

HATHERLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 19th January 2016

Happy New Year everyone! The Council thanks everyone who contributed to the Christmas lights collection, and to the shops who held the collection boxes. An overall total collected was £216.13

You will be aware that the Community Awards had to be reluctantly cancelled. Only 3 nominees were put forward! If you missed not having the awards then let your feelings be known!

After accepting quotes from local builders the Warhorse Way sign is a step closer to being erected in Market Square, and the new flowerbed Mosaic will be resituated at a better angle.

Due to forthcoming cuts to the Primary School crossing patrol a letter has been sent to the school in support of their endeavours to maintain the service.

The council discussed the poor lighting around the bus shelter and bank. West Devon Borough Council owns the bus shelter and have agreed to look into it. A letter will also be sent to the Natwest Bank to ask they improve its lighting for people using the cash machine.

One of the main items on the agenda was the setting of the Town's precept for the 2016-17 financial year. It was reported by the Clerk that the Council Tax Support Grant given to the Town Council will be cut by £214. Considering this and reductions in services by West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council meaning more services will be paid for by the Town Council, it was decided that the precept should be raised by £1,500 for contingency purposes. This rise equates to £1.76 per household per year for a band D property.

The future management of the Sportsfield Committee and the possibility of the Town Council becoming a Corporate Trustee was again discussed. General and financial information was supplied. This remains an ongoing discussion awaiting further details.

TRAFFIC SURVEY: Now all the surveys are finally in, on reflection the 5.5% response rate does not appear so great. From the 100 responses received a brief breakdown is as follows: 66% in favour of parking restrictions (yellow lines or box parking); 88% in favour of free car park (of which 30% would pay up to £5, 26% up to £10, and 24% would offer no payment). The next step will be a public meeting, details to follow.

Post Office changes: As many people will be aware the Post Office counter service is proposing to move to the Newsagents. There are consultation forms and information in these premises if you are concerned about the new location and wish to give your views. The Post Office public consultation ends 18th Feb. The Council has responded to the consultation with regret at losing another business but if relocation is inevitable then a designated parking bay is a must and costs be borne by the Post Office.

One planning application was considered this month.

Cllr Gladstone reported on the Destination Okehampton meetings she attended with details of an outline rail service for Okehampton to Exeter (Northern Route) that they would put forward, including a suggested train timetable, if investment is successful.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th February at 7pm. Full minutes of the meetings are available on the notice board at Millennium Square or on the Town Council website. If you have any points that you would like to raise with the Town Council, please contact Rosemary Lock, the Town Clerk, either directly on 01805 804254 or grannylockrocks@gmail.com or contact us via the Town Council website www.hatherleightowncouncil.org

Cllr. Clare Tyson