

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Carter Mrs Cooper Mrs Roe Mr Stitson  
Mr Tubb Mrs Wilcox Mr Woodd-Walker

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

APOLOGIES: Mr Buckland Mrs Hinchliffe Mr Taylor Mr Young Cllr Mumford

---

**POLICE REPORT**

P.C. Cook outlined the five crimes which had been reported since the April Meeting. Two vehicles had been damaged on the same night and enquiries were ongoing. To discourage inappropriate parking and as a trial, cones had been placed in the road alongside "Brookside" in Noss and appeared to have been successful. Parking tickets had been issued during a recent visit by the Traffic Warden. Overnight parking had been noted at Yealm Steps. Over a period of approximately fifty minutes during the early afternoon of 5<sup>th</sup> May, the Police had issued two warnings to local drivers travelling through Butts Park at 37mph, and one Fixed Penalty Notice to a Plymouth driver speeding at 47mph. Another local driver had been reported for excessive speed of 59mph. On the basis of those worrying results, further checks would be undertaken. P.C. Cook would also check the results of the recent speed monitoring device installed at Butts Park by Devon County Council. Inappropriate speed between Collaton and Puslinch had also been noted. There had been some noticeable improvements in the I.C.C. transport organisation. P.C. Cook was thanked for his support for the concerns over local parking and speeding issues.

**OPEN FORUM**

No matters were brought to the Council's attention.

-----

**76/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** The reasons for absence were approved.

**77/06 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: Mr Brown and Mr Tubb were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the forthcoming year [Vote: all in favour]. Mr Tubb confirmed that whilst he was working full-time, he would be unable to take over the role of Chairman, except on an "as required" basis.

**78/06 PREVIOUS MINUTES** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April were confirmed and signed.

**79/06 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 Roe declared a personal interest in item 11. – a planning application for The Cottage, Newton Hill. As Governors of Newton Ferrers Primary School, Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox each declared a prejudicial interest in item 19 – a grant request.

**80/06 MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Responsibilities for the forthcoming year were agreed and were broadly in line with the previous year.

**81/06 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Meeting had been very well attended and Mr Brown was congratulated on his excellent chairmanship. The main issues for further discussion had been included on the Agenda as separate items. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting recorded the items considered and decisions reached.

**82/06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**82.1 Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011** – The Plan would be passed to Mr Buckland.

**82.2 Coastal Car Parks** – The Chairman, Mr Carter and the Clerk had met David Ford and Simon Garner from The National Trust. Also attending had been P.C. Cook, David and Phillip Rogers and Jeremy Spooner.

1/05/06 ..... Chairman

The following action had been discussed:-

- i) Netton Car Park – The boulders would be removed to maximise the parking space available.
- ii) Signing – The National Trust had agreed to one discreet sign on the Coast Road to publicise Netton car park which was under-used. The sign might take some of the pressure from the more popular Warren car park.
- iii) The National Trust would not be in favour of extending Warren car park at the present time but David Rogers might consider opening a field during very busy periods to accommodate additional vehicles which might otherwise block the road for emergency vehicles, farm machinery, etc.
- iv) Cycling on FP28 was tolerated by The National Trust but not encouraged. Phillip Rogers had concerns about the safety of walkers.
- v) David Rogers was particularly worried about the effects of visitors and dogs on nesting birds and sheep.

Referring to signing, the Chairman suggested that the existing green sign at Stoke Cross was inadequate and should be replaced by a clearer sign to direct drivers to the coastal car parks; additional signs were also required along the route. Suggestions were made but the exact requirements would need to be assessed. **Agenda: June Meeting**

**82.3 Parking difficulties in Noss** – A Parking Restriction Order would not be pursued at present as DCC funds to support the legal requirements were not available. In the short-term, Police bollards had been provided to discourage parking outside “Brookside”. It was noted that the car park was used regularly by nearby residents. It was suggested that if a section of hedge was removed between the bus stop and the car park, some echelon parking could be provided utilising the bottom strip of Noss Green. Members’ opinions were divided and a proposal that the idea should be explored further in consultation with the District Council was rejected. [Vote: 2 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions]. However, a site meeting would be attended by Mrs Cooper, Mr Stitson, Mrs Wilcox and Mr Woodd-Walker to which residents would be invited. **Agenda: June Meeting**

**82.4 Butts Park crossing** – A reply from DCC was awaited. In the meantime, the Clerk had written to the Plymouth & South West Co-operative Society expressing concern that a large Co-op delivery vehicle had exceeded the 30mph speed restriction in Parsonage Road and Butts Park.

**82.5 B3186 request for additional road markings** – A reply from DCC was awaited.

**82.6 Waste from second homes** – No progress had been made regarding the proposed letter to second home owners and a supporting item in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk had placed notices on litter bins at Noss car park, Yealm Road (opposite Plymco) and The Green stating that waste bags should not to be left by the bins. Similar notices would be displayed on the notice boards and website.

**82.7 Hannaford Lane** – The Enforcement Officer had advised Mr Cawse that a planning application was required and he continued to dump spoil at his own risk. The Environment Agency had also been informed of the earth moving. The Clerk was asked to contact SHDC to enquire why Mr Cawse had not been prevented from continuing this unauthorised activity.

**82.8 Middlecombe Lane** – The potholes and drainage problems had not been resolved. The Clerk would contact DCC again.

**82.9 Pillory Hill** – Encroachment onto the highway – A Land Registry plan had been obtained. The status of the parking bay was still in doubt as the area bounded by the informal white line contained a surface water drain. **RESOLVED:** Under the Freedom of Information Act, to ask DCC for more information about the ownership of the public highway at the bottom of the hill outside the Old Post Office and the maintenance responsibility for the surface water drain.

### **83/06 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**83.1 Correspondence** – Following the discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, three letters of concern had been received from residents and copied to each Member. The Chairman’s replies were agreed. It was noted that SHDC was conducting a Housing Needs Survey; 9,000 questionnaires were being sent to a random sample of households.

**83.2 Site proposals** – Following further discussions with landowners, slight alterations had been made to the site proposals map.

**83.3 Meeting with Cllr Beer** – The meeting would be attended by the Chairman, Clerk, Mrs Cooper and Cllr Hallett.

*Mr Stitson left the Meeting. Rear Admiral Hogg was invited to join the discussion of the following item.*

**83.4 Community Housing Working Group** – If any housing development was to be achieved at an “affordable” cost (well below market value), it was recognised that a Community Land or Development Trust might be required to retain some control over the future occupation, ownership and administration of the houses. Rear Admiral Hogg had agreed to Chair a Working Group to investigate the options and viability of a Trust and a few residents with professional expertise had agreed to assist him. Employment land would be included and it was hoped that an overall plan plus funding to 2016 would be completed by the end of 2006; an interim report should be available in September, following which a public meeting was envisaged to discuss progress. The Parish Council’s website would also be useful to keep residents informed. RESOLVED: to accept the terms of reference discussed. [Vote: all in favour]

**83.5 House prices** – The Chairman circulated a graph illustrating actual sales achieved in March 2006 –the average house price in Newton & Noss at that time had been £430,000.

#### **84/06 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**84.1** Local Authority Byelaws in England: A Discussion Paper – for reply by June.....passed to the Chairman.

**84.2** South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy First Draft – for reply by 30<sup>th</sup> June.....passed to the Chairman.

#### **85/06 BISHOPS COURT**

**85.1 Lease negotiations** – The Heads of Terms had been re-written and the list of service charges had been re-drafted. Progress to complete the Lease was now dependent on the Solicitors.

RESOLVED: the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Lease on behalf of the Parish Council. [Vote: all in favour]

RESOLVED: payment of the outstanding interim account from Foot Anstey was authorised - £1,159.45. [LGA.1972 s133]  
[Vote: all in favour with one abstention]

**85.2 Licence negotiations** – Discussions with the Health Centre had been delayed pending progress with the Lease.

#### **86/06 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**86.1 3 Beacon Hill 0697/06/F** – erection of shed (retrospective).

*Decision:* The neighbours’ objections were supported; Members felt the application should not be decided under the Planning Officer’s delegate powers and a Planning Committee site meeting would be requested.

**86.2 6 Newton Close 0714/06/F** – extension to garage. *Decision:* No comment.

**86.3 Wren Cottage, 63 Yealm Road 0715/06/F** – alterations and extension to dwelling. Two copy letters of objection had been received. RESOLVED: A site meeting would be held to determine the Parish Council’s response.

**86.4 The Cottage, Newton Hill 0761/06/F** – extension to dwelling. *Decision:* No comment.

#### **87/06 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** The following items concerned:-

**87.1 Bridgend – Stoke Road** – John Allen was thanked for providing photographic evidence that erosion was undermining the base of the stone wall supporting the road. This would be reported to DCC.

**87.2 Ofcom** – In response to the Clerk’s request for clarification regarding digital services in Newton & Noss from 2009, it had been confirmed that the majority of properties served by the Noss transmitter would be able to obtain Freeview, digital television and radio signals.

**87.3 Newton Downs Road** – new width restriction sign – A large blue sign referring to “West Wood” had been erected by DCC at the junction of Newton Downs Road and Parsonage Road, the size and wording of which was considered to be inappropriate. A copy letter from Mr & Mrs Steer of “Woodmeadow” to DCC querying the reason for the sign was noted. After discussion it was agreed that DCC should be asked to erect a smaller sign at both ends of Newton Downs Road in accordance with the Clerk’s letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**87.4 Rural Learning Outreach Initiative ROLI** – As a successor to the CORA and RB2L initiatives, outline information had been received about learning grants which would be available later in the year. Further information would be requested as the grant might benefit community learning proposals currently being explored by the School.

#### **88/06 EMERGENCY PLAN**

**88.1** As no progress had been made, this item would be deferred until later in the year. **Agenda item: October Meeting**

## **89/06 NOSS HARD**

**89.1 Access for dinghies/gigs** – At a recent site meeting, a sensible compromise had been agreed whereby the top and bottom posts would be re-positioned to form a splay; it would not be necessary to move the middle two posts. The Chairman read two emails from Mr Brunning and the content of his reply was agreed.

## **90/06 SEATS**

**90.1 Maintenance** – RESOLVED: In view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the maintenance tenders submitted should be considered in Committee.

RESOLVED: To accept the tender from Mr Leonard which had included a repair schedule. [Vote: all in favour]

## **91/06 TREES**

**91.1 Pumping Station** – Mr Woodd-Walker was satisfied with the work carried out so far but an on-site accident had delayed completion. Chippings had been delivered to Brookings Down Wood.

## **92/06 FOOTPATHS**

**92.1 B3186 Link - Collaton/Butts Park** – A response from the Collaton residents was awaited.

**92.2 FP28 Warren Cottage** – During the meeting with The National Trust on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, David Ford had reiterated that the definitive footpath ran through the grounds of the cottage. On 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Clerk had walked through the cottage grounds unchallenged; the eastern gate had opened easily but the older western gate had to be lifted; a yellow waymark arrow had been fixed to both the gates. In order to improve the drainage, some improvement work had been carried out on the alternative path.

**92.3 FP21 Hangman's Hill - Bridgend to Rowden** - There was evidence that walkers were still having difficulties following the correct route. In the absence of permission from the landowner to erect a sign at a midway point, it would be suggested to DCC that an extra tall fingerpost should be provided at each end of the path.

