

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 13th December 2007

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Carter Mrs Hinchliffe Mr Hussell Mr Matthews
Mr Taylor Mr Tubb

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

APOLOGIES: Mr Buckland Mr Cooper Mrs Cooper Mr Stitson Mr Young
P.C. Nolan PCSO Lawrence Cllr Mumford

POLICE REPORT

In the absence of a Police representative, two recent crime related incidents were noted. Several vehicles had been reported for expired Vehicle Excise Licences – far higher than would have been expected. It was noted that a vehicle with a SORN declaration must be parked off the road. Also six Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for parking contraventions within the areas covered by the Traffic Order (i.e. parking limited to 45 minutes). The Clerk would seek advice concerning restricted access for pedestrians when vehicles were parked on the pavement at Butts Park. Finally, following a report of a near accident at the Butts Park crossing, P.C. Nolan had organised a speed check when several vehicles had been stopped for exceeding the 30mph limit; further checks would follow. [Min.194.2 refers]

OPEN FORUM

Riverhaven, Riverside Road East – The architect had provided a set of pre-application drawings and photographs on which comments and questions were invited. Members welcomed the more sympathetic design but would reserve a formal response until the application had been received from SHDC.

191/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reasons for absence were noted.

192/07 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November were confirmed and signed.

193/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Mrs Hinchliffe declared a personal interest in item 8, the planning application for 5 Newton Close.

194/07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

194.1 “Investment in Devon” – Following DCC’s sale of Exeter Airport, £48m would be invested into six special funds over three years, created specifically to improve the lives of people of all ages across Devon. Priority would be given to projects which would attract match funding and reduce future revenue costs and/or carbon emissions. The strategic priorities were:- children and young people, Devon’s economy, environment and culture, and the promotion of independence and choice for adults. The formal Press Release would be circulated. **All Members**

194.2 Butts Park [Open Forum refers] – The Clerk had written to DCC Highways requesting a review of safety at the Newton Downs junction and offering to arrange a meeting with residents to discuss their difficulties; a reply was awaited. Via the website, Parish Magazine, notices, etc., the Clerk had also tried to raise local drivers’ awareness of the crossing and speed limit.

194.3 Street Lighting – In reply to Cllr Mumford’s enquiry, DCC had explained that in order to offer any reductions in public lighting, a number of surveys would need to be undertaken to ascertain the benefits and costs. Capital support from Central Government would be required – the amount of grant available for 08/09 was unknown.

194.4 Bus Stop at Bridgend – DCC had responded to the Parish Council’s request for a relocation of the stop but had concluded that a safe alternative to the current position was not available. Therefore, no change could be recommended.

194.5 SHDC Budget – In Cllr Cooper’s absence it was reported that two items proposed for budget savings would have a direct local effect, namely the Ivybridge Community Transport Association’s Ring & Ride service, and the closure of public conveniences during the winter. In view of the important social function provided by the bus service, Cllr Cooper would lobby SHDC for continued support. The Chairman suggested that Members should consider the proposed reduction in WC provision. **Agenda: January Meeting**

194.6 SHDC/Parish Cluster Meeting – The Clerk reported the main topics discussed:-

i) **Waste Collections** – A review of the current system was due; parishes would be consulted but SHDC would be interested to receive advance notification of key issues. **Agenda: January Meeting**

ii) **Street Cleaning** – As the service had been reduced, Sparkwell, Shaugh Prior and Cornwood parishes were trialling a locally funded cleaner. The Clerk suggested that if the trial was successful, Newton & Noss might wish to consider a similar link with neighbouring parishes. **Agenda: June Meeting**

iii) **Planning: the unfairness of the Appeal system and “permitted development” rights** – There would be an opportunity to make representations during consultation on the forthcoming Planning Bill. There was scope for parishes to involve their local councillors; Planning Officers could advise whether planning objections were “material considerations” and thereby more influential in the final decision.

iv) **SHDC Service Delivery** – It had been confirmed that SHDC was to be responsible for parking enforcement. In view of the imminent review of local government in Devon, it had been suggested that as many services as possible should be controlled locally; however, a corresponding increase in resources would be needed.

