

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 11th June 2009

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Cllr Cooper Mr Cooper (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Hussell Mr Matthews Mr Taylor Mr Young (Chairman)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk) Mrs McDonough Cllr Mumford
Two parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

APOLOGIES: Mr Carter Mrs Hinchliffe Mr Stitson Mr Tubb

POLICE REPORT

Apologies for absence had been received from PC Nolan and PCSO Lawrence. One crime had been reported since the last meeting: damage had been caused to a vehicle along Riverside Road West at 23.10 hrs on 1st June but the offender had not been identified.

The following items would be reported to the Police:- a compressor on double yellow lines and a boat trailer without reflectors, both parked on Yealm Road, motorbike learners driving dangerously about the Parish and a suspicious telephone call.

OPEN FORUM No items were raised.

108/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Reasons for absence were noted from Mrs Hinchliffe, Mr Tubb, Mr Carter and Mr Stitson.

109/09 MINUTES – The Minutes of the May Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

110/09 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. The following personal interests were declared in relation to planning applications: - Mr Buckland in "Shadow Cottage", and the Chairman in "The Coach House".

111/09 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE AGENDA RESOLVED: that tenders for the Collaton/Butts Park Link would be considered in Committee at the end of the Meeting. (Vote: Unanimous)

112/09 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

112.1 Cllr Mumford's Report - Cllr Mumford was congratulated on his re-election. As the result of changes at County Hall, the Executive would be announced the following week. The voting turnout had been encouraging.

112.2 Butts Park Crossing – Cllr Mumford would check whether the safety audit had been approved. Funding was in place. **Agenda July**

112.3 Transport provision – Mr Matthews would consider the results of the School's needs survey and report to the Council in July. **Agenda July**

112.4 Overgrown hedges – Concerns were raised about overgrown hedges along both sides of the B3186 at Butts Park, and both the overgrown hedge and length of grass at the top of Widey Lane. Cllr Mumford would speak to DCC to identify the landowners. Cllr Cooper would contact the Ivybridge Depot re grass cutting. **Agenda July**
A scheme was in place in Stoke Road whereby householders each contributed £10pa to fund hedge cutting.

112.5 Collaton-Butts Park Link –

- i) Progress report: The Highways Agency had agreed to move various signs to enable the path to run through. Construction of the path could not proceed until the grant application made to South Devon Coastal Local Action Group had been determined. **Agenda July**
- ii) Tenders had been received for trimming the roadside branches which would be considered in Committee.

112.6 Report from Cllr Cooper. There were no particular items to report.

112.7 Play area maintenance and improvement – Following the recent meetings:-

A. Noss

i) Drainage problems: South West Water had repaired a very small leak. Mr Lomax confirmed that analysis of the standing water in the park had found surface rather than mains water. DCC did not accept responsibility for channeling the run-off from the unadopted lane. Due to little rain over the past month the area had dried. Mr Lomax offered to undertake further analysis if the problem returned. The ground conditions would be monitored.

ii) Equipment: An assessment of the condition of the play equipment had been carried out by SHDC. It was assumed SHDC would be undertaking a refurbishment programme. **Agenda July**

iii) Trees: Following the suggestion that trees should be lopped to improve safety near overhead power lines, a site meeting with the SHDC Tree Officer had not raised any concerns. However, Mr Brown remained concerned and it was agreed that the **Clerk** should write to Western Power for confirmation that the trees had been inspected. **Agenda July**

B. Newton and Noss – improvement programme

It was agreed that the Council would undertake public consultation to assess wants/needs of the children in the Parish in preparation for the next round of grant funding applications (expressions of interest had been invited by 14th October). Mr Brown had prepared a questionnaire which would be sent out with the Newton and Noss Network booklet next month.

113/09 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Cooper reported that plans for the development currently proposed were progressing.

114/09 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

114.1 Development Sites DPD: Community Engagement Programme - The Clerk would confirm the venue and time for the Prince's Foundation event on 16th June. **Mr Cooper** and **Mr Brown** would attend.

Open Meeting on 9th June – the meeting had been very well attended and it was agreed that the Housing Group would meet during the week commencing 22nd June to analyse the responses to the Questionnaires.

RESOLVED: To delegate authority to the **Housing Working Group** to analyse the housing questionnaires and prepare the response to SHDC by 30th June. (Vote: unanimous) **Agenda July**

114.2 Development Plan Policies DPD Publication Stage – the deadline for a reply to SHDC was 3rd July.

RESOLVED: **Mr Buckland** and **Mr Brown** would review. The Council would give authority to the **Chairman** to respond on the Council's behalf. (Vote: unanimous)

114.3 Shoreline Management Plan 2 - Tidal estuaries had been included for the first time and replies had been invited by mid-July. The Plan proposed no active intervention and to "hold the line". RYHA was in regular contact with local environment groups. It was agreed that no specific comments from the Parish Council were necessary.

115/09 PLANNING

115.1 Training – Mrs Hinchliffe, Mr Matthews and Mrs McDonough had attended the recent Planning Aid event which had been free and very useful; more training had been requested. It was noted that S.215 Notices could be served by SHDC on a landowner who failed to keep his land reasonably tidy.

115.2 Working Group – The effectiveness of the current arrangements for reviewing planning applications and the options for improving this function were discussed at length. Although the Working Group meeting was useful, there was concern that the Council was open to criticism, no time was saved at the main Council Meetings, the Working Group did not have any decision making powers and a more professional approach would be beneficial. After consideration of the various suggestions and comments it was

RESOLVED: To appoint a formal Planning Committee with delegated decision making authority, to meet monthly in public for the specific purpose of considering planning applications. Parishioners would be welcome to attend. The full Council would also retain the ability to make planning decisions as necessary.

RESOLVED: The first meeting of the Planning Committee would take place on Monday 3rd August at 7.30pm (informally from 7.00pm) at a venue to be confirmed – The Tilly was not favoured because space was too restricted.

Each of the two meetings would be held in the same venue each month to avoid confusion. *[Min. 123.4 refers]*

It was noted that Mr Cooper would be unable to attend the August Meeting.

115.3 Co-op plans – Cllr Cooper had been asked by SHDC to give an indication as to the preferred siting for a temporary shop whilst the Co-op site was redeveloped. Two options had been put forward – either the site of the former Newton Garage or the land adjacent to Dillons car park. Difficulties with both sites were envisaged but The Green was given as a marginal preference. There was some doubt as to whether the Co-op would be prepared to enter into a Section 106 agreement which could benefit the proposed affordable housing development in Parsonage Road. The shareholder vote for the proposed takeover of the Co-op Society would take place the following week so it was anticipated that the redevelopment could be progressed by a new organisation.

Referring to proposed letter to the Court House which had been discussed at the May Meeting but not approved, Mr Buckland explained that the Management Committee was still interested in exploring the parking possibilities. However, the Co-op plans now appeared to be at an advanced stage.

115.4 Tidal Waters – The Chairman had attended a meeting with the Ombudsman and Mr and Mrs Leonard on 10th June. The Ombudsman had also to met SHDC representatives and Cllr Cooper.

115.5 SHDC planning decisions – The most recent decisions were noted.

115.6 Mount Howe, 82 Court Road 0883/09/F – Replacement uPVC windows (re-submission of application).
Decision: No objection. (Vote: 7 in favour, 1 abstention).

115.6 The Lime Kiln, Bridgend (Listed) 0846/09/F and 0845/09/LB– Restoration of existing kiln structure and conversion/extension of existing outbuildings to create a single dwelling and garage/workshop for holiday letting.
Decision: Objection. Having personal knowledge of the area and its flooding, Members supported the Environment Agency’s objection on the grounds of future flood risk, although the E.A. evaluation appeared to have underestimated the current flood levels. However, Members did not oppose the principle of development/restoration, provided it was of sympathetic design and safeguarded the listed structure for the future. (Vote 7 in favour, 1 abstention)

115.8 The Coach House, 3 Court Road 0858/09/F - Extension to dwelling (re-submission). Concerns were raised about felling protected trees but the SHDC Tree Officer appeared to be content with the proposal.
Decision: No objection. (Vote: 4 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions)

115.9 Dormouse Cottage, 1 Rowden Court (Listed) 0850/09/LB – Replacement windows and doors.
Decision: No objection. (Vote: 7 in favour, 1 abstention)

115.10 3 Beacon Hill 0868/09/F – Erection of a tree house (retrospective).
Decision: No objection, but the applicants should provide more screening through planting to compensate their neighbour for loss of privacy. (Vote: 3 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions. Casting vote in favour given by the Chairman).

