

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
Held on 12 November 2009

PRESENT	Mr. Young (Chairman)	Mr. Carter	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Taylor	Mr. Hussell
Mr. Tubb	Mrs. Hinchliffe	Mr. Buckland	Mr. Brown	Cllr Cooper	Mr. Stitson
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs. McDonough (Clerk)				

8 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

OPEN FORUM

Viridor Waste Management- a short presentation was made by two representatives from Viridor Waste Management regarding a planning application due to be submitted end 2009/beginning 2010 for a new Resource Recovery Centre including energy from waste, recycling and non-hazardous landfill facilities at New England Quarry, Lee Mill. Further details were available on their website - www.viridor-consultation.co.uk/newengland or by telephone 0844 875 1570

New development- a landowner raised his concern about the method used to calculate the survey results of the public consultation on proposed development sites in Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo. Mr. Brown explained the method used to calculate the results and that "first past the post" gave virtually identical results.

Bishops Court – a concern was raised regarding the Parish Council's position taken in respect of a complaint made by Signpost Housing Association over trees on a neighbouring property. The parishioner was advised that the Parish Council were tenants of Signpost Housing Association. The Council Members had now been made aware of the proceedings brought under the Anti Social Behaviour and Disorder Act. The question of whether further action could or should be undertaken on behalf of residents at Bishops Court to investigate their concerns pending the Appeal made by Bishops Court to the Planning Inspectorate against the decision by SHDC was on the Agenda for discussion at the Meeting.

Planning application; Land opposite 60 Noss Mayo- a parishioner raised an enquiry into the method by which concerns should be raised in respect of the recent planning application.

Police Report: Apologies had been received from P.C. John Nolan and P.C.S.O. Sid Lawrence. The following crime had been reported:

JI/09/953

On Tuesday 13th October 2009, a large detached property in Membland was the subject of a high value burglary. The incident was being investigated by Ivybridge CID.

198/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Reasons for absence were noted from Mr. Matthews.

199/09 MINUTES – The Minutes of the 22 October Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

200/09 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE AGENDA.

RESOLVED: That the item concerning **Court Road/WIC Hall footpath** –to consider further investigations made into the specification and costs of upgrading the footpath running from outside Briar Hill Farm to Church Cottage, Court Road and resurfacing the path outside the WIC Hall would be considered in committee. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

201/09 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting –interests were declared in issues relating to Newton Ferrers Primary School by Mrs. Hinchliffe (School Governor) and Mr. Hussell (parent)

202/09 URGENT BUSINESS: RESOLVED: In accordance with Standing Order 15, the following items required immediate action and should be discussed at the end of the Meeting: a letter from Newton Ferrers Church of England Primary School and a report of a tree in need of urgent felling at Passage/Ferry Woods. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

203/09 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

203.1 County Councillor's report-Cllr Mumford made a report on the following:

- i) Viridor were due to hold a public meeting next month regarding their plans for a new waste management plant.
- ii) Local Government Review- the Appeal Court had met but there had been no report of the decision.

1/11/09.....Chairman

iii) Budget – it was estimated that in 2011/2012 DCC would need to make considerable savings, conservatively estimated at being in the region of £50,000,000 per annum:

- a) Significant savings with employment would be made by natural wastage and by putting a containment and vacancy management policy into place with key staff being ring fenced.
- b) Care Homes Structure for Devon- there were between 560-570 care home beds in DCC owned care homes costing £900pw as compared to £390-400pw in the private sector. There was significant under utilisation. A plan was to be put into place to increase occupancy in normal care provision and to reduce costs to £600pw.
- c) The Chief Executive's team had been reduced in size.
- d) A county wide corporate purchasing strategy had been introduced
- e) The Press and Public Relations Department would become one corporate unit
- f) Funding may be unavailable to continue some discretionary services hitherto provided
- iv) Widey Hill- Cllr Mumford would speak to Mr. John Allen regarding the culvert. The Lengthsman would be advised about the blocked drain. Concern was raised about undergrowth to the east side of Widey Cross on the south Side of the carriageway and the bottom of Puslinch hill where trees appeared to be growing out of the tarmac.
- v) Street lamps- there were plans to begin turning off street lamps overnight, possibly not this year but the year after.

203.2 Locality Budget –Mr. Stitson had investigated costs of materials (£500 + VAT) to construct a boat rack for Noss Hard, similar to the rack at the Yealm Yacht Club. It was agreed **Mr. Stitson** would obtain two or three estimates for the costs of construction. **Agenda December**

203.3 Devolved Services -the offer made by Ivybridge Town Council to facilitate investigations into clustering of Parish Councils to take advantage of shared services and the letter from SHDC dated 28 October 2009 were considered.

RESOLVED: the **Clerk** in consultation with the **Vice Chairman, Cllr Cooper** and **Mr Brown** would liaise with Ivybridge Town Council to investigate devolved services for the Parish. *(Vote: Unanimous)*

203.4 Collaton-Butts Park Link –

i) The request from Newton Park Management Company that the Parish Council be responsible for Public Liability Insurance where the path crosses the residents' access drive had been passed to Devon County Council. DCC had advised that they would have responsibility under the terms of the Permissive Agreement. The Clerk had advised Newton Park Management Company as such.

ii) 1 Butts Park – it was noted that Tor Homes had agreed to grant a pedestrian right of way across the verge.

RESOLVED: The **Clerk** was authorised to invite tenders for cutting and removing the growth which was overhanging the site of the proposed path at 1 Butts Park. *(Vote: Unanimous)*.

203.5 Highways

i) **Yealm Road, Court Road, Wrights Lane** - Members noted correspondence from a concerned Yealm Road resident to DCC Highways regarding the use of the bus turning bay at the bottom of Yealm Road by HGV's. The response received from DCC Highways regarding the difficulties being experienced along Yealm Road, Wrights Lane and Court Road was noted together with Mr Matthew's views received in his absence. Council members discussed difficulties with the routes used along Court Road and Yealm Road (particularly with summer parking which caused passing difficulties for HGV's and buses). It was agreed that policing the parking causing obstruction to ensure the Yealm Road route was clear was the main issue and that the matter should be revisited in six months time. **Agenda May**

ii) **Butts Park Crossing**- the hedge trimming requirements provided by DCC were noted.

RESOLVED: to accept the estimate received from Garden Services and to authorise work to be undertaken when necessary. *(Vote: Unanimous)*

iii) **Membland** – no response had been received to date from DCC and/or the Police regarding imposition of a lower speed limit at Membland. **Agenda December**

203.6 District Councillor's Report. Cllr Cooper had no items to report.

203.7 Parish Asset transfer- Cllr Cooper advised that proposals for asset transfers to Parishes were uncertain. **Cllr Cooper** would keep the Clerk advised as to when the matter should be brought back before the Council.

203.8 Play area maintenance and improvement –

i) The Clerk advised that there had been no reply to the query raised with SHDC further to their letter dated 10 September regarding responsibility for play park management. The Clerk had sent a further letter to enquire into the position. **Cllr Cooper** would contact the SHDC Officer about the position.

ii) The appointment made with a playground manufacturer to view Noss Mayo and Newton Ferrers play parks on 25 November 2009 was noted. **Agenda December**

iii) A proposal to re position the Noss play park and to use the existing site for allotments was considered. It was agreed that an article would be placed in the Parish Magazine to ascertain interest in the provision of allotments. A parishioner thought to be interested in allotments would be approached to see whether he would be prepared to co ordinate. **Agenda February.**

iv) A request from a young parishioner for a litter bin at Butts Park was considered. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would ask SHDC for a litter bin and an extra dog bin for Butts Park.

203.9 School Transport Provision- Mrs Hinchliffe advised that she would liaise with the Chair of the School Governors, but it was thought that there had not been sufficient interest shown.

