

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held on 11 November 2010**

PRESENT Mr. Young Mr. Cooper Cllr Cooper Mr. Buckland Mr. Taylor  
(Chairman) (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. Hussell Mr. Carter Mr. Stitson Mrs. Hinchliffe  
ALSO Mrs. McDonough  
PRESENT (Clerk)

10 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

**OPEN FORUM**

**Police-** PCSO Lawrence had sent apologies on behalf of both himself and P.C. Batchelor. There had been one recorded crime for the parish this month which related to a domestic incident. The Police had been advised 'yet again' of a Drink Drive culture within both villages. They were monitoring this situation. Police efforts to detect and arrest Drink drivers would be intensified over the following few weeks for the Christmas period. PCSO Lawrence and P.C. Rob Batchelor attended the recent fireworks display and wished to pass on their thanks for a very good evening.

**Memory Cafes-** Cllr. Liz Hitchins from Brixton Parish Council was welcomed to the Meeting. Cllr. Hitchins addressed the council on a national dementia strategy to support sufferers and carers in market and coastal towns. There was a move to propose a facility to provide support around the Yealm Estuary. Brixton, Yealmpton and Wembury had agreed in principle to support. Newton & Noss Parish Council were being asked to nominate a representative to liaise with the other Parish Councils together with bodies such as Health and Social Care, the Alzheimer's Society, the Senior Council and Carers Support Group to see how the idea could be taken forward for the Yealm Estuary as a pilot scheme. It was estimated that there were in excess of 60 sufferers in the combined parishes with at least 10 sufferers in Newton & Noss. Representatives from the Carers Support Group and the Senior Council were also in attendance.

**Affordable Housing-** the Chairman outlined the work that had been undertaken in the Parish to progress affordable housing. The Parish Council had seen the potential plans for the development two weeks previously. Tor Homes were due to have a public meeting to present the scheme to the Parish within the next few weeks.

Two parishioners suggested the Parish had not been properly consulted and there had not been open selection of the site. One of the parishioners suggested that there should have been adverts inviting people to put land forward. The parishioners were referred to consultation through two housing surveys and the subsequent voting for site 5. The Parishioners raised their concerns about the impact of the development upon their property.

**Senior Council-** a representative from the Senior Council recognised that housing under the Village Initiative could be offered to care workers, midwives, the young and old and recognised the work undertaken by the Parish Council to take the scheme forward. He suggested that any objections should be raised at the planning stage.

**Campaign for Protection of Rural England-** the Devon Chairman expressed his disappointment to hear the objections to the Village Initiative Scheme. Reference was made to the progression of the scheme being undertaken in public. The Village Initiative was the first of its kind and it was hoped that it would be rolled out nationally. Concern was expressed that local people must come forward and place their names on the housing list to get one of the houses under the scheme.

**Councillor Vacancy-** two potential applicants addressed the Council in support of their applications for Co-option to the Parish Council.

**308/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Reasons for absence were noted from Mr. Matthews and Mr. Tubb.

**309/10 MINUTES** – The Minutes of the 14 October Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record

**310/10 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED**

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. No interests were declared.

**311/10 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE AGENDA** –

RESOLVED: Consideration of applications for Co-option to fill the Councillor vacancy should be considered in Committee. (Vote: Unanimous)

RESOLVED: In view of Cllr. Mumford's commitments, to put back the County Councillor's Report until his arrival. (Vote: Unanimous)

**312/10 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**312.1 Rural Broadband-** the matter would be considered upon Cllr Mumford's arrival.

**Highways-**

**312.2 Riverside Road East- Big Slip foreshore-** concerns raised regarding the condition of the road were noted. The Harbour Master had confirmed he would investigate. The River Yealm Harbour Authority would resolve the matter unless the Parish Council heard further.

**312.3 Disabled Parking Bay request-** the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr. Cooper had attended the site meeting with two representatives from Devon County Council's Highways Department. Following the site meeting, DCC had sent a report recommending that there should be no disabled bay at the requested location. This was on the grounds of local

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safety perceptions and the possible effect the formalisation of the parking area would have on pedestrian movements. The location provided benefit for vehicles to pass in the constrained road environment. DCC had identified an alternative location near Holy Cross Church which would be offered as an alternative to the applicant. If the suggestion was rejected, the request would be closed. RESOLVED; to write to Devon County Council Highway Department confirming agreement with the recommendations of the report. *(Vote; unanimous)*

**312.4 Locality Budget**-Cllr. Mumford had approved the project for the grant. It was agreed the **Clerk** would proceed to place the order for two pedestrian warning signs for the Collaton/Butts Park crossing and the **Vice Chairman** and/or **Mr. Taylor** would meet with a representative from Signworld to discuss positioning.

**312.5 Collaton-Butts Park Link** – it was suggested there should be a raised verge on the unfinished section of the path, to prevent cars parking there, in the interests of pedestrian safety. The Vice Chairman reported that the transfer of the land outside 1 Butts Park was still in the hands of the solicitors. A letter had been received from Collaton residents regarding gaps in the fencing and gates blowing open along the path. The Vice Chairman and Mr. Taylor had already looked at the problem and discussed matters with the fencing contractor. The suggestion was that e gaps were filled and latches fitted to the two gates by the Collaton entrance (by the telephone box) and to the gates by the road crossing. Mr. Hingston had quoted £238 plus fittings (which he said he would do at cost). RESOLVED: To accept Mr. Hingston’s quotation to infill gaps in the fencing and to fit latches to the proposed gates. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

**312.6 District Councillor’s Report**- Cllr. Cooper reported that the Chief Executive for SHDC was to leave on Friday, the new Chief Executive starting on Monday.

**312.7 Village Housing Initiative**- concerns raised via email received from nine parishioners regarding the site and design of the development were considered. The Clerk had advised the Parishioners that the matter would be on the Agenda for the Meeting and of the option to speak in open forum regarding those concerns. Two parishioners had attended. Whilst accepting that there was entitlement for parishioners to raise concerns, some Members had in turn been concerned about the nature of innuendos contained in some emails about Cllr. Cooper and the Parish Council. Cllr. Cooper had conducted a great deal of work with Mr. Robin Hogg and Mr. Jeremy Brown to get the Affordable Housing Scheme for the Parish. The Parish Council had engaged in full consultation with the Parish dating back to 2004 - full details of which had been and were available on the Parish Council website. It was agreed that a letter would be prepared and circulated to Members for approval detailing the history of the work, consultation undertaken and confirming that Cllr. Cooper’s actions had the Parish Council’s wholehearted support. Cllr. Cooper advised that Tor Homes had volunteered to arrange an Open Public Consultation Meeting, the date to be confirmed. Details would be advertised and forwarded to “The Nose”. A Member raised concern that the Council had not been involved sooner in the layout and that there were actions which could be taken to reduce the impact of the scheme.

#### **312.8 County Councillor’s report**

i) **Rural Broadband Speed** Cllr Mumford advised that there were two options if the Parish wished to take steps to improve Broadband Speed

a) To wait for British Telecom to upgrade- this was unlikely to take place for some time.

b) An increasing number of companies, in response to local demand, would set up community owned broadband infrastructure projects including looking at small scale options. If communities could be linked e.g. Brixton and Yealmpton, it would become cheaper. Cllr. Mumford could facilitate if there was a demand. The Clerk reported that following articles in the Parish Magazine, the Primary School letter and “The Nose” only three parishioners had responded. It was therefore considered that currently there was insufficient demand to take the project forward.

ii) **Comprehensive Spending Review**- it would not be known how much Councils would be allowed and the consequential impact on Budgets until December. It was not known whether education would be ring fenced- Devon was already underfunded compared to nationally. The question was whether everyone would be placed onto an equal footing and then cuts effected - in which case Devon’s position could improve.

iii) **Locality Budget**- Cllr. Mumford had confirmed that the project for signs for the Collaton/Butts Park link had been approved. It was agreed the **Clerk** could go ahead and place the order.

iv) **Disabled Bay**-Highways department would be writing to the applicants to suggest an alternative location outside Holy Cross Church.

v) **Yealm View Road**- the work on the drop kerb had been completed.

vi) **Butts Park Bus Stop**- the Parish Council had already confirmed that they would wish to preserve the status quo.

vii) **New England Quarry**- the presentation by Option 7 on an alternative to the proposal put forward by Viridor had been given on the last day of a two year consultation period. Objections to the plant at New England Quarry would have to be based on planning issues, the threat to the River Yealm, potential flooding and wash of waste into the River, access at Lee Mill and increased lorry movement on the A38.

#### **312.9 Noss Play Parks-**

i) **Improvements**- Mrs. Hinchliffe reported that the landscape architect was due to present the design layout for the play park to the improvement group the following week. There would then need to be further consultation. Formal consent was needed for funding purposes from the Parish Council as owners of the freehold land consenting to any changes to the play park. RESOLVED: To provide consent to the play park improvements for the purposes of funding requirements. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

ii) **Drainage**- Mr. Buckland reported that it appeared that when the play park had been regraded, the end of a field drain had been cut and then left. A direct connection had now been made. Mr. Buckland would look at the bank to see if any further work would be needed. RESOLVED: to authorise payment of the invoice received from W.Daniels Plant Hire in

the sum of £235.00. (Vote; Unanimous). The **Clerk** would thank Mr. Daniels for his prompt attention in respect of the additional drainage works.

RESOLVED: To authorise of payment of the invoice received from Garden Services for weed killing and reseeded in the sum of £425. (Vote; Unanimous).

**312.10 Butts Park Play Park-** The Chairman had taken photographs of the multiplay equipment causing concern which had been forwarded to SHDC. SHDC had confirmed on 10 November that the multiplay equipment was still sound and with regular monitoring could continue to be used. Their Property Services Team had been instructed to carry out repairs. A detailed response was awaited following the enquiries raised with SHDC regarding work undertaken/proposed to be undertaken pursuant to the annual play park inspection reports.

**312.11 South Hams District Council Asset Transfer-** a letter from SHDC dated 28 October 2010 regarding the proposed transfer of some of their land assets to the Parish Council was noted. This included; Noss Mayo- Noss Green, Noss Car Park, the tennis courts, the field adjacent, relinquishing the lease on the play park. Newton Ferrers-Butts Park Play Park, the playing field and the green area by Dillon's car park ( the extent of which would need clarification).

Members expressed concern over the state of the tennis courts and their need for refurbishment. Investigations would need to be undertaken into the costs of assuming responsibility for the areas including maintenance, bin emptying, grass cutting, hedge trimming, play park inspections and insurance with the subsequent effect on the Precept. SHDC had been asked to give an indication as to their costs- their response was awaited. Consideration would need to be given to obtaining independent costings. Public consultation would need to be taken into account. It was agreed that a working group comprised of **Cllr. Cooper, Mr. Carter, Mr. Hussell and Mr. Stitson** would investigate matters further and report back to the Council. **Agenda: December**

### **313/10 PLANNING**

#### **Applications received –**

**313.1 91 Yealm Road 37/2400/10/F** Demolition of existing dwelling and rebuilding of a similar dwelling with extensions. DECISION: No objection but conditional on the public footpath being kept open and safe. (Vote; 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.)

**313.2 Herons Reach 37/2498/10/TW** Work to Tree Preservation Order Trees. South Hams District Council (Parish of Newton and Noss) (No.6.) Tree Preservation Order 1981. Register Number of Notice: 3098. The Tree Warden had been asked for his views- his response was awaited. DECISION: No objection subject to there being no strong objection from the Tree Warden. (Vote; 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.)

### **314/10. ADMINISTRATION**

**314.1 Budget 2011/2012-** the next meeting of the working group would take place on Tuesday 7 December.

#### **314.2 Bishops Court**

**i) Hire Charges-** the Vice Chairman reported the outcome of negotiations into the appropriate charging rates to be offered following cessation of the special introductory rate. It had been agreed that the introductory rate for the physiotherapist would continue until 30 October 2010. From 1 November 2010 the rate would be increased by £2.50 to £17.50 per session. From 1st February 2011 the rate would increase to £20 per session. The rates were approved by the Council. It was agreed that the **Vice Chairman** would speak with Yealm Medical Centre regarding their rental payments once the issue of the service charges had been resolved with Signpost Housing Association.

**ii) Service Charges/Grounds Maintenance-** the Vice Chairman and Mrs. Hinchliffe had met with Signpost Housing Association. Mrs. Hinchliffe believed their calculation of the service charge was incorrect based on the area being charged for. It was also believed that the original calculation included payment for all the water for the kitchen and communal area. The cleaning rate had been charged at £11 per week for a very small room. Signpost would be investigating further and coming back with a revised calculation. **Agenda December.**

**314.3 Annual Parish Meeting-** arrangements for the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15 March 2011 would be considered further. **Agenda December.**

### **315/10 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** The main items received concern:-

**315.1 Devon Conservation Forum -** no Members were available to attend the General Council Meeting 17 November.

**315.2 South West Water-** had written further regarding the Pumping Station at Pillory Hill. They advised that the routine monitoring of estuarine water quality and any other controlled waters was the statutory responsibility of the Environment Agency. They undertook monitoring under a regulatory framework as a direct response to UK and European regulations. The regulations identified and designated specified locations based on a specified use/requirement (e.g. bathing water, shellfish, and urban waste water sensitive area). Unfortunately Noss/Newton Creek was not covered by these designations and so routine monitoring was not a legal requirement. The Environment Agency would however conduct investigation monitoring response to pollution events in non designated areas as the need arose. In respect of infiltration/exfiltration, sewage exfiltration did not routinely occur unless the system was hydraulically overloaded by rainwater entering the system. Sewers were typically designed for a storm with a return period of 1 in 30 years. Blockages could exacerbate this but were typically specific events rather than the cause of continuous exfiltration. Where the sewers were below the general water table, as within the estuary, the head of water above the pipe prevented exfiltration and exacerbated infiltration. **Mr. Buckland** would continue to look into matters further.

### **316/10 FOOTPATHS AND SEATS**

**316.1 Footpath Inspection-** Mr. Taylor reported that every footpath had been inspected. A summary would be presented at the next Meeting.

**316.2 Seats-** a local resident wished to proceed with dedicating a seat on the green area outside the WIC Hall. It was agreed the **Clerk** would obtain a quotation from Mr. John Leonard for cleaning the plinth area and for bolting all four legs down.

### **317/10 TREES**

**317.1 The Green-** It was agreed the **Chairman** would investigate costs and specification for Christmas lighting further and report back to the Council. **Agenda 25 November**

### **318/10 MAINTENANCE**

**318.1 Noss Hard-** It was agreed the **Chairman** and **Mr. Carter** would look into the work to be undertaken. **Agenda December.**

**318.2 Other areas for consideration-**Mr. Taylor reported one plank was missing from railings along Passage Woods Road, just before Wide Slip. The **Clerk** would report the matter to Devon County Council Highways Department. A parishioner had raised the issue of the condition of the grass outside the WIC Hall. **The Clerk** was waiting to hear from Garden Services. Mr. Carter reported on the condition of the Parish Council Notice Boards and the Parish notice boards. It was agreed the **Clerk** would ask for two quotations for repair/refurbishment.

**319/10. EMERGENCY PLAN-** Mr. Carter reported that he was in discussion with Mr. Tubb and would report back to the Council. **Agenda January**

### **320/10 GRANT REQUESTS-**

**320.1 Newton & Noss Network-** a request for financial assistance towards the purchase of an engine for a safety boat for Yealm Community Sailing (for Spring 2011) was considered. **RESOLVED:** To make a contribution of 25% towards the cost of purchase of an engine for a safety boat for Yealm Community Sailing. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

**320.2 Village Halls-RESOLVED:** To make a contribution of £25 per hall towards Christmas tree and lights for Newton & Noss Village Hall and WIC Community Hall. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

**321/10. MEETINGS ATTENDED:** To receive brief reports regarding the following:-

**321.1 Harbour Authority-** Mr. Carter reported there had been 125 enquiries and 60 applicants for the Harbour Masters position. Ten applicants would be interviewed. It was hoped to confirm the new appointment before Christmas. The Harbour Authority was slightly ahead of budget for the year.

