

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

Held on 12 March 2015

PRESENT	Cllr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Lyndon	Mr. Tubb	Mrs. Ansell
ALSO PRESENT	Miss. Cove No Parishioners	Mr. Carter	Mr. Hussell	Mr. Taylor	Mrs. Evans Mrs. McDonough (Clerk)	

OPEN FORUM

Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo Parish Council Police Report February 2015

PCSO 30540 Andrew Potter had sent apologies. No reported crime

48/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- there were apologies from Mr. Stitson.

49/15 MINUTES –the Minutes of the 12 February Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

50/15 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED - members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. Mr. Tubb declared an interest in the grant application for the River Yealm Regatta Fireworks by virtue of being on the Regatta Committee.

51/15 DISPENSATION REQUESTS- none.

52/15. COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

52.1 County Councillors Report- Cllr. Hosking had sent apologies.

52.2 District Councillor's Report- Cllr. Cooper had no report.

52.3 Highways/Transport: Mr. Nick Colton from Devon County Council Highways Department;

i) Butts Park playing field warning signs- he advised to wait until April as the sign shop would not be able to fit the work in this side of April. He would let the Council know the exact costs as soon as possible.

ii) 30mph flashing signs-the moving of the flashing sign would not be simple as the locations were selected and sockets installed to take the posts they were mounted on. To move them would require a new socket or post. He would pass on the suggestion to County Hall to see what could be done.

Members agreed that there was a socket on the approach to Butts Park from the Green as a flashing light had been moved from the location when it had been vandalised. There had been 30mph signs by the water tower in the past. It was agreed the Clerk should ask DCC Highways whether the 30mph signs by the water tower could be replaced or small 30mph signs be placed on the lamp posts on the approach. P.C.S.O. Andrew Potter would also be asked if some police attention could be given to speeding in the area.

52.4 SHDC Asset Transfer/Parish Asset Land Registration- there had been no update from Curtis Whiteford Crocker Solicitors.

PLAY PARKS

The Play Parks working group had met and was made up of the Vice Chairman, Miss Cove, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Matthews. The Group had its first meeting on 4 March 2015 with the Parish Clerk in attendance. A report of the meeting had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Parish Council was asked to note and approve the content of the report and authorise the actions set out in it. The report assumed that the asset transfers had taken place.

1. Maintenance

1.1 Grass - Grass cutting for two years from the date of transfer of the assets to the Council would be provided by SHDC. It was recommended that the Clerk bring the matter before the Council eighteen months after the transfer so that Members could consider how to tender a suitable replacement contract.

1.2 Hedges - The position was as for grass cutting. The Clerk had consulted Mrs. Carrie Griffiths about whether or not the bramble at Noss play park should be cleared and the community planted hedge trimmed.

1.3 Bench maintenance - the position was as for grass cutting and hedges. Occasionally the Council had had to spend money on additional maintenance to supplement the work done by SHDC.

1.4 Trees - The trees at Butts Park play park were of moderate height, polled to above child head height and upright. They were not expected to require attention for a number of years. The one exception was a small stunted tree which Mr. Matthews had staked. The trees at Noss play park could need more immediate attention. Miss Cove, the Clerk and the Parish Tree Warden Mr. Wood-Walker (if available) would inspect the trees at both play parks and decide on any immediate requirement and what inspection regime was required.

1.5 Fencing and gates - generally these were believed to be in good order. The Vice Chairman and Mr. Matthews would inspect the fencing and gates at Butts Park play area. Enquiries had been made of SHDC as to whether external latches should be fitted at Noss play park as a security measure to stop young children opening the gates. It

was felt, based upon advice received, that such latches would be inappropriate. The Vice Chairman and Mr. Matthews would be looking at the latch on the gate into the playing field. It was agreed to write to the owner of No. 12 Butts Park to request the erection of a chain link/larch lap fence on the border of his garden and Butts Park play area.

1.6 Bins - Noss play park did not have a bin. Nonetheless it appeared to be free of litter. The position would be monitored. Butts Park play area had both a general waste bin and a dog litter bin. It was believed that both would continue to be emptied by SHDC.

2. Inspections-under the transfer arrangements SHDC would inspect the play equipment and safety surfacing. The Parish Council's insurers had confirmed that this would discharge the Parish Council's obligations in this respect. The SHDC contract did not cover facilities other than the play equipment and safety surfaces (e.g. the benches). Typically these other facilities were only inspected annually. The Parish Council's insurers had clarified their requirements and the Group would consider what further inspection regime was required. The contract with SHDC covered repairs. Any repair over £20 was to be at the Parish Council's expense. In adopting the report the Parish Council was asked to authorise the Clerk to authorise any such spend without prior reference to the Parish Council to avoid any timing problems. It was recommended that the Clerk bring the matter of the inspection contract before the Parish Council eighteen months after the transfer so that Members could consider how to tender a suitable replacement contract.

3. Risk Assessments-the Clerk had asked the Council's insurers if they had any suitable pro-formas. These would be passed to Miss Cove, who had experience of risk assessment, to work up a pro-forma for the Group.

4. Insurance-SHDC would insure the play equipment and safety surfacing for two years from the transfer. This would cover third party public liability only. The Parish Council had already agreed to insure the play equipment itself at Noss Mayo play park because of the likely high cost of replacement. This cover would be effected by the Clerk as quickly after the transfer as possible. There may be a short delay whilst the Clerk arranged payment of the premium. The Parish Council already had third party public liability insurance in respect of land it occupied generally. It was recommended that the Clerk bring the matter of the insurance of the play equipment in respect of third party public liability cover before the Parish Council eighteen months after the transfer so that Members could consider how to obtain suitable replacement insurance.

5. Refurbishment/renewal-the Group did not consider that any refurbishment/renewal was required at Noss play park. Some replacement sand could be required and one of the "bucket hoists" could need a small modification to improve safety. The play park at Butts Park was in generally good condition but of a more traditional type. It would benefit from updating with more up to date and exciting equipment. Miss Cove would consider the options.

6. Signage-under the terms of the transfer SHDC was responsible for maintaining the signage for two years. However, the existing sign at Butts Park play park did not meet current expectations and there was no sign at Noss play park. The Clerk had asked the designers of the Noss play park what the designed age range for use was intended to be and had asked SHDC the same question about the Butts Park play area. The Clerk would draft a suitable sign incorporating the information set out above. Once approved by the Group, this would be sent by the Clerk to SHDC with a request that new signs be supplied and installed by SHDC as part of the current contract (i.e. without charge to the Parish Council). The Parish Council may have to be prepared to pay some or all of the cost.

Mr. Taylor arrived at 7.30pm.

7. Budget -because of the transitional arrangements with SHDC the budget requirement for the two years following transfer would be minimal. It would cover minor safety repairs, some small discretionary work (e.g. gate latches), any supplemental bench maintenance and a possible tree inspection regime. A budget contingency of £500 was recommended. Any improvements should be dealt with at the time they arose. After the two year transitional period, however, the full maintenance, inspection and insurance costs would have to be paid from the Precept. At the time the Parish Council resolved to acquire the land assets the estimated cost for the play park assets had been sought and were set out in the report- £2360 Butts Park and £2265 for Noss Play Park. The figures were "ball park" only and appeared to omit the inspection regime except for the annual inspection. In any event, the Parish Council would need to consider whether or not those costs could be absorbed in the current Precept.

RESOLVED; to approve and accept the recommendations and report of the Play Parks Working Group dated 9 March 2015. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

DILLONS- no working group had yet been established with responsibility for the green area by Dillon's car park. It was agreed to approach Yealm Garden Society to see if, in principle, they would like to "adopt" the area subject to no changes being undertaken without prior approval of the Parish Council. The Clerk would make contact with Mrs Marion Naylor, Chairman of the Yealm Garden Society. The area was due to be maintained by SHDC for two years from the date of transfer. Consideration of inviting maintenance tenders would need to be undertaken 18 months from the date of transfer.

53/15. PLANNING

53.1SHDC Development Management Committee site visit- The Cottage, 97 Court Road 37/2600/14/F. Mrs. Ansell had attended. Cllr. Keith Baldry had been at the visit which had been very well attended. Mrs. Ansell advised that the planning officer had not appeared to appreciate which orientation was south which was considered important due to the impact on the neighbours. Mrs. Ansell had reiterated the 8 objection points raised by the Parish Council. It was due to go before the SHDC Development Management Committee on 18 March. Mrs. Ansell would be unavailable that day. Cllr. Cooper was unable to speak due to her interest in the matter but advised Cllr. Keith Baldry would be attending the meeting and would speak for the Parish. No other Members were available to attend.

53.2 Neighbourhood Plan- several parishioners had been asking what was happening with respect to the plan. Members had noted the first RYDA newsletter of 2015 and comments made in respect of keeping “the project moving along until action was taken to put a permanent N3P Team in place. No Members were available to attend the Dartington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Event on 28 March.

54/15 ADMINISTRATION

54.1 Insurance- a schedule of assets for insurance purposes had been circulated to the Parish Council which was agreed. Two renewal quotes would be obtained.

54.2 General Election Meeting- all parliamentary candidates had accepted the invitation to attend the Hustings meeting on 10 April at 7pm in the WI Hall.

54.3 Banking- changes to the Parish Council Santander current account as of February 2015 were noted.

54.4 Annual Parish Meeting- would take place on Thursday 26 March at the WI Hall at 18.30 before the main Parish Council Meeting.

55/15. CORRESPONDENCE

55.1 Grant application- RESOLVED; to make a grant of £75 to the River Yealm Regatta Committee towards the Regatta fireworks. (*Vote; 9 in favour, 1 abstention*)

56/15 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 57/15

57/15 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Santander Current Account :	Total balance at 1.03.15	£54161.80
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		£500
The following cheques were authorised totalling:		£1994.74

Chq No	PAYEE		AMOUNT
1917	WI Community Hall.	Hire fee NNPC Meeting 12 March 2015	£25.00
1918	WI Community Hall.	Hire fee NNPC Meeting 26 March 2015	£25.00
1919	S. McDonough	Net salary-February	£1,204.90
1920	HM Revenue & Customs	Clerks monthly Tax & National Insurance	£307.84
1921	M. Hingston	Newton Voss & steps cleaning February 2015	£82.00
1922	Newton Gardening Services	Tidying area adjacent to Noss Voss footpath	£140.00
1923	Post Office Ltd	Stamps	£115.00
1924	Vantech Media	DIY hosting package, annual fee newtonandnoss-pc.gov.uk	£95.00
		Total	£1,994.74
SO	Spectrum Housing Group Ltd	Bishops Court rent March 2015	£342.93
DD	BT	Broadband services	£70.80

*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments:£25 total to date;£437

58/15 MEETINGS ATTENDED:

58.1 Harbour Authority-there was no report.

58.2. Halls- the Vice Chairman advised that grant funding had been secured to clad the back of the WI Hall. On 21 March there would be a Black & White dinner, with entertainment, to fund raise.

Mrs. Ansell advised that plans for the Business Hub proposed for the Revelstoke Room appeared to be progressing with grant applications having been made. The AGM for Newton & Noss Village Hall would be in April.

58.3 IDALC AGM and Business Meetings – the Vice Chairman advised that the meeting had been put back until after the elections.

59/15 MAINTENANCE

59.1 Annual Spring maintenance- a draft invitation to tender had been circulated to Members including work on the Revington Seat on the Leas Path and surrounding area. Miss Cove advised that the guttering on the bus stop outside the Co op was loose and in need of attention. Work to be included would be considered by Members and the matter out back before the Council in April.

59.2 Doctor’s Steps- Mr. Carter was thanked for repairing the handrail.

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59.3 Footpath inspection- Mr. Taylor suggested that there should be a formal inspection in the near future. Mr. Hussell suggested tying in the Parish Asset Inspection with the Footpath Inspection.

59.4 Other areas for consideration-

i) **Public conveniences-**Mr. Tubb advised that the public conveniences in Newton Ferrers were still locked. It was thought Noss Mayo WC's were also locked. The Clerk would contact SHDC.

ii) **Butts Park playing field grass cutting** – Mr. Hussell was waiting to hear back from SHDC. A suggestion was made that the Cricket/Football Club could secure a grass cutting implement which could be attached behind a tractor.

59.5 SHDC TAP funding 2015- SHDC was undertaking a review of the process and had requested feedback. The Vice Chairman suggested that assessment of applications should be undertaken independently s to avoid confrontation between the various Parishes.

Suggestions for work for 2015/2016 included signage and work to improve the surface of a section of the Collaton/Butts Park footpath.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm