

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

Held on 8 October 2015

**PRESENT MRS ANSELL
MS ADAMS
MR LYNDON**

**MR COOPER
MR CARTER
MS. COVE**

**MR HUSSELL
MS LONGWORTH
MRS.COOPER**

ALSO PRESENT; 3 parishioners

Mrs McDonough (Clerk)

OPEN FORUM

Police Report September 2015- PCSO 30540 Andy Potter gave the

Newton Ferrers-overnight 1st / 2nd theft of a dinghy CR/061898/15.

Noss Mayo-between 28th and 30th August outboard engine stolen CR/062085/15 [reported in September.]

Westerley, Yealm road- the architect on behalf of the owners gave a short presentation in respect of proposed plans for replacement dwellings at Westerly. The architect gave a brief outline of the planning history concluding that the key points arising from the Appeal refusal by the Planning Inspector were the importance of the design and scale of the building. The Inspector had found some merit with the existing building. It was a well maintained and preserved Victorian Villa which did not mean it necessarily needed to be replaced. English Heritage had described it as a handsome building although of unremarkable design. South Hams District Council seemed to accept that the building could be replaced but the issue was with what, taking into account scale, massing and impact on neighbours. The architect described the fragmented nature of buildings up that section of the Creekside. The intention was to present the appearance as several smaller buildings rather than one large. The proposal was for two contemporary style dwellings – one would give the appearance of two units but would be in one occupation, the other smaller building would be dug into the site. A photomontage was displayed modelled on ridge heights of neighbouring properties. The Vice Chairman asked if the existing building had to be demolished. The architect advised that it was always arguable that it was unnecessary. It was dependent on what the owner wished to do. The footprint would be larger but South Hams District Council, during pre-planning application, had suggested this would not be over massing. One of the properties would be marketed for sale. There would be parking for the properties. The architect was unable to say how much would be dug out from the site but much would be used to terrace the site.

206/15The Chairman of South Hams District Council Cllr. Ian Bramble was welcomed to the Meeting and addressed the Parish Council.

There had been considerable changes for the District Council in the last six years involving increased working with West Devon Borough Council. The Boundary Survey Commission had reduced Wards from 30-21, and District Councillors from 40-31. The Executive Committee, led by the leader of the Council, Cllr Tucker, had reduced from 10/11 members to 6. To achieve costs savings, changes had been made to the management structure- there was now a senior management team comprising 2 corporate directors. One of the benefits of reorganisation was that the Council was now in a strong financial position.

There would be more changes over the next 4 years. The Independent Commission on Government Finance had been established in 2014 to look at ways Local government could be reorganised. The core result of the report published in February 2015 was the proposal for devolution of powers. Two hundred billion pounds in public expenditure was proposed to be controlled by sub national entities giving much greater power in the collection and spending of money. The reforms proposed independence of functions of Local Government, freedom to set Council Tax and full retention of business rates. 50% of business rates went to central Government at present. District Councils/National Park Authorities in Devon were consulting with one another regarding the formation of a large devolved authority. More refined statements from Central Government were expected in the next 12 months. The view was that national Government was trying to download responsibility, accountability, liability and cost to lower level government. Revenue Support Grants could stop by 2020. The general thrust was that the reforms appeared to be financially driven. There would be more autonomy, more tax raising powers and more accountability to local areas and Parishes. The ability to raise revenue through the relaxation of rules and charges had been discussed. Information from central Government was vague at the moment and prediction difficult. Cllr. Bramble was unable to confirm whether Parish Councils would be given more powers. The Localism Bill and National Planning Policy Framework suggested Parishes should take on more responsibility.

There had been changes in the scrutineering process with one large Overview and Scrutiny Group replacing several committees. Planning policies would be changing to take account of the direction from Central Government to build more houses. Local Public Accounts Committees would look at value for money and expenditure.

The District Council were preparing their Local Plan. Parish Neighbourhood Plans should inform the Local Plan and would give Parishes a voice. Cllr. Bramble was asked about the Prime Minister's statement about building Affordable Homes to Buy rather than to rent- affordable could still remain unaffordable in the area. Cllr. Bramble agreed that there was a huge gulf between property values and incomes. A huge building surplus supply over demand was unlikely to happen. Property was likely to remain unaffordable.

