

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 9th March 2006

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Hallett Rear Admiral Hogg (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk) Three parishioners Press

APOLOGIES: Mr Woodd-Walker Cllr Mumford

POLICE REPORT

5 crimes had been reported, all involving damage to vehicles in Parsonage Road and Church Park Road; enquiries were ongoing. At Worswell Farm sheep had been killed by dogs – the owner had paid compensation. P.C. Cook stressed that farmers had a legal right to use any force to protect their livestock. Also, he had noticed the serious weekend parking problems at The Warren and would contact The National Trust to request additional notices concerning the control of dogs (reference was made to Min.21/06: "A letter to The National Trust would suggest some improvements to the capacity of the coastal car parks and associated signing."). Regarding parking in Noss, P.C. Cook would ask DCC to provide another blue parking restriction sign. No formal complaints about parking incidents had been received since the February Meeting but vehicles were known to have been parked inappropriately. An incident involving a school coach and car had blocked the B3186 on 10th February [Min.41.4 refers].

OPEN FORUM

Information was noted concerning an encroachment onto the highway at the bottom of Pillory Hill. [Min.41.6 refers]

38/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reason for absence was approved.

39/06 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February were confirmed and signed.

40/06 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:-

Mr Stitson declared a personal interest in item 9 – the planning application for New Coombe, Stoke Road.

Mrs Cooper declared a personal interest in item 9 – the planning application for Woodside Cottage, Lower Court Road.

Mrs Hinchliffe declared a prejudicial interest in items 8 and 9 concerning the Post Office.

Mr Tubb declared a prejudicial interest in items 5, 7, 8 and 9 concerning the development of affordable housing, Bishops Court, and the Post Office.

Members' attention was drawn to proposed changes to the Code of Conduct with effect from 2008.

41/06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

41.1 Election – William Mumford had been elected as County Councillor. Copy letters relating to outstanding items would be copied to him.

41.2 Parking difficulties in Noss – Mr Stitson presented a map suggesting where yellow lines were required to ensure a clear access Noss Green and along Passage Road. It was agreed that the plans would be available at the Annual Parish Meeting when residents' comments would be invited on the proposals and whether any other areas should be included, e.g. Pillory Hill/Creekside Road. **Agenda: April Meeting**

41.3 Butts Park crossing – A reply from County Hall was awaited. A copy of the Chairman's letter of concern had been forwarded to Inspector Williams at Ivybridge and Road Safety Officer Martin Hartnell.

41.4 B.3186 Accident – Following the accident, the Chairman had been approached by residents who had expressed concern about school bus safety. P.C. Cook was aware of similar concerns in Ermington so DCC Highways and the Road Safety Officer were considering how to address the safety issues. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to DCC to reinforce the general road safety concerns on the B3186 and the need for a link path between Collaton and Butts Park. On the question of seat belt use, it was suggested that perhaps P.C. Cook might consider talking to the school children about the importance of using the belts.

41.5 Parsonage Road – Creation of a loading bay for the benefit of the WIC Hall – DCC had advised that a Traffic Regulation Order would be required but it was anticipated that the necessary funding of £1,000 would not be available from DCC's 06/07 budgets. In view of the cost and the need for the introduction of parking restrictions at Noss, it was agreed that the loading bay should be left in abeyance for the time being.

41.6 Pillory Hill – Encroachment onto the highway – In response to a letter from DCC, the owner of the Old Post Office had provided evidence of his ownership of land adjacent to and part of the highway; as this information had been accepted by DCC, no further action was proposed. It was agreed that in view of the evidence of the old line which was still visible on the road and the presence of a manhole within the marked area, DCC's decision would be challenged.

41.7 Bridgend Hill – Copy correspondence between a resident and DCC was noted regarding night visibility issues and pedestrian safety. The Clerk would raise awareness via the website, notice boards and Parish Magazine.

