

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

Held on 26 May 2016

PRESENT MRS.ANSELL MR. COOPER CLLR.GREEN MR. CARTER MR. LYNDON
MS. ADAMS MR.PARRY-SMITH MS. LONGWORTH MR. HUSSELL

ALSO PRESENT; 1 parishioner, Cllr. Baldry, Mrs McDonough (Clerk).

OPEN FORUM

Community Road Warden Scheme- a parishioner made reference to the scheme which had been publicised in a recent Devon County Council news article. He was aware the County Council was dealing with large potholes but little was being done to address small potholes. He himself had filled a couple of potholes along his road. He was aware the Parish Council had considered the Scheme last year but no volunteers had come forward. He suggested that the Parish Council should address the matter again inviting the Council to consider employing someone to undertake minor road repairs. The parishioner was advised that the Scheme was mainly to do with inviting volunteers to take part who would then receive training and be covered by the County Council Public Liability Insurance. Contractors would not be covered by DCC Public Liability Insurance and would have had to receive appropriate training. To employ someone would involve additional employment liability costs. The matter was on the Agenda to be considered in the Meeting.

128/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- there were apologies from Cllr. Blackler, Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Tubb.

129/16 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED - members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. Mr. Parry- Smith declared an interest in the planning application for 10 Revelstoke Road by virtue of owning the property.

130/16 DISPENSATION REQUESTS- none.

131/16 VARIATION OF AGENDA – RESOLVED: matters to any pre planning applications/planning enforcement matters should be considered in committee. (*Vote; Unanimous.*)

132/16 DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr. Blackler had sent apologies. His report was read out to the meeting;

1. Devon and Cornwall Housing had promised to keep Ward Members better informed of what was happening in their wards. They controlled 3658 houses in the South Hams and intended building 350 in next 5 years.
2. Civica, the IT advisers to SHDC were sorting the problems which had lasted over the last months or so.
3. A local authority controlled company was still being pursued by the Officers. Several other Authorities had been to SHDC to be informed of such a set up and the way forward in their areas. SHDC were being known as one of the most forward thinking authorities in the country.

Cllr. Baldry gave the following report;

i) Local Authority Company- Price Waterhouse were investigating. An interim report had been received. SHDC was looking into selling services to other local authorities but it was thought they would not be able to sell their planning or telephone services.

ii) Trees- Cllr. Baldry was aware of the correspondence from a parishioner regarding the felling of the Beech Tree on The Green which had been subject to a Tree Preservation Order. SHDC advised against felling trees in nesting season unless public safety was in issue.

iii) River Yealm- he had spoken to the Environmental Health Officer regarding the sewage leaking into the river on the foreshore below Passage Road by Noss Voss. South West Water had advised that the problem had been resolved but similar problems appeared to recur. A local resident had taken photographs which had been passed to the Environment Agency by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

iv) Whitegates, Parsonage Road- Cllr. Baldry agreed with the Planning Officer's refusal recommendation. Cllr. Blackler's views were awaited.

v) Annual Council Meeting- had taken place the preceding Thursday. Most Councillors had remained in post. Mr. John Tucker remained Leader, with Ms. Lindsey Ward as Deputy Leader. Mr. Peter Smerdon was elected Chairman and Ms. Kathy Cuthbert as Vice Chairman. Cllr. Baldry was now on the Licensing Committee.

vi) Hedges- Ms. Longworth asked about the rules regarding cutting down native hedgerows. Approximately 50 metres of natural hedgerow had been cut own in her neighbourhood. Cllr Baldry would make enquiries.

133/16 PLANNING

Planning decisions

133.1 27 The Fairway 0683/16/HHO- householder application for side extension to infill between house and garage with single storey extension. SHDC: Granted.

133.2 Island at Bridgend Hill 0928/16/TCA-Tree works: T1 Lime. Reduce crown by 1m. Crown lift to 5.2m over road. Remove epicormic growth. T2 & T3 Lime light prune of tips. Crown lift to 5.2m over road, deadwood. Reduce remainder of crown by 1.5-2m. T4. Lime - remove. T5. Lime Reduce by 1.5m. Crown lift to 5.2m over road, deadwood and remove epicormic growth. SHDC; Granted.

133.3The Old Sail Loft, Bridgend 0178/16/HHO-householder application for proposed alterations to construct dormers, porch and conservatory. SHDC: Granted.

133.411 Yealm Road 0443/16/HHO-householder application for erection of two single storey timber framed garden rooms replacing existing single storey UPVC garden rooms. SHDC: Granted.

133.5 Development site to the east of 85 Court Road, APP/K1128/W /15/3134412-Erection of dwelling with 2No parking spaces. **DECISION:** Appeal dismissed.

Planning applications received;

133.6 41 Creekside Road 1467/16/HHO- householder application for proposed flat roof extension and alterations. No objection subject to the SHDC Conservation Officer being satisfied with the proposed plans. *(Vote; unanimous.) Mr. Parry- Smith left the meeting.*

133.7 10 Revelstoke Road, 1247/16/HHO- householder application for conservatory to rear of property. **DECISION:** No objection *(Vote; unanimous.) Mr. Parry Smith returned to the meeting.*

133.8 1 Derry's Cottages, Riverside Road East 1300/16/LBC-Listed Building Consent for the replacement of a damaged window with identical design of two opening casements with six panes in each sash, single putty glazed. Application affected a Conservation Area and a Listed Building. The site adjoined/affected a public right of way. **DECISION:** No objection *(Vote; unanimous.)*

133.9 Newton & Noss Neighbourhood Plan-the draft Housing Needs Survey Report had been received. It was agreed that the draft would remain confidential until the Steering group had had the opportunity of meeting with Devon Communities Together to discuss the findings and to deal with any matters requiring clarification. Any Councillors who wished to come to the meeting aside from the Steering Group Members were welcome. Cllr. Green made reference to the government re writing the rules for Neighbourhood Plans which was thought would make Neighbourhood Plans stronger. SHDC had two members of staff who were assisting parishes with Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

133.10 AONB planning consultation- no details had been received. Mr. Robin Toogood, the head of South Devon AONB would be retiring.

133.11 Village Housing Initiative- it was agreed to put forward the following suggestions for the place name to DCH; Hoskin Meadow, Hoskin's Meadow, Peter's Field, Parsonage Close, Parsonage View, Valley View and Valley Rise.

133.12 Conservation Area- the Chairman was undertaking research into a potential extension. She was hoping to speak with Mr. Alex Whish at SHDC.

134/16 ADMINISTRATION

134.1Bishops Court/ alternative storage- the Clerk had met with Mr. Forrester, Reading Room Committee representative, and a contractor at the Reading Room to discuss the potential installation of a door and partition to secure the room for storage. The quote was awaited. **RESOLVED:** To authorise expenditure for the installation of a door, partition and lock for the storage room above the Reading Room to a maximum of £500 plus VAT in the event the Parish Council proceeded with the rental. *(Vote; Unanimous.)*

There was no heating in the room. It was suggested this could be monitored and a dehumidifier purchased if necessary. Mr. Forrester had advised that the Reading Room Committee had taken informal legal advice and had sent a draft Heads of Agreement for approval by the Parish Council. The Parish Council was advised by the Clerk that it had the opportunity of seeking legal advice from solicitors upon the terms of the draft Heads of Agreement and a lease. **RESOLVED:** To delegate negotiations and agreement as to terms of the Heads of Agreement for the rental of the room above the Reading Room to Cllr. Green and Ms. Adams. *(Vote; Unanimous.)*

RESOLVED: To agree that any rental payments for the rent of the storage room at the Reading Room could be paid by Standing Order monthly in advance. *(Vote; Unanimous.)*

RESOLVED; to agree to engage assistance with the move of the Parish Council boxes and records to the new storage facilities subject to a maximum of £50. *(Vote; Unanimous.)*

It was agreed that it was not necessary to instruct a surveyor to investigate the structural integrity and load bearing capacity of the storage room at the Reading Room.

134.2 Events applications- the application for the wedding reception at Noss Green at the end of July was ongoing. The Clerk had asked SHDC to ensure the grass was cut the week before both the wedding and St Peter's fete.

134.3 Grant application- **RESOLVED:** To make a grant of £75 to the River Yealm Regatta committee by means of financial assistance for the Regatta Fireworks. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

135/16 COUNTY COUNCIL

135.1 Highways/Transport-

i) **A379-** Cllr Hosking had advised that work was due to be completed mid July.

ii) **Meadow Close**-Ms. Longworth had spoken to the resident and contractors. The foreman had been very amenable and apologetic and would ensure that vehicles would be parked by the Hoskin's barns rather than on Parsonage Road.

iii) **Parsonage Road**- Mr. Nick Colton, DCC Highways, was hoping to speak with Cllr. Hosking. Legislation dictated that DCC could only use painted roundels where there were upright repeater signs, not where there was a system of street lighting.

135.2 Community Road Warden Scheme- Members discussed the Scheme details of which had been circulated to the Parish, and volunteers invited, in 2015. There had been no interest. If the work was contracted out, any potential contractor would need to have their own public liability insurance and Chapter 8 training. There were also budget considerations particularly in light of the maintenance of the SHDC land assets in respect of which the Parish Council would be taking over maintenance in 2017. It was agreed Ms. Adams would prepare another article for circulation in the Parish Magazine and to the email circulation list inviting volunteers.

137/16 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS – the Parish Council had been very pleased with the tree work conducted by Dartforest Treeworks Ltd which would be passed on to the contractor. The Clerk advised that a large invoice had been received from South West Water for £148.14 for the public tap at Pillory Hill which had experienced a leak in March 2016. The Clerk had asked SWW to consider a leakage allowance which was currently being investigated. Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr. Hussell and listed in Minute 123/16

138/16 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

The following cheques were authorised totalling:

			£2227.36
Chq			
No	PAYEE		AMOUNT
2106	Dartforest Treeworks Ltd	Tree work	£2,210.00
2107	South West Water	Services at Sports Pavilion 6/2/16-17/5/16	£17.36
DD	BT	Broadband Services	£81.48

*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments: £0 total to date; £0

139/16 MAINTENANCE

139.1 Footpath inspection- Mr. Hussell requested volunteers to assist with the annual footpath inspection.

139.2 Noss Voss- the sewage difficulties had been reported to the Environment Agency. The Agency had been advised that it was a swimming area. They had suggested they may be in touch with the RYHA to put warning signs up. SWW was inspecting all manhole covers. There were also difficulties near the former International Paints workshop.

139.3 The Centenary Fields Programme- details had been circulated. Members agreed to take no further action.

139.4 Maintenance working groups-

i) Sports Pavilion- the Chairman congratulated the Vice Chairman on his work with the Cricket Club to secure agreed Licence terms for use of the Pavilion and field. RESOLVED; the draft Licence terms between the Parish Council and Yealm Cricket Club were agreed and the Vice Chairman authorised to sign on behalf of the Parish Council. (*Vote; Unanimous.*) The Vice Chairman had sent draft Licence terms to the Revelstoke Rangers. The Football Club had raised concerns regarding the condition of the goalposts which were used by both the public and the Club. The Vice Chairman had suggested some funding sources to the Club and had advised the Club investigate alternative funding sources and obtain quotes for replacements.

The respective Clubs' insurances and risk assessment details were still awaited.

Cllr. Green suggested that as part of SHDC Open Spaces Strategy Section 106 monies could be prioritised for play parks and sports fields. It was agreed to look into this further for the meeting on 9 June.

The SHDC Locality Officer had advised that the current Dog Control Orders (DCO's) in place were due for renewal later this year/ next year. The DCO's would be replaced with Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) under the Anti – Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. South Hams would consult with every Parish Council and landowner with public space about this in October. This would be the opportunity to include an area in the new Order and specify the conditions, dogs on leads, no dogs etc. SHDC would not therefore be looking to make any amendments to the current situation until this process was carried out. He suggested that the Parish Council awaited further correspondence about this before making any further decisions.

ii) The Green/Dillons Green- a parishioner had laid a complaint about the tree works being conducted in nesting season. A time line had been produced for the parishioner detailing the work undertaken by the Council through from receiving the initial tree inspection report through the Resistograph testing, Tree Preservation Order Consent tree works application, DCC traffic permissions and scheduling in for work.

The parishioner had suggested changes to the Parish Council's Environmental Policy. It was agreed Cllr. Green would review both the Environmental and Tree Policy which would be considered at the next meeting. Dartforest Tree works had confirmed that the works were carried out during nesting season because the trees had been subjected to a preliminary survey for nesting Birds and possible Bat habitats before work commenced and all the trees did not possess any characteristics or habitat potential for either nesting birds or bat roosts. If there had been a nest in a tree (in the upper crown) it would have been fairly easy to identify but cavities were harder to spot and there were none of these in any of the trees. If a potential nesting site or bat roost had been observed then they would have gone to the Site Specific Risk Assessment which would then have led them onto a separate more detailed survey of a Potential Wildlife Disturbance sheet which would seek to identify if a potential bat roost was actually used by bats or was just a hole in the tree or if a nest was being used or if it was redundant etc. The results from this more detailed survey would have determined if the work could be carried out or not. However, this more detailed survey was not used because there was no evidence of any birds or bats.

Members had inspected the tree stump and had noted the deep substantial rot running through the middle of the tree.

The Tree Surgeon had advised to ensure the new tree was watered particularly at prolonged dry spells, to ensure the tree was weeded at the base of the tree and to ensure there was organic matter and mulch in the rooting area. As the tree grew it might be necessary to adjust the tree tie to allow for growth. The Vice Chairman and Ms. Longworth would monitor watering.

One of the existing Beech Trees was showing signs of stress. The Tree Surgeon had suggested mulch application around the roots. RESOLVED; to accept the quote from South Hams Garden and Property Service to mulch around the base of one of the Beech Trees at The Green in the sum of £100. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

Ms. Adams would be liaising with Mr. Swift regarding use of the retained wood from the tree. It appeared as though the wood remaining after the felling, which Mr. Swift had collected in the evening, was not quite as much as first thought.

It was agreed to seek quotations to deal with registering ownership of the land outside the WI hall in respect of which there was direction from Devon County Council.

iii) Play parks- The Vice Chairman advised that Mrs Wheatley was seeking to prepare flyers and posters to advertise the appeal for funding for the Butts Park Play Park improvements. A budget of £100 had been requested out of the £5000 funding agreed in principle by the Parish Council. RESOLVED; to meet publicity costs for the appeal subject to a maximum of £100. *(Vote; 8 in favour, 1 abstention.)*

Cllr. Green advised that SHDC had now stopped using Herbicide containing Glyphosate in play parks. The alternative at present was to dig up weeds by hand. It was agreed the Clerk would obtain further information from the SHDC Locality Officer.

iv) Noss Recreation Areas- Curtis Whiteford Crocker had responded in part to the outstanding enquiries about the land transfer. A parishioner had complained about the new green screens erected along the eastern side of the tennis courts. The screens had replaced torn screens. The complaint was noted but it was felt the screens would fade and become less noticeable. The stream running from Coach Road to the Noss Hard had been cleared. Concern was expressed about Hemlock growing along the sides of the stream at Noss Hard. The contractor scheduled to undertake maintenance work had been advised.

139.5 Other areas for consideration-

i) Butts Park-the Clerk was waiting to hear from DCC regarding grass cutting of the triangle by the water tower and grass verges running from Butts Park.

ii) The Green- the plinth had been improved and payment of the contractor's invoice was authorised.

iii) Pope's Quay Steemson seat- the varnishing had been improved and payment of the contractor's invoice was authorised.

In committee

140/16. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT/PRE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No matters were considered

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm