

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 13th April 2006

PRESENT: Mr Buckland Mr Carter Mrs Cooper Mrs Hinchliffe Mrs Roe Mr Taylor
Mr Tubb (*Vice-Chairman*) Mrs Wilcox Mr Young

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

APOLOGIES: Mr Brown Mr Stitson Mr Woodd-Walker Cllr Mumford P.C. Cook

Mr Tubb chaired the Meeting in Mr Brown's absence.

OPEN FORUM

The speed of traffic passing Collaton Cross was a cause for great concern. With limited views to the left, turning right out of Collaton Park was dangerous and several near accidents had occurred. Speeds of around 60mph were not uncommon; speeding lorries were a particular concern. It was noted that previously the Parish Council had lobbied for a 40mph speed restriction; the request had been declined. [Min. 61/4 refers]

58/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reasons for absence were approved.

59/06 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March were confirmed and signed.

60/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare interests in the items to be discussed during the course of the Meeting and these were recorded as follows:-

Mrs Cooper declared a personal interest in item 8 – the planning application for Omega, Court Road.

As Governors of Newton Ferrers School, Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox each declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 – a grant request.

61/06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

61.1 Parking difficulties in Noss – In response to the Clerk's enquiry about the introduction of parking restrictions, DCC had replied that funding was not available for new Traffic Regulation Orders. P.C. Cook had confirmed that the Ivybridge Officers would act "robustly" upon any reports of road obstructions. To consider the coastal car parks, a meeting with The National Trust and AONB was being arranged, to be attended by the Chairman, Clerk, Mr Carter and Mr Young. The Police and RYDA would also be invited.

61.2 Butts Park crossing – The reply from County Hall had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting. The letter confirmed that the design of the crossing was considered to be "adequate" and there were no accident records to justify further action. Having discussed the matter with the Chairman, the Clerk read a draft reply to County Hall, expressing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with DCC's decision. RESOLVED: the reply should be sent.

[Vote: all in favour]

61.3 ICC School Transport – Cllr Mumford was aware that two accidents had been investigated. In both cases the school coaches had stopped ahead of the impact. DCC had asked that all incidents causing concern were reported to Cllr Mumford so he could pass the details on to the appropriate department. The Chairman had witnessed a coach speeding through the Collaton "narrows" and had also reported complaints from Holbeton and Ermington.

61.4 B.3186 – RESOLVED: to request the following:-

- i) Collaton Cross – improved signing both sides of Collaton Cross (Suggestion: "SLOW" painted on the road).
- ii) Collaton Narrows – reinstatement of the "SLOW" sign painted on the road.
- iii) Butts Park – improved signing on the Water Tower side of the pedestrian crossing (Suggestion: "SLOW" painted on the road). Ideally a Zebra crossing or similar delineation would be a desirable improvement.

61.5 Pillory Hill – Encroachment onto the highway – John Allen had kindly provided photographs of the parking bay marked "Private", copies of which would be sent to Mr Halliday and Cllr Mumford. DCC was satisfied that the lines "now match the property boundaries as best as possible" but removing them would damage the road surface and could not be justified. DCC would write to the owner of The Old Post Office to advise that the lines on the road were incorrect. The Parish Council's main concern was the preservation of adequate access for an emergency vehicle.

61.6 Yealm Steps – Owing to an unexpected increase in workload, DCC had been unable to improve the parking restrictions and signing which were to have been undertaken in 2005. The work would be completed as soon as possible.

61.7 Cllr Hallett reported that Chris Lucas (SHDC) would liaise with the Clerk regarding Min.41.9(a) waste collection from second homes, and the SHDC Enforcement Officer had been unable to contact Martin Cawse; it was noted that an earth mover was on site at Hannaford. It was also noted that drainage problems in Middlecombe Lane had not been resolved so the Clerk would make enquiries.

61.8 Wide Slip – SHDC had declined to assist with an additional or larger litter bin because full waste disposal and collection facilities existed at Yealm Steps; another bin would only encourage more waste on the Noss side.

61.9 Court Road verges – A Member had been asked to clarify the ownership of the grass. The Clerk understood that DCC regarded the verges as privately owned and did not contribute to their maintenance.

62/06 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Clerk had contacted Cllr J Beer to request a meeting to discuss the various development site options; Cllr Hallett would also attend.

A set of site option plans and design concept drawings had been circulated to each Member – it was stressed that these were for illustrative and discussion purposes only and this should be made clear to residents attending the Annual Parish Meeting. Any new development proposals would have to be approved through the normal planning process but it was appropriate that current information was available for comment by parishioners.

The Parish Council's formal Response to the LDF Core Strategy would be printed in booklet form for distribution at the Annual Parish Meeting.

63/06 BISHOPS COURT

63.1 Lease negotiations – Housing Corporation approval had been granted but the negotiations had been delayed due to confusion concerning the calculation of the Service Charge. The Solicitors would not undertake any further work until instructed. The Clerk and Mrs Wilcox would continue negotiations direct with Signpost. Foot Anstey had submitted an interim account which it was agreed would not be paid until the work had been completed; the revised estimated fee was £1,300 plus disbursements and VAT. It was noted that £350 for disbursements had been paid to F.A. in December.

63.2 Licence negotiations – Following the Clerk's negotiations with the Practice Manager, the revised terms of the draft Licence were being considered by the Doctors. Medical appointments would be available on 25th April and 5th May. The Clerk would ensure local patients were aware of the surgery dates.

63.3 Fire safety – The Meeting was assured that adequate fire safety procedures were in place. In the event of a fire, residents were advised to stay indoors until rescued by the Fire Service. Hydrants were available outside the premises so fire appliances would not have to enter. Each flat had been constructed to the highest safety specification.

64/06 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

64.1 Land east of Courtside, Court Road – RESOLVED: An Appeal had been submitted so a copy of the Parish Council's letter of objection would be sent to the Inspector.

64.2 The Haven, Junket Corner 0393/06/F – extension. *Decision:* No objection.

64.3 Saltwind, Stoke Road 0408/06/F – replacement landing stage. *Decision:* No objection.

64.4 Appledore, Court Road 0551/06/F – rear bathroom extension. *Decision:* No comment.

64.5 Omega, Court Road 0595/06/F – amendments to 2078/05 alterations and garage. One letter of support was noted. *Decision:* No comment.

65/06 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The following items concerned:-

65.1 Samaritans – The Annual Report. RESOLVED: To grant £100. [Vote: all in favour]

65.2 Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act – A Parish Council guide to environmental enforcement was available from DEFRA. It was noted that anyone authorised to issue fixed penalty notices under the Act would need to attend formal training. A letter from SHDC to I&DAPC also referred to the Act – the Street Scene Team would actively check and enforce the waste scheme.

65.3 Rail Services – In response to the Clerk’s letter to the Secretary of State for Transport, Gary Streeter MP was making strong representations to Alistair Darling MP and First Great Western regarding the proposed timetable reductions at Ivybridge.

66/06 NOSS HARD

66.1 Access for dinghies/gigs – For consideration at the May Meeting.

Agenda: May Meeting

67/06 SEATS

67.1 Maintenance – RESOLVED: Mr Taylor and the Clerk would liaise regarding the detail of the tender specifications; three tenders would be invited.

Agenda: May Meeting

67.2 Newton Hill – RESOLVED: The suggestion that a small south-facing slate seat should be provided outside Bishops Court against the stone wall, at a right-angle to Newton Hill, was accepted in principle. [Vote: all in favour] If Signpost was agreeable, a donor would be sought.

Agenda: June Meeting

68/06 TREES

68.1 Pumping Station – The TPO Approval had been received but the contractor had been unable to make a start on the work; this would be delayed until after the nesting season. There was concern that 8 to 10 trees were growing behind and causing damage to the supporting wall; 3 or 4 large stones needed repair at the base of the buttress. A DCC surveyor had visited the site on 31st March and his report was awaited; it was noted that the formal inspection of the bank had been promised by DCC following a site meeting in December 2004; the Clerk had since made five requests for progress.

68.2 Coombe Farmhouse and 24 Noss Mayo – TPO applications had been received to re-coppice Ash. The Clerk had replied in accordance with the Tree Warden’s recommendation – no objection.

68.3 Rush Quay, Court Wood – The proposed work to Beech and Oak had been authorised.

69/06 FOOTPATHS

69.1 B3186 Link – Collaton/Butts Park – Mrs Roe, Mrs Taylor and the Clerk had met five Collaton residents to discuss the proposed footpath and consider the concerns raised – these had included dog fouling, the use of Collaton Park by non-residents, the control of mini motorcycles, and general misuse of the footpath. Having looked at the volume and speed of traffic passing the entrance, it was agreed that a safer route would cross the Collaton Park grounds to link with Richard Yonge’s land. As the community was split, the Management Committee would canvas opinion and report to the Clerk. Other issues for consideration concerned the safety of the crossing point which would be required on the straight section of road leading to Widey Cross.

69.2 Signing – For consideration at the May Meeting.

Agenda: May Meeting

69.3 FP22 Axsmith’s Hill – Defective fencing and a protruding drain at the top entrance would be reported to DCC.

70/06 MAINTENANCE

70.1 Kilpatrick Steps - Ownership of the moorings between the Parish land boundaries.....

Agenda: May Meeting

70.2 Sports Pavilion – The meeting with user representatives was being arranged.

Agenda: May Meeting

70.3 Popes Quay – Mr Buckland had inspected the structure and explained his concerns that a softening of the centre slab was creating pressure on the outer stone walls; in particular there was serious movement in the corner on the west side. His suggested remedy was the application of a steel brace around the outside with timber on top.