41.8 Stoke Road (narrow section at lower end) – Copy correspondence between a resident and DCC was noted regarding pedestrian safety. DCC had replied that traffic signs were on order, a vehicle width restriction would not be implemented, and rumble strips/road humps were considered to be inappropriate in that location.

41.9 Waste collection –

a) The fortnightly collections were expected to create problems during the holiday season when, for whatever reason, a householder(s) was absent on a collection day. Since the introduction of the new system, sacks had been left out for several days prior to collection, attracting rats, animals and birds. Two property categories of potential concern were discussed with Cllr Hallett:-

- i) Second homes received the same service as any other household paying Council Tax but anyone with a particular waste disposal problem should contact SHDC for advice. Alternatively, commercial sacks could be provided.
- ii) Let properties could be treated as commercial businesses; a separate charge was made for a more regular waste collection.

It was agreed that in conjunction with SHDC, an item explaining the waste collection options would be submitted to the Parish Magazine; in addition a letter would be delivered to each of the holiday homes.

b) Cllr Hallett reported that the percentage of waste being recycled had risen and the use of the brown bins would increase during the summer months.

c) The Chairman queried SHDC's policy to refuse an additional bin for households of less than five occupants, even if the capacity of one grey bin was insufficient for their needs. Also, it was noted that a black sack(s) left beside a grey bin would not be collected. Cllr Hallett was happy with the policy, explaining that SHDC expected all households to achieve a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill.

41.10 Spoil dumped at Hannaford – A large amount of spoil had been deposited on land off Hannaford Lane and adjacent to the play area and the watercourse. The SHDC Enforcement Officer had been informed in writing and a copy of the complaint and photographs had been received by the Clerk. Cllr Hallett explained the current legislation relating to agricultural holdings and the possible need for planning consent. The Enforcement Officer would re-visit the landowner.

41.11 Noss Green – SHDC would fund the new gate in the corner of Noss Green; the work would be carried out by SHDC in April/May.

41.12 Parish Heritage Appraisal – The Clerk was awaiting confirmation that Keith Rennells and his team would address the Annual Parish Meeting and arrange an initial public awareness event.

41.13 SHDC Light Pollution event – Mrs Cooper would attend on 28th March. The design of the entrance lights at Bishops Court had been recommended by the "Secure by Design" team but the care staff agreed they were too bright. The impact would be reviewed in June.

Agenda: June Meeting

41.14 SHDC Parish Cluster Meeting – The Chairman and Mrs Cooper would attend on 6th April.

41.15 Members' Training event – The Chairman and Mrs Hinchliffe would attend on 14th March.

41.16 SHDC Street Cleaning – The Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils had made representations to SHDC concerning the deterioration in the manual and mechanical cleaning service within the South Hams and a meeting had taken place. In response to the Chairman's letter for guidance on how to proceed, Members agreed to support the suggestion that the cleaning schedule for the District should be reviewed.

The Meeting was adjourned to allow for an open discussion of the following item:-

Briar Hill Farm – As Briar Hill Farm had been included in SHDC's draft LDF as a site for possible future development, Mr McCready submitted a general concept plan to illustrate how the new dwellings might be arranged. It was his intention that the current house would be demolished to accommodate a public car park for 20-30 vehicles, with a replacement dwelling for his own occupation constructed elsewhere within the proposed development.

Rear Admiral Hogg was preparing a fact sheet to support the need for low-cost housing which would be presented to the RYDA's AGM on 20th April; there would be a follow-up report and discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April.

The following 2005 house sale figures for Newton & Noss were recorded:-

16 detached properties totalled £6,744,500	Average price: £421,521
3 terraced houses totalled £610,000	Average price: £203,333
5 leasehold apartments totalled £1,126,000	Average price: £225,200

The Meeting re-opened.

42/06 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As arranged at the February Meeting, the Chairman had met Stewart Green. He presented a map to illustrate the various site options available. It was agreed that these should be submitted to SHDC for consideration.

43/06 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- a) SHDC LDF Core Strategy Submission Stage 1:- The proposed response to SHDC had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting and was approved for formal submission. [Vote: all in favour]
Cllr Hallett was thanked for his support which had resulted in a marked increase in the formal allocation of low cost housing for the Parish.
- b) Proposed re-organisation of local health care services:- There was support for the response to the proposals as agreed by SHDC, namely a re-organisation of the areas covered by the Ambulance Trusts and the formation of three Primary Care Trusts (one to cover the South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon). [Vote: all in favour]

44/06 BISHOPS COURT

44.1 Lease negotiations – Good progress had been made but Housing Corporation consent was awaited before the Lease could be concluded. The Clerk was authorised to draw a cheque for the advanced payment of the first month's rent, due when the Lease was signed; subsequent payments would be made by direct debit. Although Signpost intended charging VAT on the rent, this additional cost could be reclaimed from HM Customs & Excise.

44.2 Licence negotiations – The terms of the draft Licence were being considered by the Doctors and the first medical appointments would commence on 5th April.

44.3 Consulting Room – In consultation with the Clerk, Mrs Roe had arranged for the purchase and installation of cupboards, worktop, a curtain and rail. A cheque was authorised to reimburse Mrs Roe's expenses as soon as the total was known, and the Clerk would invoice Signpost as previously agreed with Mr Lawrie. A telephone had also been purchased by the Clerk.

Initially the Doctors would require the room for one session per week but further sessions would be arranged as required once a pattern of need had been established. The Meeting was advised that under current VAT legislation, the Parish Council would not be required to charge VAT on the hire fees.

Under the terms of the Lease, the room would be available from Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 6.30pm.

With special permission obtained in advance, the room could be used until 11.00pm, provided the purpose was compatible. It was agreed that initially the room would be offered for hire to anyone providing a community/health service; sessions would be split – morning 9.00am to 1.00pm and afternoon 1.00pm to 5.00pm @ £12.50 per session or part thereof. The level of use would be reviewed later in the year.

Agenda: September Meeting

45/06 POST OFFICE

45.1 RESOLVED: That whilst the Parish Council had taken an active interest in the future of the Post Office during the ownership crisis, from now on issues concerning the business would be considered in the same way as any other commercial undertaking. [Vote: 9 in favour 2 abstentions]

The Chairman thanked everyone who had worked hard to promote the successful purchase and continuation of the business, in particular the Revelstoke Trust, Mrs Wilcox, Mr Buckland and other members of the Post Office Committee.

45.2 Pavement provision – SHDC had declined to offer a grant from the Community Fund but Revelstoke Trust had agreed to fund the extra construction cost – the loss of the commercial value of the land was noted. However, without a contribution from SHDC or DCC, there would be insufficient funds to include a roof over the amenity area. Mr Buckland explained that, if fundable, a roof would require planning consent so drawings had been circulated prior to the Meeting. In view of the foregoing and the discussion which followed, a covering for the amenity area was unnecessary at this stage.

46/06 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

46.1 SHDC Decisions – The following was noted:-

Land east of Courtside – The application had been refused, mainly because the proposed development would increase the density of buildings in the locality and damage the landscape and character of the site.

46.2 78 Yealm Road 0175/06/F – erection of a garden library. *Decision:* No comment.

46.3 New Coombe, Stoke Road 0177/06/F – alterations and extension – one copy letter of objection had been received. A site meeting and decision to be made on 14th March was approved, to be attended by the Chairman, Mr Carter, Mrs Hinchliffe, Mrs Wilcox and the Clerk.

46.4 Court Barton, Court Road 0203/06/F – replacement dwelling. *Decision:* No comment.

46.5 Riversmead, Church Park Road 0273/06/F – rear conservatory.
Decision: No objection but overlooking from the proposed balcony might be an issue for the neighbouring property.

46.6 4 Perches Close 0326/06/F – extension.
Decision: As the proposal was more acceptable to the neighbours than the previous application.....no comment.

46.7 Woodside Cottage, Lower Court Road 0266/06/F – renewal of 1619/01/F for an extension.
Decision: No comment.

46.8 Old Well House, Court Road 0366/06/F – replacement garage with accommodation over for dependant relatives. *Decision:* Support provided there were appropriate restrictions on the future use of the accommodation.

47/06 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The following items concerned:-

47.1 Popes Quay – A request from Storm Marine to use the quay on 22nd and 23rd April for embarking and disembarking from small motor boats. RYHA had also been consulted. RESOLVED: to grant permission provided due regard was given to other users of the quay; the Clerk would liaise with the Harbourmaster regarding a modest charge. The use of the quay would be reviewed at the end of the season. **Agenda: September Meeting**

47.2 The Green - A request from Yealm Gardens Society for the erection of a temporary gazebo on The Green for refreshments on 21st and 22nd July – permission agreed.

47.3 Rail services – The proposed reduction in rail services, especially at Ivybridge Station. It was agreed that a letter of concern and regret at the loss of rural transport services should be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport.

47.4 Tourist information board(s) – The provision of tourist information would be reviewed once the proposed board funded by RCT/AONB had been erected in the amenity area at the Post Office. **Agenda: May Meeting**

47.5 Proposed changes to the structure of Local Government - A Report from NALC explained the Government's current development of radical ideas to bring about major changes in the structure, funding and culture of local government. There was a shift to unitary authorities and proposed reforms to local government funding. It was anticipated that the role of parish councils would be strengthened.

48/06 NOSS HARD

48.1 Tidying of the dinghy park – Garden Services would tidy the area during the week beg. 13th March.

48.2 Access for dinghies/gigs – Mr Carter, Mr Stitson and Mr Tubb would obtain a quote for providing new posts to widen the launching area. It was noted that the existing posts had been bedded into cement beneath the foreshore. **Agenda: April Meeting**

49/06 TREES

49.1 Pumping Station – The TPO approval for the proposed maintenance work would be received before the end of March. The two tenders received were considered in Committee. In line with the Tree Officer's guidance, two quotes had been invited from members of the Arboricultural Agency, following site meetings attended by Mr Woodd-Walker and the Clerk to discuss with the contractors the maintenance requirements of the Management Plan. The figures were circulated and after consideration it was RESOLVED: to accept the tender submitted by John Fuller of Protree Limited. [Vote: all in favour] Mr Fuller would be advised that burning on the foreshore would not be acceptable.

49.2 Rush Quay, Court Wood – A TPO application had been received to coppice and crown-lift Beech and Oak. The Clerk had replied in accordance with the Tree Warden's recommendation.

50/06 FOOTPATHS

50.1 B3186 Link – Collaton/Butts Park – It was anticipated that a meeting would be arranged with the residents' representatives to discuss the options for a route at Collaton for further consideration by the residents.

50.2 Signing – Mr Taylor explained that only some of the non-definitive paths were signed and recommended adding some new signs to support the validity of the reasons in favour of extending the scope of the definitive paths. He would prepare a list for consideration. **Agenda: April Meeting**

50.3 Website – Mr Taylor would provide an electronic copy of the Footpath Guide, parts of which could be included on the Parish Council's website with photographs and guidance for car parking.

51/06 MAINTENANCE

51.1 Kilpatrick Steps - Ownership of the moorings between the Parish land boundaries..... **Agenda: May Meeting**

51.2 Sports Pavilion – The meeting with user representatives was being arranged. **Agenda: April Meeting**

51.3 Popes Quay – Mr Buckland would report to the April Meeting. **Agenda: April Meeting**

51.4 Maintenance list – Mr Carter would check the extent of the repairs required to FP7 steps to Newton Voss, FP15 Boathouse Steps, and the public tap in Riverside Road West. **Agenda: April Meeting**

51.5 Pumping Station – As reported in November 2004 [Ref.Min.149/04], there were serious concerns about tidal erosion on the foreshore around the base of the bank. A visual inspection would be carried out on 14th March by the Chairman, Clerk, Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Hinchliffe. **Agenda: April Meeting**

51.6 Seat Maintenance – Mr Taylor would prepare a specification for consideration. **Agenda: April Meeting**

Mr Taylor left the Meeting.

52/06 EMERGENCY PLAN REVIEW

52.1 The following action was agreed:-

- a) The Plan should be updated annually and the Doctors should be kept informed.
- b) A list of elderly/vulnerable residents should be included.
- c) The key contacts should be advised of their inclusion.
- d) For Data Protection purposes, the Plan would remain confidential but the location of the sealed copy would be published.
- e) The Plan would be finalised in May following the Annual Parish Meeting. **Agenda: May Meeting**

53/06 GRANT REQUEST

53.1 Ivybridge Community Transport Association – RESOLVED: to grant £110 for 2006/07. [Vote: all in favour]

54/06 MEETINGS ATTENDED

54.1 Harbour Authority – The main items reported by Mr Carter concerned the following:-
The election for mooring holder representatives had been held and the new pump-out facilities had been installed.

54.2 Village Hall – A grant of £13,000 had been awarded from the SHDC Community Fund and Cllr Hallett was thanked for his support. A letter from Mrs Woodd-Walker had explained the Committee's current plans and work was expected to start on 22nd May. Thanks were extended to Mrs Woodd-Walker for her enthusiasm and commitment to the modernisation project.

54.3 Devon Association of Parish Councils – The Chairman outlined the latest Committee meeting – there had been concern over the constant loss of services to rural areas; the profile and activity of DAPC would be increased.

54.4 School Governors – The Governing Body had been reconstituted – there were 13 Governors [Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox included], 5 of which were parents.

55/06 ADMINISTRATION

55.1 Annual Parish Meeting – 24th April. The Clerk was waiting for confirmation regarding an address by the Heritage Appraisal Team. Inspector Williams would not be able to attend. Mr Stitson and Mr Tubb would organise the refreshments.

55.2 Parish Council and community websites – The Parish Council’s site had been well received and development would continue. Clubs and societies had been invited to submit information for inclusion on the community site www.newtonnoss.co.uk which was under development.

55.3 Transfer of funds - To meet unexpected cash needs, notice had been given to Portman Building Society for the transfer at the end of March of a further £6,000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account.

55.4 Clerk’s Retirement Gratuity – From 6th April 2006 new taxation rules would adversely affect any contributions made after that date but advice regarding the exact details was awaited from the Inland Revenue. However, as the Gratuity Fund was an Inland Revenue “approved” scheme, it was understood that the value of the Fund at 5th April 2006 was unlikely to be taxed. As there was currently a shortfall in contributions to the Fund, it was RESOLVED: to transfer £2,747.00 to the Fund for 2006/07 to bring the total value to £9,000.

56/06 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.57/06.

57/06 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.03.06	£ 7,869.40
Portman Building Society Capital Fund	30 days’ notice (£6,000 transferred to Current Account)	£ 40,191.77
Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund		£ 4,432.68

The following cheques were authorised totalling **£ 8,136.51**

R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss/steps/Doctors Steps	86.75
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope’s Quay	39.00
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	839.01
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage/laminating	17.84
Devon Assoc.Parish Councils	Membership renewal/publications	310.00
Ricoh UK Limited	Copier rental + copy charge	47.69
King UK Limited	Noss Voss cleaning fluid	84.01
Vantech Media	Website hosting 2006/07	85.00
Displaykit (W R Styring)	Purchase of display panels	1,573.33*
Staples UK Limited	Telephone for Consulting Room/paper/toner/supplies	91.93*
South West Water	Tap: Pillory Hill	7.45
Newton & Noss Parish Council	Transfer to the Gratuity Fund 05/06	1,600.00
Access Technology	Website design & implementation	587.50
John Eschbaecher	Purchase of s/h scanner Minute 35.2/06	20.00
Newton & Noss Parish Council	Transfer to the Gratuity Fund 06/07	2,747.00

* s.137 total paid: £1,595.00 *s.137 payments to date: £5,015.50