

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

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Mr Carter Mr Cooper Mrs Cooper
 Mrs Hinchliffe Mr Hussell Mr Matthews Mr Stitson Mr Taylor
 Mr Tubb Mr Young

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

APOLOGIES: PCSO Lawrence

POLICE REPORT

In the absence of a Police representative, three recent crime related incidents were noted. An announcement was expected concerning forthcoming changes to policing in Devon. It was noted that soon the Police would no longer have responsibility for parking enforcement. PCSO Lawrence would be asked to enforce the 45 minute parking restrictions on Newton Hill and Yealm Road – residents were discouraged from supporting the shops because parking space was often used by vehicles exceeding the time limit.

OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised.

175/07 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October were confirmed and signed.

176/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Mr Brown declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 – the grant application from the Village Hall, and left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Mrs Hinchliffe declared a prejudicial interest in item 11. the grant application from the Primary School, and abstained from voting on this item.

177/07 CODE OF CONDUCT

177.1 Standards Board Guidance August 07 – An Occasional Paper “Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias, and the Code” was handed to each Member.

177.2 Training – Four Members expressed an interest in attending a session in the New Year. [JB AC RC JY]

178/07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

178.1 Cllr Mumford reported that he had alerted Highways to the poor condition of Pillory Hill. The RHT Seminar had been well received and a decision regarding the future of Exeter was expected shortly.

178.2 Street Lighting – Cllr Mumford felt that in theory a lower wattage bulb would be more acceptable than switching off the lights. However, any change would only be achieved as budgets allowed.

178.3 Widey Hill – It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of inappropriate commercial vehicles using Widey Hill. Any details reported to the Clerk would be forwarded to the Police.

178.4 Cllr Cooper reported that she and the Clerk had attended the recent SHDC Planning Committee site meeting at 47 Yealm Road (retrospective application 1726/07). The outcome had been to recommend to the Planning Committee an acceptance of the variances between the approved plans and the finished house and landscaping, with certain planting conditions for the benefit of the neighbouring properties. The history of the site was discussed in detail and Members agreed that the decision to recommend approval was very disappointing. Cllr Cooper was asked to make strong representations to the Planning Committee and suggest that in future, more stringent conditions should be imposed on developments to ensure neighbours’ privacy was protected.

1/11/07 Chairman

178.5 FP22 Axsmith's Hill – A response was awaited from DCC regarding a request for a site meeting.

178.6 SHDC Budget Challenges 2008/09 – In his letter, the Leader of the Council had referred to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review; an increase of only 1% in real terms was anticipated so difficult budget decisions would be necessary.

178.7 LDF Consultation: Dartington/Totnes – Details of the Focus Group meeting were noted without comment.

178.8 Cleaning up in the South Hams – The Police and SHDC were combining to tackle graffiti and dog fouling. Fixed Penalty Notices would be issued to offenders. The information would be publicised by the Clerk.

179/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

179.1 Seminar: Rural Housing Trust – Cllr Mumford was thanked for the initial contact with the Trust. Letters of thanks would be sent to HRH The Princess Royal and Moira Constable for arranging a very successful event; thanks would also be extended to the W.I. ladies for their excellent catering and the Village Hall.

179.2 Update – Cllr Cooper reported that an SHDC Planning visit would take place to consider in principle a potential site at Butts Park. It was stressed that there were no specific plans - negotiations between the landowner and SHDC were progressing.

180/07 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

180.1 South West Water – The recently published document would be circulated. Although comments had been invited, no time limit had been specified.

180.2 DCC Minerals Core Strategy: Issues & Options – The document would be circulated for comment by 18th January.

181/07 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

181.1 Access Statement – Mr Buckland's draft suggestions were circulated. **Agenda: December Meeting**

181.2 Retrospective applications – Members were concerned about recent retrospective planning applications, all of which had related to raised ground levels. The Clerk would make further enquiries about the SHDC policy.

181.3 Field at Woodmeadow 2149/07/RM – Agricultural workers' dwelling (detail following outline consent).
Decision: No comment.

181.4 6 Newton Close 2110/07/F – Resubmission of 1420/07 for an extension.
Decision: No comment.

181.5 Nymet, Pillory Hill 2128/07/F – Minor modifications to slip and quay re proposed boathouse.
Decision: No comment.

181.6 27 Yealm Road 2186/07/F – Extension and provision of a parking space.
Decision: No comment.

181.7 10 Noss Mayo 2188/07/F – Erection of sun room.
Decision: No comment.

181.8 Stable Cottage, The Green 2197/07/F – Resubmission of 1805/07 Conversion and extension of barn.
Decision: No comment. [Vote: 10 in favour 2 abstentions]

181.9 Lambside Corner Cottage 2193/07/F – Resubmission of 1571/07 for extension, new garage and porch.
Decision: No comment.

181.10 Braemar, Pillory Hill 2324/07/F – Retrospective application for change of ground level, retaining walls and terracing.
Decision: The Chairman, Clerk and four Members would visit the site and decide how to respond.

182/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main item received had concerned:-

182.1 Sherford Community Steering Group – It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Matthews would join the Group which was chaired by Gary Streeter MP.

182.2 FP28 at Warren Cottage – Following a telephone conversation with the agent acting in the sale of the property, a letter was awaited requesting a review of the current signing on the two gates surrounding the grounds.

182.3 Sherford Primary School – Cllr Mumford would be attending a Seminar on 19th November. Members agreed that the Parish Council would wish to have an influence on the secondary provision as a potential feeder school for Newton & Noss; that event was scheduled for 5th December.

182.4 Parish Poll – 302 parishioners had voted in favour of a referendum; 26 had voted against. An invoice from SHDC was awaited but a contribution would be sought from CARP. [*Min.171.2 refers*]

183/07 NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

183.1 Payments to be authorised – RESOLVED: To authorise five payments as listed under Minute 190/07.
[Vote: 11 in favour 1 abstention]

183.2 Administration – In recognition of Colin Smith's huge contribution to the success of the Network, an honorarium had been suggested. However, it was agreed that a gift might be more acceptable.

184/07 GRANT REQUESTS

184.1 Noss Green – The children were willing to raise some funds towards the new goal posts as discussed at the October Meeting.

Mr Stitson left the Meeting early.

184.2 Inter Parish Quiz – RESOLVED: A cheque for £25 toward administrative expenses was authorised.
[LGA 1972 s.137]

184.3 Primary School – For health and safety reasons, playground shading with seating had to be provided and details of the proposed construction had been provided. A contribution of £842 was requested which would be match-funded by the PTFA.
RESOLVED: To grant £842 - to be deducted from the annual budget allowance of £1000 for the current financial year. [Vote: 5 in favour 4 against 2 abstentions] [LGA 1972 s.137]

184.4 Newton & Noss Village Hall – The Committee's aim was to make continued improvements to encourage greater use of the hall as a "venue" to sustain its viability. Detailed research had been undertaken and 120 new chairs were required. The Council's assistance to purchase 24 chairs had been requested.
RESOLVED: To grant £610.80 + VAT (24 chairs @ £25.45). [Vote: 9 in favour 2 abstentions] [LGA1972 s.133]

185/07 FOOTPATHS and SEATS

185.1 Footpath Inspection – Mr Taylor reported on the findings of the recent site meeting when it had been agreed to recommend some surface improvements, particularly to the Leas Path, Noss Voss and Yealm Steps. Detailed surveys would be undertaken for further consideration before tenders were invited.

185.2 Donkey Path – It was disappointing that no tenders had been received. Therefore the closing date would be extended to 13th December. **Agenda: December Meeting**

185.3 FP14 Doctor's Steps – It was agreed that the steps should be swept to clear slippery leaves.

185.4 The Green – A new seat had been provided by the RYDA.

185.5 Path to Cellars Beach – The upper steps would be checked. **Agenda: December Meeting**

185.6 Bishops Court/Newton Hill – Mr Buckland would look at space for a seat. **Agenda: December Meeting**

185.7 FP28 Tea House Cross – As previously reported to DCC, two thin electric wires were a public hazard (one at each side of the cattle track, strung across the footpath leading south); without coloured markers they could be difficult to see and there were no electrification warning signs. Members were concerned to hear that a child had run into a wire at face level. The incident would be reported to the DCC Footpath Officer with a request for improvements in the interests of public safety. The path would be monitored.

