

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on 14 January 2010**

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

2 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

**OPEN FORUM**

**Police Report:** Apologies had been received from P.C. John Nolan. The following crimes had been reported:  
JI/09/1187 - Overnight 24/12/09 - 25/12/09 a vehicle parked in a private parking bay at Bishops Court, Newton Ferrers, sustained damaged. One of the tyres had been lacerated and it was believed a screw had been deliberately placed under the tyre.

JI/10/18 - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009 - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010, a metal cycle rack fitted to a vehicle parked in Netton Car Park, Noss Mayo was forcibly damaged.

JI/10/19 - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010 - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010, a metal boat trailer was stolen from a residential property in Meadow View, Noss Mayo.

**01/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Reasons for absence were noted from Mr. Stitson.

**02/10 MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting 10 December were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**03/10 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.

**04/10 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**04.1 County Councillor's report** –Cllr Mumford had advised that he would be late. It was agreed that he would be heard from when he arrived.

**04.2 Boundary Committee-** the letter and summary received from the Boundary Committee dated 8 December 2009 and the letter from Cllr John Tucker 10 December 2009 were considered.

RESOLVED: No further representations should to be made to the Secretary of State prior to the closing date of 19 January 2010. (*Vote: 9 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 against*)

**04.3. Locality Budget –Mr. Stitson** was not present at the meeting to provide further information relating to the estimates for the costs of constructing a boat rack for Noss Hard.

**04.4 Devolved Services** – The Members considered a report of the DAPC briefing Meeting held on Monday 11 January made by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Brown and the Clerk and noted the results of the pilot project being run by Stokenham Parish Council. Concerns were raised about the lack of budgeting and costs transparency provided by SHDC, value for money and the affect on the Precept. It was felt that the level of devolved services, extra work and the parishes with whom Newton & Noss could cluster would need to be looked at very carefully. Ivybridge Town Council had sent out a questionnaire for completion and one was expected from DAPC shortly. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored but no further action taken at this time.

**04.5 Collaton-Butts Park Link** –progress made was considered and in particular:

- i) Construction had been held up due to adverse weather and frozen ground.
- ii) The vegetation outside 1 Butts Park had been cleared
- ii) There were still legal issues with the transfer of land by Tor Homes which were being dealt with by the DCC legal department.

**04.6 Highways**

i) **Yealm Road-** the Members considered the further request for action regarding pedestrian safety on Yealm road near Holy Cross Church but felt that their previous decision should stand. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would contact the Parishioner and suggest that if the Parishioner remained concerned that he should contact Mr. John Halliday at DCC Highways for advice.

ii) **Membland-** the response received from DCC regarding reducing the speed limit in Membland was noted and the fact DCC did not consider it an appropriate location for speed reduction measures. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would provide a copy of the letter to the concerned parishioner.

1/01/10.....Chairman

iii) **Butts Park Crossing** – The Council noted payment of the Hedge Cutting Bond of £3000 from DCC and the method by which had been calculated.

**04.7 District Councillor's Report.** Cllr Cooper reported that Tor Homes had held a meeting the previous day and were going to go ahead with their proposal for a development of affordable housing at the field between New Barn and "Ashcroft", Parsonage Road. Tor Homes intended to make a presentation to the Council and it was hoped that plans could be submitted in March, with builders on site in September.

**04.8 Play area maintenance and improvement** – In particular:-

i) Correspondence received from SHDC dated 5 January 2010 further to their letter dated 10 September regarding responsibility for play park management was noted and that SHDC were seeking financial contribution of £100 per play park despite owning Butts Park and leasing Noss Play Park. Concerns had been raised by other Parishes in a similar position. Members also expressed concern about the lack of information as to how the figures had been calculated and the affect on the Precept in forthcoming years. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would respond to SHDC advising that the Budget and Precept had been set and that the Council were not in a position to make a contribution towards the costs. The Parishes who had expressed concern would be copied in on the letter.

ii) It was noted that a Meeting had been arranged with Mr Ross Kennerley(SHDC) on 21 January 2010 at 10am at Noss Play Park

iii) A report of the Noss Play Park site visit in December was noted. Mr. Buckland was in the process of drawing up a specification for the work to be undertaken to enable invitations to tender to be submitted. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would contact DAPC for information on standard conditions to be included in the invitations to tender/contract.

RESOLVED: **Mr. Buckland** would forward the specification for works to rectify the drainage problem at Noss Play Park to the **Clerk** .The **Clerk** would invite contractors to tender for the work to be undertaken.(*Vote: Unanimous*)

It was agreed that Mr. Kennerley (SHDC) would be advised of the intended work at the meeting on 21 January 2010.

## **05/10 PLANNING**

**05.1 TPO 1 Derry's Cottage-** the position and the Tree Warden's response was noted.

**05.2 SHDC Local development Framework** - Development policies DPD Submission stage- the Members considered an update regarding the Princes Foundation and site allocations DPD from Cllr Cooper. Aside from the affordable housing project planned for the field off Parsonage Road between "Ashcroft" and New Barn (which was anticipated to comprise 1 house for the landowner and 12-13 affordable houses) there would be no allocation for any new housing until after 2026.

## **06/10 ADMINISTRATION**

### **06.1 Budget 2010/11**

i) **Precept** – In line with the Council's previous discussion that, where possible, the Precept should not be increased, reduced contingency figures were agreed.

RESOLVED: To accept the revised figures and request a Precept of £39,245 for 2010/11 (0% increase on the previous year). (*Vote: Unanimous*)

ii) **Annual Review** – Routine payments and charges for 2010 were reviewed.

RESOLVED: The following charges/payments were agreed for 2010:-

Contribution to chairman's expenses: £150 (no change)

Contribution to clerk's office expenses: £350 (no change)

(To reflect the costs of light/heat/power/council tax for one room)

Cleaning of Newton Voss/Noss Voss/various steps/Pope's Quay: to be increased by approx 3%

Boat charges: outhaul charge/Big Slip charges: no change

Membership fees: Seven regular payments should be renewed in 2010 in accordance with the list compiled by the clerk.

(*Vote: Unanimous*)

**06.2 Clerk's Office** - Mrs. Eschabecher's request to purchase surplus office equipment owned by the Parish Council was noted. The second hand value of the itemised list was considered negligible.

RESOLVED; Mrs. Eschbaecher should retain the office equipment at no cost. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

### **06.3 Bishops Court:**

i) Further correspondence from Yealm Medical Centre regarding letting arrangements and the proposed increase in rent, from £92 per month to £100 per month from 1 April, was considered. Concerns had been raised about cleaning and parking at Bishops Court although Council Members noted that no complaints had been received in respect of these issues since 2008. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the manager of Yealm Medical Centre advising that, as a gesture of goodwill, the rent increase would be postponed to 1 October 2010.

ii) The site visit by the Planning Inspectorate to Bishops Court had been cancelled. A new date was awaited.

iii) The issue of the maintenance of Bishops Court by Signpost Housing Association with particular reference to the lift was considered. At one point, residents on the upper level had been unable to go out for 10 days as the lift was not working. Residents had become trapped in the lift (which had no seat) when it had broken down. Residents were apprehensive about going out due to the unreliability of the lift. Signpost had advised that they did not have the funds (£60,000) to replace the lift.

RESOLVED: The **Clerk** and **Cllr Cooper** would prepare and send a letter to SHDC to express concern over the unreliability of the lift and the affect on the residents at Bishops Court. The letter would be copied to DCC and Gary Streeter M.P. (Vote: *Unanimous*)

## **07/10. MAINTENANCE**

### **07.1 Noss Hard**

i) A report from the working party following their site visit to the Hard was considered together with recommendations for work to be undertaken. Council Members noted that in view of time constraints, invitations to Tender for work to resurface the Hard had already been sent to three contractors asking for responses by 28 January. Mr. Buckland had prepared a more detailed specification and it was agreed that this would be sent out to the three contractors. A fourth contractor would also be approached. The Clerk had received no response from South West Water's contractors May Gurney as to whether they intended to reinstate the Hard to the condition it was in prior to commencement of their work. The Chairman advised that he had spoken to May Gurney and it appeared that they still had some considerable work remaining. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would write to South West Water to advise of the Council's concerns regarding the damage caused to the surface of the Hard and whether there was an intention to reinstate or contribute towards the costs of doing so. It was further agreed that the **Clerk** would contact May Gurney to find out how long the contractors anticipated being sited on the Hard. The Clerk outlined provisions and implications of the Commons Act 2006, potential planning considerations and potential consents to be obtained if the Council wished to proceed with the Hard being resurfaced. The Clerk had spoken to SHDC Development Control Department and was waiting to hear back from them with their views.

ii) The Council considered whether any action should be undertaken following reports of a child being swept through the pipe under the crossing to Tidal Waters/Public footpath over the weekend of 14 November. It was agreed that no action would be undertaken. If grills had been in place when the child was swept away, the child could have become wedged rather than being drawn through the pipe and back up to the surface of the water.

**07.2 Butts Park Bus Shelter** -It was noted that Mr. John Leonard had been asked to remove broken Perspex from the bus shelter in the interest of public safety. Consideration was given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and whether the Perspex should be replaced. Mr. Leonard had given an estimate of £185. There was some discussion as to whether the Perspex had already been replaced. It was agreed that if the work had already been undertaken, then payment of Mr. Leonard's costs would be authorised.

RESOLVED: To authorise payment of Mr. Leonard's costs of £10.

### **07.3 Other areas for consideration – (Min 08.06 refers)**

## **08/10 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT-**

Cllr Mumford reported on the following

**08.1 Highways-** DCC would normally expect to have used 12,500 tonnes of grit by the current time of year but had used 18000 tonnes in view of the adverse weather. Stocks had been maintained. 1700 miles of highway had, by enlarge, been kept clear with 1600 grit bins being replenished. Cllr Mumford suggested that the Parish should give consideration to particular problem areas and whether there were any particular places where salt/grit bins should be left strategically.

**08.2 Science Park-** DCC had signed an agreement to move forward plans for the Science Park in conjunction with the Regional Development Agency, Exeter University and the Met Office which could create 3000 jobs

**08.3 Domiciliary Care** – consultation was taking place with respect to domiciliary care and residential homes going out to commercial tender.

**08.4 Wind Farm-** - progress was being made with respect to the proposed wind farm in the Channel which could be linked in to the Grid at North Devon.

**08.5 Local Government Review-** the Boundary Committee had proposed one model for a single unitary authority. It was believed that the Exeter /Exmouth Unitary bid could still proceed. The issue was open for further consultation until 19 January. It was suggested that, in view of costs pressures on local government, it was the wrong time to deal with such large scale changes.

**08.6 Bridgend-** Mr. Buckland advised Cllr Mumford of the under cutting to the wall at Bridgend (Noss side) and the slight movement in the road surface. Concern was also raised about blocked buddle holes along that stretch of road.

Mr. Buckland had also noted that there appeared to be erosion under the steps at the South West Water Pumping Station. The hole now measured 1.3 metres and the wall had cracked. The **Clerk** would advise SWW.

**09/10. CONSULTATION-** the consultation on school admission arrangements for Devon Schools for 2011/2012(available for review and comment until March 2010 at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)) was considered. The Council had no comment to make.

**10/10. NEWTON FERRERS PRIMARY SCHOOL- DCC funding of IT provision at Primary schools-** The issue between DCC and schools in Devon over IT and Broadband provision reported in the Western Morning News on Monday 7 December and the impact on Newton Ferrers Primary School was considered further. Mrs. Hinchliffe advised the Council that this related to capital expenditure under the "Harnessing Technology Grant". DCC had, in the past, allowed the fund to be used for Broadband provision. DCC had then had an audit, had been told that they were not permitted to do this, and half way through the year required £6780 back from the Primary School. This was a problem faced by Primary Schools in Devon, but not, it appeared, Cornwall. The Primary School had made a grant request to the Parish Council for IT funding in November 2009.

**11/11 SPORTS PAVILION** The Chairman was waiting for costs details.

**12/10. DIGITAL TV/RECEPTION-** the members considered whether to arrange and be responsible for the costs of an evening talk to assist parishioners with any difficulties following the Digital Switchover. **Mr. Brown** advised that he would be attending a Newton & Noss Network meeting the following day and would revert back to the Council if necessary.

**13/10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** The main items received concerned:-

**13.1 Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils** – it was agreed that the Chairman would attend the Meeting on 27 January 2010 7.30pm at Ivybridge Town Hall.

**13.2 Community Safety Forum Event-** no Members were available to attend the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Forum on Thursday 25 February 2010.

**14/10 BIG SLIP QUAY-** The Members noted that formal notices were served on 14 December 2009 on three kayaks which were not registered for storage space on the quay. Public notice was to be given in the Parish Magazine in February asking the owners to contact the Clerk urgently. It was agreed to review the issue in March.

**15/10. FOOTPATHS & SEATS- Doctor's Steps-**

**15.1** An update was received on investigations into the costs of replacing the old seat. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be responsible for the costs of the plinth. Mr. Taylor would approach the relative of the person in whose name the original seat had been placed to see if she would contribute to the cost of one seat. An article had also been placed in the February Parish Magazine inviting interest.

**RESOLVED:** to authorise purchase of two replacement seats for the Doctor's Steps from Otter Nurseries for £269.

**15.2** It was noted that Mr. Wooderson had been asked to sweep the lower section of the steps in the interests of public safety. It was agreed to authorise payment of his costs.

**16/10 MEETINGS ATTENDED:** To receive brief reports regarding the following:-

**16.1 Harbour Authority-** Mr. Carter advised that there had been no meeting

**16.2 Halls** – both the Chairman and Mr. Brown advised that there had been no meetings.

**16.3 Primary School-** Mrs Hinchliffe indicated that the School's budget was under pressure. There were currently 95 children at the school, 7 having joined reception this term. 8 children had their name down to attend in September (9 would be lost from Year 6 in July). The number of children at the school on the third Thursday in January would determine funding for the entire year. The new school building was on the verge of being finished with only the floor remaining to be laid.

**16.4 SHDC Budget Meeting with Town & Parish Councils-** no one had been available to attend the Meeting on 14 January falling on the same day as the Parish Council Meeting.

**17/10. GRANT REQUESTS:** The following request was considered;

4/01/10.....Chairman

**Modbury Tourist Information-** for support contained in letter of 2 December 2009.  
 RESOLVED: There would be no contribution made to Modbury Tourist Information. (Vote: Unanimous)

**18/10 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 19/10

**19/10 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**Alliance & Leicester Current Account :** Total balance at 1.01.10 **£ 64,219.02**

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 £2778.65**

**CHEQUES DRAWN 14 JANUARY 2010**

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>VAT</b>
1076	J Eschbaecher	Net salary December	£1,067.02	
1077	S McDonough	Net salary December	£890.07	
1078	R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss & steps Dec 09	£76.70	
1079	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC 14 January	£20.00	
1080	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC 28 January	£20.00	
1081	J Allen	Cleaning:Noss Voss&Popes Quay Dec 09	£43.50	
1082	River Yealm			
	Harbour Authority	Supply:Slipway Cleaning Agent	£36.80	£4.80
1083	South Hams CAB	Donation	£50.00	
1084	WIC Hall	Donation:Christmas Tree & Lights	25.00*	
1085	Village Hall	Donation:Christmas Tree & Lights	25.00*	
1086	J.Leonard	Removal of damaged Perspex		
		Butts Park Bus Shelter	£10.00	
1087	S McDonough	Expenses:Postage	£16.56	
		Annual		
1088	CPRE	subscription	29.00*	
1089	Otter Nurseries	Replacement seats;Doctors Steps	£269.00	tbc
1090	National Trust	Contribution,tree felling:Passage Woods	£200.00	tbc
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£2,778.65</b>	

\* Section 137 payments  
 £79.00  
 Total to date: £654.08

Meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

5/01/10.....Chairman