

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
Held on 8th October 2009

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

OPEN FORUM

Noss Creek- it was reported that contractors carrying out work on the sewage system at Noss Creek had damaged a gully below Crokers Quay. It had been reported to the contractors who had confirmed that they would effect repairs.

U3A Environment Group- Mr. Peter Brown referred to the written request for a grant towards the costs of the Energy Fair due to take place on 28 November 2009. A number of speakers and traders would be giving talks on what the public could do to reduce energy costs.

Membland road safety – a resident raised concerns about speeding motor vehicles through Membland with particular reference to child safety. It was believed that the 20mph sign at Membland was advisory only and that the national speed limit applied. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would write to Devon County Council Highways Department and the Police to ask why the speed limit had not been reduced in that area.

Motorbikes- concern was raised about young drivers who were driving in such a way that they were endangering themselves and other road users. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would contact the police.

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

JI/09/871 -On Saturday 19th September 2009 a tax disc was stolen from an insecure vehicle, parked near the village hall in Noss Mayo.

JI/09/913-Sometime between 1st September and 30th September 2009, a number of windows at the cricket pavilion at Butts Park, Newton Ferrers had been smashed. The local neighbourhood police team was conducting enquiries to identify the offender.

174/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Reasons for absence were noted from Mr. Tubb and Mr. Stitson.

175/09 MINUTES – The Minutes of the 24 September Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

176/09 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting - Mr. Buckland declared an interest by virtue of his membership of the U3A Environment Group.

177/09 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

177.1 Locality Budget – In Mr. Stitson's absence, it was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting

Agenda 22 October

177.2 Collaton-Butts Park Link –

i) Mr. Matthews had checked the terms of the permissive path Agreement which had now been agreed with the landowner. The return of the signed agreement was awaited.

ii) Tor Homes were due to have a Directors' meeting the following day regarding the use of the verge outside 1 Butts Park.

iii) DCC had concerns that in time the large sign near the crossing point would be obscured by trees and that it should be re sited. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take responsibility for the trees to be cut back. It would not be possible for the sign to be sited on the other side of the road due to the position of the path.

iv) An inspection of the Special Verge S30 as arranged by the DCC Rights of Way Improvement Officer had taken place. It had been suggested that consideration be given to primroses being planted rather than daffodils.

Mrs. Eschbaecher would be collecting Chicory seeds and scattering them to the sides of the path.

177.3 County Councillor's Report – Cllr Mumford reported:

i) **Butts Park Crossing-** DCC Highways department would be in touch regarding the hedge trimming requirements. They had also been in contact with the landowner regarding the signs for Wrescombe Lane.

ii) **Widey** - the hedges at the top of Widey had been cleared back.

1/10/09.....Chairman

iii) **Viridor Incinerator plans** – Mr. Matthews left the meeting for the duration of the discussion, having declared an interest by virtue of knowing the Company concerned. Cllr Mumford explained that Viridor owned the New England Quarry near Lee mill – the River Yealm passed through it. Viridor had applied for permission for a new Incinerator. A view was held that if Viridor were not invited to do it as part of the Strategic Waste Partnership then they would proceed with the application in any event. It was anticipated that the chimney would be between 90- 100 meters high. Whilst Cllr Mumford appreciated that a new incinerator was necessary due to the volume of waste going to landfill, there were doubts as to whether it was the right place for it. There were traffic issues as a new road would be required. It was believed that the ash generated by the incinerator would be stored in the open environment, at the head of the River Yealm, be allowed to degrade and then mixed into concrete blocks. The incinerator would get rid of a mass of waste and would generate power and steam for the district heating system. However the distance for piping caused doubt as to financial viability. The Council raised concerns about the impact on the River Yealm. Cllr Mumford was surprised that Viridor had not been in contact to offer a presentation to the Parish Council about the scheme. He would raise this with them.

177.4 Parish sweeping and grass cutting – Cllr Mumford had liaised with other parishes. It appeared that only half were interested. It was agreed that there needed to be greater transparency as to costs and the level of service already provided by SHDC and DCC. Cllr Mumford would ask for more detail with respect to the pilot project in Stokenham and circulate it.

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177.5 Highways

i) **Yealm Road/Wrights Lane/Court Road-** The difficulties being experienced through HGV use of Yealm Road, Wrights Lane and Court Road were considered. The Council discussed correspondence from DCC Highways department dated 11 August and 17 September. DCC were feeling that the traffic route established over the past few years exiting via the top of Court Road rather than Yealm Road was sensible. DCC made reference to the narrowness of the road and lack of footway being the same for Yealm Road as it was for Court Road. DCC were to give further consideration to revising recommendations made to the Planning Authority in respect of the Co-op's Traffic and Access Statement (in which reference had been made to the use of Yealm Road turning head). Members expressed concern for safety of pedestrians on Court Road particularly in winter. RESOLVED: The **Clerk** would write a letter to DCC Highways Department. The Court Road exit was unsuitable as it was frequented by a large number of pedestrians including school children who were sometimes assisted by the police in the form of a "walking bus". Pedestrians using Yealm Road used the Holy Cross churchyard footpath. Court road had no footway whereas large sections of Yealm Road did. The Parish Council did not consider that the Co-op Traffic and Access statement should be changed. (*Vote; 8 for, 1 against*)

ii) **Butts Park Crossing** – *min 177.3 above refers.*

iii) **Road closures-** it was noted that Stoke Road and Clevemoor-Rowden Farm would be closed save for access from Monday 15 - Friday 19 February 2010 inclusive for DCC works

Mrs. Hinchliffe arrived 7.50pm with apologies for being late

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

177.7 Play area maintenance and improvement –

i) Consultation: The Council considered the position regarding a consultation to assess wants and needs in preparation for a funding application. Mr Brown advised that he would print the questionnaires which would be circulated via the Primary School, Playgroup and school bus. Replies would be forwarded to the Clerk/Primary School and then passed to the **Chairman** and **Mr Carter** for analysis.

ii) Play park management- the letter from SHDC proposing Parish Councils taking over responsibility was considered. The Clerk had written to SHDC to ascertain whether this was applicable to Noss Play Park (which was under lease to SHDC) and Butts Park (which was owned by SHDC). It was agreed to wait for a response from SHDC.

Agenda November

ii) The work to be undertaken to the trees and hedges on the boundaries of Noss Play Park to improve visibility and safety of children playing in the park was considered. The Chairman and Mr. Brown had visited the play park. In addition the Chairman, Cllr Cooper and the Clerk had had a meeting with SHDC Tree Officer. The Tree Officer had agreed that some of the trees required felling by SHDC .The small trees would be dealt with in the near future, the two major trees would require budgeting for. The hedges on 3 sides would also be trimmed by SHDC.

177.8 School Transport Provision- Mr Matthews had not heard back from the Primary School. County funding was unlikely and a private arrangement may be required.

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177.9 Parish Asset Transfer – the members discussed whether the decision made by the Council on 10 September 2009 (*min 161.6*) rejecting the proposal contained in the letter from SHDC dated 30 July 2009 should be reconsidered. SHDC had proposed to transfer the public conveniences at the head of Noss Creek, the landing slip at Yealm Road and play ground at Noss Mayo. Cllr Cooper advised that the future of these assets could be at risk. Members were concerned that assuming responsibility for these areas would lead to an increase in the Precept. It was agreed that **Cllr Cooper** would arrange a meeting between the Council and the lead Councillor from SHDC to ascertain the long term plans for SHDC owned assets in the Parish. A review of

the decision as to whether to accept a transfer of assets would be postponed until after that Meeting had taken place.

Agenda November

178/09 PLANNING

Applications received –

178.1 ROSEMONT, WRIGHTS LANE 37/1613/09/F Erection of two storey detached dwelling.

DECISION: No objection, but requested that SHDC take into consideration the letter from a neighbour dated 6 October regarding preservation of the integrity of the foul drain passing under the proposed development site and minimisation of the environmental impact of the construction work. (*Vote: 7 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions*)

178.2 9 CHURCH PARK 37/1617/09/F Retrospective amendments to 37/1829/08/F. Amendments related to raised deck/balcony with shed below and creation of lawn with retaining wall.

DECISION: The Parish Council would support any objection from a neighbour on privacy grounds. The building should be painted an appropriate colour, for example dark green, to minimise impact on its surroundings. (*Vote: 7 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions*)

179/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received concerned:-

179.1 Devon Association of Parish Councils: the Parish Council did not wish to nominate a representative from South Hams to the County Committee

179.2 Electricity Poles- the letter from a Court Road resident further to his concerns about the proliferation of telegraph poles was noted. Two poles had been removed and the scenery improved.

179.3 MOREwoods campaign- the response from Mr Spooner was noted. Two residents had made applications.

179.4 Ivybridge and surrounding area Parish Cluster meeting- Mr Brown agreed to attend the meeting on 12 October at 7pm at Ugborough Village Hall. **Mr Buckland** agreed to attend the Design Panel meeting on Tuesday 13 October 2009 in Mr Brown's place.

179.5 SHDC Budget Consultation Meeting – Mrs Hinchliffe agreed to attend the meeting on 28 October 6.30pm at Follaton House

179.6 Motorbikes –correspondence received regarding nuisance and dangerous driving caused by some young bikers around the Parish, in particular around the Collaton area, was considered. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would write to Inspector Chivers at Ivybridge Police Station regarding the problems. Mr Don Taylor would also be kept advised.

179.7 B.T. kiosks –the letter from B.T. regarding adoption of kiosks at Butts Park and Collaton was considered. It was agreed that the offer would not be taken up in light of the previous onerous obligations and restrictions proposed to be imposed when B.T. had suggested adoption of the kiosk at the Green. Cell phone coverage in the area was good.

179.8 SDCLAG - the **Chairman** and **Vice Chairman** agreed to attend the SDCLAG Forum evening Monday 9th November, 6.30pm- 8.30pm at the Sixth Form Centre, Kingsbridge Community College.

180/09 VILLAGE PLANS –

181.1 2004 Parish Plan –a meeting of the **working group (Mr. Matthews, Mr. Carter and the Chairman)** was arranged for Friday 20 November at 8pm to consider the reports and any updating of the Village Plan.

Agenda December

181.2 Emergency Plan- the **working group (Mr. Carter, Mr. Brown, Mr. Tubb and Mr. Hussell)** would arrange a meeting for January and report to the Council in February.

Agenda February.

181/09 MAINTENANCE

181.1 Private land: clearance request; junction Passage Road/Noss Hard – Mr Stitson was not present to report.

Agenda November.

181.2 Noss Hard - Maintenance and tidying work to be undertaken over winter was considered.

RESOLVED: The **Clerk** would place a note in the Parish Magazine and write to the registered boat owners asking for boats to be cleared by 30 November 2009. Any boats left after 30 November would be removed by the Parish Council and the owners charged. The working group would then review the work to be undertaken. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

Agenda December

181.3 South West Water- it was noted that a Yealm Road resident had reported a leaking sewage pipe on the foreshore to South West Water. The Clerk had spoken to SWW who had advised that there were 10 covers

which were not sealing properly. There was a scheme in place to refit the covers. SWW were liaising with the Environment Agency who it was felt would be pushing for the work to be undertaken quickly.

181.4 Bridgend Quay Clean up- the request from a resident for tidying Bridgend Quay and correspondence in this respect was noted. Mr. Matthews had seen the resident on behalf of the River Yealm Harbour Authority. The Quay is cleaned and tidied following the boat launch in the spring after winter storage and after Seiches. The members agreed that Bridgend Quay was the responsibility of the Harbour Authority and the resident would be advised as such.

181.5 Damaged B.T. box near Butts Park Crossing- the Clerk confirmed that B.T. was being pressed for the action they intended to undertake.

181.6 Bridgend - it was agreed that the **Chairman** would review the condition of the stone wall on the Noss side and whether it required attention.

Agenda November

182/09 FOOTPATHS AND SEATS

182.1 Doctor's Steps- the costs of replacing the old seat and the position of the relatives of the person in whose memory the seat was placed was noted. Mr Taylor had obtained costs of two budget seats. It was agreed that in light of the anticipated installation costs that the prices of more durable seats would be looked into.

Agenda November

It was noted that the seat by the slide in Noss Play Park required attention. The **Clerk** would report the matter to SHDC.

182.2 Court Road/WIC Hall footpaths – Mr Hussell had received a number of requests from parishioners to improve the footpath running from outside Briar Hill Farm to Church Cottage. Permission had been obtained from the landowners to make enquiries into the costs of laying a suitable path. The path running outside WIC Hall was also considered to be in need of resurfacing. It was agreed that the **Clerk** and **Mr Hussell** would obtain some quotations for resurfacing the footpath running from outside the Tea Room to Briar Hill and the construction of a new footpath sufficiently wide for wheelchairs/pushchairs from Briar Hill to Church Cottage. Once the quotations had been obtained further enquiries could be made of the landowners.

183/09 SPORTS PAVILION

i) **Vandalism**-the Chairman advised that there had been damage caused to the glass block window near the gate. It was agreed to authorise the **Chairman** to make enquiries with contractors into repairs. It was further agreed to authorise the Chairman to buy and put up a sign warning that vandals would be prosecuted (cost £42).

ii) **Maintenance**- a fir tree and its surrounds at the bottom end of the playing field required tidying. It was agreed that a working party would meet to clear it.

iii) **Extension/refurbishment**- the Chairman had received a report from Western Power that the cost of installing 3 phase power to support shower improvements would be in the region of £5000. The Chairman suggested that there may be less expensive alternatives to the full extension originally envisaged. It was agreed that a working group comprised of the **Chairman**, **Mr Tubb** and **Mr Stitson** would meet to look at alternative improvements and report back to the Council with their recommendations.

iv) **Lease/licence**-the **Clerk** reported that SHDC Property Services had been pressed again for a draft lease/licence to consider.

Agenda November

184/09 MEETINGS ATTENDED Brief reports were made regarding the following:-

184.1 Harbour Authority – Mr. Carter advised that a meeting would take place the following week to discuss assuming responsibility for the boat administration on Big Slip and Noss Hard. The Harbour Authority had had its second best season .Natural England had been viewing Eel Grass. HMS Drake had arranged to use the River for surveying. Enquires were being made into new pontoons for Kitley.

184.2 Halls – The Chairman reported that the lease was being progressed. There was better liaison between the Village Hall and the WIC Hall. Mr. Brown advised that the Village Hall was doing well. The lighting system had helped to boost events bookings.

184.3 Primary School – Mrs Hinchliffe reported that the roof trusses were up on the new school building. The school budget had moved from a forecast surplus to a deficit following the decision by DCC to reallocate IT and broadband costs against revenue for all schools half way through the accounting year.

184.5 Devon Association of Parish Councils - Mr Cooper reported on the AGM and the report from the Stokenham Clerk into shared services.

184.6 Police Authority Liaison Meeting- no one had been available to attend.

185/09 ADMINISTRATION

4/10/09.....Chairman

185.1. Bishops Court-

- i) The **Vice Chairman and Mr Brown** had made an appointment to see the Practice manager to discuss usage of Bishops Court. **Agenda November**
 ii) It had been agreed **Mr Stitson** would speak to Mr Sizer about storage facilities being offered to the Parish Council by the Reading Room. In Mr Stitson absence, the matter would be deferred. **Agenda November**
 iii) It was agreed that Newton & Noss Network could have use of the answer phone facility at Bishops Court
 iv) Cllr Cooper had spoken to the SHDC Chief Executive and had asked him to look into the difficulty with the trees on the neighbouring property. It was suggested that the neighbour may have agreed to have between 4-5 feet taken off the top of the trees in November. Letters of authority had been received from four Bishops Court Residents asking the Parish Council act on their behalf to try to remedy the problem. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would investigate drafting a letter for the residents of Bishops Court to enable them to bring a complaint under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003. The Parish Council would act as agent for correspondence. It was felt that the trees should be brought down to 2 metres and that the residents had a right to quality of life. It was further agreed that the **Clerk** would write to Signpost to ask for some attention to be given to the gardens which appeared to have been neglected. **Agenda November**

185.2 Telephone – RESOLVED: authorisation would be given to set up a direct debit payment for the Parish Council Clerk's Office telephone. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

185.3 Youth Club Fund- RESOLVED: the unused Youth Club Fund (£238.50) returned to the NNPC in 2007 should be passed to the Newton & Noss Network youth section. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

185.4 Clerks' annual salary review- RESOLVED: to authorise the new salary award April 2009 in accordance with the revised national pay scales. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

185.5 Harvest Festival- RESOLVED: to authorise a payment of £20 to Mrs Jenny Young by means of reimbursement for provision of flowers for the Parish Council window at Holy Cross Harvest Festival. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

185.6 Remembrance Service- RESOLVED: to authorise a payment of £100 to the Royal British Legion by means of donation and a wreath for the Remembrance Day Service. (*Vote: Unanimous*) The Chairman requested good Parish Council representation at the Remembrance Service.

185.7 Savings Account RESOLVED: Mrs Hinchliffe, Mr Taylor, Mr Tubb and Mr Stitson would be signatories to the Community 30 Day Notice Deposit Account to be opened with Alliance & Leicester. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

185.8 Budget 2010/2011- Mrs Hinchliffe, Mr Carter, the Chairman and the Clerk had held the first budget meeting. It was agreed that in principle the Precept should be capped but on the basis that commitments would not increase due to unforeseen events. This would be reviewed before a final decision was made.

186/09 GRANT REQUESTS

186.1 Newton Ferrers Primary School- RESOLVED: to make a donation of £50 to the Newton Ferrers Primary School PTA for a contribution towards the Firework display. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

186.2 Yealm Environment Group- RESOLVED: to make a donation to assist with the hire expenses of the Village Hall for the energy fair proposed for 28 November- the final sum to be approved by the Chairman once details of the hire costs had been provided.

187/09 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account :	Total balance at 1.10.09	£ 53044.86
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The Gratuity Fund is held within the Current Account:	£16,396.07
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The following cheques were authorised totalling	£3,814.52
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CHEQUES DRAWN ON 8 OCTOBER 2009

Chq No	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT	VAT
1036	J Eschbaecher	Net salary October	£1,067.02	
1037	S McDonough	Net salary October	£917.58	
1038	Village Hall	Hire NNPC 8 October 09	£20.00	
1039	Village Hall	Hire NNPC 22 October 09	£20.00	

5/10/09.....Chairman

1040	J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss & Popes Quay Sept 09	£43.50
1041	R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss & steps Sept 09	£76.70
1042	HM Revenue & Customs	Quarterly Income tax and NI (Clerks)	£1,513.95
1043	WIC Hall	Balance for Hire NNPC 3 Aug,10&24 Sept 09	£15.00
1044	Young Devon	Grant for Young Carers Project	£50.00*
1045	British Telecom	Telephone rental & call charges Clerk's Office Invoice 17 Sept 09	£67.25 £7.59
1046	P Box	Reimbursement :Velcro tape for display panels	£23.52
		Totals	£3,814.52 £7.59

*Section 137 Local Government Act

1972 payments £50

Total to date :£345.08

The Meeting closed at 10.25pm

6/10/09.....Chairman