115.11 Creek Cottage, Noss 0907/09/F - Extension and alteration to dwelling.
Decision: No objection. (Vote: 4 in favour, 4 abstentions)

115.12 31 The Fairway 0938/09/F – Single storey extension.
Decision: Objection. Members considered the roof design could be improved. (Vote: 6 in favour, 2 abstentions)

115.13 Vine Cottage, Riverside Road West – The application had been received too late for inclusion on the agenda and would be deferred until the July Meeting. **Agenda July**

115.14 Parking enforcement – At this point it was suggested that SHDC should be asked to undertake some weekend checks in early July to minimise the possibility of disruption when the harvest vehicles were active.

116/09 VILLAGE PLANS

116.1 2004 Parish Plan – It was agreed that a Working Group would meet in early autumn to consider the reports, copies of which were handed to the Chairman. **Agenda October**
Cllr Cooper would be meet planners on 23rd June to discuss why SHDC had not appeared to recognise the Parish Plan.

116.2 Emergency Plan – It was agreed to defer to July’s Meeting. **Agenda July**

116.3 Local History – Members considered the suggestion that first-hand/personal recollections should be formally recorded and agreed that the idea should be referred to the Local History Group. **Mr Brown** volunteered to help.

117/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received concerned:-

117.1 Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils – The AGM on 15th July and future of the Association were discussed. It was agreed that the common interests and concerns of the A379 Cluster Group had more relevance. RESOLVED: I&DAPC would be advised by the **Clerk** that the Council suggested the Association should be discontinued. (Vote: all in favour)

117.2 Devon Playing Fields Association Conference and AGM – No-one was available to attend the AGM at Chulmleigh. Mr Brown referred to Sport England’s concerns about Section 106 agreements for playing fields at Sherford being under threat. *[Min 122/09 refers]*

118/09 PARISH ASSETS – The Chairman had met the Harbourmaster and Mr Carter and would liaise further with Mr Carter before reporting to the Council in July. **Agenda July**

119/09 MAINTENANCE

119.1 Handrail – Swan Steps – Mr Allen was thanked for organising the repairs. Work had been completed and the payment of £350 plus VAT was authorised.

119.2 Doctor’s Steps – Payment of Mr Leonard’s invoice for £15 for emergency repairs to the handrail was authorised. Mr Leonard would be meeting **Mr Carter** to discuss any further work to be undertaken. **Agenda July**

119.3 Noss Hard Dinghy Park and the Malthouse – It was agreed that the **Clerk** would seek quotations for tidying the two areas on a bi-annual basis (in mid May and September). **Agenda July**

120/09 SEATS

120.1 Annual maintenance – Mr Taylor reported that overall the seats were in reasonable condition. It was agreed that an annual maintenance schedule and cost quotations would be discussed in March. **Agenda March**

120.2 Doctor's Steps – Mr Taylor would contact the relatives of the person in whose memory the seat had been placed to ask whether they wished to sponsor a replacement seat(s). Alternative sponsorship could be advertised if the relatives declined. The **Chairman** and **Mr Taylor** would look at options for replacement seating. **Agenda July**

121/09 SPORTS PAVILION – The Chairman was waiting to hear from the Architect. **Agenda July**

122/09 MEETINGS ATTENDED Brief reports were made regarding the following:-

122.1 Harbour Authority - Mr Carter was not present to give a report.

122.2 Halls – Mr Brown reported that the Village Hall was doing well. The Chairman mentioned the popular fundraiser event at the WIC Hall; all tickets had been sold. The issue of the Lease continued.

122.3 Primary School – There was no report in Mrs Hinchliffe's absence.

122.4 Sherford - Mr Brown reported that SHDC was due to make a decision on the main application in July, with Plymouth City Council making a decision a couple of weeks beforehand. The recession had had an impact on the developer's offer; in particular the ratio of affordable housing had been reduced and there were doubts about the provision of playing fields. From 2013 new environmental standards would come into force on construction. 2010 was the earliest date envisaged for building to start. It was felt that with the development looking doubtful and the local authorities' reliance upon the development to meet housing targets, sites were now cropping up in Plymouth. It was understood that Gary Streeter MP had asked Conservative Councillors to insist on Section 106 agreements.

123/09 ADMINISTRATION

123.1 Accounts 2008/09 – The year-end check had been performed by Mrs Hinchliffe and Mr Carter; no concerns had been raised. The Annual Return had been signed off by the Internal Auditor; no issues had been raised.

RESOLVED: The Council would agree the Annual Return in accordance with the figures prepared by the R.F.O. and agreed by the Internal Auditor. The Chairman and R.F.O. were authorised to sign the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement. (Vote unanimous)

The R.F.O. would submit the Annual Return to the District Auditor on 22nd June.

123.2 Clerk's new office – The Council agreed to authorise payment for the following:-

- i) Internet connection and telephone equipment - £29.99.
- ii) BT telephone connection and quarterly line rental - £105.33.
- iii) DCC Supply Zone account for chair, desk and drawers - £393.20.
- iv) Reimbursement to Mrs McDonough for Dell computer purchased - £479.
- v) The Members considered quotations for photocopiers and agreed to authorise the order for a colour photocopier through Ikon at a cost of £123.67 per quarter plus running/maintenance costs.

Clerk's note: As there was no formal decision recorded, item v) would be reconsidered in July. **Agenda July**

123.3 Bishops Court - The letting arrangements for the Consulting Room were reconsidered. Signpost had increased the rent for the current financial year. The rent for sub-letting the room would need to be reviewed. As agreed in May, **Mr Brown** and **Mr Cooper** would meet the Manager of Yealm Medical Centre to discuss matters. Parishioners would be reminded of the availability of the room for rent. **Agenda July**

123.4 Meetings venue – Members considered whether to hold future Noss meetings at the Village Hall because of space limitations at the Tilly. Currently the WIC Hall charged £15 for each meeting but Noss Village Hall proposed to charge £25. It was agreed that the payments to the WIC and Village Hall should be unified, i.e. £20 per meeting. Therefore, it was agreed to offer the Village Hall Management Committee a reduced fee of £20 per meeting on the basis that the Planning Committee would also be meeting there on a regular basis. It was further agreed to pay the Tilly Institute for the meetings pre-booked to the end of the year.

RESOLVED: Future Parish Council and Planning Committee Meetings scheduled for Noss Mayo would be held at the Village Hall, subject to the acceptance by the Management Committee of the proposed charge of £20 per meeting. (Vote unanimous)

123.5 Membership of the Senior Council – **Mr Tubb** would be asked to represent the Parish Council.

124/09 GRANT REQUESTS – The following grants were agreed (*both LGA 1972 s.137 payments*):-

124.1 Newton & Noss Regatta – RESOLVED: To contribute to the Fireworks Display:- £50.

124.2 R.Y.D.A. – RESOLVED: To contribute to the insurance costs incurred for the 2009 Harbour Clean-up:- £55.

125/09 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 the Financial Statement Min.126/09.

126/09 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account : Total balance at 1.6.09 **£ 46,794.62**

The Gratuity Fund is held within the Current Account : £ 16,396.07

The following cheques were authorised totalling **£ 3,973.62**

R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	76.70
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss and Popes Quay	43.50
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	1,067.02
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage and mileage	19.21
S McDonough	Net salary	415.76
S McDonough	Expenses: postage, mileage, telephone handset	53.08
SHDC	Planning approval re Collaton path: discharge of Condition 3	42.50
HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax and N.I. re the Clerks	972.52
South West Water	Tap: Pillory Hill	11.14
Staples	Office supplies	7.41
WIC Hall	Hire: Public Meeting on 9 th June	30.00
J Leonard	Doctor's Steps: temporary repair to handrail	15.00
Devon County Council	Office supplies from Supply Zone	8.28
R.Y.D.A.	Contribution to Harbour Clean-up insurance	55.00*
Hall Merrill & Hall Limited	Footpath Guide: reprint of front cover	35.00
K Abraham	Accounts 08/09: Internal Audit fee	190.00
River Yealm Regatta C'tee	Contribution to the annual Fireworks Display	50.00*
Dell Computers (S McDonough)	Computer: Inspiron Desktop 530	479.00
B C Serpell	Swan Steps handrail: supply and installation	402.50

* s.137 payments £105.00 Total to date £295.08

In view of the confidential nature of the item to be discussed, it had been agreed that the following should be considered in Committee:-

127/09 CONSIDERATION OF TENDERS - COLLATON/BUTTS PARK LINK [Min. 112.5 also refers]

Two contractors had met Mr Taylor on separate occasions to discuss the extent of the work required to clear the line of the path from branches and vegetation the verges. In view of the roadside location, particular emphasis had been placed on personal safety

RESOLVED: To accept the lowest quote of £260 provided by Mr Wooderson. (Vote unanimous)

The Meeting closed at 10.30pm