194.7 SHDC Budget Consultation – The Chairman would attend Follaton House on 17th January.

194.8 Emergency Planning – It was noted that for queries or assistance with planning, SHDC should be the first contact.

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

195/07 BUDGET 2008/09

195.1 Draft Figures had been provided to each Member for discussion; they would be checked by the Clerk and the Precept would be finalised in January. **Agenda: January Meeting**

196/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

196.1 In Cllr Cooper’s absence there was nothing to report.

197/07 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

197.1 Sherford: New school provision – The proposal was to provide an all-through school to cater for ages 3-16 with a 14-19 Centre to provide “academic and vocational pathways”. Members were concerned that the absence of a Sixth Form would mismatch with current educational provision and remove choice at 16; also there could be a limited teaching capacity in terms of resources and staff quality, and a move at 16 could be unsettling for some young people. The Clerk would reply to DCC that an all-through school for 3-18 years would be preferred.

198/07 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

198.1 Access Statement – The draft would be considered in January. **Agenda: January Meeting**

198.2 Appeals lodged:-

- i) Riverdene, Yealm View Road: resubmission of 2444/06 – extension and renovation.
- ii) Court Farm, Court Road: one new dwelling.

198.3 Old Cellars – A copy letter dated 3.12.07 from SHDC was noted; there did not appear to have been any breach of planning controls so no enforcement action was necessary.

198.4 Braemar, Pillory Hill 2324/07/F – Change of ground levels, new walls and terracing.

Decision: No objection provided that the privacy of the neighbouring property “Crianon” was not compromised.

Clerk’s note:

The response to SHDC was made on the basis of revised drawings which were provided by the Landscape Architect to NNPC on 1.12.07. The drawings accompanying the formal application had been misleading in respect of the western boundary.

198.5 10 Revelstoke Road 2334/07/F – Extension and alterations.

Decision: Objection to the proposals for alterations at the edge of the highway.

198.6 Southlands, 9 Yealm Road 2341/07/F – Creation of hardstanding.

Decision: No comment.

198.7 Pool Mill Farm 2250/07/F – New orangery.

Decision: No objection in principle but there were concerns that the design was unsympathetic with the main house.

198.8 5 Newton Close 2404/07/F – Extension and alterations.

Decision: No comment.

198.9 Amity Lodge, Lower Court Road 2473/07/F – Demolition of conservatory and new extension.

Decision: No comment.

198.10 Woodside Cottage, Lower Court Road 2474/07/F – Demolition and construction of new house.

Decision: No comment.

198.11 Land adjacent to Noss Hard 2375/07/TCA – Fell one Sycamore.

Decision: No objection because the tree was interfering with power cables.

199/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received had concerned:-

199.1 Parish Poll – The electoral costs were £819, payable in May 2008. The Clerk would contact CARP.

199.2 The Post Office – It had been brought to the Council's attention that the public consultation into the future of Post Offices across South-West Devon had been postponed for political reasons and would not commence until May 2008. The Chairman would liaise with Lynn Dewar and Alan Cooper concerning possible action to publicise the postponement.

199.3 Primary School – In thanking the Parish Council for assistance with the playground shading, Claire Sealey had confirmed the need for this facility in line with the healthy schools accreditation and offered Members a tour of the school.

199.4 Rural Funding – The South Devon Coastal Local Action Group had requested support in principle for an initial funding bid which, if successful, could be worth £250,000 per annum over five years. The Clerk would send a letter of support before the deadline of 31st December.

200/07 NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

200.1 Payments to be authorised – RESOLVED: To authorise seven payments as listed under Minute 207/07.

[Vote: all in favour]

201/07 GRANT REQUESTS

201.1 Christmas Lights – The Village Hall had requested assistance to power the Christmas lights.

RESOLVED: To grant £20.00. [Vote: all in favour] [LGA 1972 s.137]

201.2 U3A web page – The U3A had paid £100 to provide a useful diary facility on the NNPC website but further improvements were planned which might require a small grant from the Parish Council. A Community Diary on the website was also under consideration.

201.3 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes – RESOLVED: To support the initiative to fund signs in order to encourage new schemes in the Parish (estimated at £10.00 per sign/two per scheme were required).

201.4 Modbury Tourist Information Centre – Details of the services offered to promote leisure and tourism would be passed to Mr Buckland.

202/07 FOOTPATHS and SEATS

202.1 Footpath Upgrade – Mr Taylor presented a detailed breakdown of the recommended maintenance work:-

- i) FP13 Leas Path – Surface upgrading at 7 locations would improve public safety by providing a more even surface and reducing puddles/muddy areas. Location 7 on the list would require clarification concerning possible future works south of the path.
- ii) FP16 Yealm Steps – 4 steps had been identified as needing a stone mason's attention to rectify breaks in the stone and unevenness. The RYHA representatives noted the comment that a light switch on or near the steps would be desirable.

RESOLVED: To invite tenders for the work as recommended.

Agenda: January Meeting

202.2 Path to Cellars Beach – Although improvement works had been undertaken on the lower section, there was still a query about the condition of the upper steps which needed to be checked.

202.3 Bishops Court – In Mr Buckland's absence, this item was postponed. **Agenda: January Meeting**

202.4 FP22 Axsmith's Hill – The Chairman and Clerk had met two DCC officers to discuss erosion at the top end of the path. DCC had agreed to make minor improvements and undertake preventative maintenance to channel the surface water and thereby reduce the potential for future damage.

202.5 Seat at The Green – RESOLVED: To remove the damaged seat. **Agenda: January Meeting**

202.6 The Donkey Path – Mark Wilson had recommended laying concrete 100mm thick. Also he proposed using excavated material to backfill the finished edge. RESOLVED: To accept his proposals and tender of £662 + VAT. [Vote: 6 in favour 1 abstention]

202.7 Collaton/Butts Park Link – The Chairman reported the landowner's suggestion that a post/wire fence would be acceptable to overcome safety issues concerning the old sewage works.

203/07 MAINTENANCE

203.1 Sports Pavilion – As Mr Young was absent there was nothing to report. **Agenda: January Meeting**

203.2 Pope's Quay – It was hoped that work could commence in January.

203.3 Newton Hill – RESOLVED: That the notice board should remain in its present position but 9" should be removed from the bottom of the board to reduce the height. [Vote: all in favour]

203.4 Bridgend: iron trough and surrounding area – Mr Buckland's suggestions would be considered at the next meeting. Also, the **milestone** was ready for replacing into the wall. **Agenda: January Meeting**

204/07 MEETINGS ATTENDED

204.1 Harbour Authority – Mr Matthews reported briefly that an increase in the Crown rent was anticipated.

204.2 WIC Hall – Mr Matthews reported that the Lease had been agreed and progress was being made.

204.3 Village Hall – The Committee's next objective was to apply secondary glazing to the large front and rear windows – an application for assistance from the Parish Council was anticipated.

204.4 Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils – Mr Cooper's report was noted

205/07 ADMINISTRATION

205.1 Accounts 2006/07 – The District Audit has been completed without comment.

205.2 Accounts 2007/08 – It was noted that the mid-year balance figures had been checked and agreed by Mr Carter. Mrs Hinchliffe had been unable to check the papers.

205.3 Annual Parish Meeting – The meeting would be held on 18th March at the WIC Hall. Mr Toogood would be invited to speak about the Yealm Estuary.

205.4 Venues for 2008 Meetings – Meetings would continue to alternate between Newton and Noss.

206/07 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.207/07.

207/07 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.12.07	£	21,551.73
Portman Building Society Capital Fund	30 days' notice	£	45,018.83
Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	11,432.82

The following cheques were authorised totalling**£ 4,980.10**

R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and Doctor's steps	101.50
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	40.50
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	997.98
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage/mileage/Land Registry search	21.64
Garden Services	Grass cutting: The Green – October & November	60.00
Garden Services	Tidying: Noss Hard	120.00
J B Electrical	Sports Pavilion repair	25.00
River Yealm Harbour Authority	Yealm Steps: final invoice for cleaning 2007	376.00
Ricoh UK Limited	Photocopier rental + copies	48.62
Tilly Institute	Room hire: July/October/December	30.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership renewal	129.00
South West Water	Tap: Pillory Hill	9.76
WIC Hall	Hire of tables for Seminar on 2.11.07	15.00*
A Cooper	Mileage to I&DAPC on 20.11.07	8.00
Heatcare South West Limited	WIC hall: grant for heating upgrade	1,000.00
Newton & Noss Village Hall	Grant for assistance with Christmas lights	20.00*
<i>Network Payments:</i>		
Newton & Noss Village Hall	Hire: 4 sessions each PT1 and SK1	160.00
J Bark	Tutor fees: SK1 and materials	450.00
E Sinnott	Tutor fees: WC3	360.00
S Barton	Tutor fees: CI3	400.00
S Barton	Tutor fees: DTP1	120.00
M Carruthers	Tutor fees: PT1 and materials	429.66
C Smith	Office supplies	57.44

*s.137 payments: £35.00 [Total to date: £ 2,553.03]

5/12/07Chairman

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm