

Chillaton Newsletter

No. 3: 16th November 2012

This edition of the Newsletter contains:

1. A report of the Parish Council meeting on 7th November.
2. An update on the traffic issue.
3. An advertisement for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council.

1. Parish Council Meeting: 7th November 2012

The Minutes of this meeting will be on the website, once they are approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 9th January 2013.

The following items concerning Chillaton were considered at the November meeting.

Chillaton Post Box: We still have not contacted Royal Mail about this, but it will be done.

DARE Report on Renewable Energy: This is a technical report on the potential for renewable energy [RE] in West Devon that, as far as wind turbines were concerned, focussed solely on identifying areas that could generate RE, without taking any account of the impact of turbines on local communities. It was reflected in West Devon Borough Council's Strategic Plan in such a way that it appeared to be Council policy.

Your Parish Councillors have met with WDBC to query this and the Council has now stated that the DARE report does not have any official status.

This sounds dull, but as the DARE report identified an area within the parish as being suitable for several very large wind turbines, it could have had an undue influence on development that might well have been regarded by many as controversial.

WDBC is about to review its RE policies and we will be following this issue closely.

Community Speed Watch Scheme: There was a report about the Scheme and the latest initiative to train volunteers. We already have some volunteers, but anyone else interested in the Scheme is very welcome to apply. Please use the contact form on the website.

Local Parish/Neighbourhood Plans: We deferred this item until the next meeting, when a WDBC planning officer will attend to advise us on the options for producing local plans.

Chillaton Website: We reported on the steady progress made with the website since its launch. We now have 70 subscribers and the home page has been visited more than 2,500 times. All the feedback so far has been positive, but if you have any suggestions for improvement do please let the Web Group know, via the website.

Traffic in Chillaton: We reported back on the meeting on the 25th October and were authorised to meet with the County Road Safety Officer to discuss the vehicle speed measurements recently taken in the village. More details are in the item below.

Budget 2013/14: The Parish Council has agreed that there should be no increase in the precept for 2013/14. A precept is a sum of money that is raised by the Borough Council through their Council

Tax charges, but is then paid to another body, such as the County Council, the Police or Parish Councils.

It was noted that £3,000 in the Parish Council's reserves was ring-fenced for Chillaton. This was because Chillaton residents contribute, via the precept in their Council Tax bills, to expenditure in Milton Abbot such as grass cutting, that does not occur here. We need to decide what to do with this money; one possibility is to buy a flashing speed sign, but if you have other ideas, please let us know.

2. Traffic update

The data from measuring vehicle speeds at three points in the village has now been analysed. There is already official acceptance that the traffic data does show cause for concern about vehicle speeds. The Devon and Cornwall Safety Camera Partnership will be looking at deploying a mobile speed camera in the village, if suitable locations can be found.

As mentioned above, Chillaton parish councillors were authorised by the Parish Council to meet with the County Road Safety Officer and discuss the concerns of local residents as well as the speed data.

That meeting will be very much an initial look at what the official reaction is to the speed data and also to get a sense of what sort of response there is to the suggestion that something needs to be done about traffic in Chillaton. Once that has taken place, we will arrange a meeting of the Chillaton traffic group to look at what our next steps should be. That meeting will again be an exploratory one as nothing will be firmed up or narrowed down without the involvement of everyone in the village who wants to participate.

We hope that what we have done so far meets with your approval and look forward to any comments you may have.

4. Vacancy for Parish Council Clerk

There will very shortly be a vacancy for a Parish Clerk to help us run the Parish Council, which serves Chillaton, Milton Abbot and nearby hamlets. The duties include taking minutes at evening meetings (usually six a year), preparing agendas, dealing with correspondence and general enquiries. On average this will take up two hours each week, for an annual salary of £750. The post would suit someone with general office and computer skills, as well as an interest in the local community.

Please contact the current Parish Clerk, Mrs S Snow, 01822 870301 for further information about the post.

Please send letters of application to Amanda Westcott, Chairman MAGPC, 7 Marlow Crescent, Chillaton, Lifton PL16 0HT.

The closing date is 22nd December 2012.

Howard Asbridge, Ray Brewer, Amanda Westcott