

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

**Held on 11 February 2010**

PRESENT Mr. Young Mr. Carter Mr. Stitson Mr. Taylor Mr. Hussell  
(Chairman)  
Mr. Matthews Mr. Buckland Mrs. Hinchliffe Cllr Cooper  
ALSO Mrs. McDonough  
PRESENT (Clerk)  
5 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

**OPEN FORUM**

**Police Report:** Apologies had been received from P.C. John Nolan and PCSO Sid Lawrence. The following crimes had been reported:

Jl/10/112 - 6th - 7th February 2010, a white 11ft wooden Carter rowing dinghy was stolen from the River Yealm by unknown means, valued at around £2000. The crime remained un-detected.

Jl/10/117- 5th - 8th February 2010, a Gulley Cover was stolen from Parsonage Rd, valued at around £100. It was believed that this was part of a series of thefts of metal from the Plymouth and South Hams areas. Investigations continued.

**30/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Reasons for absence were noted from the Vice Chairman, Mr. Brown and Mr. Tubb.

**31/10 MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting 28 January 2010 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**32/10 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED**

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. Interests were declared by Mrs. Hinchliffe and Mr. Hussell in items relating to Newton Ferrers Primary School. Mrs. Hinchliffe was a Governor and Mr. Hussell's wife worked at the School and his son was a pupil. Mr. Matthews and Cllr Cooper declared interests in the "Twinning" item by virtue of being Chairman and a member of the Twinning Group respectively.

**33/10 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE AGENDA** RESOLVED: That Tenders received relating to work on resurfacing and tidying Noss Hard should be considered in Committee.

**34/10 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**34.1 County Councillor's report** – Cllr Mumford gave a report on the following:

- i) **Noss Hard** - Cllr Mumford's offer to remove and recycle the pile of tyres was accepted with thanks.
- ii) **Local Government Review** - the decision had been made for a Unitary Exeter and the two tier system for the rest of Devon (with the exception of Plymouth and Torbay) remaining in place. It was believed there were strong grounds for Judicial Review of the decision. It was hoped implementation would be delayed until after the General Election.
- iii) **Budget** - budgets had been agreed at Cabinet the previous day. Twenty million pounds had been taken off in efficiency savings. As a result there would be a 1.98% increase in Council Tax – the lowest increase for some considerable time.
- iv) **Young Enterprise** - a charity primarily aimed at secondary schools aiming to introduce young people to business and commerce. Part of the budget was extended to primary schools also - of which Newton Ferrers Primary School would be taking advantage.
- v) **New England Quarry** - the full application was awaited from Viridor before the final vetting and processing of their application could take place. This would be followed by a Consultation period. Two groups against the proposals (Save Our South Hams and Eco Ivy) had set up web sites. There was to be a meeting at the Watermark Centre, chaired by Gary Streeter M.P, the following evening. NVM, who were proposing an alternative scheme in Ernesettle, would be outlining their proposal shortly.
- vi) **Highways** - DCC would be sending a structural engineer to look at the undercutting at Bridgend. With respect to the repair of potholes, DCC were focusing on major routes first. The pot holes at Middlecombe had been filled in. The Post Office had requested a sign at the top of Newton Hill.

**34.2. Locality Budget** – information relating to the estimates for the costs of constructing a boat rack for Noss Hard was awaited. **Mr. Carter** would pursue this.

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**34.3 Collaton-Butts Park Link** – Concerns raised by Collaton Park Management Company about damage caused to a gate together with the response by the contractor were noted. The Clerk outlined the progress of the grant of easement/transfer of the land outside 1 Butts Park. The contractor hoped to start work on the path by the end of the month.

**34.4 Highways - Bus Stop Improvements** – the improvements proposed/effectuated by DCC were noted.

**34.5 District Councillor's Report**- Cllr Cooper referred to the outcome of the Boundary Review and the widespread concern regarding the results of site allocation for the SHDC Local development Framework.

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**34.6 Play area parks and open spaces** - the implications of the Meeting with Mr. Ross Kennerley on 21 January 2010 at Noss Play Park and Butts Park were considered with particular reference to:

**i) Noss Play Park maintenance and improvement** - Mr. Buckland confirmed that he would be preparing an invitation to tender detailing specification for the work. SHDC had confirmed that provided the water course was not interfered with, consents would not be required from SHDC or the Environment Agency before work was undertaken. As the drainage work would involve the existing culvert (which was not thought to have been adopted) **the Clerk** would check the position with SHDC. SHDC had confirmed £10,000 had been allocated for play park improvement in the Parish but would have no extra funds for the drainage work. SHDC required to be notified of work and costings prior to the work being undertaken. The Clerk had been advised by the SHDC Tree Officer that access to undertake tree felling work had been attempted before Christmas but had not been able to progress due to the flooding. He would advise the Clerk of the date when work would be undertaken. It was agreed that the **Chairman** and **Mr. Stitson** would make enquiries to see if the work could be undertaken more quickly by the Parish Council instructing contractors. It was noted offers of help to effect play park improvement had been made in the responses to the Play Park questionnaires. It was suggested that more funding opportunities may be available to a Community Group than the Parish Council. This would be kept under review as the drainage works progressed. **Agenda March**

**ii) Land between Noss Play Park and Tennis courts** - the views of SHDC for land to be productive and the suggestion of a Community Orchard/bees was noted. The Clerk advised that funding may be available from AONB/SDCLAG with an offer of help from the RYDA.

**iii) Car park by Tennis Courts** – it was noted that SHDC had made mention of the possibility of parking charges being imposed.

**iv) Butts Park Play Park** - SHDC's position regarding funding was noted.

**v) Butts Park playing field** - SHDC's position was noted and that a contribution towards the upkeep may be sought.

**34.7 Play parks, SHDC assets and open spaces** – Mr. Kennerley had suggested potential land/ asset transfer but no further correspondence had been received since the Meeting.

### **35/10 PLANNING**

**Application received –:**

**REVELSTOKE, NOSS MAYO 37/0097/10/F-** Revision to access (approval 37/1992/08/F) to serve stables and use of natural slate on stable roof.

RESOLVED: Support (Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstention)

### **36/10 ADMINISTRATION**

#### **36.1 Bishops Court:**

**i) Trees** - Cllr Cooper gave a report on the site visit on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Signpost Housing Association had confirmed they would advise the Clerk of the outcome of the Appeal.

**ii) Access** - Cllr Michael Saltern had been to visit Bishops Court with the Chairman and Cllr Cooper. The lift was in service at the time. A representative from Signpost had advised the Chairman that the service charge was going to increase dramatically. Mr. Gary Streeter, in response to the letter from the Parish Council, had advised that he would be talking to Cllr Saltern. Cllr Mumford had confirmed DCC were aware of the problem and bringing pressure to bear on both Signpost and Guinness Trust.

**36.2 Annual Parish Meeting** –arrangements were made for the meeting to be held 2 March 2010 at the Newton & Noss Village Hall.

**36.3 Senior Council** - nomination of an alternative Council Member to the Senior Council was considered due to the commitments of the existing representative. It was agreed that the matter would be considered at the Meeting in March when other Members of the Council were present. **Agenda March**

**36.4 Newton & Noss Parish Council Standing Orders** – it was noted new Model Standing Orders for Local Councils had been issued. It was not considered necessary to purchase Part 1 (cost £25). It was agreed **Mr.**

**Matthews** and **Mrs. Hinchliffe** would review the existing Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders and would report back to the Council with their recommendations. **Agenda April**

**37/10 CONSULTATION- Mobile Library Service-** it was agreed **Mrs. Hinchliffe** would complete the Town and Parish Council Survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

**38/10 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** The main items received concerned:-

**38.1 Creekside Road** - the copy letter received from DCC in response to concerns raised by a parishioner regarding parking restrictions in Creekside Road, Noss Mayo was noted.

**38.2 Police Authority Liaison Meeting** – the Chairman would endeavour to attend on Monday 15 February 2010

**38.3 Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003-** the recommendations of the Parish remuneration Panel were noted.

RESOLVED: Members would not claim the Parish Basic Allowance (*Vote; Unanimous*)

**39/10 ALLOTMENTS** -. Nine parishioners had responded to the article in the Parish Magazine with 6 parishioners having previously expressed interest. It was agreed the **Clerk** would write to those interested persons to establish current levels of interest, to suggest a meeting and to enquire whether any person would be prepared to Chair. A parishioner at the Meeting suggested that allotments could be combined with a community orchard.

**40/10 FOOTPATHS & SEATS**

**40.1 Doctor's Steps**- Mr. Taylor confirmed the seats had now been installed with sponsorship for both.

**40.2 Yealm road** – concerns had been raised regarding overgrown hedges and trees obstructing the pavement outside two particular properties. It was agreed the **Clerk** would establish ownership of one piece of land and she would write to the other householder.

**41/10 EMERGENCY PLAN** – Mr. Brown was not present to give an update on progress. **Mr. Carter** would look at updating the plan. It was agreed the **Clerk** would put an article in April's Parish Magazine asking for a list of those people who considered themselves/were considered vulnerable were an emergency situation to arise. The list would be held in confidence.

**42/10 TWINNING - Mr.** Matthews gave an update on proposals to twin the Parish with Trebeurden. Having considered the position Mr. Matthews was considering recommending the Twinning Group stand alone from the Parish Council, with its own constitution. A request was made for a grant from the Parish Council to fund the hire of the WIC/Village Hall for 4 meetings of the Group.

RESOLVED: the Parish Council would fund the hire of the WIC/Village Hall for 4 meetings of the Twinning Group. (*Vote: 7 for, 2 abstentions*).

**43/10 NEWTON FERRERS PRIMARY SCHOOL –**

i) Litter Bins: Following their “making a difference” day, a letter from Class 2 requesting more litter bins from the School to Butts Park was considered. It was agreed the **Clerk** would write to SHDC to request an additional litter/dog bin and would confirm the position to the School.

ii) Information Blob- it was agreed **Mr. Taylor** would go the Primary School to view the “Information Blob”

**44/10 MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**44.1 Harbour Authority** - Mr. Carter advised a visit had been made to Portsmouth to look at the new Pontoon for the Kitley. It would be arriving in 2-3 weeks. The old pontoons had been sold.

**44.2 Halls** –Mr. Brown was not present to give an update on the Village Hall. The Chairman advised Mr. Alan Cooper was now the new Chairman of the WIC Hall Committee. Mrs Penny Wheatley, an experienced fund raiser had outlined options for funding for the WIC Hall.

**44.3 Primary School**- Mrs Hinchliffe advised about the Young Enterprise Scheme which involved training for the top two classes. It was the only School in the South West to have been invited to the regional finals, to demonstrate what it was doing at Primary School level. The new building was finished and had been signed off by the builders the previous Friday.

**45/10 GRANT REQUESTS:** The following request was considered;

**Newton & Noss Network** - RESOLVED: to fund the hire of the WIC Hall for a talk organized by Newton & Noss Network to assist parishioners with any difficulties following the Digital Switchover. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

**46/10 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 47/10

**47/10 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**Alliance & Leicester Current Account** : Total balance at 1.02.10 **£ 61011.57**

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

The balance includes receipt of a Hedge Cutting Bond of £3000 from Devon County Council

**The following cheques were authorised totalling** **£3,038.27**

**CHEQUES DRAWN 11 FEBRUARY 2010**

Chq No	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT	VAT
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1091	J Eschbaecher	Net salary January	£1,103.21	
1092	S McDonough	Net salary January	£891.07	
1093	R Wooderson	Cleaning:Newton Voss & steps Jan 10	£79.00	
1094	Village Hall	Hire NNPC 11 February	£20.00	
1095	Village Hall	Hire NNPC 25 February	£20.00	
1096	J Allen	Cleaning:Noss Voss&Popes Quay Jan 10	£44.80	
1097	Garden Services	Re;Cutting back hedge/digging out shrubs outside No I Butts Park(For Collaton Footpath)	£130.00	
1098	S McDonough	Contribution to office expenses 2010	£350.00	
1099	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	£35.00	
1100	S McDonough	Expenses: Stamps	£24.84	
1101	J Young	Contribution to Chairman's Expenses 2010 CANCELLED-Administrative error	£0.00	
1102	IKON Office Solutions PLC	Invoice for copies 30/10/09-28/01/10	£58.35	£8.69
1103	J Leonard	Invoice for plinth preparation:Drs Steps	£250.00	
1104	R Wooderson	Sweeping Doctors Steps	£32.00	

**Totals                    £3,038.27    £8.69**

\* Section 137 payments : Nil

Total to date: £654.08

**48/10 MRS ESCHBAECHER** - the ending of Mrs Eschbaecher's employment with the Parish Council was noted. **RESOLVED:** A formal vote of thanks was offered to Mrs Eschbaecher recognising her many years work and contribution for the Parish Council. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

**49/10. MAINTENANCE**

**49.1 Butts Park Bus Shelter-** considerations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were discussed. **RESOLVED:** No further action would be taken to replace the Perspex.

**49.2 South West Water** –a letter from a concerned parishioner regarding the delays and implications of the extended works being carried out was considered. It was felt that the system was flooding and the pumping station was unable to cope with the excess of water and sewage. Two new manhole covers were believed to be leaking. It was thought it would take several months to resolve. Health implications of the problem were considered. It was agreed the **Clerk** would write to the Environment Agency expressing concern about the new manhole covers and the concerns over the quality of water. The Harbour Authority had written regarding the jagged edges on the new manhole covers. Mr. Buckland reported that there were two SWW operations taking place – one being the replacement of the manhole covers, which the contractors felt had almost been completed and the other operation involved cleaning and jetting pipes. Mr. Buckland and Mr. Carter were to meet the SWW Manager and May Gurney the following Wednesday to discuss reinstatement of Noss Hard and would express concerns at that stage. Following the meeting it was agreed **Mr. Buckland** would prepare a letter to follow up the concerns which **the Clerk** would send on behalf of the Parish Council.

**49.3 Other areas for consideration-** Mr. Hussell mentioned concern about water issuing on to the carriageway by Broadmoor Farm which had frozen on the previous Monday morning. A road traffic accident had taken place. It was agreed this would be reported to DCC by **the Clerk**.

**In Committee:**

**49.4 Noss Hard –**

i) Mr. Buckland had met with DCC Highways to seek advice on appropriate resurfacing specification for the Hard. **Mr. Buckland** and **Mr. Carter** would meet with May Gurney/SWW the following Wednesday to discuss proper County specification repair to the Hard by means of reinstatement. It was felt that dependent upon the outcome of the meeting, it could be necessary to renegotiate the tenders submitted for resurfacing to take into account the amended specification by approaching the two firms who had submitted the lowest Tenders. Reinstatement may need to take place this year with resurfacing being considered the following year. **Agenda 25 February**

ii) One tender had been received for tidying the Hard. **RESOLVED:** to accept the tender put forward by Garden Services (*Vote; unanimous*)

*Meeting closed at 9.15 pm*