

# Minutes of the Englishcombe Annual Parish Meeting, held at the Old School, on Thursday 28 April 2011

Present: Cllrs Brian Huggett (Chairman), Simon Adams, Sue Barber, David Bland, Andrew Scurlock, Nicola Jefferies, District Cllr Vic Clarke and 21 members of the Parish plus guests David Burleigh, Louise Bray, David Veale, Peter and Margaret Duppa Miller and the Very Reverend John Tyrell, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Clerk: Kathryn Manchee

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Gray, Steve and Helen Grocutt, Peter Hawkins and Judith Ryde.
2. **The Chairman welcomed all those attending and** thanked everyone for their support including help from the clerk and John Davies for the use of the premises. Chair then moved agenda item 9 forward as District Cllr Clarke had to leave the meeting early.
- 9 **District Councillors Report.** District Councillor Clarke reported that it had been an enjoyable four years and commended the parish council for their work and said it has been a pleasure working with the parish council. He then wished the district councillor candidates Louse and David well for the election. The chairman then said it had been a pleasure working with Cllr Clarke and wished him all the best.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2010.** The minutes having been previously circulated to all Councillors and being available for inspection and perusal by all members of the Parish, were taken as read.
4. **Talk by David Burleigh.** David gave an informative, interesting and very well received talk on the paranormal and the church.
5. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman began his report by thanking the parish councillors who had all stood as candidates so there was no election. Two members have indicated that they intend standing down from the Parish Council in due course so looking for new councillors. If anyone is interested they should attend a parish council meeting to see the work of the parish council.
6. **David Bland Presentation on the Millstream Project.** David started by explaining that the Duchy has offered 1 and half acres of land in the centre of the village to the parish for a peppercorn rent. This land which is not good agricultural land will be developed as a community project with the following aims:
  - it should be a wildlife haven
  - it should provide an amenity for all members of the parish
  - it should foster more community spirit

To achieve these aims need special people and Cllr Bland is delighted that so many people volunteered to be on the committee. However we need input from all people in the parish and therefore conducting a survey. The current committee after six months will be replaced by an ongoing maintenance and development committee. As well as seeking views we also need

- Parishioners to tell their friends about the project
- Help with the physical work
- Parishioners to use the space

Following the Millstream Presentation, Alan Jones read a statement about the project including advising the meeting that he had on a number of occasions approached the Duchy of Cornwall with a view to purchasing all or part of the site; which approaches had been refused

## 5 Chairman's Report

An area of great focus has been the Core Strategy. Englishcombe has elected to speak at the public examination. Once it is finally approved it will become the planning bible. Englishcombe broadly supported the following:

- Extension of CAONB
- Brownfield first
- Exclusion of two urban extensions
- Retention of Green Belt
- Affordable housing in mixed development
- Universities to provide housing on campuses
- Use of MoD land
- Creation of Buffer Zone
- Improvement of broadband
- Conservation area
- Annual monitoring of BANES performance
- Development of housing in larger villages

## 7 Clerk's Financial Report

Total end of year balances rose from £4561.19 to £4997.51 due to a surplus of receipts over payments of £436.32. This is above the £65 surplus budgeted for. The most significant differences in comparison with the previous year were:

### Receipts

VAT Recovery. Significant drop in VAT recovery as previous year was two year's worth of claims  
Increase in miscellaneous income. In 2009-201 the only miscellaneous income received was from the Duchy of Cornwall for planting of some bulbs. In 2010-2011 we also received half the cost of the web software from Dunkerton Parish Council.

### Payments

Staff costs increased slightly as remuneration increase in line with clerk's spinal point column uplift and Increase in parish sweeper's remuneration in line with inflationary increase in payment received from BANES for this service.

Increase in insurance due to inflation increase of cost of premium.

Increase in Section 137 Grants as this year increased donations in memory of two parishioners.

Maintenance costs have increased as cost of strimmer service fell into 2010-11 (budgeted for 2011-2012).

Property expenses reduced as cost of electricity for ALCA meetings considerably less than last year due to heating failure.

At its meeting on 24 January 2011 the council decided to ask for a precept for 2010/11 of £4295. They also agreed a budget for 2010/11 which will result in a deficit of £1935. Note this is due to some budgeted costs of Village Green project and contingency costs for elections. However the council has sufficient reserves to cover this if necessary.

## 5 Chairman's Report

**Review and enlargement of the Englishcombe Conservation Area** – Englishcombe deserves to be included. The Chairman thanked Peter Duppa Miller for his lobbying work. Stakeholders due to meet late June to progress this matter. Chairman will report.

## 10 .Parish Activities.

- *Tithe Barn* – Jenni Walker outlined that the Tithe Barn had a busy year as it had been used for 2 ALCA meetings, archaeology day in July, and Bill's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party in September, and the Heritage Open Days were a great success. These Open Days will be held September 9 to 11 this year. Also held 2 funeral teas and in late November an after christening lunch. Looking forward to christening lunch May 1 and a diamond wedding in June.  
Bill Davies kindly provided a report on the following village activities.
- Church. Our Vicar, David Burleigh retired last June, since when we have been in an Interregnum. We have continued however to have a service every Sunday, at 11.15 am. A new Vicar has been chosen, the Revd. Dr. Catherine Sourbut, who will take up the post on 1st. September, 2011. We are most grateful to all those who are leading our services during the interregnum. Also those who continue to help in cleaning the Church and providing/arranging flowers. Also those who cut the grass, but we do need extra hands here. We are also being stretched financially in the current economic climate and do need to generate more income to meet the ever increasing costs of keeping the church in business.
- Neighbourhood Watch. A Police Beat Surgery is held once a month, coinciding with the Coffee Morning at the Old School, dates posted on Notice Boards and the Village Web Site.
- Sirius Woods. The Woods, planted in 2005 to mark the 200th. Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, are maturing well. We do need to raise some £2500 per year to assist in the maintenance of the Woods and have formed a "Friends of Sirius Woods", where individuals sign up to donating £25 per year, please contact Bill Davies for further information.
- Chapel. Continues to do sterling work for the community. with regular Sunday Services, the Open House Coffee Morning every Thursday, 11 to 12.30, and Open House Lunch, at 1pm on the first Sunday of each Month.

The Chairman thanked John Davis for all his help and thanked Sue and Giles Barber for their help with the refreshments.

Bill Davies proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council which was universally endorsed with applause from all present. The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.