**321.2 Halls –**Mr Stitson had nothing to report in respect of the Newton and Noss Village Hall. The Vice Chairman reported there had been great enthusiasm for the suggestion that the WIC Hall be demolished and rebuilt with a slightly larger hall. Investigations were being conducted into cost. It was hoped to raise the money by grants/donations. The roof was thought to have a further five year life span.

**321.3 Primary School-** Mrs. Hinchliffe reported the Fireworks event had been a great success.

**321.4 Option 7 Alternative Waste Management Plan Meeting-** Cllr. Cooper and the Vice Chairman had attended. The Vice Chairman reported that this alternative scheme would apparently be cheaper with zero landfill. It appeared to be a very well thought out alternative. The Devon Chairman of the CPRE had been impressed. There were concerns however the alternative scheme had been raised at too late a stage.

**321.5 South Devon Coastal Local Action Group “Forum Night”-** the Vice Chairman gave a brief report. There could be potential funding for the WIC Hall.

**321.6 Emergency Planning Support Meeting-** the Chairman and Mr. Carter gave a brief report.

**321.7 Estuary Management Forum-**Mr. Taylor advised that both himself and Mr. Carter had attended. Viridor’s plans for New England Quarry- concerns were raised about landfill below the water table, the burning process and flooding. There were discussions concerning water pollution from agricultural ecoli, human excrement from Yealmpton, Brixton and Wembury together with waste from farmland. These were causing problems when entering the food chain. They were resistant to antibiotics. Pacific Oysters were evolving in great numbers. Hemerdon Mine was going to be excavated to 450 feet below sea level and would become the largest open cast mine in Europe.

### **322/10. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Arrangements for attendance at the Remembrance Day Service were made.

### **323 /10. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS –**

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr. Hussell and listed in Minute 324/10

### **324/10 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

<b>Alliance &amp; Leicester Current Account :</b>	Total balance at 1.11.10	<b>£63273.16</b>
<b>The balance includes: receipt of the half year precept:</b>		<b>£19622.50</b>
<b>Hedge Cutting Bond</b>		<b>£3000</b>

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**The Gratuity Fund:**

**£16,396.07**

**The following cheques were authorised totalling:**

**£3,640.54**

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1221	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC Meeting 11 November	£20.00
1222	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC Meeting 25 November	£20.00
1223	J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss & Popes Quay October 10	£44.80
1224	S McDonough	Net salary- October	£939.63
1225	S McDonough	Reimbursement; Travel expenses	£18.80
1226	Newton Ferrers Church School PTFA-PTA	Grant for fund raising event 5 November 2010 *	£50.00
1227	Garden Services	Grass Cutting: The Green 8 & 22 September 10	
		Noss Playpark- weedkilling & reseeding	£457.00
1228	WIC Hall	Grant towards cost of new combination boiler	£1,300.00
1229	1st Brixton & Yealmpton Scout Group	Grant towards cost of replacement flooring for Scout Hut *	£250.00
1230	Access Technology	Updates to website Sep09-Feb10	£211.50
1231	River Yealm Harbour Authority	Slipway Cleaning Agent	£14.81
1232	W.Daniels Plant Hire Ltd	Installation additional land drainage; Noss Play Park	£235.00
1233	M& S Garden Services	Cleaning: Newton Voss & steps October 10	£79.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,640.54</b>

\*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments: £300. Total to date:£920

#### **In Committee**

#### **325/10. COUNCILLOR VACANCY-**

Three applications for co-option to the vacant seat had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting. After careful consideration and agreement to vote by secret ballot, Mr. Peter Gough was declared elected. The unsuccessful applicants would be thanked for their applications and invited to stand for election in May 2011. The **Clerk** would meet with Mr Gough to take his undertaking to observe the Authority's Code of Conduct and Declaration of Acceptance of Office in advance of the next Meeting.

*The Meeting closed at 10pm*

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