

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2017

Present: Cllr G Lamb, Cllr S Child (from 7.08pm), Cllr F Phillips, Cllr J Cox, Cllr R Mathews, Cllr S Warne, K Ward (clerk) and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr B Morrison

Meeting opened 7.00pm

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Lamb as Chairman of the Parish Council took the Chair

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2016

The minutes were approved and no issues arising.

3. Chairman's report for 2016/17

The Chairman presented his report – copy appended

4. Parish Council Financial Report for 2016/17

The Clerk presented the accounts for 2016/17 – copy appended

5. School report for 2016/17

Cllr S Child presented her report – copy appended

Meeting closed 7.10pm

Rackenford and Creacombe Parish Council Chairman's Report 2017 (May 2017)

Unlike the previous year there were no major construction projects within the Parish and on looking back through the minutes of the past years meetings Pot Holes and Hedges crop up quiet frequently.

- Queen's birthday street party - in conjunction with the community shop the event was a great success apart from the weather.
- The Stag- Unfortunately September saw the closure of our village pub, let's just hope for the right outcome for this village amenity.
- School - A new class room has been built
- The North Devon Plan - this is still awaiting ratification.
- Prospect Farm - two of the three plots have applied for planning consent , this is the first part of our Village Plan .
- Batsworthy Wind Farm - on going opposition with regard to noise.
- Broadband - Is it on / is it not ??
- Devon Community Fund - Now fully operational and we have received our first grant of £2000 for the Common Ecology Survey.
- The Parish precept - REDUCED TO BE IN LINE COUNCIL TAX BANDING RECOMMENDATIONS
- Windsor Farm - this protracted planning application finally got approved. BALANCE & RESERVES
- Councillor Philips - he has had a quiet winter period with regards to gritting our roads but has been kept busy with pot hole reporting and ensuring the Parish hedge rows are kept trimmed IN GOOD ORDER.
- Knotweed- on going treatment for this year, there would appear to be a significant reduction in regrowth.
- Web Site - Now compliant with transparency requirements, many thanks to Andy and Karen for sorting it out.
- Olwen Smith- September saw the departure of Olwen as our Parish Clark, although we thanked her at the time I would like to have it noted how much we appreciated her work as our Clark.
- Karen Ward - We have been fortunate to find such an able replacement for Olwen . I don't think Karen was expecting such a learning curve in regard to codes and practices and we thank her for bringing us up to speed on these exacting requirements.

Rackenford and Creacombe Parish Council
Parish Council Finances 2016/17

Bank balance 1 April 2016 **£18,239.48**

Income

Income from precept £5,850.00
 Other income £4,404.13 Other grants, VAT refund

Spending

Common and play area £1,830.50 Mainly knotweed treatment
 Salt spreading £480.00
 Trinity Well repairs £269.92

Grant to school £2,000.00 Towards new classroom
 Commemorative coins £201.16 Queen's 90th birthday

Other costs £2,770.27 Includes salary, insurance, subscriptions, audit fees, office expenses, job advert, website

VAT £624.09 This will be refunded by HMRC

Bank balance 31 March 2017 **£20,317.67**

Council reserves at 31 March 2017

Car Parking and Path	£1,000.00 Defibrillator	£400.00
Hard Court	£8,225.56 Comp Replacement	£750.00
Soft Play Area	£1,879.39 Snow Warden	£1,600.00
P3	£837.34 Rackenford PC	£5,625.38
		<u>£20,317.67</u>

School report 2017

Rackenford School became a member of the new Tiverton Federation in January, joining with the High School which was already our partner and Heathcoat Primary. Both the primaries now have Heads of School and share an Executive Head, Mrs Jayne Keller. The governors were clear that a school as small as Rackenford (70 to 80 on roll) can no longer be maintained independently to the much higher standards of education now required at present levels of funding, and we had already discovered many advantages in sharing specialist staff and facilities. Three of the Rackenford governors were appointed to the new Federation governing body, on which the Rackenford rector also has a place. As a church school, Rackenford is keeping its Ethos Committee which will meet every term and at which all previous governors, parents and interested members of the community are welcome.

The other highlight of the year has been a new small classroom and new toilets. Funding for this came to £190,000, mainly provided from the Diocese, but church schools have to find 10% of any capital spend. The Parish Council contributed £2,000 towards this, the Rackenford Shop £5,000, and so far the PTFA and Tiverton trusts £6,500. We hope to fundraise the remainder this term. The fourth classroom gives the school much wider scope for teaching in smaller groups.

Sarah Child

May 2017