185.8 FP7 Newton Voss – There had been a build-up of mud on the Voss at times but it was suggested that this had been due to a combination of prolonged calm weather and neap tides.

186/07 MAINTENANCE

186.1 Sports Pavilion – Mr Young reported that work to the windows was expected to commence shortly.

186.2 Popes Quay – Mr Carter would report to the next meeting. **Agenda: December Meeting**

186.3 Boathouse Steps repairs – RESOLVED: To authorise a cheque for £193.88 to D S Developments.

186.4 Bridgend: iron trough – It had been decided previously that an application for formal listing should be submitted to English Heritage. It was suggested that some tidying should be undertaken before photographing.

186.5 Newton Hill – The Clerk suggested that the notice board would be more useful if it was altered. The top section had not been accessible since the removal of the bench to the rear. Mr Carter would report.
Agenda: December Meeting

186.6 The Green – The Clerk would arrange for a missing capping stone to be replaced on the stone wall.

186.7 Trees – Following her site meeting with the Tree Warden and contractor to discuss the TPO work agreed with SHDC, it was RESOLVED: that Mr Fuller's quotation should be accepted: £575.75 for work at The Green and £235 to remove one leaning Ash and two dead Elms near the Pumping Station. Members also agreed with the suggestion that a suitable Maple should replace the Holm Oak which was to be removed from The Green but SHDC permission was required.

187/07 MEETINGS ATTENDED

187.1 Harbour Authority – Mr Matthews reported briefly, mentioning that the Waiting List had been reopened and the pontoons had been identified as an item for future expenditure.

187.2 WIC Hall – It was understood that following the retirement of a solicitor, there had been no progress with the Lease. Mr Matthews would make enquiries. Until the legal formalities had been agreed, any requests for grant aid would need careful consideration.

187.3 Village Hall – There was nothing in particular to report except the hall was a tribute to the Parish and those who had been involved in the refurbishment.

187.4 Meeting of local Clerks – The Clerk had attended a useful meeting but had no specific items to report.

187.5 Yealm Estuary Management Group – Mr Taylor reported that the disposal of waste foul water and surface water had been discussed. The foul water could either be piped to Plympton or pumped into the Yealm. There was an opportunity for the Parish Council to make representations but it was noted that concerns about the method of water disposal had been raised at the various Sherford consultation stages.
Agenda: December Meeting

188/07 ADMINISTRATION

188.1 Budget Committee – The Committee would meet at Westonhay at 2.00pm on 29th November.

188.2 Annual Review of Clerk's Salary – The National Pay Scale review had been agreed and the revised salary rates w.e.f. 1st April recommended a cost of living increase of 2.47%. This amounted to an increase of £30 per month. RESOLVED: To implement the increase [Scale 32] w.e.f. April 2007. [Vote: all in favour]

189/07 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.190/07.

190/07 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.11.07 (<i>includes Precept received on 24.10.07</i>)	£	26,552.96
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**£ 3,560.32**

Martin & Sons	Commemorative plaque re HRH visit	401.50*
R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	71.50
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	40.50
J Eschbaeher	Net salary and back pay to April 07	1,139.91
J Eschbaeher	Expenses: postage/mileage/parking	16.88
C Woodd-Walker (Tree Warden)	Subscription: Tree Wardens' Forum	13.00
Garden Services	Grass cutting: The Green – September	15.00
D S Developments	Repairs to Boathouse Steps	193.88
Royal British Legion	Donation	100.00*
David Groome	Expenses re photography re HRH visit	18.50*
Inter Parish Quiz	Contribution to administrative expenses	25.00*
<i>Network Payments:</i>		
WIC Hall	Hire: Enrolment Day	15.00
Newton & Noss Village Hall	Hire: 6 sessions each PT1 and SK1	240.00
Devon County Council	Software for I.T. courses (funded from Lottery grant)	730.00
Devon County Council	Rent of School: WC3 Cl3 Active Tots	450.00
Devon County Council	Hire of I.T. Suite: DTP1	90.00

*s.137 payments: £545.00 [Total to date: £ 2,518.03]

5/11/07Chairman

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm