

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL held on 8th March 2007

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Hallett Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk)
Five parishioners attended part of the Meeting

APOLOGIES: Mr Brown Mr Woodd-Walker Cllr Mumford

Mr Tubb presided over the Meeting in the Chairman's absence.

POLICE REPORT The Community Support Officer Sid Lawrence reported:-

Crimes reported – Details of six incidents had been recorded involving.....

- i) Criminal damage to a vehicle in Court Road (rear windscreen wipers damaged),
- ii) Theft of a VW Polo from Parsonage Road,
- iii) Theft of an outboard which had been secured to a boat,
- iv) Theft of a computer from an occupied property in Yealm Road,
- v) Theft of a mobile phone from the public conveniences in Newton, and
- vi) Theft of a large sum of money from a public house.

Public/Police contact – CSO Lawrence stressed that there had been an increase in suspicious behaviour within the District. Information should be reported to the Police without delay using either 999 if a crime was in progress, or 08452 777 444 to report more general information. A Member had been concerned to have received a NHW cascade telephone message after midnight which CSO Lawrence would investigate.

Transport Policy – An update was requested by email to highlight areas of concern which might lead to the need for a Police presence, e.g. parking trouble spots.

OPEN FORUM

Sewage problems at Bridgend – A resident presented his concerns and those of two neighbouring householders.
[Min. 47.2 refers]

38/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reasons for absence were approved.

39/07 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February were confirmed and signed. Members had been disappointed to note Cllr Mumford's warning concerning the future of the Leas Path [Min.23.6].

40/07 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 Roe, Mr Stitson and Mr Tubb each declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 – the grant application from the Yealm Gig Club. They left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox declared a personal interest in item 11 – the grant application to support the Ukulele Band - and abstained from voting on this item.

Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox each declared a personal interest in item 11 – the grant application from the Primary School (chairs) - and abstained from voting on this item.

Mrs Wilcox declared a personal interest in item 14, the tree at Summertide, Stoke Road.

41/07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

41.1 Report from Cllr Mumford – Cllr Mumford had been unable to attend due to other commitments.

41.2 Parking restrictions: Revised Road Traffic Order – The Clerk reported that in accordance with Min.23.2, it had been necessary to hold a site meeting attended by the Chairman, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Hinchliffe and Mr Woodd-Walker [additional Members had not been available]. Six parishioners had also been in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting had been to consider DCC's proposal for a parking restriction in Stoke Road at Junket Corner, and a correction to the previous plan provided in respect of lines along the boundary of "Hill Head" and the lower end of Revelstoke Road. The following decisions had been agreed and reported to the County Solicitor before the close of the public consultation period:-

12d Coach Road:- (The owner of "Hill Head" had been invited to share his local knowledge).

To recommend deletion of all the proposed lines to the north of a point approximately from the corner of Noss Green across to the bus stop on the opposite side of the road. All other lines should remain as agreed by the Parish Council [Min.23.2 12d refers].

12e Pillory Hill:- Since the Parish Council's decision of 8th February [Min.23.2 12e refers] when the Meeting did not have the benefit of knowing local opinions, the Clerk had received from Pillory Hill residents nine objections to the introduction of parking restrictions – only one resident was known to support the proposals. In view of the strong local opposition, all four Members had felt unable support the previous decision and had agreed to recommend that lines were not implemented. However, it was recognised that difficulties experienced by the refuse lorry needed to be considered.

Agenda: April Meeting

12g Stoke Road:- Some limited parking was acceptable for a maximum of three vehicles at the south-western end of the proposed line; therefore a modified scheme had been recommended.

41.3 Parking in Passage Road at Point – A concerned resident had complained that too many vehicles parked at Point often caused difficulties for other road users. Subsequently, photographs had been received showing several other areas of Passage Road where vehicles encountered (and caused) problems. **Agenda: April Meeting**

41.4 Report from Cllr Hallett – Cllr Hallett had no specific items to report.

41.5 SHDC Conservation Area Appraisals – It was anticipated that the draft documents would be available for consideration at the May Meeting. **Agenda: May Meeting**

41.6 Flytipping at Kilpatrick Steps – It had been reported to SHDC that glass, cardboard and trellis had been left on the Parish Council's land opposite the layby. **Mr Stitson** would check whether the items had been removed.

42/07 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Tuesday 24th April in the Village Hall from 7.00pm.

It was agreed that Martin Dyer should be invited to report on the Heritage Appraisal near the beginning of the meeting. A Police representative would also attend. Mr Stitson and Mr Tubb were thanked for offering to organise the refreshments.

43/07 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION

Thursday 3rd May: Nominations closed at Noon on Wednesday 4th April. The Clerk would distribute the forms.

44/07 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

44.1 Yealm Estuary Management Plan 2006-2011 – The publication of the Draft had been delayed.

44.2 Sherford: Soundness of AAP – The papers had been passed to the Chairman.

45/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

45.1 Meeting at Follaton House – The Chairman, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Wilcox had met SHDC officers to clarify the current situation regarding achieving some low-cost housing for Newton & Noss. Government guidance seemed to suggest that developments should be "mixed" to include the one-third open market rule. Briar Hill was being considered as a "departure" site but the goalposts were constantly moving. Development in The Fairway was a possibility. The next meeting at Follaton House would take place in September.

45.2 Representations made to SHDC – It was understood that 50+ letters of objection to housing development had been submitted to SHDC, although none had been copied to the Parish Council.

46/07 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

46.1 Tidal Waters, Noss – In response to the Clerk's enquiry, the Planning Officer had explained why the Certificate of Lawfulness had been issued. Because the proposed alterations and extension had constituted permitted development under the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, a full planning application was not required. A copy of the plans had been provided to the Parish Council with the final notification.

46.2 Boathouse Developments – A policy for commenting on future planning applications would be considered at the April Meeting. **Agenda: April Meeting**

46.3 Cedar House. Membland 0372/07/F – Cedar cladding to front and rear.
Decision: No objection.

46.4 Bri Cher, Stoke Road 0385/07/F – Removal of condition 2 of 1665/06/F to allow clear glazing. One copy letter of objection had been received together with supporting photographs.
Decision: Objection in support of the neighbour's concerns.

46.5 Island House, Bridgend – Plans for a proposed summerhouse had not been received for comment.

46.6 Planning Officers' recommendations – It was noted that two applications were being recommended for refusal: Hockaday's Yard 0647/07 and Inglewood 2391/06.

47/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The following items concerned:-

47.1 Publication of RYHA Minutes – It was agreed that the RYHA Minutes could be added to the Parish Council's website. The Clerk would contact the Harbourmaster.

47.2 Sewage discharging into Newton Creek at Bridgend [Open Forum refers] – The owners of Quay Cottage, and 6 & 7 The Malthouse had prepared a report for South West Water, a copy of which had been handed to the Clerk. Whilst in the short-term the discharge problems appeared to have been solved by jet cleaning the pipeline between the Pumping Station and Bridgend Quay, it was RESOLVED: that a letter to South West Water would request a review of the sewage pumping and treatment system to address the apparent deficiencies and prevent similar system failures in the future. The Environment Agency would be asked to take water samples from that area in the interests of public safety.

47.3 School Governor – As Mrs Roe did not intend to stand for re-election, the Governors had invited the Parish Council to nominate a replacement representative in May.

47.4 Post Office Network Consultation – The Post Office Committee of the Revelstoke Community Trust had responded to the consultation and provided a copy to the Clerk. A letter of support for the Post Office had also been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council

47.5 Mobile banking service – The weekly mobile branch would commence in March, parking at The Green each Friday from 12.00 to 12.30pm.

47.6 Yealm Steps – Western Power had been informed that a pole situated near the steps was leaning towards the road. There was concern that the base of the single support was anchored into the foreshore and had rusted. The Harbourmaster was also aware.

47.7 South Hams Citizens' Advice Bureau – It was understood that CAB staff were planning to hold sessions at the Community Centre in Yealmpton although no formal notification had been received.

RESOLVED: To respond to the request for a donation. £50 was agreed for payment in April. [LGA 1972 s.137]
[Vote: all in favour]

48/07 GRANT REQUESTS

48.1 DCC Discretionary Fund - A final decision was required concerning Cllr Mumford's offer of £500 from the Fund. It was noted that although it had been the Members' intention to consider the applications from the Yealm Gig Club and Primary School Sailing Project, the Clerk had not received a response to either of her letters inviting more details to support the latter. Therefore, only the application from the Yealm Gig Club was considered for the grant.

48.2 Yealm Gig Club – Written details of the proposed oar store had been provided as requested. It was noted that the use of the land had been donated by John Hockaday and the Club supported rowers of all ages.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Club should receive the full grant of £500. [Vote: 6 in favour 4 abstentions]
The Clerk would submit the application to Cllr Mumford for his approval.

48.3 Ukulele Band – A letter from Mr Seth-Ward was read to the Meeting. £100 was requested to fund spare ukuleles and percussion instruments.

RESOLVED: A grant of £100 was agreed with the proviso that if the group disbanded, the instruments should be given to the School. [Vote: 5 in favour 3 against 2 abstentions] [LGA 1972 s.137]

48.4 Theatre Lighting as a village resource – In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed that this item would be considered in April. **Agenda: April Meeting**

48.5 Projector as a village resource – It was clear that several local organisations would be interested in hiring a projector if one was available. Colin Smith had researched the models available and provided full details to the Clerk, with the recommendation that a Dell 1800MP be purchased for £670.98. A spare bulb would cost £237.35. VAT could be reclaimed. The projector could be stored at Bishops Court.
RESOLVED: To proceed with the purchase of the projector and spare bulb as described. [LGA 1972 s.137]
[Vote: all in favour]

48.6 Software ULead 10Plus – In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed that this item would be considered in April. **Agenda: April Meeting**

48.7 The Primary School: replacement chairs for the I.T. Suite – Following an incident involving an adult learner, all the chairs had been inspected and recommended for replacement. The Headteacher had requested the Parish Council's assistance and proposed that the funds set aside to support the library project should be diverted for this purpose.
RESOLVED: To grant £1,000 being the amount contained in the Parish Council's budget for the current year. [LGA 1972 s.137] [Vote: 8 in favour 2 abstentions]

48.8 The Primary School: sailing project – As recorded above [Min.48.1], there was insufficient information to support the application so the request could not be considered.

49/07 COMMUNITY LEARNING – NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

49.1 Progress Report – Each Member received a copy of the first edition of the guide to Clubs, Activities & Courses prepared by Rosemary and Colin Smith. Courses were popular and plans for the autumn programme were under consideration. A letter of appreciation would be sent to Mr & Mrs Smith - without their time and commitment, the success and scope of the Learning Network would not have been possible.

49.2 Bishops Court – security of mail – RESOLVED: To purchase a letterbox for the Parish Office up to a maximum of £30. [Vote: all in favour]

49.3 Payments to be authorised – RESOLVED: Payment was authorised to Kiln Care Limited in respect of the pottery kiln installation £343.10. [Vote: all in favour]

50/07 FOOTPATHS

50.1 Donkey Path – Mr Buckland presented his recommendations for an upgrade of the footpath, the detail of which was supported by a scale plan. It was suggested that concrete blocks should be laid as far as the first manhole, one and a half blocks wide. In order to accommodate a handrail, a short section of hedge would need to be removed with the permission of the landowner.
RESOLVED: To support Mr Buckland's recommendations with regard to both the width and extent of the concrete blocks and the installation of a short handrail, Mr Buckland and Mr Taylor to discuss with the parties concerned.
[Vote: all in favour] Mr Buckland was thanked for his assistance. **Agenda: April Meeting**

50.2 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it was RESOLVED: that the following item would be considered in Committee [LGA 1972 s.100]:-

50.3 Handrails – It was noted that only one tender had been received.
RESOLVED: To accept Mr Leonard's quotations to provide:-
i) A timber handrail at the lower end of Doctor's Steps, and
ii) A metal handrail at Axworthy Steps which should be galvanised. [Vote: all in favour]
RESOLVED: A quotation(s) for a handrail to link the Post Office and Bishops Court would be invited for consideration in April. The Clerk would remind Signpost Housing that this was to be considered. **Agenda: April**

50.4 Court Road – Contrary to Min.32.3, Mr Carter understood that the owners of Briar Hill Farm did claim an interest in the land bordering Court Road over which there was a public right of way; it was further understood that the right of way was covered by their public liability insurance. Mr Carter reported that he thought Mr McCready intended to replace the edging stones which had collapsed onto the highway leaving the earth bank unprotected.

50.5 FP28 Coast Path – The Clerk had received complaints about the condition of some sections of the footpath, particularly at The Warren where fencing work had been undertaken in wet weather; remedial work by The National Trust was due to be carried out. The Clerk had also been informed of an incident in the area around Coastguard Cottages when a resident had been injured by a cow which had escaped from a nearby field; action had been taken to warn residents to avoid cattle on the footpath and The National Trust Warden, DCC Footpath Officer and PC. Dave Richards had also been alerted. Towards the Tea House end, the difficulties caused by locked gates and the use of a single strand wire across the footpath were a concern which should to be addressed in the longer term. **Agenda: April Meeting**

50.6 FP37 Church Steps – Although the condition of the upper section had been reported to DCC in April 2005, the patching work agreed in November 2005 had not been undertaken. A letter of concern from the Churchwarden had requested some urgent attention in the interests of public safety and an update from DCC was awaited.

50.7 Coombe Down Hill – A tree in a dangerous condition at the edge of the path would be checked by Cllr Hallett and reported to the landowner as a matter of urgency. It was noted that at the junction with Coombe Down Lane, soil had collapsed onto the road – if no action was taken, DCC would be asked to intervene, the cost of which would be borne by the landowner.

51/07 TREES

46.1 Woodlands, Revelstoke Road – In support of the Tree Warden's recommendation, the Clerk had submitted an objection to the application to prune and retain a pine tree adjacent to the road. It was understood that the applicant was concerned that the tree presented a potential hazard and wanted it removed.

46.2 Summertide, Stoke Road – In support of the Tree Warden's recommendation, there had been no objection to the application to prune and thin a beech tree.

46.3 Newholt, Court Road – An Exemption had been received from SHDC for the removal of the lower branch of the Stone Pine.

46.4 Nymet, Pillory Hill – Consent had been granted for works under TPO 30.

46.5 The Haven, Stoke Road – Following the removal of riverside trees, the SHDC Tree Officer would visit.

52/07 MAINTENANCE

52.1 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it was RESOLVED: that the following agenda item would be considered in Committee [LGA 1972 s.100]:-

52.2 Popes Quay – The condition of the structure, extent of the repair work required and anticipated costs were discussed at length. Although an estimated costing had been obtained, it was agreed that overall costs should be established in the event that unforeseen work at foundation level might be necessary. Also it was recommended that all the stone walls should be re-pointed for which estimates would be required.

RESOLVED: To invite tenders on the basis outlined above for consideration in April.

Agenda: April Meeting

52.3 Sports Pavilion – Details of the maintenance work required would be considered at the **April Meeting**.

52.4 Bus Shelters – Following an inspection by Mr Carter and Mr Taylor, it was RESOLVED: that tenders would be invited for some routine work to the shelters at Butts Park and opposite Plymco. [Vote: 9 in favour 1 abstention] The concrete shelter at Collaton was in private ownership but the Clerk would ask whether any maintenance was planned. The wooden shelter at Collaton had been added to the Parish Council's insurance policy.

Agenda: April Meeting

52.5 Boathouse Steps (Kiln Quay) – Before an assessment of the condition of the wall could be undertaken, Mr Carter and Mr Taylor recommended removal of the ivy.

RESOLVED: Garden Services should be asked to clear the ivy. As this was not urgent, the work could wait until the Leas Path or Doctors Steps needed some attention.

53/07 EMERGENCY PLAN

53.1 Mr Carter was updating the contact information.

Agenda: April Meeting

54/07 MEETINGS ATTENDED

54.1 Harbour Authority – The main points reported concerned the Lease which was being renewed, a change in the balance of charges to ensure a fairer system, a check on the eligibility of mooring holders and the wider availability of RYHA Minutes. In principle, NNPC Members did not support the suggestion that six day boats might be accommodated on two small Yacht Club moorings which had very little use (*Clerk's note: an informal response*).

54.2 Halls – Mr Young reported that the W.I.C. Hall Trust Committee was without a Chairman. The terms of the Lease review had not been agreed.

55/07 ADMINISTRATION

55.1 Clerk's Retirement Gratuity – In accordance with the budget allocation, it was RESOLVED: To transfer £2,000 to the Gratuity Account and renew the Savings Bond for a further twelve months. [Vote: all in favour]

56/07 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.57/07.

57/07 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.03.07	£	10,978.50
Portman Building Society Capital Fund	30 days' notice	£	35,730.33
Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	9,006.70

The following cheques were authorised totalling		£	4,789.08
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R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	71.50
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	40.50
J Eschbaecher	Net salary and part backpay for 2006	1,218.47
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage	14.72
Newton & Noss Parish Council	Transfer for the Gratuity Account	2,000.00
J Young	Expenses: repairs to sea wall at Kiln Quay	7.37
South West Water	Tap: Pillory Hill	8.42
Vantech Media	Website hosting 12 months	85.00
Kiln Care Limited	Pottery kiln wiring harness	343.10
Newton Ferrers Primary School	Grant for replacement chairs (I.T. Suite)	1,000.00*

s.137 payment £1,000.00 Total s137 payments to year end:- £3,040.00

6/03/07Chairman

The Meeting closed at 9.30.pm