

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 10th January 2008

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Mr Carter Mrs Cooper Mr Cooper
 Mr Hussell Mr Matthews Mr Stitson Mr Taylor Mr Tubb Mr Young

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk) Three parishioners

APOLOGIES: Mrs Hinchliffe

POLICE REPORT

P C Nolan gave details of the two crimes reported since the last Meeting – damage to a property and a burglary. He had contacted DCC Highways concerning safety issues at Butts Park but had been disappointed with the response. Several notices had been issued for parking offences. With regard to a previous query about vehicles parked on the pavement (at Butts Park in particular), there were mixed feelings about whether this should be permitted. Having discussed the issue with colleagues, P.C. Nolan had concluded that provided there was sufficient space for a wheelchair or child's buggy to pass, a commonsense approach should prevail; however, polite notices would be placed on any vehicle which caused an obstruction, including those parked at the bus stop. The results of speed checks were noted – several local residents had been stopped at Butts Park for exceeding the 30mph speed limit but some of the offenders had been commercial vehicles entering the village.

A recent accident at Collaton was discussed but because it had not been reported to the Police, there would be no official record – an important consideration as DCC Highways referred to accident statistics when considering requests for safety improvements. [The bonnet of a vehicle emerging from the Puslinch road appeared to have been struck by another vehicle travelling on the B3186 towards Yealmpton; an ambulance had attended but there had been no serious injuries.]

P.C. Nolan was asked for an opinion about Plymco's use of the highway to store delivery bins; he would check before commenting.

OPEN FORUM

Cllr Mumford welcomed the Boundary Commission's review of local government in Devon and invited members to consider community projects which might be supported by DCC's "Investment in Devon" Fund. [Min 194.1 refers]

It was anticipated that surface repairs to Pillory Hill and the square adjacent to the St Peter's churchyard would be undertaken soon. The grant for St Peter's bell restoration had been released to the Trustees. Cllr Mumford agreed that the proposals for the new Sherford school were considered to be inappropriate. [Min.197.1 refers]

The Chairman confirmed that the railings on FP37 Church Steps were currently being replaced.

Tidal Waters – The extent of the renovation work was queried as formal planning consent had not been required.

Cllr Cooper would check the regulations with the Planning Officer. *Clerk's note:* The Planning Officer had confirmed that the alterations had been regarded as "permitted development" – no planning consent required.

U3A Environmental Group – On behalf of the Group, Peter Brown presented outline proposals for a community composting scheme to serve the Parish; the Parish Council's support was invited. Grants and DCC recycling credits were available to support a scheme and a Site Manager's job would be created. In order to assess the level of local support, a public meeting was planned for 18th February, following which a business plan would be prepared. As this could be a shared facility, Yealmpton Parish Council would also be approached. [Min. 04.1 refers]

01/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reason for absence was noted.

02/08 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December were confirmed and signed.

03/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare interests in the items to be discussed during the course of the Meeting; the following were recorded:-

Mr Hussell declared a personal interest in item 4, the composting scheme, but it was acknowledged that the details of the scheme were not known.

Mr Buckland declared a personal interest in item 8, the planning application for 23 & 25 Yealm Road.

04/08 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

04.1 U3A Environmental Group – Members had been invited to consider supporting the proposals presented by Peter Brown. It was noted that in Devon alone there were 26 similar schemes. A detailed discussion considered the shortcomings of the regular waste collection service and the potential benefits of a local facility to process compostable materials. In principle the Group's initiative was welcomed. It was noted that there was a market for selected items, e.g. batteries, which had the potential to generate additional income.

RESOLVED: To support further research into the viability of a local scheme if a suitable site was available, and pay the School Hall hire fee for the public meeting on 18th February. [Vote: all in favour]

Cllr Cooper would invite an SHDC officer to attend the meeting.

04.2 Butts Park – A reply to the Clerk's letter from DCC Highways was awaited. [Min.194.2 refers]

04.3 Cllr Cooper was pleased to report that there were no proposals to make budget cuts as discussed at the last Meeting [Min.194.5 refers]. However, a Member voiced his strong opposition to any proposed future closure of the public conveniences. **Cllr Cooper** would query restrictions on the sale of specified items by Tesco, Lee Mill.

04.4 SHDC Budget Consultation – The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would attend on 17th January.

04.5 Waste water disposal: Yealm Estuary – A subject for future discussion. **Agenda: February Meeting**

04.6 SHDC Waste services review – Prior to the consultation with Parishes, SHDC had requested notification of key issues. Following a discussion, the main areas of concern were identified as follows:-

- i) Second homes – A central collection point should be provided to eliminate the problems caused by bags and/or bins which were left out on non-collection days.
- ii) Household and commercial glass collection should be introduced.
- iii) The use of black bags instead of bins should be reduced where possible; it was noted that staff changes/lack of local knowledge exacerbated collection difficulties.
- iv) A bin storage area should be incorporated into each new dwelling.
- v) The narrow lanes caused difficulties for the large collection vehicles.

05/08 BUDGET 2008/09

05.1 Precept – Final estimated expenditure figures were circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: To request a Precept of £39,245, representing a 3% increase on the previous year. [Vote: all in favour]

05.2 Review of annual payments and fees –

RESOLVED: The following charges/payments were agreed for 2008 [Vote: all in favour]:-

CONTRIBUTION TO CHAIRMAN'S EXPENSES: £150 [Cheque payment to April 2008 - £50] (Not increased)

CONTRIBUTION TO CLERK'S OFFICE EXPENSES: £350 to reflect the costs for light/heat/power/Council Tax for one room. (An increase of £50.00 on 2007)

CLEANING OF NEWTON VOSS/NOSS VOSS/VARIOUS STEPS/POPE'S QUAY: To be increased by approx. 3% (RPI).

BOAT CHARGES:

Outhaul charge: £35.00. Big Slip charges: £5.50 per foot or £2.75 per foot for vertical space.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Eight regular payments would be renewed in 2008, in accordance with the list compiled by the Clerk.

06/08 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

06.1 Cllr Cooper updated the Members regarding meetings which were due to take place. She would liaise with the Chairman in preparation for a meeting with Alan Robinson.

07/08 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

07.1 SHDC/ Parish Cluster Meeting – [Min.194.6 refers] Mr Buckland suggested that SHDC could do more to liaise with Parishes if a Planning Officer did not agree with a Parish Council recommendation. Cllr Cooper explained that when she did not support a Planning Officer's decision, she asked for a referral to the Planning Committee. Therefore, it was important that the Parish Council's comments were positive.

07.2 Access Statement – Mr Buckland was thanked for providing the draft which would be amended to include bin storage provision (preferably out of sight and under cover if possible). Although parking provision was included within current planning policies, it was agreed that a reference should be added. **Agenda: February Meeting**

07.3 Vine Cottage, Riverside Road West 2570/07F and 269/07/LB – Extension.

Decision: No comment.

07.4 The Toft, Collaton Farm Barns 2593/07/F – Re-submission of 0678/07 for an extension.

Decision: No comment.

07.5 Land south of Yealm Road 2595/07/F – Stone quay.

Decision: Support because the quay would help to support the bank above. [Vote: 7 in favour 3 abstentions 1 objection]

07.6 23 & 25 Yealm Road 2632/07/F – Resubmission of 0886/07 to demolish the existing dwellings and erect one new dwelling.

Decision: No comment.

07.7 Halyards, 2 Newton Close 2634/07/F – Erection of garage.

Decision: No comment.

07.8 27 Yealm Road 2657/07/F – Extension to dwelling.

Decision: No comment.

07.9 Kitley Cottage, Court Wood 0002/08/F – Extension.

Decision: Support subject to compliance with the relevant planning considerations.

08/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received had concerned:-

08.1 Primary School – Letters had been received from eight pupils on the subject of their concerns about the local environment, e.g. insufficient litter bins, removal of the glass skip from Newton, the need for pavements to improve pedestrian safety, and the suggestion that nature trails should be provided in Brookings Down Wood and Newton Wood. It was agreed that the **Chairman** would reply.

08.2 Land adjacent to Noss Hard 2375/07/TCA – The Sycamore had been felled and John Allen was thanked for liaising with the landowner and SHDC.

08.3 Widey Lane – John Allen was thanked for liaising with DCC and the Parish Lengthsman concerning the creation of two new buddle holes which had improved surface water drainage. However, he had reported to DCC that there were drainage problems associated with the new concrete drive.

09/08 FOOTPATHS and SEATS

09.1 Footpath Upgrade – Mr Taylor had met with the contractors and the following estimates were accepted:-

- i) FP13 Leas Path – £210 from Garden Services to undertake work at 6 locations as discussed at the December Meeting. It was noted that further surface upgrades might be necessary.
- ii) FP16 Yealm Steps – £100 + VAT from Mark Wilson to repair 4 steps. [Vote: all in favour]

09.2 The Donkey Path – Payment of Mark Wilson's invoice was authorised: £777.85. [Vote: all in favour]
Although the adjoining landowners had offered in principle to share the cost with the Parish Council, it was agreed that a contribution would not be requested provided the landowners installed and paid for a handrail – this would be attached to private property and designed to assist their particular needs.

09.3 Newton Hill/Bishops Court – Mr Buckland presented a sketch proposal for one seat, based on his discussions with Mrs Roe. He would invite quotations. **Agenda: February Meeting**

09.4 Seat at The Green – It was agreed that the seat would not be replaced unless a specific request was received. It was suggested that a useful seat could be created by placing a wooden capping over a short section of wall outside the WIC Hall. **Agenda: March Meeting**

11/08 MAINTENANCE

11.1 Sports Pavilion – Mr Young had nothing to report. **Agenda: February Meeting**

11.2 Pope's Quay – Mr Carter had nothing to report. **Agenda: February Meeting**

11.3 Newton Hill railing – Payment of the invoice from Elmgate Engineering was authorised: £1081.00. It was agreed that the railing should not be painted.

11.4 Bridgend: iron trough and surrounding area – Proposed improvements would be considered at the next Meeting. **Mr Buckland and Mr Stitson** would prepare some recommendations. **Agenda: February Meeting**

11.5 Bridgend milestone – The stone was ready for placing into the wall. **Agenda: February Meeting**

12/08 MEETINGS ATTENDED

12.1 Devon Association of Parish Councils – Mr Young had attended the latest meeting when Democracy Week and changes to the Quality Parishes scheme had been discussed.

12.2 Christmas Lights – Mr Young suggested that thought should be given to providing some lights at The Green in 2008; he would discuss the idea with the WIC Hall Management Committee. **Agenda: May Meeting**

13/08 ADMINISTRATION

13.1 Savings Accounts – In reply to the Clerk's enquiry of 3rd November concerning receipt of the merger bonus, the response from Nationwide Building Society dated 18th December was noted.

13.2 Clerk's overtime – RESOLVED: To reimburse the Clerk for additional hours worked in 2007 – total 98 hours - £1,327.90.

13.3 Annual Parish Meeting – Mr Toogood would address the Meeting.

14/08 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr Hussell and listed in the Financial Statement Min.15/08.

15/08 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.01.08	£	17,949.96
Nationwide Building Society Capital Fund	30 days' notice	£	45,018.83
Nationwide Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	11,432.82
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The following cheques were authorised totalling		£	5,270.94
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R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss	71.50
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	40.50
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	997.98
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: post, envelopes & gifts in lieu of honorarium	49.63*
HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax and N.I. re the Clerk	1,219.48
M Wilson	Donkey Path – upgraded surface	777.85
G Hill	Storage shed for Network/School	476.20
C.P.R.E.	Annual subscription	27.00*
Elmgate Engineering Co. Ltd.	Newton Hill: new handrail	1,081.00
J Brown	Contribution to Chairman's expenses January-April 2008	50.00
British Telecom	Clerk's telephone	60.00
British Telecom	Bishops Court telephone	69.80
J Eschbaecher	Contribution to office expenses 2008	350.00

*s.137 payments: £68.88 [Total to date: £ 2,621.91]