

HALWELL & MORELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Following the Annual Parish Meeting

**Village Hall, Moreleigh
Monday 23rd April 2018 at 7pm**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORTS

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. M. Hicks

- It has been a difficult year – very busy because of the Joint Local Plan and we have spent the whole year looking for ways to provide income to stay in business.
- This year the budget is ok but in the next 13 months we will have an election for the next council term and five councillors are not standing so we should have new blood.
- The frontline services are intact.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. R. Gilbert

- It has been a frustrating, challenging year – weather, budgets, election, new parishes.
- The increase in workload with new parishes has been greater than expected.
- There is a backlog in the repair of pot holes due to adverse weather. Parishioners are urged to report on line on the DCC website which is simple. The backlog will not be cleared until summer. There has been a £6.5 million increase in the Highways budget but this is for the whole of Devon.
- Half of the County Council proportion of Council tax goes to adult social care.
- Slapton Line – it is hoped to have the new length of road completed this summer.
- I will not be standing for the District Council next year but will continue with the County Council.

POLICE REPORT – Sgt. David Green

These are the figures for the performance year 1/4/17 – 31/3/18

- 1 x harassment
 - 2 x assault (both without injury)
 - 1 x malicious communications
 - 5 x non-dwelling burglary
 - 1 x dwelling burglary
 - 4 x miscellaneous theft
 - 1 x theft from motor vehicle
 - 4 x theft of motor vehicle
 - 1 x disqualified driving
 - 1 x criminal damage
 - 1 x possession of drugs
- Total = 22

This is a big increase from last year but it is still a very safe area to live.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- One of the Parish Council's most important actions is to make recommendations on planning applications and the PC have considered 25 in the past 12 months.
- We have welcomed two new members this year in James Colling and Michael Hicks.
- Major repairs have been made to the slide steps in the play park.
- The phone box in Halwell has been purchased.
- Two defibrillators have been purchased and installed in Halwell and Moreleigh.
- The emergency plan has been updated.
- The Parish News has been supported with a grant.
- Together with the Village Hall Trust, we are arranging for a night landing site for the Air Ambulance by the playpark.
- We have purchased a sign to advise drivers to turn left at Moreleigh Fork instead of trying to access the A379 by passing Pears.

MORELEIGH CHURCH – no report

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH – Helen Reeve

St Leonards continues to keep its head above water in these very difficult times within the church.

As it gets harder to attract people inside our wonderful historic churches so it gets harder for those volunteers on the PCC.

St Leonards continues to have two serves a month and has nearly finished its successful Luncheon Club for the season to start again in October. Weddings, Christenings, Funerals, Harvest Festivals, Special days of worship are served in the community through the church. Research is in hand to discover just how many sites in the churchyard are available for burials and there is confidence that many ashes can be put in the churchyard for years to come once a designated area has been made. But it cannot be stressed enough a new grave yard will have to be found very soon.

Parishioners are also to be aware that as time goes on maintaining the church may have to involve others within the village and that manual and financial support will be needed to keep the doors of St Leonards open. It very much appreciates its donation from the Parish Council towards grass cutting.

Please consider The Parish Giving Scheme which can be paid by direct debit to the church where gift aid is received from HMRC.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND VILLAGE HALL TRUST – Helen Reeve

The village hall is thriving as more and more people realise what a great facility it provides. Level, plenty of parking, use of everything from a child's plastic beaker, to sherry glasses to short mat bowls.

Used on a regular basis for Dancing Lessons, Mother & Toddlers, Archery, WI, Bingos & Whist Drives plus much much more. Children's parties, wedding receptions, YFC events to mention just a few of its other uses.

During 2017 the men's toilets had a revamp and the kitchen was jiggled around by Neil Palmer. This all make an incredible difference to the hall. The kitchen now seems so much bigger and has two sinks now and a very up to date hot water urn for making hot drinks. With the men's loos proving to be such an improvement maybe the other loos will need updating next.

The Social Committee attached to the village hall continue to do their best with putting on village events. The annual events being the Easter Egg Hunt, Sports Day, Village Show/Fete, Bingos & Whist Drives. Melvyn Treeby & Angie Taylor excel with their organising of bingos and many outside charities benefit hugely by the success of these bingos. The bingos run in aid of the Village Hall are always very well supported by the social committee who provide the refreshments. This could be 3-4 times a year where their generosity is much appreciated. As the committee continues to organise and run village events we must not forget their average age!! Young blood is healthy so we continue to encourage and collar any younger parishioners whenever we get the chance.

PARISH NEWS – Helen Reeve

155 copies of the Parish News are printed each month. The purpose of the Parish News is to keep parishioners informed on what happens within Halwell & Moreleigh as well as advertising local business.

The Churches, WI & Parish Council use it to spread the word of what has been going on. The Village Hall & Social committee use it to advertise their events and there are two villagers who send in their pages of cookery & gardening. All these make for enjoyable reading and keeps everyone informed. With a few useful telephone numbers it is stressed if anyone moves into Halwell & Moreleigh they should be encouraged to have a Parish News to help them know what we are all about!!

FOOTPATHS – James Mussen

- The footpaths in the parishes have been checked over the year with the help of several volunteers from the Parish Council wearing their sturdy wellingtons, and are in a satisfactory condition, bearing in mind the extremely wet weather this winter and spring.
- We have applied once more for our annual grant of £150 from Devon County Council as part of the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership). This is available to be used to improve or maintain any footpath in the parish. No expenditure has been considered necessary over the past year.
- Directional signs for footpaths and bridleways in the parishes are clearly marked and visible for members of the public and no problems have been reported.

OPEN FORUM No members of the public attended.

PRESENT: **Councillors: D. Treeby, J. Mussen, N. Palmer, H. Reeve, S. Dunham, R. Widger**

M. Hicks, P Westlake

In attendance: S. Winstanley (Clerk), Cllr. M. Hicks, Cllr. R. Gilbert

1. **APOLOGIES** – J. Collins

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26th March 2018**

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** that the Chair should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and

extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

None

4. **CLERK'S REPORT** –

- The Parish Council could consider purchasing a portable VAS. Cllr Hicks said that there were Locality Budget funds available.
- There are to be considerable changes to the Data Protection Act. The Parish Council will be kept informed.

5. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS** – as Annual Parish Meeting above

6. **PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS** — None

7. **Update on Air Ambulance night landing site – correspondence attached**

- It was agreed the Clerk write to Toby Russell and that the Chair and the Village Hall Trust Chair meet up.

8. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. To approve payment of the following cheques:
 - 667 - £237.13 – S. Winstanley (Apr)
 - 668 - £104.68 – DALC subscription
 - 669 – S. Winstanley (annual expenses) to be advised
2. Current finances - £22,790.60 (including 1st precept payment £4,544 (£169 band D rebate)

VAT rebate £474.404

£150 – P3 grant

9. **CORRESPONDENCE** - Email from T. Russell

10. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS – To receive updates from councillors on matters of special**

responsibility:

H. Reeve Scheduled to be connected to high speed broadband in 2019

P. Westlake The play equipment has been examined and is ok.

11. **DATE NEXT OF MEETING - at Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall on
Monday 21st May 2018 at 7pm
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL**

SIGNED

D. Treeby Chair

ACTION POINTS

**Clerk To include the VAS on the next agenda
 To write to Toby Russell**