204/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received concerned:-

204.1 The letter from SHDC dated 30 October 2009 was noted. It was agreed neither to send a representative nor to raise any issues at the meeting of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances and Parish Remuneration Panel on Tuesday 24 November.

204.2 It was agreed not to send a representative/s to the Empowering Communities in Devon Conference on Wednesday 25 November 2009

204.3 It was agreed not to send a representative/s to meet the leader of Devon County Council on Monday 7 December 2009.

205/09CONSULTATION

Marine and Coastal Access Bill: Part 9 Coastal Access – the Clerk outlined the main applicable points to the River Yealm Estuary derived from draft consultation documents provided by Natural England. The River Yealm had been one of a number of estuaries singled out for consideration. Two main options had been put forward by Natural England:

a) Modest improvement by providing a secure pedestrian route from Noss Mayo to the ferry.

b) A continuous route around the estuary including bridges across various inlets and tributaries.

There was scope for the ferry to be subsidised to operate beyond its current summer operating times.

Yealmpton Parish felt the ferry was sufficient. Brixton and Wembury Parishes would not be responding to the consultation.

RESOLVED: the **Clerk** would prepare a draft letter for Mr. Taylors approval to respond to the draft consultation document by proposing a rural footpath (to National Trust Specification rather than the 4 metre wide paths envisaged by Natural England) from Shallowford Creek to Puslinch Creek.(Vote:9 in favour, 2 against).

206/09 MAINTENANCE

206.1 Private land: clearance request; junction Passage Road/Noss Hard – Mr Stitson had not seen the landowner.

206.2 Bridgend – the **Chairman** would view the condition of the stone wall on the Noss side and mud at the base to see whether it required attention. **Agenda December**

206.3 Annual Parish Council Asset Inspection –arrangements were considered for conducting an annual asset inspection. It was agreed that an updated list would be approved by **Mr. Taylor, Mr. Carter** and **Mr. Brown**. The agreed list would then be circulated amongst the **Council Members** to conduct the inspection.

Agenda February

206.4 Other areas for consideration- no other areas were raised.

207/09 SPORTS PAVILION

207.1 Vandalism- The Chairman reported that repairs had been made to the damage to the glass blocks on an emergency basis and in the interests of protecting public safety.

RESOLVED: To retrospectively authorise the emergency repairs to the damage caused to the Sports Pavilion by vandalism and to authorise payment of the invoice from DS Developments for the repair costs. (Vote: *Unanimous*).

The Chairman advised that the three young boys who admitted causing the recent damage to the Sports Pavilion at Butts Park had all been dealt with by way of 'Youth Restorative Disposal'. The boys had apologised to the Chairman, would pay £10 each towards the repair costs and would be cleaning the Sports Pavilion walls and paintwork. The Council agreed that this was the appropriate course of action.

207.2 Extension/refurbishment – the **Chairman, Mr. Stitson** and **Mr. Tubb** would meet to discuss the work to be undertaken.

208/09 PLANNING

VINE COTTAGE RIVERSIDE ROAD WEST 37/1859/09/F - Resubmission of householder application37/0301/09/F for erection of garage and car port and associated retrospective groundworks.

3/11/09.....Chairman

The current planning application was considered. Concerns were raised about the impact on the Conservation Area. The Newton Ferrers Village Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan had made specific mention to the preservation of the green areas behind Riverside Road West. It was suggested that the owner should be contacted to ask him to erect two poles to represent the eaves level and ridge level and that a site visit should take place.

RESOLVED: That those **Council members** who wished to look at the site from Noss Mayo should do so. The decision of the Parish Council in respect of the Planning Application would be deferred to the Meeting on Wednesday 25 November 2009. (*Vote: unanimous*)

RESOLVED: that the **Clerk** would write to the planning officer (with copy to the Tree Officer) SHDC regarding concerns, which were raised in respect of the previous application (37/0966/09/F), about the effect of excavation on slippage in the neighbouring garden, upon ground water levels and the trees/ hedges in the vicinity .The **Clerk** would enquire whether these issues had been addressed and whether there were any proposals as to how the potential problems would be rectified. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

209/09 MEETINGS ATTENDED: Brief reports were received regarding the following:-

209.1 RC Harbour Authority. There had been 5100 boat nights this year. Favourable terms had been obtained for new pontoons. A budget meeting had taken place – consideration was being given to not increasing fees for the next year.

209.2 JB/JY Halls. The Chairman reported that negotiations for the new lease on the WIC Hall were ongoing. Mr Brown had no report regarding the Village Hall.

209.3 JB Ivybridge and Surrounding area Parish Cluster Meeting. Mr Brown had not attended.

209.4 SH Primary School. The Fireworks had been a great success on 5 November. An estimated 6 -700 people attended. The profit for the evening was to be confirmed. Mrs. Christine Finch who had been a parent governor had been appointed as community governor following Mrs. Mary Wilcox's retirement and the post of parent governor had been taken by Mr. Derek Butler. This was felt to be very good news because the governors had specifically requested a parent to support the premises committee. The School was developing a link with a London school to help develop British cultural awareness and to encourage tolerance and respect for all individuals. The play park questionnaires had been distributed with the weekly newsletter on 6 November and responses were already coming in. It was hoped to arrange a Meeting between Mrs. Sealey, Head Teacher and representatives from the Parish Council.

209.5 SH SHDC Budget Consultation Meeting. Mrs Hinchliffe reported that the meeting had been very poorly attended. The meeting had been advised about the costs savings that would need to be met by SHDC.

209.6 JY/AC SDCLAG. The Chairman reported that the Vice Chairman had given a very well received presentation to the Meeting about the Collaton/Butts Park Link. The total cost of the path was anticipated to be approximately £37500 but a contingency figure would need to be added. Funding from SDCLAG of £6500 had been confirmed, which added to £29,000 provided by DCC would mean that there would be a shortfall which would need to be taken into account in the Budget.

210/09 ADMINISTRATION

210.1 Bishops Court

- i) **Yealm Medical Centre-** The Vice Chairman reported on the meeting with Yealm Medical Centre re letting arrangements and a proposed increase in the rental charges for the consulting room with a charge being made for use of the telephone. The Doctors surgery ran one day per week from 9am-11am (no fixed day, but not Mondays). The Manager had been asked whether one other day could be left free as interest had been shown in hiring the room. The Manager had also been asked to bring to patients' attention the availability of Doctors' appointments at Bishops Court.
- ii) **Storage-** There had been no further news regarding alternative arrangements offered at the Reading Room.
- iii) **Room rental-** Enquiry had been made by a parishioner for rental of the room to see patients. The Council discussed the charging rate to be proposed and agreed in principle that a key should be provided were the Consulting Room to be hired to this individual. With respect to equipment storage, the Parish Council suggested that the individual may wish to liaise with Yealm Medical Centre on a direct basis.
- iv) **Trees-** The Council members were updated on the position regarding a complaint brought by Signpost Housing Association under Part 8 Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 regarding Eucalyptus trees on one of the boundaries. A decision made by SHDC was currently subject to an Appeal, and a site visit by the Planning

Inspector was anticipated. The Parish Council had been advised by Signpost Housing Association that one representative from the Parish Council could attend the site visit to observe. It was agreed that the **Vice Chairman** or **Mr. Brown** would attend. The **Clerk** would write to the residents who had written to the Parish Council to advise them of the position taken by the Parish Council.

Mr. Carter left at 10pm

210.2 Bridgend maintenance- RESOLVED; to authorise discharge of the invoice from Garden Services dated 16 October 2009 for clearance of the area from the water trough to around the Maltsters seating area. *(Vote: Unanimous)*

211/09 FOOTPATHS & SEATS

211.1 Doctor's Steps- It was agreed that the **Chairman** would invite a builder to look at the site to give an indication of the costs of constructing a base for the seats. When estimates had been obtained for the base and seats, **Mr. Taylor** would speak to the relatives of the person in whose memory the original seat had been placed to find out whether they would contribute to the costs.

211.2 Horses- further difficulties experienced with the use of footpaths by horse riders was considered and the danger to the horse riders and pedestrians by doing so.

RESOLVED: Devon County Council would be asked to provide prohibitory horse riding signs at both ends of the Leas Path. *(Vote: 9 for, 1 abstention)*

211.3 Court Road/WIC Hall footpath –The position of one of the owners of the land over which the proposed upgraded path would cross was considered. **Agenda December**

In view of the confidential nature of the item to be discussed, it had been agreed that item 211.4 should be considered in Committee:

211.4 Court Road/WIC Path – consideration of specification and costs.

Further investigations made into the specification and costs of upgrading the footpath running from outside Briar Hill Farm to Church Cottage, Court Road and resurfacing the path outside the WIC Hall were considered. The matter would be discussed further once the position of the landowner had been clarified.

Agenda December

212/09 TREES

The Council considered the report made by a National Trust representative about a Sweet Chestnut Tree in need of urgent felling. The tree was split and overhanging the car parking bay in Passage Wood/Ferry Wood on the boundary of Parish Council/National Trust Land. A proposal had been put forward by the National Trust that the costs be shared between the Parish Council and the National Trust equally. The National Trust representative's rough estimate of the cost would be in the region of £200.

RESOLVED: to authorise the work proposed by the National Trust and to authorise the incurrence of cost on an equal basis. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

213/09 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mrs. Hinchliffe and listed in Minute 214/09

214/09 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account :	Total balance at 1.11.09	£ 68605.44
The balance includes the 2nd instalment of the Precept :		£19622.50
The Gratuity Fund is held within the Current Account:		£16,396.07
The following cheques were authorised totalling		£3184.73

CHEQUES DRAWN 12 NOVEMBER

Chq No	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT	VAT
1047	J Eschbaecher	Net salary November	£1,067.02	
1048	S McDonough	Net salary November	£891.07	

5/11/09.....Chairman

1049	R Wooderson	Cleaning:Newton Voss & steps Oct 09	£76.70	
1050	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC 12 November	£20.00	
1051	Village Hall	Hire NNPC 25 November	£20.00	
1052	J Allen	Cleaning:Noss Voss&Popes Quay Oct 09	£43.50	
1053	Garden Services	Grass cutting: The Green 4-Sep-09 16-Sep-09 29-Sep-09 Bridgend:Clearing and cutting from trough area to and around seating area at Malthouse	£196.50	
1054	Newton & Noss Network	Transfer of closed Youth Club Fund	£238.50	
1055	Yealm U3A	Grant for Environment Fair 28 Nov 09	£60.00	*
1056	Newton Ferrers Primary School PTFA	Grant for fund raising event 5 Nov 09	£50.00	*
1057	Royal British Legion	Donation & Remembrance Wreath	£100	*
1058	Mrs. J Young	Reimbursement for flowers for Parish Council window at Holy Cross Harvest Festival	£20.00	*
1059	S McDonough	stamps	£29.52	
1060	DisplayKit	Replacement pole clips,bolts & support washers for display panels	£42.31	£5.52
1061	Ricoh Capital Ltd	Invoice for copies 30 Jul-29 Oct 09	£32.33	£4.22
1062	DS Developments	Invoice for repairs to Sports Pavilion	£297.28	£38.78
		Totals	£3,184.73	£48.52

*Section 137 payments : £230
Total to date: £575.08

Mrs Hinchliffe and Mr Hussell left the meeting at 10.35pm in view of declared interests in item 216/09

216/09 NEWTON FERRERS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL- the letter from the School requesting financial support dated 7 November 2009 for I.T. for the School and the wider community was considered. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mrs Sealey, the Head teacher, confirming that the Council had agreed to put £500 into the budget in principle, but the Budget as a whole would need to be voted upon.

Meeting closed at 10.45pm

6/11/09.....Chairman