

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 8th May 2008

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Mr Carter Mrs Cooper Mr Cooper (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs Hinchliffe Mr Hussell Mr Matthews Mr Taylor Mr Tubb
Mr Young (Chairman)

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Mumford Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk) three parishioners

APOLOGIES: Mr Stitson P.C. Nolan PCSO Lawrence

POLICE REPORT

In the absence of P.C. Nolan, it was noted that two young people had been arrested for breaking into the WIC Hall.

OPEN FORUM

Dog fouling – Concerns about Yealm Road in particular were noted. Cllr Cooper would contact the Dog Warden.

Speed restrictions – An extension of the 20mph speed restriction to include Bridgend and Bridgend Hill was requested; this would be discussed with Cllr Mumford. *[Min. 72.12 refers]*

Court Road – sewer – It was noted that over the past five years, the main sewer had blocked and overflowed on three occasions. It was important to report every incident to South West Water, with photographs if possible. The Clerk would request a formal inspection of the drains, (copy to the Environmental Health Officer).

Grant Request for the Reading Room – The Treasurer explained the reasons for the application and offered Members an inspection of the premises. *[Min. 77.1 refers]*

66/08 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: Mr Young was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year. *[Vote: all in favour]*

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, his form of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed by the Clerk. As retiring Chairman, Mr Brown was thanked for his leadership over the past four years.

67/08 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: Mr Cooper was elected as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. *[Vote: all in favour]*

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, his form of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

68/08 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE Mr Stitson's reason for absence was noted.

69/08 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th April were confirmed and signed.

70/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

As Trustees of the Reading Room and Snooker Club, Mr Carter and Mr Tubb each declared a prejudicial interest in item 12. Grant Request. As a Member of the same Club, Mr Hussell also declared a prejudicial interest in item 12. They all left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

71/02 MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for the forthcoming year were agreed. It was noted that Mr Brown might be interested in serving on the Harbour Authority if an opportunity arose.

72/08 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

72.1 Bridgend Hill – collapsed wall – DCC did not have any responsibility for the wall but Members were concerned about public safety and expected some action. This would be referred to Cllr Mumford.

1/05/08 Chairman

72.2 Collaton/Butts Park Link – Following the positive site meeting on 29th April, a letter from Keith Rennells summarised the outcome and actions agreed. A DCC Inspector would undertake a Road Safety Audit with particular reference to the proposed highway crossing point north of Widey Cross and basic costings would be supplied to support grant funding applications. In order to meet the SDCLAG deadline, a draft bid had been submitted. Also, Cllr Mumford would accept an application for assistance from the Airport Fund.

72.3 FP37 Church Steps – Problems with the new handrail had been identified which the contractors would rectify.

72.4 Signs at The Brook – It was noted that although the yellow parking lines were in good order, some of the signs needed attention. The Chairman would check and report to the Clerk.

72.5 Butts Park – The site meeting with Mr Halliday on 1st May had been useful. From informal speed measurements between 7.30 and 8.30am, it had been clear that all drivers had exceeded the 30mph limit; the average speed had been estimated at 45mph in both directions with some nearer 50mph. Possible solutions to slow the traffic had been discussed on site and Cllr Mumford would continue to appeal for some action to improve safety. P.C. Nolan and PCSO Lawrence also supported the Parish Council's safety concerns. It was noted that traffic calming measures did not require a Road Traffic Order.

72.6 Butts Park - Parking for residents was a problem but it was difficult to see how any improvements could be introduced, although there might be an opportunity if housing development plans went ahead. It was noted that some of the garages were let by Tor Homes to non-residents of Butts Park.

72.7 Butts Park seats – SHDC would be consulted concerning the condition of the seats in the sports field and play area.

72.8 Report from Cllr Cooper – SHDC had approved plans for the new development at Sherford; the voting had been 10 in favour, 6 against with 3 abstentions.