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Cllr. Bramble was asked by the Vice Chairman about the perceived democratic deficit within the planning process. Reference was made to the recent Development Management Committee meeting when large scale planning proposals for Collaton had been considered. Cllrs. Baldry and Blackler had supported the application in spite of the Parish Council objecting, 80% objections on the SHDC planning website and a survey undertaken of the local residents at Collaton by the Parish Council all of whom had been against. The Vice Chairman suggested there was little point in the Parish Council debating planning applications if SHDC did not listen and questioned why the Ward Councillors had not supported the Parish Council's objections. The decision by the Development Management Committee had been deferred to 21 October. The Parish Council would be unable to say anymore.

Ms. Adams suggested there were a few new Parish Councillors since the Collaton application had been considered and asked what the vote had been. The Clerk did not have the details of the vote to hand.

The Vice Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should be supporting local people. The applicants for the Collaton proposals had refused to undertake a Housing Needs Survey. The Parish Council had undertaken a Housing Needs survey as a result of which the plans for the Village Housing Initiative had been developed which would not be isolated as it would be at Collaton. It was through no fault of the Parish Council that the development had been delayed. The need was for affordable housing and not another village being created. He questioned how the proposals for affordable housing at Collaton could be affordable. The Planning Officers had recommended refusal but the District Councillors wanted it to go ahead. There had to be exceptional circumstances and the demonstration of need for a development of 70 houses in an AONB. Cllr. Bramble advised that the National Planning Policy Framework gave a presumption in favour of development which together with SHDC having a lack of five year land supply gave developers a basic right to build where they wanted. The Vice Chairman referred to the affordable housing project in the Parish, the buildings at Collaton having been there by accident as a result of the War, that there was a new town being constructed nearby with 5500 houses and with new houses in Brixton and Yealmpton.

Mrs. Cooper advised that when she had been on the District Council, development at Collaton was held to be unlikely as it would be seen by Brixton & Yealmpton and would light up the skyline.

Cllr. Bramble suggested that the decision making process was arguably not in the hands of elected members but as a result of criteria handed down by an external source for predetermined reasons.

Cllr. Bramble was thanked for coming to the Meeting.

207/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- there were apologies from Mr. Tubb, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Green.

208/15 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED - members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. None were declared.

209/15 DISPENSATION REQUESTS-none.

210/15 MINUTES – the Minutes of the 9 September Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record. (*Vote; 7 in favour, 2 abstentions*)

211/15 VARIATION OF AGENDA –RESOLVED: Matters relating to consideration of quotes for tree inspections and Collaton/Butts Park footpath repairs should be considered in committee. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

212/15 PLANNING

Planning applications received including;

212.1 Holy Cross Church, 37/1880/15/tw- South Hams District Council (Parish of Newton & Noss) (no.28) Tree Preservation Order 2004- work to Tree Preservation Order trees. No date had been given for the proposed site visit. The Clerk had contacted the Tree Warden for an update.

212.2 7 Munro Avenue 37/2087/15/F- householder application to convert existing garage into granny annex. Affected the setting of a Listed Building. DECISION: No objection. (*Unanimous.*)

212.3 Newton & Noss Neighbourhood Plan –the Steering Group would be meeting on 16 October. The Clerk advised that at a recent Clerks' meeting, Ivybridge Town Council had advised that they had employed a former planning officer from SHDC as consultant for the preparation for their Neighbourhood Plan on the basis that the Council felt it needed professional guidance. The Clerk at Ivybridge Town Council had suggested that increasingly Neighbourhood Plans were being challenged by developers through Judicial Review. Neighbourhood Planning policies needed to be robust. Ugborough Parish Council had found identifying sites difficult and their Housing Needs Survey had not identified a real housing need.

212.4 Proposed Solar PV array at SX 553 496, Newton Downs Farm- Mr. Green had asked that the matter be considered in his absence. He had advised that, on his understanding, the Planner at the District Council, would only be minded to recommend the development of the solar project at Newton Downs Farm if it was clear that the Parish Council was happy with the level of support and that the Parish Council would be disappointed if the project did not go ahead as this would mean that this funding would not materialise. He had requested that this was discussed briefly at the Meeting, and if the Parish Council agreed, for a letter expressing that to be sent to SHDC before the planning meeting which he believed was planned for 21st October (although not certain of the date).He

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had also advised that he would be happy to represent the views of the Council at the Planning meeting for the Newton Downs Solar project.

Cllr. Baldry suggested the planning officer would make a recommendation for or against irrespective. In his view, although the site was in the AONB, it would not be overlooked. He had heard the Parish Council's views regarding the proposed community benefit. As far as Cllr Baldry was aware the application was not going in front of the Development Management Committee on 21 October. It was agreed to take no further action.

213/15 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

213.1 Highways/Transport-

i) No 94 bus-the Vice Chairman reported the large number of complaints being made about the new service operated by Target. The bus had not been running to time and had been dirty. It was expensive to get into Plymouth- £6.20 return. Miss Cove advised that the bus had become stuck in parts of the village due to its size and turning circle. Cllr. Baldry confirmed that he too understood the buses had been filthy and had been running late. It was a retrograde step to change contractor and the timetable changes had been a disaster. He suggested money would be put into the No. 94 service if Collaton went ahead.

ii) Grass cutting- details for Devon County Council's proposed grass cutting and maps were awaited.

iii) Yealm Road concerns- Devon County Council Highways Officer had advised there were no plans to resurface.

iv) Newton Hill- based upon advice received from Devon County Council Highways Department it appeared little action could be undertaken to resolve access difficulties caused by cars parking near the granite cross without a Traffic Regulation Order. The Highways officer had been unable to confirm when there would be a review of road markings. It was agreed the parishioner who had expressed concerns would be advised. Cllr. Baldry suggested requesting more parking enforcement.

v) A379 update- a report from Cllr. Hosking would be requested.

vi) Primary School parking-the matter would be put back to the next meeting to hear from Mrs Evans.

213.2 District Council- Cllr. Baldry gave the following report

i) A379- he had no update since the last meeting. He understood that it may not be until mid next year that repair works would be completed. The repairs remained classed as a high priority rather than urgent.

Yealmpton Parish Council had applied for double yellow lines for the area opposite "The Volunteer."

ii) Collaton development proposals- Cllr. Baldry advised the Council that he had considered both sides of the arguments. There had been some people in the Parish who wanted development in that location. Affordable rented would be 80% of market rent. He was conscious that there needed to be an increase in population to keep the school and the shops in Yealmpton and Newton & Noss. The Vice Chairman advised that Newton & Noss was not failing and did not need 70 houses. The development was not sustainable. It would be quicker for Collaton residents to go to Yealmpton. The Chairman suggested the Parish Council would like to see their District Councillors supporting Parish Council decisions. Cllr. Baldry advised that he had to take into account the pressures of national legislation and that the District Council could not necessarily support the Parish Council. The Vice Chairman referred to SHDC planning officers advising the District Councillors to refuse. It was not merely the views of the Parish Council. Cllr. Baldry advised that he did not always agree with the planning officers. The Vice Chairman suggested the Development Management Committee usually took the advice of their planning officers.

iii) Finance- Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, had given a highly favourable report. The finances were in a good state and well managed. Cllr. Bramble advised that the Council held 1.7 million pounds on deposit-the guidelines from central Government being 1.5 million pounds. SHDC did not need to borrow money. The Council had recovered 90% of Icelandic losses. SHDC did not speculate with money as a result of which a low rate of interest was earned. Cllr. Baldry suggested a better rate of return would be earned through investment in property with which Cllr. Bramble agreed. Many councils had pension funds running in deficit. Pension payments were made from Government Gilt returns which were at rock bottom. There were requirements for secure housing and secure tenancies for young people. Housing could provide an income producing asset basis for the pension fund.

iv) Refugees- the Council was taking advice from the Local Government Association. Account had to be taken of existing people on their housing waiting lists.

v) Village Housing Initiative Parsonage Road- Cllr. Baldry was asked to find out if some money had been set aside/would be set aside for play park improvement at Butts Park Play Park from Section 106 monies.

213.4 TAP Funding 2016-RESOLVED: To make an application for TAP funding for £3000 to put towards play park improvements at Butts Park Play Park. Support from neighbouring parishes would not be sought. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

213.4SHDC Licensing Policy consultation- the Parish Council had no comment.

213.4 SHDC Gambling Act Policy consultation- the Parish Council had no comment.

213.6 Devon Community Resilience Forum – no members were available to attend on 10 November 2015.

213.7 Langage Farm- RESOLVED: to submit an application for £5000 to the Big Greenspace Challenge operated through Centrica/SHDC and West Devon Borough Council, to put towards Butts Park play park improvement. Completion of the application would be delegated to the play parks maintenance working group. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

213.8 SHDC Asset Transfer/Parish Asset Land Registration-an update from Curtis Whiteford Crocker was awaited.

214/15 ADMINISTRATION

214.1 Events applications- no applications had been received.

214.2 Community Orchard Apple Day-the Community Orchard Apple Day would be taking place on Sunday 18 October. Ms. Longworth gave an outline of the events including apple pressing, tree pruning/weeding, story teller and campfire cooking

214.4 Budget 2016/2017- it was agreed the budget working group would arrange to meet in early November. Members would consider items for inclusion for the next Parish Council Meeting.

214.5 Banking arrangements- in light of recent changes to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, and reduced protection from £85,000 to £75,000, it was agreed that a review of banking arrangements should be undertaken and delegated to the budget working group. It was also agreed that the budget group would review the Sports Pavilion banking arrangements.

214.6 Emergency Plan-Mr. Carter confirmed he was in the process of reviewing the Emergency Plan.

214.7 Bishops Court including;

i) Night care provision- a response from Devon County Council was awaited.

ii) Licence Fee- a review of Licence arrangements was undertaken. It was agreed the Licence Fee charged to Yealm Medical Centre would remain unaltered until termination of the Licence in June 2016.

214.8 Remembrance Sunday- RESOLVED; To make a payment of £125 to the Royal British Legion by means of donation and for the Parish Council's Remembrance wreath. *(Vote; Unanimous)*. The Chairman would lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day Service.

214.9 Policy reviews- the complaints policy had been reviewed by Ms. Adams and circulated to the Council. RESOLVED; to agree and adopt the reviewed complaints policy. *(Vote; Unanimous.)*

A media policy incorporating the Parish Council filming policy had been prepared by Ms. Adams and circulated. RESOLVED: To agree and adopt the Media and filming policy. *(Vote; Unanimous.)*

It was agreed the Vice Chairman and Ms. Adams would assume the responsibility of the Parish Council's Media Liaison Officers.

Cllr Hosking arrived.

215/15 COUNTY COUNCIL.

Cllr. Hosking gave the following report;

i) Devolution- an expression of intent had been issued to take forward the proposal of further devolution and budgetary powers from central Government. Details as to how it would work were not yet available. The central support grant would be removed, but as Devon was well below national levels, it was thought the County could be better off. Education was out of the equation.

ii) A379 repairs- a draft geotechnical report was due on 9 October, with design proposals for the work due by 16 October. It was hoped work would start straight after Christmas. The work had priority not emergency status. Cllr. Hosking was asked to investigate the suggestion that the County received a raw deal in funding arrangements for highway repairs.

iii) Bishops Court- Cllr. Hosking was unhappy with the reflection in the Minutes of the discussions that took place in the Parish Council meeting on 9 September- but did not require amendment of the minutes. Cllr. Stuart Barker had advised that Bishops Court was considered a private facility. DCC would not meet continuity services that were not necessary. DCC would assess the need for those people for whom they had a responsibility to assist, following a financial assessment. At present no one at Bishops Court had had an assessment as needing overnight care. If there was an emergency there was opportunity to call the out of hours GP or an ambulance. The Vice Chairman suggested Bishops Court had been built with overnight care in mind. Cllr. Hosking advised that he had asked one of the residents to provide him with a copy of the sales prospectus. The way DCC assessed services had changed. He was unaware of the assessment undertaken at the time Bishops Court was built. If someone moved in and needed overnight care they would be assessed-if they needed help and were financially eligible they would receive help.

