

BICKNOLLER ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE - THURSDAY 26 MAY 2011

The Annual Parish Conference was held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the above date.

PRESENT Mr D Venner (Chairman)
 Mr A Trollope-Bellew (County Councillor)
 Mr S Dowding (District Councillor)
 Mrs M ter Braak (Clerk)
 25 Parishioners

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from Gill & Martin Southwood, Peter & Julie Rowe, Keith & Molly Farmer, John Lees, Rev. Val Plumb, Chris Skinner and Carolyn Lighton.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2010: the minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 PRESENTATION BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Mr Trollope-Bellew (County Councillor) reported on current matters of interest, including the cuts being made at County Hall because of the £34m deficit. Savings have also been made in staffing numbers - 560 posts have gone and a number of senior management posts have also been cut. He also explained the current position regarding EDF and the Hinkley C project.

Mr Dowding (District Councillor) reported on current matters of interest, including the strengthened Conservative position on the district council following the recent elections. The Conservative councillors now number 19 out of a total of 28. He described the structure of the district council - Cabinet membership and the 7 Standing Committees.

Savings have also been made - staffing levels have been cut, efficiency measures taken plus a pay freeze and a reduction in services.

4 REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Parish Council Elections: the Chairman thanked the out-going Councillors (Martin Cox, Cerys Randell, Kees ter Braak and Jenny White) for all their efforts over the past years. He then welcomed the newly elected Councillors and gave details of their Job Responsibilities - John Grellier (Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison), Carolyn Lighton (Footpaths), Nicola Russell (Young People), Chris Skinner (Environment) and Chris Warren (Planning). The two Councillors re-elected are Mike Andersen (Roads) and the Chairman (Quantock Hills & Farming).

Pumpings: the Parish Council has decided that, in future, Pumpings will be made available mainly via the parish website. This will save us money on printing costs and enable us to produce a more colourful Pumpings with photographs etc. However, any parishioners without computers who would like Pumpings delivered will be asked to contact the Clerk. The next edition of Pumpings (in June/July) will be delivered to each household as usual and will include a note about the future arrangements.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee: the Government has announced its plans for a special four-day Jubilee weekend from 2nd to 5th June next year. The Parish Council will be discussing this at its July meeting. The Social Club has already indicated its support for the idea of helping to organise a joint celebration of this event. The Parish Council would therefore welcome hearing from any other organisations in the parish that might either be interested in helping and/or have ideas regarding the kind of celebration we should hold.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the Parish Clerk for all her hard work during the year.

- 5 FINANCIAL REPORT (CLERK TO THE COUNCIL):** The Clerk presented the accounts for 2010 - 2011 giving an explanation of the major items of expenditure.
- 6 PRESENTATIONS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:** Representatives of local bodies gave the Conference a summary of the current activities of their organisations. Those involved were: Bicknoller Community First Responders (Kees ter Braak), Flower Show Committee (Carole Darke), Mothers Union (Eileen Toal), Quantock Eco (Julian Anderson), Quantock Towers Benefice (Cerys Randell), Social Club (Marian Greswell), Village Hall Committee (Robert Hardy), Village Shop Committee (Clive Raisey) and Bicknoller W.I. (Anne Laflin).
- 7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** a parishioner asked about the possibility of having grit bins in the village for the use of parishioners to help cope in icy conditions. The Parish Council will discuss this at its next meeting in July.

Signed:

Date: 2012