72.9 Waste Services review – A reply to the Clerk's queries had been received from SHDC. A central collection point for use by second homes could not be provided due to expensive legislative requirements; the alternative was for waste sacks (max. 8) to be taken to Torr Quarry Recycling Centre but that suggestion was not feasible. In May leaflets would be delivered to all households explaining the waste services. A kerbside glass collection would be too expensive but the options for commercial glass collections were being explored. The emptying frequency of the Noss skip would be reviewed. It was accepted that anyone who persistently flouted the rules by leaving out waste in plastic bags on a non-collection day should be reported; photographic evidence would be needed.

72.10 SHDC Cluster Meeting – The Chairman and Cllr Cooper would attend on 20th May. Additional items for the agenda would be suggested:- Maintaining continuity of the LDF and Planning, refuse collection, and dog fouling.

72.11 Tennis Courts – Mr & Mrs Longworth had resigned as caretakers of the tennis courts; a letter of thanks would be sent to them. The Clerk would advertise the vacancy and the availability of season tickets from SHDC.

72.12 Cllr Mumford – Concerning the request for a 20mph in Newton, this would not be supported as the Police preferred the 30mph limit which was enforceable. However, the option to enforce the 20mph zones was available to the Police. The Clerk would report to P.C. Nolan re speeding in Yealm Road. Cllr Mumford was expecting news relating to the re-surfacing of some roads.

73/08 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

73.1 Housing Needs Survey 2008 – Following a meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler, questionnaires would be distributed to every household in early June. It was understood that SHDC would pay the survey costs.

73.2 Housing debate – Following the informal discussion which had taken place prior to the Meeting, it had been concluded that the results of the Survey should form the basis of a revised housing policy for 2008. The Parish Council would continue to support the development of some housing to address the local needs.

74/08 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS The following notification had been received:-

74.1 Boundary Review – Several "bids" had been submitted to the Boundary Committee – the options affecting Newton & Noss were unitary authorities based on South Hams & West Devon, Devon as a whole, and an extended Plymouth. The Committee's favoured option would be available for public consultation from 7th July. It was agreed that the offer from Modbury Parish Council to collate responses should be declined. A second Listening Event on 28th May would be attended by the Chairman, Mr Brown and Mr Cooper.

74.2 Devon NHS Strategic Review – A short summary of the possible implications of the review was noted, with particular reference to the introduction of polyclinics.

75/08 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

75.1 Permitted Development – A reply from SHDC would be circulated.

75.2 Vine Cottage, Riverside Road West 0725/08/LB – Removal of the kitchen wall.

Decision: No objection.

75.3 The Haven, Revelstoke Road 0801/08/F – Extension to dwelling and conversion of loft to living accommodation.

Decision: No objection. [Vote: 6 in favour 5 abstentions]

75.4 Planning inconsistencies – This issue and good design would be discussed at the proposed meeting with Malcolm Elliott. Ideally site photographs which included adjacent properties should accompany planning applications, together with accurate details to illustrate the proposed ridge height of a new dwelling. **JY JB SH AM**

76/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received had concerned:-

76.1 Hockaday's Yard – A letter of support had been received for the current planning application but it was understood that SHDC policy issues were at odds with the principle of the proposed re-development.

76.2 Planning applications – Crispins and Bridgend – it was understood that both applications had been withdrawn but notification had not been received from SHDC. Additional copy letters of objection had been sent to the Clerk together with a letter of thanks for the Parish Council's support.

76.3 Land at Hannaford – Following a visit by the Planning Officer, the matter had been passed to the SHDC Enforcement Officer as conditions imposed with the planning approval had not been implemented.

77/08 GRANT REQUEST

77.1 Reading Room - £5,000 had been requested to undertake urgent work to weatherproof and improve the adjacent building and full background information had been supplied. The Committee planned to offer the space as an additional village resource. After a detailed discussion with the Treasurer, it was agreed that the Chairman, Mr Brown and Mr Taylor would inspect the premises the following day and discuss ideas for increasing revenue. Subject to the visit being satisfactory, it was RESOLVED: To offer £2,500 to support the improvement work.

[Vote: 7 in favour 3 abstentions]

Cllr Cooper left the Meeting during consideration of the previous item.

78/08 SEATS

78.1 Annual seat maintenance – RESOLVED: To invite tenders and remove the seat at the top of Court Road which was beyond economic repair (it was understood a replacement would be provided by the friends of Andrew Yonge to whom the seat had been dedicated in 1985). **Agenda: July**

79/08 MAINTENANCE

79.1 Sports Pavilion – The new windows were due for completion and drawings for an extension would be presented in June. **Agenda: June**

79.2 Donkey Path – It was agreed that a handrail should be provided to improve safety. A rail at the lower end would be installed by Mr Derry. The Chairman, Mr Brown and Mr Taylor would check. **Agenda: June**

79.3 Swan Steps handrail – The Chairman, Mr Brown and Mr Taylor would recommend a solution **Agenda: June**

79.4 Milestone – The Chairman, Mr Brown and Mr Taylor would check the site and report. **Agenda: June**

80/08 MEETINGS ATTENDED

80.1 Harbour Authority – Mr Carter had been elected as Chairman. It was noted that the privately owned bank adjacent to Yealm Steps was showing signs of instability. The condition of the steps would be reviewed during the annual footpath inspection.

80.2 Yealm Estuary Management Committee – It was noted that the water quality was clean compared with some estuaries, although it was noted that the Yealmpton treatment works was due for some modification. The proposed treatment of foul and storm water from Sherford had been discussed – a decision was expected within six months; there would be an opportunity for comment at the public consultation stage. The Committee was considered to be a good management forum.

80.3 Halls – Mr Brown reported a good NNATS attendance but assistance from NNPC was required to complete the lighting installation. As reported previously, NNPC assistance was also required for secondary glazing. All tickets had been sold for the W.I.C.'s main fund-raising event.

3/05/08Chairman

80.4 Police Liaison – Mr Buckland had attended the public meeting when operational changes had been explained. Parishes had been invited to report issues of particular concern.

80.5 C.P.R.E. – Mr Cooper had attended the AGM; the South hams Unitary plan had been favoured; a film presentation concerning Sherford had been well received and the inefficiencies of wind farms had been discussed.

82/08 ADMINISTRATION

82.1 Accounts 2007/08 – The Accounts had been checked and agreed by Mrs Hinchliffe and Mr Carter. The Annual Return would be available for authorisation in June following the Internal Audit. **Agenda: June**

82.2 Insurance renewal – RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the renewal premium: £1005.53.

82.3 Election expenses – RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the SHDC expenses: £2076.30, £819 of which related to the Parish Poll on the E.U. Constitutional Treaty. It was agreed that representations should be made to the appropriate Minister concerning the clause in the LGA 1972 legislation which enables only six electors to call a public meeting; a percentage of the electorate might be more acceptable.

82.4 July Meeting – RESOLVED: The Meeting would be held on 3rd July.

83/08 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.84/08.

84/08 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	Balance at 1.5.08 (Precept due)	£	717.77
Nationwide Building Society Capital Fund		£	47,104.29
Nationwide Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	12,084.71
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The following cheques were authorised totalling		£	4,846.33
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R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	73.75
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	41.75
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	997.41
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: Norton renewal and postage	48.03
J Young	Chairman's expenses May to December	100.00
Garden Services	Grass cutting The Green: March	30.00
Ivy & Dist. Community Transport	Grant for 2008/09 as agreed in April	110.00
SHDC	Election costs and Parish Poll 2007	2,076.30
River Yealm Harbour Authority	Newton Voss: 5L Slipway fluid	37.60
Devon County Council	Stationery	39.24
Ricoh UK Limited	Photocopier rental and copies	54.47
Network payment: WIC Hall	Upholstery classes UP1: hire for 10 sessions	150.00
Allianz Insurance plc	Insurance renewal	1,005.53
Devon County Council	Office equipment – Clerk's chair	82.25

s.137 payments : nil