

NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors held on 24th April 2007 in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Twelve Parish Councillors and approximately forty-five parishioners
District Councillor Roger Hallett
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary:
 P.C. Dave Richards, Neighbourhood Beat Manager
 Sid Lawrence, Community Support Officer
Guest speaker: Martin Dyer, Exeter Archaeology

APOLOGIES: County Councillor William Mumford

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2006 were confirmed and signed.

2. DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

The full written Report presented by P.C. Richards is appended to the Minutes (file copy only).

The main items to note were as follows:-

Recently changes had been made to the staffing structure – Police Community Support Officers had been introduced to provide a greater police presence locally. The Neighbourhood Team for Newton & Noss was PCSO Sid Lawrence, P.C. Dave Richards and Sergeant Anya Teakle, all based at Ivybridge.

In 2006/07, 69 crimes had been reported compared with 81 for 2005/06. There had been a significant reduction in marine related theft and thanks were extended to the Boat Watch teams. However, general theft continued to be a concern. It was stressed that care of property and simple crime prevention measures were vital in reducing risk. Speeding motorists were also mentioned and speed checks were carried out periodically – the majority of motorists stopped had been local residents – speed limits should be respected.

The Clerk would ensure contact information was made available via the Parish Council's website and local publicity.

The following queries were discussed:-

- a) Excessive noise from motorcycles: Work was ongoing to identify specific sites as the Police were aware that noise was a problem. People could be prosecuted for excessive noise.
- b) Fixed Penalty Notices: The names of offenders were not routinely published but extreme speeders were prosecuted so Court records were available.
- c) Reporting motorists: Vehicle details could be reported either by telephone or email.
- d) Nuisance caused by builders: Noise nuisance, etc. could be reported to the Environmental Health Officer at South Hams District Council. Whilst the Police could make an informal approach, their powers relating to parked vehicles were limited unless an obstruction was being caused.

3. PARISH HERITAGE APPRAISAL

Martin Dyer of Exeter Archaeology explained the purpose of the Appraisal and the production of new historical data into a format which would be useful as a local resource. Much information already existed but new historical details had been uncovered from the study of various documents, maps and photographs. Work was ongoing but a database and 1:10000 location map would soon be completed. Copies would be held by the District Council and History Society.

It had been disappointing that limited funding had resulted in a reduced number of local research events. However, Mr Dyer had liaised with the History Society and interesting visits to the Records Offices and guided walks had been arranged.

From discussion it was noted that although the Yealmpton Woodland Burial was outside the Civil Parish Boundary, it was within the Newton Ferrers Church Boundary. Mr Dyer outlined the evidence of early habitation which had been recorded but as there had been very little archaeological research carried out in the Parish, the small number of "finds" had been picked up on the surface at Collaton, Creacombe and Netton. There was evidence of Bronze Age barrows and enclosures (possible late Iron Age or Roman). Of particular note was a Roman coin found in a rebuilt wall of St Peter's Church.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The full written report presented by the Chairman is appended to the Minutes (file copy); the main points concerned:-

Mr Brown had completed his third year as Chairman and he thanked his fellow councillors and the Clerk for their hard work and loyal support. Of the twelve Members, nine were standing for election on 3rd May together with a further six candidates. Sarah Roe, Mary Wilcox and Chris Woodd-Walker were retiring and the Chairman paid tribute to their contribution.

Thanks were also extended to Rear Admiral Robin Hogg - Chairman of the Community Housing Working Group - and his Committee; their significant amount of research and supporting work concerning the provision of affordable housing in Newton & Noss had been invaluable. Also Colin Smith, Claire Sealey and Roy Fenner were thanked for their enthusiasm and commitment to the success of the Newton & Noss Network.

Having consulted with the Parish Council, it was Devon County Council's intention to regularize anomalies in the Road Traffic Order in certain areas of Newton, and introduce some parking restrictions in Noss to alleviate difficulties at three recognised pinch points.

The future of rural Post Offices was uncertain; residents were urged to use the counter services and make regular cash withdrawals to increase the official record of transactions.

5. COUNCILLOR HALLETT [South Hams District Council]

Now retiring after eight years as District Councillor, Cllr Hallett thanked residents and the Parish Council for their support. The main points of his final report concerned:-

Council Tax had been increased by 3.9% and the SHDC element represented less than 10% of the overall Council Tax. The £130,000 per annum cost of providing free bus passes continued to be a burden, adding a significant 4% onto Council Tax.

Waste Collection The recycling had been extended to all areas and 46% of all waste was being recycled, marginally ahead of the Government's requirements.

Proposed new settlement at Sherford The development of 4,500 new homes over several years would not start before the end of the year at the earliest but a proposal from the Co-op suggested Sherford should be sited near the A.379 – the plans would be formally “examined” in June.

6. OPEN FORUM

Parking in Noss Mr Whelan opposed the introduction of yellow lines as he considered them to be unnecessary and out of keeping in the village setting of Noss. The uncertainty about the future responsibility for parking enforcement was also a concern. In response, the Chairman stated that the formal parking restrictions had support from the County and District Councils and the Police; the bus was known to have been delayed at Junket Corner on a number of occasions and there was always the possibility that obstructions caused by inappropriately parked vehicles could be used as an excuse to withdraw the bus service to Noss. The Parish Council had decided to take a sensible and responsible attitude to ensure that an irresponsible motorist could not obstruct an emergency vehicle.

Yealm Road Concerns were expressed about a vehicle parked in Yealm Road but the Chairman felt unable to comment in detail on an issue which was outside the statutory powers of the Parish Council.

Collaton to Butts Park Link In response to a question about progress to create a safer pedestrian/cycle link from Collaton, the Chairman confirmed that a landowner had offered to grant permissive access across his land – this would cover a section adjacent to the B3186 but there was no funding available from Devon County Council to support the scheme.

Bins on the Highway It was felt that residents should be encouraged to move their bins off the road. Small bins were available on request from the District Council and plastic sacks might be acceptable in certain circumstances. The District Council was undertaking a survey to identify problems in villages but with only two officers, this would take time.

Low cost housing There was a lengthy and detailed discussion about the need for some sensibly priced new houses to satisfy the local demand. The Chairman explained that the results of the *Housing Needs Survey undertaken by the Community Council of Devon in 2003 had been supported, not only by a further Study undertaken by the University of Plymouth, but also by extensive research carried out by the Community Housing Working Group (as mentioned previously during the Chairman’s Report). The Parish Council was asking for a flexible Development Boundary and a small number of well designed houses initially. The pros and cons of a Community Land Trust and Housing Association build were being investigated. A restriction on re-sale values was also a prime concern.

Overhead cables It was noted that cables had been removed between Yealmpton and Collaton and it was suggested that further undergrounding would be desirable.

Trees in the landscape The importance of trees was recognized but many had been felled. It was noted that anyone could apply for a Tree Preservation Order on any tree.

The Dolphin It was noted that the bin store occupied space which would otherwise be available for parking.

*The Parish Plans refers

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....J M Brown, Chairman