## **93/06 MAINTENANCE**

**93.1 Kilpatrick Steps** – Ownership of the moorings between the Parish land boundaries..... **Agenda: June Meeting**

**93.2 Sports Pavilion** – Mr Stitson had reported that some money had been received by the Treasurer and a meeting would be held. The missing padlock on the field gate would be reported to SHDC.

**93.3 Maintenance list** – Urgent repairs to FP7 were in hand. **Mr Carter** would obtain quotes for repairs to FP15 Boathouse Steps and the faulty tap in Riverside Road West.

**93.4 Doctor's Steps and the Leas Path** – RESOLVED: To ask Garden Services to tidy alongside the steps and cut the trees overhanging the footpath from the garden of "Fenham".

## **94/06 GRANT REQUEST**

**94.1 Primary School** – RESOLVED: The Chairman, Clerk, Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox would represent the Parish Council on the Working Group to consider proposals for family learning, adult education and funding opportunities.

RESOLVED: Referring to Minute 71.1, a grant of £1,000 when required was agreed. [Vote: all in favour with two abstentions]  
[LGA 1972 s.137 payment]

## **95/06 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**95.1 Harbour Authority** – The main items reported by Mr Tubb concerned the following:- Andrew Matthews and Rodney Carter had been appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year, the dinghies at Yealm Steps had been checked by the Harbourmaster, following incidents in 2005 speeding would not be tolerated, the waiting list for moorings was under review, and the Crown Lease was due for renewal in 2007. The latest Harbour Guide was available.

**95.2 Village Hall** – The Revelstoke Trust had awarded a grant towards the kitchen refurbishment. The building work would commence later in the month, for completion by December.

**95.3 Renewable Energy Conference** – The Conference had considered the various options for reducing energy consumption in the future including the localisation of energy generation, life-style changes and improved building standards. Coal was considered to be a valuable resource. However, 10% of energy produced was lost down the Grid.

## **96/06 ADMINISTRATION**

**96.1 End of Year Accounts** – The Accounts and Annual Return had been prepared for audit and final check by Mr Carter and Mrs Hinchliffe. A copy of the figures had been provided to the Chairman prior to the Meeting. The balance carried forward to 2006/07 totalled £49,326. RESOLVED: that the Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance should be approved and signed. [Vote: all in favour]

**96.2 Insurance Renewal** – The Schedule had been checked by the Clerk and acceptance was recommended. RESOLVED: to accept the renewal premium of £873.74 (a £47 increase on the previous year). [Vote: all in favour]

**96.3 Tilly Institute** – It was noted that the hire charge of £5.00 per meeting might be increased. Clarification was awaited.

**96.4 Clerk's Salary Review** – The SLCC/NALC Job Evaluation Panel had agreed that SCP 30-34 was the appropriate salary scale as recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, and the salary should rise through the scale by one increment each year. Since April 2005, the salary had been fixed at SCP26 pending the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel. RESOLVED: the shortfall between SCP26 and SCP30 would be backdated to April 2005. SCP31 was effective from April 2006. [Vote: all in favour]

## **97/06 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr Carter and listed in the Financial Statement Min.98/06.

## **98/06 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Alliance & Leicester Current Account** balance at 1.05.06 £ 4,023.43

**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** £ 3,284.83

---

Foot Anstey	Bishops Court Lease: interim account	1,159.45
R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss/steps	68.75
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	39.00
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	770.00
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage	14.19
Garden Services	Noss Hard: tidying the dinghy park	160.00
River Yealm Harbour Authority	Cleaning fluid: 5L Slipway for Newton Voss	15.32
Samaritans	Donation	100.00*
Ricoh UK Limited	Photocopier rental + copies	58.44
Allianz Cornhill	Insurance renewal	873.74
Staples	Stationery	25.94

---

\* s.137 total paid £100.00      \* s.137 payments to date £350.00

*The Meeting closed at 10.00pm*

5/05/06.....Chairman

