, and the candle lanterns kept going out.

I reported last year that we were going to provide entertainment at the Jubilee celebrations on 4th June, which we did and it all went very well. So much so that we decided that a show would be a great way to celebrate our 10th anniversary. We are planning what we are calling “THE BIG SHOW” for 20th and 21st September.

The show will include many of our talented young people and we have also invited Preschool to take part. Young people will be planning the advertising and delivering of leaflets. Young people will bake for and organise the refreshments in the intervals. Young people will sing, dance and perform. We will design and make the costumes and scenery. We will support the young people with professional musicians at rehearsals and for the shows. We are looking to hire sound and lighting equipment to give the young people the stage setting that their hard work will deserve.

All in all we want to give as many young people as possible, the experience of being part of a high quality, professionally organised, celebratory event. In order to do this we need young people with high commitment, hours of hard work rehearsing and planning all the supporting jobs.

We will run extra sessions to accommodate rehearsals and unlike previous years we will open throughout August providing this performing project for our members. We have high expectations and I feel sure they won't let us down.

Looking forward to another year at Youth Club we once again thank the Parish Council for recognising and supporting our work here. Thank you so much.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS/TREE WARDEN

John Barrow reported that the footpath grant awarded by DCC for this year is the same as last at £800, and all footpaths remain walkable and in good order. In terms of trees the main change in the parish is that the old part of the village is now a conservation area and so any works on trees has to be preceded by an application. The main idea is to preserved the aesthetics of the village and so replacement of trees with like for like is important. It was stressed that trees can still be maintained.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – Geoffrey Sworder

The idea of a neighbourhood plan for the East Devon parishes within the Blackdown Hills has been put forward to EDDC and the AONB, who seem keen to consider this. We await the outcome of a meeting between the two parties on this subject.

SPORTS FIELD – Geoffrey Sworder & John Barrow

The new halfpipe is currently being built after the idea was initiated by a young parishioner and the youth club are to be involved in designing and writing the safety notices for the equipment and engaged in arranging training sessions on the new equipment, Leisure East Devon are offering some funding towards the training element.

CHURCHILL PLAYGROUND Brendan Procter

The playground is still well used and has been designated a Queen Elizabeth II play area. It was noted that the equipment will soon need major refurbishment and funding is to be sought via QEII Fields in Trust.

NEW CENTURY PARK Philip Stevens

New Century Park continues to be maintained by the parish council and this year has also been designated a Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust. It was suggested a new shelter (for both older people and younger to use) would be much appreciated in both playgrounds and that this might be funded by Fields in Trust.

ALLOTMENTS

GNS & JB recently attended the AGM and reported that the allotments are still well subscribed and the numbers of allotments seem to be satisfying demand.

FINANCE Tracey Bell (clerk)

It was reported that the year had been unexceptional, however there had when setting the precept for the current year been talk that the government intended to cap parish council precepts as they recently had local councils. Dunkeswell draws a reasonable precept for its size and is therefore able to be active in supporting local need, the precept being the only sort of tax that all residents pay and is spent solely in their direct locality.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Bob Buxton

Bob Buxton told the meeting he continues to support residents on local issues and was readily available by telephone to discuss problems or arrange a meeting. He is worried about the state of the roads and grass cutting although neither are his remit. He continues to work with the parish council to attempt to get an access road to the industrial estate in order to make the village safer and quieter. Bob has enjoyed working for the parish over the last year and will continue to work hard on your behalf.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR Paul Diviani

It has been a privilege and an honour to be your County Councillor over the last four years. St Pauls is a large area with half of Honiton and a further 12 parishes stretching from Plymtree to Upton, Dunkeswell to Stockland. I make a point of attending as many Parish Council meetings as possible as the information gathered is invaluable. At County Hall my committees include Development Management and its Minerals and Waste Local Plan Panels, Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny, South West Energy and Environment Group at Exeter University's Innovation Centre, at the cutting edge of the green agenda, the East Devon AONB and East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders. Transport is probably the most visible sign for everyone for County activities. In the Honiton area I am delighted to support the marvellous Trip organisation which supplements the bus services.

Our road network suffers enormous water damage, especially recently. We have allocated a further £500K to the Lengthsman service and £100K for parishes wishing

to be involved in maintenance.

Perhaps my biggest single contribution has been my Highways Winter Maintenance Report after our two severe winters. This led to the establishment of Snow Wardens and where parishes wanted to be involved, has proved to be very successful. If you would like a copy of the report, I can email it as an attachment or ask the clerk for a copy.

This year alone we have re-instated £1.23M to the Winter Maintenance Budget. We now have an up-to-date register of grit bin locations, ensuring they are also in the right place. More work needs to be done to devolve responsibilities from County Council to the Parish level where local knowledge and proximity will enable fast and effective resolution of problems. County is also the lead Authority on flooding issues and that has received a £1M top up to the Bellwin Fund. The Beehive Community Centre is underway and Honiton will at last have a meeting place fit for the 21st C and the Town Council will be able to leave the very unsatisfactory current premises. Our Libraries and Children's Centres have all been kept open. We have also allocated £50K for Citizen Advice Bureaus for the sterling work they do in these difficult times. Under the inspired leadership of Andrea Brown and her staff, with great support from the Governors, Honiton Primary is now classified as outstanding in every aspect, thanks in part to the swimming club. As the new Lidl store appears we shall see improvements to the A30 junction with resulting improvements to the air quality.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings:

Planning Applications:

10th June 2013 7 – 8pm

Dunkeswell Village Hall

Parish Council:

17th June 2013 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm **Dunkeswell Village Hall**