Mr Buckland would formalise his recommendations and obtain an idea of repair costs.

Agenda: October Meeting

70.4 Maintenance list – RESOLVED: **Mr Carter** would invite John Leonard to make urgent safety repairs to FP7 Newton Voss steps.

Repairs to FP15 Boathouse Steps and the tap in Riverside Road West would be considered later.

Agenda: May Meeting

70.5 Big Slip Quay – RESOLVED: To invite Garden Services to undertake the annual tidying of the quay and supporting wall.

70.6 Bus Shelter opposite Plymco – RESOLVED: To invite Garden Services to clear the ivy and growth around the shelter. Repainting would be considered in more detail at the June Meeting.

Agenda: June Meeting

70.7 Footpaths FP13 Leas Path and FP37 Church Steps – RESOLVED: To invite Garden Services to remove weeds and cut growth as necessary.

71/06 GRANT REQUEST

71.1 Primary School – The Parish Council was asked to support an idea for extending and enhancing the School's library facilities to include the pre-school/playgroup children and explore the possibilities of using the School to include family and adult learning as required by the Government. A day's workshop was envisaged but initially a Working Group of Governors, Staff and Councillors was suggested. In May Members would consider who would be involved and confirm the Parish Council's budget allocation of £1,000 for the current financial year. **Agenda: May Meeting**

72/06 MEETINGS ATTENDED

72.1 Harbour Authority – The main items reported by Mr Carter concerned the following:- A preliminary audit had been completed – there was an estimated tax liability of £6,000 and insurance cost of £4,600. Unfortunately two or three dead dolphins had been found in the river. The ground around Bridgend Quay had been dredged. There was concern about the effect on the SSSI water quality from the Sherford development rainwater run-off.

72.2 School Governors – Mrs Roe reported that the Budget had been approved and 86 pupils were registered.

72.3 W.I. Community Hall – Mr Young reported that the Hall bookings were very busy, particularly as the Village Hall would be closed for building works between May and November - the Noss Thursday Lunch Club would transfer to Newton. There was a nine years programme of rolling improvements, subject to the negotiations for the extended Lease.

72.4 SHDC Parish Cluster Meeting – Mrs Cooper outlined the event which she had attended with the Chairman. In order to maximise resources, SHDC staff were encouraged to multi-task. Powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act had been discussed. It was noted that the Cluster Group could employ a Traffic Warden.

72.5 SHDC Training – Mrs Hinchliffe and the Chairman had attended the meeting when items discussed had included the Members' Code of Conduct, Clerks' Revised Pay and Conditions and the Quality Parish Status scheme (21 Devon parishes had obtained Q.S.)

73/06 ADMINISTRATION

73.1 Annual Parish Meeting – The Clerk would contact the School Caretaker. Mr Buckland would organise the collection of some display panels and paper supports. Mr Stitson and Mr Tubb would organise the refreshments.

73.2 Clerk's Annual Salary Review – The basic hourly rate had been increased from £10.55 to £10.86. The formal SLCC job evaluation would be undertaken in early May – Mrs Hinchliffe and Mrs Roe had draft copies of the Clerk's suggested responses to the job description questionnaire.

73.3 Clerk's Retirement Gratuity – A detailed explanation had been received from Inland Revenue regarding the revised taxation regulations relating to gratuity payments made after 6th April 2006. The letter dated 20th March 2006 from the Audit & Pensions Schemes Services, Nottingham, would be kept on file.

73.4 Society of Local Council Clerks – Conference on 11th May. The Clerk would attend and the delegate fee of £40 was authorised.

74/06 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mrs Hinchliffe and listed in the Financial Statement Min.75/06.

75/06 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.04.06	£	127.89
Portman Building Society Capital Fund	30 days' notice	£	40,191.77
Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	9,006.70

The following cheques were authorised totalling**£ 2,511.53**

S Roe (<i>to reimburse</i>)	Bishops Court Consulting Room expenses	366.07
R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss/steps	68.75
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	39.00
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	770.10
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage/plastic wallets	15.75
Devon Conservation Forum	Annual subscription	20.00
Byways & Bridleways Trust	Annual subscription	34.00
British Telecom	Clerk's telephone	65.99
Ivybridge & District Com. Transport Association	Grant 2006/07	110.00
Inland Revenue	Income Tax and N.I. re the Clerk	716.87
W.I. Community Hall	Grant for electrical upgrade	250.00*
Devon Playing Fields Association	Annual subscription	15.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	Conference: Clerk's delegate fee	40.00

* s.137 total paid £250.00 * s.137 payments to date £250.00

5/04/06.....Chairman

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm