

### Wednesday, 23rd January, 2013

- 3766 An ordinary Meeting of Broadwoodwidge Parish Council took place in the Meldon Room at Lakeside on Wednesday, 23rd January, 2013. The Chairman, Cllr. Worden, presided. Cllrs. Butler, Crocombe, Perkin, Reynolds, Wonnacott and Woodard were present, together with D/Cllr. Watson. One member of the public also attended later on, but none came for the period set aside (and advertised as such) for a public discussion about the proposed wind turbines at Hollow Panson (see also below) The Meeting proper started at 1843 hours.
- 3767 The Chairman announced that Mr. Derek Gow had resigned as a Parish Councillor, due to other commitments.
- 3768 Discussion followed concerning the procedure for obtaining a replacement. We cannot co-opt until this procedure is complete. The clerk emphasised that we should try to avoid the costs of another election which would likely be much higher than the £600 unfortunately incurred in 2011, paid in 2012.
- 3769 ♦ **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Banbury and Nobbs, detained on other business.
- 3770 · Cllr. Woodard proposed, Cllr. Wonnacott seconded that their apologies be accepted. **Carried** nem. con.
- 3771 ♦ **Minutes of Previous Meetings:**
- 3772 · All Councillors had received copies of the Minutes of the November Meeting.
- 3773 · Cllr. Perkin proposed, Cllr. Woodard seconded that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes, taken as read. **Carried** nem. con.
- 3774 ♦ **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting** not specifically included under agenda heading below: None.
- 3775 ♦ **Standards**
- 3776 · Cllr. Perkin proposed, Cllr. Crocombe seconded that Broadwoodwidge Parish Council adopt the Code of Conduct of Torridge District Council, and that a note thereof be included in Standing Orders. **Carried** nem. con.
- 3777 ♦ **Planning:** Councillors had a summary of outstanding and recently-completed planning applications, and of headings of applications in neighbouring parishes.
- 3778 · **Hollow Panson Wind Turbines**
- 3779 · We had been asked by District for our comments on this application, and it was referred to us also by Ashwater Parish Council.
- 3780 · The matter was discussed by Councillors. The clerk is to tell TDC that conversations in one part of the Parish gave the general impression that one or two were in favour, a couple undecided, but most were against.
- 3781 ♦ **Correspondence:** Councillors had the usual summary.
- 3782 · Mr. Nice's latest email about the state of the road at the East of the Village Green was discussed. The Meeting agreed that the work recently completed by Mr. Northey met requirements well. It was recalled that, not so long ago, cars used to be parked nearly up to the front wall of the Nices' house.
- 3783 · The DALC has asked for nominations for the ballot to send a representative to the Royal Garden Party in the Summer. This year, only Chairmen are eligible. Asked if he would like to be nominated, our Chairman replied: yes.

J.T.W

3784 ♦ **Accounts:**

3785 · **Village Green Maintenance:**

3786 · Following the steep increase in petrol price two years ago, Mr. Genders who looks after the Village Green (as well as the Churchyard) wanted to increase the price per cut of the grass, but he was persuaded not to do so. He now says he feels that an increase is appropriate.

3787 · Councillors recalled that the Green always looked very attractive.

3788 · **Cllr. Perkin proposed, Cllr. Crocombe seconded** that Mr. Genders retain the Village Green contract for the next year, at £50 per cut. **Carried** nem. con.

3789 · **Budget and Precept:**

3790 · Councillors had a statement of income and expenditure to date for this year, a revised year reforecast, and a suggested budget for the financial year 2013-4.

3791 · The clerk outlined the position as he saw it:

3792 · Although the Secretary of State has decided not to impose a freeze on town and parish councils' precepts this year, he has intimated that he may well do so next year. We are to receive a Local Council Tax Support Grant of £505.00, which will serve to reduce our precept this year by that amount, but it may disappear next year.

3793 · Following the resignation of Mr. Gow from the Council, we may be faced with having to pay the cost of an election this year; and we have to bear in mind that 2015 is an election year which might also leave us with unwelcome costs - as happened in 2011.

3794 · The procedure is for District to invoice us for election costs which we pay the following year, having increased our precept by that amount. But if the Secretary of State decides to freeze parish councils' precepts for that year, we would not be able to do so and thus would be unable to pay the bill(s). The clerk opined that this is yet another aspect of the Localism Bill which has not been thought out because, while it would be unlawful not to pay, it would also be unlawful to precept for the means of so doing.

3795 · Therefore we must have a reasonable reserve of funds in advance of possible costs - and this means raising our precept for the next financial year.

3796 · In the figures presented to Councillors, an increase of £500 had been suggested. The clerk said he would have preferred to have put in £1,000 for a safer reserve but had thought this might not pass the Meeting.

3797 · The matter having been discussed at some length, a compromise figure was suggested: and **Cllr. Perkin proposed, Cllr. Reynolds seconded** that the precept be increased by £700 to £7,200 and the proposed budget, amended as appropriate, be set accordingly. **Carried** nem. con.

3798 · **Cllr. Woodard proposed, Cllr. Reynolds seconded** that the following amounts be paid:

3799 · To J. T. Worden: £510, being the price he has already paid for the seats ordered for the Village Green from HMP Dartmoor.

3800 · To SWLL: £20, being the hire fee for the room tonight.

3801 · To the clerk: Expenses since the November Meeting: Mileage: £24.80; Stationery and Equipment: nil; Postage: £3.00; the equivalent of BT telephone rental (two months): £25; Mathematical error November: £10.00; Total: £62.80.

3802 · To EDF Energy: £13.00, being our Village Green quarterly charge

- 3803 · Donations: notwithstanding conditional authorisation of payments at the last Meeting, these were iterated with the correct, new, account names:
- 3804 · To *Broadwoodwidger Churchyard* for Churchyard maintenance: £356.
- 3805 · To *Grinnacombe Churchyard Maintenance Fund* for Churchyard maintenance: £157.
- 3806 · **Carried** nem. con.
- 3807 · It was decided not to make a requested donation to the Northern Devon Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- 3808 · The Chairman said he would investigate the procedure for removing the electricity meter from the Village Green supply, while keeping the option to put it back should we again need current there - which at present, we do not.
- 3809 ♦ **Any Other Business**
- 3810 · The Parish Website is now running well. Cllr. Perkin suggested that an item be placed on it about the appointment of a new priest for the local Benefice.
- 3811 · Roads, ditches and verges: the usual grumbles were recalled, together with inadequacy of monies available for repairs because of the habitual underfunding of rural counties by central government, and the prolonged wet weather which rendered ruts on verges much worse particularly when made by lorries and tractors.
- 3812 · Planning enforcement: there seems to be a climate in which a few people feel they can blatantly flout planning laws. This situation is wrong.
- 3813 · No-one wished to stand for election to fill the Torridge vacancy on the County Committee of the DALC.
- 3814 ♦ **Dates & Times of Next Meetings:**
- 3815 · Wednesday, 6th March, 2013, at 1900 hours in the Kennick Room at Lakeside, when we hope to have Ian Rowland or Dawn Burgess from TDC to talk to us. *N.B. We are expected to comment to District by 15th March on the Draft North Devon and Torridge Local Plan.*
- 3816 · Thursday, 23 May, 2013: Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. Meldon Room.
- 3817 There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 2005 hours.

*J. T. Ward*  
6/3/13