

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Walditch on Monday 11 May 1998 at 7.15 PM

Present: Mr.R.Batten[Chairman], Mr.G.L.Matthews, Mr.P.G.Hulbert, Mrs.D.M.England MBE, Mrs.J.Regan,
Mr. Yates, Mr.J.Challis Mr.M.C.Farnham [Clerk]

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 14 April 1997, having been circulated to all members, were accepted as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Mr.F.Botham, Mrs.F.Ball, Rear Admiral Pritchard

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1997/8

Over the last twelve months the Council has seen some changes, following his election as Chairman, David Blythe moved to live in Chichester resulting in the new Vice Chairman - myself, taking office having served in the role for only a few weeks and not having had the benefit of the usual twelve month "apprenticeship"! The sad passing of Mr. Mitchell and the retirement of Mr. Walburton due to ill health left another two vacancies on the council making the total of three. Happily these places have been filled in the persons of John Challis, Joan Regan and Ted Yates all of whom I feel will use their wisdom to the good of this forum. Through the year we have seen, at last, the re-siting of the Household Waste Centre from Bothenhampton to South Street, Bridport. Along and protracted battle by the village has resulted finally in securing some peace from the constant flow of vehicles which blighted it. I feel thanks are due to both the Residents Association and Rear Admiral Pritchard for their constant lobbying which I am sure helped this cause. The new development at Lower Walditch Lane is now under way and much of it now occupied, the junction onto the A35 is now being built, after much delay by a somewhat confused Highway Authority, again thanks to Rear Admiral Pritchard for his efforts and to our M.P. Oliver Letwin for his intervention. It would be nice now to see the junction actually attach itself to a roadway! Shortly the open space within this area will be made over to this Parish Council for us to manage for the residents. At present we are in the process of a Parish Review, looking into the viability of splitting the Parishes of Bothenhampton and Walditch as separate entities. Much work has to be done by both Parish councillors and the review panel to decide if this is the right path to go down, we have our first meeting with them this Thursday evening and as time progresses I am sure we will all be able to form opinions regarding the pros and the cons of this issue. It would greatly help us if you, the electorate, would make your views known to us. I have, despite being "thrown in at the deep end", enjoyed my first year chairing this council, and hope that the ensuing year will be similarly rewarding.

5. REPORT BY Cty Dist Councillor Rear Admiral G Pritchard CB

Rear Admiral Pritchard was unable to attend the meeting, but had written to the Chairman who read out his letter. "I very much regret that I am unable to attend your Annual Parish Meeting as I have to attend at Portesham and Winterbourne Abbas where I need to be available to answer questions on pressing County Council matters. Please accept this as my report to your meeting. As your County Councillor I managed to persuade the County Council to go it alone in the provision of an alternative Bulky Household Waste Site resulting in the South Street Bridport development. The importance of this to Bothenhampton is the recognition that the environmental damage caused by traffic to the Bothenhampton Bulky Household Site has been acknowledged by the County Council as unacceptable in this day and age. Whilst it is most unlikely that any attempt by the Waste Disposal Contractor to extend permission on the Landfill Site would be successful, as we approach the final date it needs to be made clear that any such move would be fiercely rejected by the Parish Council. Meanwhile there is still no sign of any application for a Waste Transfer Station to serve the Bridport area and as I have suspected all along the Contractor is likely to accept footing the bill for the Collection Vehicles to take waste to another site rather than make a large capital investment bearing since there can be no guarantee that the contract will be renewed in his favour in 2004. Bothenhampton's only concern in this is that the present permission on the Landfill Site is not extended beyond 1999. Where the waste is delivered to after that is not Bothenhampton's concern. Despite

agreement at a meeting with Ministry of Transport Officials called by me and attended by the then Parish Chairman more than three years ago, the access from the new Estate in Walditch has at last been completed. I am grateful to Oliver Letwin who at my behest intervened with Ministers on behalf of the Parish Council last year. The whole thing has taken longer than anyone finds acceptable but the lesson is - keep at it and if your case is good you will succeed in the end. For the immediate future the most important event is the investigation into a proposal that Walditch be separated from Bothenhampton and its own Parish Council now that the population of Walditch has been markedly increased with the new development off Lower Walditch Lane/A35. Arrangements have been made for a meeting this Thursday between The Parish Council and a West Dorset District Council working group of members, which I shall attend with and on behalf of the Parish Council. If the proposal is adopted then a Statutory Procedure is started in which the principal component is Public Consultation Period during which all Parishioners may make their views known. I believe that the principal issues are the effect of separation on the ability of Walditch to meet its own running expenses within the existing levels of Parish Council Tax and if this proves acceptable that the majority of the people support the proposal. In conclusion I would like to once more record my appreciation of the excellent spirit of co-operation which exists between myself and the Parish Council which allows us both in our own way to work for the good of the people of Bothenhampton and Walditch whose interests I pledge to continue serving".

6. REPORT FROM BOTHENHAMPTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Fooks was unable to attend the meeting and had written to the Chairman who read out his letter. "Our membership remains steady at approximately 100 households. June 1998 marks the tenth anniversary of our formation and during this time it has been a pleasure to work harmoniously with the Parish Council on matters of joint concern to the village. This year we are reaping the benefit of many months [years?] of agitation to speed up the relocation of the bulky household waste facility, we now hope the closure of the tip itself is not too far off. We are also hopeful that we shall see the installation of two more public seats [Parture Way and Coopers Drive] this year and are grateful to the Parish Council for including the cost of same in their 1998 precept. With luck new notice boards will also appear! We are intending to request an item on the forthcoming Bridport Area Forum agenda expressing concern at the haphazard parking in Crock Lane - particularly in the Bothen Drive area and in the vicinity of Bowhayes - which has already, we understand, caused the local bus to deviate from its route on occasion and is thus clearly a potential hazard to emergency services. We shall be asking them to look onto it as a matter of some urgency. In conclusion we thank the Clerk for sending copies of the agendas for forthcoming Parish Council meeting on a regular basis.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1997/8

Opening balance Current Account	£1,133.18
Opening balance Capital Reserve Acc	<u>£827.14</u>
Total	<u>£1,960.32</u>

Expenditure to 31 March 1998

Hire of Halls	£173.00	Opening Balances	£1,960.32
Clerk Salary plus expenses	£2,318.55	Precept	£11,070.00
Office Rent	£390.00	Bank interest	£58.68
Street Lighting energy costs etc.	£1,612.88	VAT to be reclaimed	<u>£518.32</u>
Grass cutting etc	£884.10	Total	<u>£13,607.32</u>
Grants	£1,910.45		
DAPTC fees	£288.10		
Audit fees	£105.28		
Course fees	£14.00		
Solicitors fees	£759.70		
Insurance	£118.20		
Estimated carry forward to 98/99	<u>£5,028.35</u>		
Total	<u>£13,607.32</u>		

8. OPEN FORUM The following matter were raised; [a] Deeds for Walditch Green [b] Ball games on Walditch Green [c] Deeds for John Holt play area.

The meeting was brought to a close at 7.55pm

Date _____ Chairman _____