iv) Schedule of highways work- he was waiting to hear whether this could be disclosed to the Parish Council.

v) No 94 bus- the Vice Chairman advised of the complaints received particularly that it ran late and was dirty. It involved a longer route. Cllr. Hosking advised that he had forwarded a letter from a resident, with complaints about the service, to the appropriate officer at DCC who would report back. Cllr. Hosking hoped these issues would be addressed at the next procurement. Cllr. Hosking was advised that no further action was being undertaken with the idea for a community bus service.

216/15 CORRESPONDENCE

216.1 Dementia Friendly Parishes- Mrs. Caroline Hirst had sent the following report;

i) Tuesday October 20th Elizabeth East would be hosting a Coffee Morning, supporting Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm, at her house at 1 St. Werburgh Close, Wembury from 10.00-12.00 am.

ii) The Gentle Exercise Class met every Tuesday morning at 11.30a.m. for an hour at Venn Court Brixton. The class was led by Registered Physiotherapists and involved stretching and toning muscles and joints to improve balance and flexibility which helped to prevent falls.

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iii) The Art and Craft Club met at Yealmpton Community Centre on Wednesday 7th October and Monday 19th October from 10.00 am to 12 noon. This was a skill and talent sharing club where there was opportunity to try flower arranging, painting, drawing, mosaics, knitting, driftwood creations or anything people would like to try amongst friends.

iv) The Shared Reading Group met at The Parish Room Yealmpton every Thursday at 10.30 am. The group led by trained volunteers helped people, who had found reading increasingly difficult, listen to favourite prose and poetry.

v) On Friday 20th November at the Royal Western Yacht Club, Queen Anne's Battery, Plymouth there would be a Fish Supper with sea shanties from the Tavy Tarrs.

Maxine could be contacted on 07450206312 or see www.dementiayealm.org .

216.2 Himalayan Balsam- the Environment Agency had responded to the Parish Council's referral regarding Himalayan Balsam growing in the Puslinch Bridge area. They had advised that the Agency was aware of the problem of Himalayan balsam on the banks of the River Yealm. It was a national problem affecting many watercourses. There were various partnership projects to control invasives in operation across the country. However the problem with plants such as Balsam was that control had to start at the top of the catchment and work downstream, otherwise, cleared areas would soon become re-infested with seeds / plants from upstream. It was a very labour intensive exercise and one which landowners had to keep on at each year. The Agency did support landowners and / or community groups tackling the problem where they could. However it was the responsibility of the landowner to manage invasive species-it was illegal to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Himalayan balsam was one of the plants listed. The Environment Agency controlled invasive species on land where it managed assets, e.g. flood defence structures or gauging stations. They had estimated that it would cost up to £300 million to eradicate Himalayan balsam from the UK and this money was not available. Last year, a rust fungus was released to control Himalayan Balsam, but it was going to take several years for the Agency to know how successful this was going to be. Taking good biosecurity measures was one of the Agency's best strategies for dealing with invasive species. This meant every one taking measures to help stop the spread. More information about invasive species and biosecurity could be found on the nonnative species website: www.nonnativespecies.org

217/15. 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 218/15.

218/15 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Santander Current Account :	Total balance at 1.10.15	£74278.57
The balance includes: Hedge Cutting Bond		£3000
Monies held on completion of Newton & Noss Play Park Improvement Project		£36.02
Monies held in respect of the maintenance of the Revington Memorial Seat		£390
The following cheques were authorised totalling:		£1986.78

Chq No	PAYEE		AMOUNT
1996	Newton & Noss Village Hall	Hire fee NNPC Meeting 8 October 2015	£24.00
1997	Newton & Noss Village Hall	Hire fee NNPC Meeting 22 October 2015	£24.00
1998	S. McDonough	Net salary-September	£1,215.98
1999	HM Revenue & Customs	Clerks monthly Tax & National Insurance	£294.97
2000	South Hams District Council	Planning application fee- rugby practice posts Butts Park	£97.50
2001	S. McDonough	Reimbursement of expenses- stationery and postage	£19.33
2002	M. Hingston	Newton Voss & steps cleaning September 2015	£124.00
2003	South Hams Garden & Property Services	Butts Park bench repairs	£35.00
2004	South Hams Garden & Property Services	Collaton/Butts Park footpath trimming.	£120.00
2005	South Hams Garden & Property Services	Grass cutting; The Green 11 & 25 September 2015	£32.00
		Total	£1,986.78
SO	Spectrum Housing Group Ltd	Bishops Court rent September 2015	£342.93
SO	Spectrum Housing Group Ltd	Bishops Court rent October 2015	£363.62
DD	BT	Broadband services 1/7/15-31/10/15	£75.60

*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments:£0 total to date;£75

219/15 MEETINGS ATTENDED:-

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219.1 Harbour Authority –Mr. Carter advised that at the end of season, the Harbour Authority had been 500 boat nights down, accounted for by the poor weather. One yacht had broken its mooring and was at Bridgend for repairs.

219.2 Halls - there were no reports.

219.3- Clerks' Meeting- the Clerk gave a brief report of the meeting with Clerks from Wembury, Kingston, Ugborough, Bigbury and Ivybridge Parish/Town Councils. There had been a huge response from Parish/Town Councils to the notification from SHDC that it no longer intended consulting on Change of Use planning applications Wembury and Brixton were due to be receiving a mobile flashing speed sign for which they were going to be trained. Wembury Parish Council had received 1 expression of interest for Community Speedwatch, Ugborough had received 6 but were still waiting for training from the police.

220/15 MAINTENANCE

220.1 Maintenance working groups

The Chairman asked that each group nominated a leader and pressed on with organising risk assessments and inspection schedules. The Clerk would be meeting with the SHDC Locality Officer the following morning.

i) Noss recreation areas- signs were on order. The Licences continued to be negotiated. Inspections were being undertaken weekly.

ii) Play Parks- the preparation of risk assessments were pending. SHDC had previously advised that they did not hold risk assessments for the play parks but the Clerk would reconfirm with the Locality Officer. Inspection Schedules had been drafted and were with the group for approval. The group would be meeting the following Monday to address the above and discuss ideas to redevelop Butts Park play park. Cllr. Baldry suggested Cllr. Blackler may have some funding from his Locality Budget. Play park signs were being provided by SHDC.

iii) The Green/Dillons Green- the group would meet to nominate a leader and to finalise the risk assessments.

iv) Sports Pavilion/playing field- the risk assessments/inspection schedules had been drafted but were to be finalised. The Licences were to be completed. Mr. Lyndon and Mr. Hussell would meet on site the following week. A sign was on order.

220.2 Rugby posts- funding had been secured from the Cllr. Baldry's Locality Budget to pay for the posts and funding had been sought from the County Councillor's Locality Budget towards costs of installation. Payment for the planning application fee had been authorised and the planning application would be submitted.

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

220.4 Play parks repairs- SHDC had advised that they would restock the sand at Noss Play Park. The Clerk had asked if the work could be done in time for the Community Orchard Apple Day. Two quotes had been received for emergency repairs to Butts Park play park slide and swings- the play park group had accepted the quotation from Grounds Maintenance South West in the sum of £349.50. It was understood the slide repairs would be completed the following day.

In committee

220.5 Collaton Footpath repairs. Three quotes had been sought. Two contractors had responded RESOLVED; to accept the quotation from South Hams Garden & Property Services (Option 1) to effect repairs to Collaton/Butts Park Footpath sign in the sum of £520. (*Vote; 8 in favour, 1 against.*) The clerk would contact the landowner and Devon County Council Public Rights of Way Department to arrange access.

220.6 Tree Inspections. Three quotations had been received. RESOLVED; to accept the quotation from Dart Forest to effect Tree Inspections in the sum of £380 plus VAT. (*Vote; 8 in favour, 1 against.*)

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm