

ABBOTSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held Monday 29th April 2013 at Abbotskerswell Parish Rooms Meeting Commenced 7.30pm

Present – Cllr K Eales (Chairman), Cllr R Whiffin, Cllr Mrs W Grierson, Cllr Mrs M Turner, (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Mrs J Kniveton, Cllr Mrs M Colclough, Cllr B Chambers.

In Attendance – 21 Members of the Public, Mr John Lewis (Tree Warden), Mr John Whitehead (ARA), Mark Waddams (TDC Arborculturalist), Kelvyn Shantry

Apologies for Absence – Cllr D McNee, C Cllr D Smith, PCSO Rob Wright.

Mark Waddams from TDC - Questions raised by the Parish Council - how will the woodland behind Wilton Way be protected against any development? Mark confirmed that the woodland in question is protected by a tree preservation order and last year works which commenced on site were stopped, until recently an application was lodged to clear a path at the bottom end of the woodland to carry out a survey of the land. Consent was given for this, the only reason for refusal would be if the works caused detriment to the woodland, the maximum works which can be carried out are clearing a ½ metre wide path and no branches bigger than 1 inch in diameter can be taken off. Protection of the woodland - The woodland protection order which is on the land protects it, the local plan shows this area designated as countryside and its outside the Village envelope. The maximum penalty for non compliance of the order is a £20,000 fine, however this is usually a few hundred pounds for chopping down a tree. Noted that some tree works take place on Sat and Sun - what action can be taken against this? Mark confirmed there is a 24 hour number and he can be called out at any time. Parishioners to call him at TDC at any time if work on site causes concern.

Mr Kelvyn Shantry spent 25 years working in a drinks company as Sales Director at first in the UK and then in Africa. Retired to Newton Abbot and then became involved in local government on the Town Council and the District Council. Local Plan - at the beginning TDC proposed a plan with the number of new homes based on a consultants report based on the 5 years when the housing boom was in full swing and the met office relocated to Devon, this inflated the numbers out of proportion to the usual. Since then further figures have been brought to TDC attention that the numbers are incorrect, 8,000 is a closer figure to whats needed instead of the 14,000 suggested. Consultations on the draft plan were received by TDC with 7,000 comments mostly in objection to the Wolborough Development. ONS latest population forecast was much less than before but the revised number of 12,400 is still being proposed by TDC. However, a motion for 10,000 homes was carried, but the executive did not accept this so the figure of 12,400 homes still stands. The last census showed that the population in Teignbridge had only gone up by 3,000 people. Costs of the development needs to be taken into consideration, this has been considerably under estimated. The CIL is being put into place to get income from new homes also the new homes bonus which was put into place by government, however this is not guaranteed as a new government may change this. A 98 page document has been submitted by CROWD to the inspector for the local plan. Will be putting a case forward for less homes and also for the use of other sites which are Brownfield within Teignbridge.

Chairman – Cllr K Eales gave many thanks on behalf of Parishioners and Cllrs present to both speakers.

1) Chairman's Report – Cllr K Eales –

1. Abbotskerswell and its Wellbeing

I begin my report with a synopsis of Abbotskerswell and our community: it is unique; it is small with just over 600 dwellings; it is an attractive and sought after place to live; through many social groups, school and the Church it has a self-sustaining community; it has a nucleus of small businesses in business parks and home-working; and it has, thankfully, retained its rural ambience with the help and husbandry of local farmers.

With this in mind, in my report last year I pledged that the Parish Council would continue to hold Teignbridge District Council to account with regard to the proposed overdevelopment of 17,500 new dwellings in Teignbridge, and more specifically the 1,500 plus dwellings which are proposed in adjacent Wolborough.

I am pleased to report the Parish Council has repeatedly honoured this pledge and will continue to do so to the best of its ability making the voice of Abbotskerswell Parish Council and its residents heard. The debate about the need to increase the size and the population of Teignbridge by one third in twenty years is far from over and your Parish Council is still arguing that without a sound strategy for job creation, such a large scale housing development is nonsensical, not affordable and presents a serious risk to the wellbeing of all affected communities, whether urban or rural.

A second Council pledge to engage the resources necessary to counter anti-social behaviour has been fruitful and has resulted in the community coming together to report anti-social incidents to the police who have taken the appropriate action with the individuals concerned.

2. Water, water, everywhere.....

Weather-wise this last year was unbelievably disappointing to all except ducks and slugs. 2012 was the wettest year for a century, affecting many village events: damping down Abbotskerswell's Jubilee celebrations and the National Gardens Open Day and holding back flower and vegetable growth in gardens and at the allotments, thus reducing the number exhibits in the Annual Garden Show.

Deluges of heavy and persistent rainfall resulted in significant flooding in Barnfield Terrace on six or seven occasions; the first time for years that the flood defence work, which was completed many years ago, was so extensively tested, and it has proved its worth.

Likewise, the Village Green was repeatedly flooded due to the extreme rainfall and excess surface water which has run off from the hills and fields surrounding Abbotskerswell. The rain eventually abated only to be replaced by the coldest March in half a century which produced a late spring - extremes of weather indeed. The flooding on the village green necessitated extensive and costly groundworks and resulted in the Parish Council having to increase its precept for the forthcoming year. For a Band D rated property the total household precept will be £27.03 per year.

Despite a horribly wet day, our two day jubilee celebration was highly successful and what a sight to see Slade Lane from the roundabout to the school and beyond bedecked with bunting, tables laid out with food, music playing, games being played and the village coming out to enthusiastically support the event. A unique event indeed, reinforcing my earlier comments about

Abbotskerswell being a special place. The Parish Council on behalf of all parishioners must applaud all those who made the event such an astounding success.

3. The Parish Council Team Structure

The Parish Council has been well supported and strengthened by many Abbotskerswell residents who voluntarily support and serve on Parish Council standing committees or are called upon when a special need arises. Additional support is always needed, it's to be encouraged.

Although the weather presented your Parish Council with many challenges, it has been a successful year. Sadly, Julie Arrow was unable to continue parish council work this year due to challenging work commitments. Thankfully, a replacement councillor was quickly found and Mandy Turner formally attended her first Parish Council meeting in March.

I must thank all my fellow Councillors, on behalf of Abbotskerswell residents, for their hard work, talent, enthusiasm and good humour. Special thanks must go to Sharon, Clerk to the Council, for her support and guidance to the Parish Council.

The Council has three Standing Committees:

Planning Committee	Bob Chambers, Wendy Grierson, Julie Kniveton, Dave McNee, Mandy Turner, Richard Whiffin (Chair)
Abbotskerswell Recreation Association	Bob Chambers (Chair), Bob Clements, Ann Down, Dave McNee, John Whitehead, Co-opted: Dave Collins
Emergency Planning Committee	Bob Chambers, Simon Crawshaw, Andrew Edwards, Steve Ellyatt, Julie Kniveton (Chair), Dave McNee, David Munden, Dave Wilds.

The Council also has Councillors undertaking the following duties:

Liaison - DCC Environment Dept.	Richard Whiffin
Footpath Co-ordinators	Dave McNee (lead), supported by Bob Chambers
School Governors	Richard Whiffin (lead) and Dave McNee
Stoneycombe Liaison	Richard Whiffin
Website and AbbTalk	Julie Kniveton
AbbPast Liaison	Kevin Eales
Parish Cluster Liaison	Kevin Eales/Richard Whiffin
Teignbridge Association of Local Councils	Julie Kniveton
Abbotskerswell Community Plan	Dave McNee.

In addition the Council is supported by:

Allotments Association	Mrs Margaret Crompton
Tree Warden	Mr John Lewis.

4. Localism Act 2011 - Abbotskerswell

The effect of the Localism Act continues to generate much debate with regard to planning. The many words from the Government about giving meaningful voice to the local people has yet to materialise. Quite the reverse, the future of Abbotskerswell is currently being determined by people who live many miles from our tranquil village and have little idea about what makes a successful community.

Neighbourhood planning will take centre stage this year. Funding issues and time constraints prevented the Parish Council from progressing its Neighbourhood Plan because it was felt that Teignbridge District Council's Local Plan to which our Neighbourhood Plan must fit should be our priority in the first instance.

Nevertheless, the Parish Council shall progress its Neighbourhood Plan this year and the Council will be involving people who live and work in our community to create our Plan for the Parish.

5. Plan Teignbridge – Teignbridge Local Plan 2013 2033

Plan Teignbridge, TDC's Core Strategy, was formally published in January 2012 and it was subtitled "The Preferred Options". This document transformed into the "Teignbridge Local Plan 2013 2033".

Throughout the last twelve months the Parish Council has worked hard to convince Teignbridge that using our precious green fields when many brownfield sites exist around Teignbridge is a scandalous waste of precious land. A cynic might suggest that the Localism Act and Local Plans has brought the relationship between developers and a District Council too close together, to the extreme detriment of local people - time will tell.

Your Parish Council has contested the need for almost 20,000 new homes (currently Teignbridge has 58,200 dwellings) of which **at least** 1,500 are planned for Wolborough. The Parish Council's well-contested challenge against the Local Plan is centred on a weak viability assessment, environmental risks, ecological and biodiversity threats, community and amenity damage and extreme overprovisioning of homes.

The Parish Council's 98 page submission to the Planning Inspectorate can be seen on the village web site: <http://abbotskerswell.org.uk/images/minutes/apcobjections.pdf>.

Many, many thanks must go to the Councillors, Parishioners and colleagues from Wolborough Residents' Association who have devoted many hours to present our strong case to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Public Inspection will be deferred from July to November because Teignbridge has recently announced yet another delay in submitting their case to the Inspector. In my opinion, the delay by TDC is because we have exposed too many flaws in their Local Plan and we are observing a hole plugging exercise.

6. Emergency Planning

The Emergency Planning Group continued to develop and update the Emergency Plan, including introducing new contact points, and new Orange (Emergency) Leaflet and posters.

As previously stated, flooding was the only issue during the winter and early spring, but thankfully whilst being very extreme no lives were threatened. The Emergency Planning Group will review the past year and recommend changes to the plan if necessary.

7. The Travel Plan.

The Council works closely with Devon County over highway and environmental matters and, by and large, this ensures that defects get rectified rapidly. For example, a stone wall near the intersection between Odle Hill and Slade Lane proved to be at risk of collapse and necessitated reconstruction work. Thanks must go to the Highways Agency and property owner who together quickly and effectively remedied the situation.

The network of Public Rights of Way continues to be well maintained and this is another area where your Council works closely with the County and with landowners.

The Parish Council is still intent on improving parking at the top of the village through its Neighbourhood Plan.

Complaints about HGV movements through Priory Road have lessened. However, there is a risk that when the South Devon Link Road intersection near the Barn Owl in Kingskerswell is complete, this may increase the traffic flows in Priory Road.

8. The ARA

The Abbotskerswell Recreation Association, which is a committee of the Council, has once again achieved much in the last year. The elderly exercise equipment was successfully reinstated inside a suitable protective fence. Planning permission for the new tennis courts has been granted and funding is being sought. The ARA draw and Bonfire Night remain very successful fund raising activities, providing much needed support to sports and social groups.

9. Public Relations - AbbTalk, Village Website and Parish Notice Boards

The Parish Council seeks to keep Parishioners informed about all its activities: minutes, notices and posters placed on the five Parish notice boards and published on the village website (www.abbotskerswell.org.uk) and through articles sent to AbbTalk. Grateful thanks must go to Councillors Bob Chambers and Julie Kniveton for this work, not to forget Jenny and Derek Bellotti from Kingfisher Press who regularly publish Parish Council articles in AbbTalk, Abbotskerswell's well read village Newsletter.

10. And much more....

My report can only be but a small insight into the Parish Council's year, but I am pleased to report much has been achieved. It goes without saying that over twelve months problems arise and the Parish Council deals with such issues on a case by case basis.

I and my fellow Councillors remain committed to representing all parishioners to the best of our ability as fairly and as equitably as possible. Councillor names, telephone numbers and email addresses are published in AbbTalk and on the website. Finally, may I thank you, Abbotskerswell residents, for your support for the Parish Council over the last year. We are extremely grateful.

2) ARA Report – Cllr B Chambers.

Another successful year for the ARA.....

Sadly we lost a valued member of the committee, with the passing of DENNIS ALLISON, a hardworking and keen member, who could always be relied on to undertake any task asked of

him and who's special event was the annual firework and bonfire night celebrations - RIP Dennis.

The main focus of our fund-raising is for the new multi sport court, to replace the ageing facility we have at present. With the excellent work of John Whitehead and Ann Down and of course the expertise of Sharon in finding many and varied grants to apply for. I look forward to a year when we can move on with the grand plan.

I should like to pass on a vote of thanks to all who contribute in the collection of the ARA draw (an onerous task - but an essential one)

We are always on the lookout for more enthusiastic volunteers to join us, and I would like to welcome aboard Chantelle, who has fired us up with her enthusiasm and also bought the average age right down !!

3) Emergency Planning Report – Cllr J Kniveton -

Although we enjoyed a prolonged cold winter this year, extreme snow that had affected other parts of the country badly, did not trouble us in Abbotskerswell. However we did have our fair share of rain throughout the year, which caused a few problems with surface water across the Parish.

We undertook some groundworks on the village green to cope with the sodden conditions, and with a few adjustments believe we have now successfully remedied the problem of surface water in this area, whatever Mother Nature has in store for us!

Cllr Julie Kniveton took over the chair of the Emergency Planning Committee in the latter part of the year, and there was also a change in secretary to boot. Rosemary Whiffin stepped down as secretary after many years of hard work supporting the Emergency Planning Committee, and I'd like to thank her for all of her help during this time. Susan Collingsworth has kindly taken over Rosemary's role and with a handover the transition has been seamless.

Emergency Planning Group has continued to meet regularly and consider any updates to the Emergency Plan, including the Orange (Emergency) Leaflet and posters distributed during the past year.

Two Councillors (Kevin Eales and Bob Chambers) are fully trained as snow wardens although we did not have to call on the gritter this year. The role of snow warden is fulfilled entirely on a voluntary basis, so my thanks go to the team for offering up their time. Also, David Wilds agreed to join the EPC as the Parish Council flood warden. On several occasions during the winter, when depth of flooding at Barnfield Terrace endangered parked vehicles, Mr Wilds encouraged owners to move vehicles to safer locations to avoid water ingress.

The Emergency Planning Group is a committee of the Council.

4) Planning Report – Cllr R Whiffin

The Committee has met nine times in the last year to consider 29 planning applications which compares with 31 in the previous year. Again I have to report that a number of views expressed by the Parish Council have been ignored by TDC. Our hope that the spirit of the localism agenda

would mean our views were more carefully considered and taken into account has not as yet materialised. The Parish Council has submitted a formal application to prepare a village neighbourhood plan to TDC and we await the outcome. In the meantime we need to try and source funds to cover this exercise. The next round of bids for funding opens on Wednesday and our Clerk will be submitting our application. The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan will be a large piece of work and we shall be recruiting a steering group in the coming weeks. Offers of help tonight would be most welcome. Our neighbourhood plan would be subject to a public examination and local referendum but successfully passed will enable us to be much more in control of the future planning of our village on the one proviso it is not in conflict with the approved Local Development Plan.

5) Police report – PCSO Robert Wright

I am pleased to report that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within the village remains very low. Through the month of April we have had only 2 reports of ASB and having researched the incident logs it appears that neither of these can be attributed to the local youth.

One incident was a result of people leaving a local pub having had too much to drink and not behaving themselves on the way home.

The other involved a piece of wood being thrown at a window of a property in Grange Road. Once again I am of the opinion that those responsible are not local to the village although do have links.

The only other incident of note is criminal damage caused to the window of a property in Court Farm Barns. The elderly occupants had a bottle thrown which caused a downstairs window to smash. A few days later another bottle was thrown this time fortunately not causing damage. Having conducted house to house enquiries in the road it appears that the bottle was thrown from a moving vehicle – similar incidents have been reported across Newton Abbot. Understandably the occupants of the property have been scared and upset by this incident. Local Officers are aware and will be paying attention to the area.

I am also very pleased to announce that we have another PCSO joining our team bringing our total to 3. PCSO 30604 Chris HURDEN will be out and about getting to know the area over the next few weeks.

As always if there are any issues that you think we are not aware of please contact me through me email.

6) County Councillors Report - C Cllr D Smith.

I feel I can say with confidence that 2012/13 has been a successful year for the County Council. Despite the pressures put on budget streams by an ageing population and an increase in young people attending education, a reduction in settlement from central government and weather related issues the council has been able to set a zero council tax increase for the third year running. The County Treasurer stated in her report that she was happy that we have a balanced budget going forward. To steal from her report ‘the budget proposed by the Cabinet represents a sound and achievable financial plan for 2013/2014. The total level of reserves and balances of £50.471 millions has been based on a comprehensive risk assessment and is judged adequate to meet all reasonable forecasts of future liabilities’.

Despite the financial constraints the county council continues to invest in Devon and locally we have had the opening of TQ12, which is a project the county council invested in to support further education for young leavers from Coombeshead College, Newton Abbot College and Teign School.

On your behalf I have attended meetings of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee; Place Scrutiny Committee; Devon and Exeter Rail Project Working Party; Teignbridge County Committee as chair, Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee and represented the county council on the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority where I serve on the Resources and Commercial Services committees and chair the Capital programme working party. As with the County Council the DSFRA also have some difficult financial challenges going forward. I also attend as many of the parish council meetings -7 in all per month – as I can so that I can take on board the views of local people.

There have been a number of difficult issues to address as well as the financial concerns. We still have some members across all of the chamber who think that we can continue to spend as in previous years. The debt has been reduced by £90M but it still leaves £518M to deal with so we can't all have what we want.

The inclement weather patterns over the past year have done still untold damage to our road network despite some £15M being spent on repairs. We have the issue of the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton and various other damaging flood events throughout the county to deal with. I suspect it will be sometime before the backlog can be dealt with however, safety defects are being dealt with as they are reported. The county council has introduced an on line reporting system which allows members of the public to report a number of issues but certainly faulty street lights and potholes can be advised and a log number obtained in this way.

As of 1st April this year the County Council took back responsibility for Public Health within Devon and some considerable amount of hours have been spent scrutinising the logistics of this. A Health and Wellbeing Board has been set up along with our own Healthwatch panel. Alongside this Clinical Commissioning Groups have been set up. It is early days yet but it is pleasing to report that arrangements for the changes have been brought in on target.

I am pleased to report that the County Council and the Alzheimers Society have launched a new service to support people with dementia and their carers. Alzheimer's Society, which has been contracted by the Council to provide the support, has opened two new regional offices in Barnstaple and Exeter to help coordinate the countywide service. Through the service, trained Dementia Support Workers are assigned to people at diagnosis, to work with them and their families and to help them find their way through the range of support available. The charity also provides volunteer befrienders to support people with dementia, helping them continue to enjoy hobbies and feel a part of their local community.

It is also pleasing to report: - that waste to landfill continues to be reduced and that Devon won the best recycling county award - the message to all is to reduce, reuse or recycle as the cost of landfill is ever increasing - and that we have been successful in obtaining funding for superfast broadband which I am told will be rolled out soon and will be a great benefit to those rural businesses run from home or on small industrial parks.

The authority's draft Strategy for Growth has been approved by the Cabinet and is now available for final consultations.

The County Council has five key aims:

- A more productive economy
- A higher wage economy
- Employment opportunities for all and a workforce with the right skills for the future
- A well connected county
- A thriving business community.

Work is due to begin on an extra care housing facility on the old Newton Abbot hospital site as part of the development there. The scheme is to meet the care needs of people over 55 in the area.

7) District Councillors Report - D Cllr Mrs M Colclough

The structure of the Council remains very much the same with the Chief Executive being Nicola Bulbeck, the leader Jeremy Christophers and this year the Chairman was Chris Clarence. The Executive is still made up of the same 7 conservative members and the full Council comprises of 25 Conservatives, 13 Liberal Democrats and 8 Independents. The first half of the year was dominated again by the formulation of a Local Plan, now known as "Plan Teignbridge" which was finally agreed by the Council on 21st September. This was followed by a further period of public consultation, the results of which have been collated and submitted for final consideration to the Dept. of the Environment, following which there will be a public enquiry in July.

The most contentious issue regarding the Local Plan was the question of the number of houses needed to be built over the Plan period and it was finally agreed that the figure of 12,400 be submitted.

There is no doubt that the Council needs this plan to control future development, but I sincerely hope that if and when approved by the inspector it is the right way forward for Teignbridge.

Over the past few years people have told the Council their biggest concerns are around housing, keeping the economy stable through new jobs and business growth.

For the third year running the budget has produced a freeze on Council Tax. Free Sunday parking in Teignbridge owned car parks remains, but car parking income has been increased by 5 to help keep Teignbridge's share of Council Tax at current levels, while maintaining services.

The brilliant new asset of a safe cycling and walking route, linking Kingsteignton with Newton Abbot by a 90 meter long bridge over the Teign from Town Quay and costing £1.1 million has been achieved by Devon County Council and Sustrans working jointly with Teignbridge. This scheme forms part of a wider vision to build a trail along the Teign Estuary to Teignmouth.

On mentioning Teignmouth, the opening of the new superstore has benefitted the town greatly with not only the provision of jobs but also a cash injection which is enabling the redevelopment of the Carlton Theatre. New industrial units will also be built at Broadmeadow.

The provision of affordable housing remains high on the agenda and praise should be given to the standard of refuse collection and recycling. In fact all

the services provided by the Council are of a high standard and work goes on constantly to investigate further improvement. The severe weather and extreme rainfall certainly stretched the emergency team ,for example on the weekend of 25th/26th November 250 requests for sandbags and advice were received with 5000 sandbags being issued over the weekend. Teignbridge. District Council remains a respected Council, both as I have mentioned, In the quality .of services it provides and in the way they are provided and I as one of Its members will always try to ensure that Council Tax payers get good value for money.

8) Tree Wardens Report - Mr John Lewis.

This year has been a routine year. A few dead and dying trees have been removed, including some old favourites that had outgrown their location within the conservation area. These were felled with TDC's approval. It seems appropriate this time that I should confine my report to the two current matters of concern to parishioners.

These last few years, oaks, chestnuts and elms have suffered from various problems which Teignbridge has asked all Tree Wardens to watch out for and report any sightings. Fortunately Abbotskerswell has escaped these so far. However there is a new problem, Ash Dieback. I have been given information on the symptoms which could become apparent this spring now leaf burst is underway.

Look around our village, just imagine it without Ash trees. Why ash tree saplings had to be imported from the continent where this problem is rampant is beyond belief.

The biggest worry now is what is going to happen in the woodland that lies between Wilton Way and Court Grange. The consultants, for the developer, appear to have completed their environmental study and now are mapping the trees. If a planning application for housing is successful then expect the tree line on the ridge, and the green screen enjoyed by the properties on the high side of Wilton Way, to be very different in the future. Watch this space!

Finally my role is as always to act as a link between parishioners with tree problems and the Parish Council / Teignbridge D.C. / Devon Council.

9) Allotment Association Report (Chairman - Mrs M Crompton).

As there was such a poor season last year it was decided not to present the Dennis Denley trophy for best kept allotment

Maintenance work on site:

Edging boards renewed along path.

There is one plot vacant at the moment

The allotments will be open to the public as part of the National Gardens scheme on June 15th/16th.

It is proposed that a cup be presented at the Garden Show, in the children's section, for the best "Something" edible grown in an 8 inch pot. This cup, in memory of Bob Bedworth, will be presented annually along with a sponsorship of £5.

Elections:-

There has been no new nominations for committee, therefore the existing officers will continue in office for next season.

The officers for 2013/14
will be:-Chair - Margaret Crompton Treasurer - John Watts
Secretary - John Lewis

10) Village Hall Report (Cllr K Eales)

This year we have built on the successes of last year and previous years. Items of note are:

- We noted some minor water ingress following the completion of the new roof. Western Counties sent out a repair team and pleasingly no further water ingress was reported.
- The small room received a minor makeover thanks to some residual monies remaining from the roof replacement fund.
- In such a rainy year it is with some irony that we choose to continue with the installation of solar panels, but we did and I am pleased to report we are carbon neutral – **ie we supply more energy than we consume.**
- Our administrative processes have now been certified by Hallmark Accreditation scheme.
- Apart from the contribution the Trustees all make to the wellbeing of our community by maintaining an important facility for community sports and social activities, we also support the Parish Council by accommodating sandbag storage, salt storage and a salt gritter on behalf of the Emergency Planning Group. The sandbags have been well used over the last six months and have had to be restocked three or four times.
- Not all is smooth in the day to day running of the Hall. Our biggest problem is recycling and disposal of waste into the correct containers by hall users, particularly after private functions. I would suggest that the next biggest problem is the correct stacking of chairs and tables after events. Trivial items but very time consuming to a small team of volunteers who are involved maintaining the hall to a high standard.
- May Day and the Garden Show were very successful. Both had to contend with the appalling weather this year and the latter had to compete with the Olympics and post Jubilee event fatigue as well. I must congratulate everyone for their contribution to these events.

As said, the above are items of note. What does go unnoticed, and often un-thanked, is the myriad of small tasks and duties that are essential to the smooth running of our community hall. These tasks just get quietly done by the cleaners, event supporters, Trustees, and the staff in Model Stores who take bookings and who are in the front line, dealing occasionally customer complaints, which are thankfully few and far between.

New objectives for the next few years:

- Routine works;
- Main hall redecorating;
- Stage replacement;
- New heating system;
- Cavity wall insulation & air sealing to be considered;
- New sound system;
- New kitchen;

- Toilets - Full refurbishment.

To conclude, 2012 was a good year,

1. Treasurer's Report:

1.1. We have done very well over the last year and are in a good financial position.

1.2. The Treasurer reported

- Income - £14,715 Expenditure - £9,647 Surplus - £5,068
- A surplus from VHT led events generated £784.

2. Appointment of Auditors:

2.1. Channon & Co, Chartered Accountants, audited our accounts.

3. Election of Officers

Village Hall Trustees are:

Kevin Eales	Emma Grice	Lynn Howard
Dave Wilds	Phyllis Ford	Paul Marino
Maggie Gibbs	Leo Gibbs	Marion Sayers
Pat Heath	Cheryl Ford	

4. Resolutions proposed

This resolution was proposed to ensure the Constitution was up to date and fit for purpose.
A sub-committee to complete this task will be formed

11) Annual Report to all Parishioners - proposed that the Chairmans report is sent to Abbtalk as an insert, seconded by Cllr J kniveton with all in agreement.

12) Parishioners Questions.

A) more action on potholes please.

B) Football games and swearing, what action has been taken? Chairman – Cllr K Eales confirmed that two letters have been written to Devon FA regards swearing, they confirmed that referees have been spoken to and it had been reported that the last game played was much quieter. The situation will now be monitored to see if this continues.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 9.10am to be followed by a Parish Council meeting.