

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

Held on 12 September 2013

PRESENT Cllr. Cooper Mr. Cooper Mr. Taylor Mr. Carter Mr.Hussell
Mr. Matthews Mr. Lyndon Mr. Tubb Mrs. Ansell
ALSO 4 Parishioners Mrs. McDonough
PRESENT (Clerk)

OPEN FORUM

Stoke Road-Bridgend- a parishioner expressed concern regarding the dangerous section of narrow road between Junket Corner and Bridgend. In parts, the road was only of single width which pedestrians, including those with children and pushchairs, had to share with speeding cars. He suggested making provision for a 20mph and pedestrian signs at the top of the hill before the particularly narrow section and speed bumps on the top, middle and bottom sections. He confirmed that he had spoken to residents in the locality who appeared to be in favour. A Member suggested flashing lights at either end at particular times of the day. Another parishioner referred to stopping distances and their increase in damp conditions. He suggested that there needed to be a physical barrier to slow traffic down.

Riverside Road West- a parishioner spoke of the works Devon County Council were supposed to be undertaking to stabilise the road. Although scaffolding had been erected, there had been no progress for three months. It was understood the landowner had not given permission for Devon County Council to go onto his land to conduct the work.

Land east of 85 Court Road- a neighbouring resident was aware that Members of the Parish Council had had a pre application site visit. He referred to five previous planning applications over the past thirty years all opposed by the Parish Council, refused by South Hams District Council with two unsuccessful appeals. It had last been refused in October 2011 when reference had been made to the application not having met eleven policy requirements. Forty four people had objected. He urged the Parish Council not to approve the application once it was lodged.

Police report- PCSO Potter had sent apologies on behalf of both himself and PC Batchelor. He had forwarded the following report

July

Newton Ferrers

Jl/13/562- between 7th and 13th theft of outboard. An engine had been taken from a boat moored on the river.

Jl/13/601-overnight 23rd/ 24th theft of outboard engine from a boat moored at Harbour Office jetty.

Jl/13/610-during the afternoon of 27th a paddle had been stolen from a vehicle parked in Yealm Road near the steps to Harbour Office whilst the owner had been unloading kit from his vehicle and carrying it down to the jetty

Jl/13/7412 -7th non crime domestic had been reported.

Noss Mayo

Jl/13/625 and 626-between 18th and 1st August theft of money from the donation box at both The Warren and Stoke Point car parks

August

Newton Ferrers

Jl/13/710-between 14th and 18th outboard engine had been stolen from a boat moored near the Harbour Office.

Jl/13/7412- 7th non crime domestic had been reported.

Jl/13/746- between 27th and 28th a dinghy had been stolen from the slipway by The Patch, Riverside Road West.

Jl/13/754 -31st non crime domestic had been reported.

Noss Mayo

Jl/13/753-31st report of a public order offence. Words of advice had been issued

179/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- there were no apologies for absence.

180/13 MINUTES –the Minutes of 11 July Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record with one amendment to Min165.2 where the house referred to was “Firslea” rather than “Timbers”..

181/13 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED - Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. None were declared.

182/13 DISPENSATION REQUESTS- none were made.

183/13 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

183.1 County Councillor’s Report-

i) Junket Corner-Bridgend-Cllr. Mumford advised he would investigate the suggestions made in Open Forum. He referred to the noise increase associated with rumble strips and “sleeping policemen.”

ii) **Bridgend Hill**- Mr. Tubb referred to the tree growth overhanging the road between the top of the hill and Yealm View Road, making the road very dark. Cllr. Mumford would investigate.

iii) **Bridgend Wall**-ownership of the wall was still in question. There was a suggestion that DCC Highways should maintain the wall if it supported the road. Cllr Mumford would make enquiries.

iv) **Barnicott**- Cllr Mumford was aware that the SHDC Development Control Enforcement Officer had paid a visit. He confirmed that DCC Highways did not envisage the access being permitted.

v) **Riverside Road West**- Cllr Mumford advised that the work to stabilise the road had stopped whilst the issue concerning contested land ownership was resolved.

vi) **Broken Way**- it was agreed Mr. Taylor would show Cllr Mumford the area of wall adjacent to the highway causing potential stability concerns.

183.2 Highways/Transport –

i) **Court Road flood prevention measures**- the Chairman advised that the hire of a camera to investigate the pipework at the bottom of the Fairway/around Court Farmhouse would cost in the region of £2000. The majority of the funding required could come from her District Council Locality Budget but there was an expectation that the Parish should contribute. It was suggested the camera could be used to investigate other areas in the Parish at the same time including The Green and Noss Fountain. Cllr. Mumford advised that he would ask Mr. Mark Hutchins from Devon County Council to speak with SHDC. **RESOLVED:** To make a contribution of £200 towards the costs of the hire of a camera to investigate flooding issues in the Parish. *(Vote; Unanimous)*.

It was also agreed that an article should be included in the Parish Magazine regarding responsibilities of riparian owners.

ii) **Highways Matters Conference 14 September 2013**- no Members were available to attend.

iii) **Public meeting; parking difficulties 16 September 2013**- the agenda for the meeting was agreed.

iv) **Speed hump request- Stoke Road**- *min 183.1 refers*

183.3 District Councillor's Report- there was no report. Reference was made to the meeting in August to which SHDC Development Control and relevant SHDC Councillors had been invited. Mr. Malcolm Elliott and Mr. Dean Kinsella had attended but, save for the Chairman; the SHDC Councillors invited had not attended. It was felt the meeting had been positive with SHDC showing an indication that the Parish should become more involved in planning decisions.

183.4 SHDC Asset Transfer/Parish Asset land registration- both the Clerk and Mr. Matthews had pressed the Council's solicitors for an update, which had been received that afternoon. The solicitor had apologised for the delay caused by workload. He had been in touch with South Hams Council concerning the draft contract concerns that had been raised. Council authority would be needed relating to the exclusion of the overage provisions for any development in light of the fact that the Parish Council would wish in due course to rejuvenate, revive or create leisure facilities for the local population. The exclusion from overage of that type of 'development' required closer scrutiny than the rest of the provisions of the agreement.

With respect to insurance for the play parks, SHDC had advised, in the Heads of Agreement for maintaining the parks that the District Council would insure the play equipment and safety surfacing, and would maintain public liability insurance in respect of the equipment and surfacing. The Parish Council would be responsible for maintaining insurance in respect of the remainder of the play area. In a separate email SHDC had then advised that their policy with Zurich excluded cover for damage caused by theft and vandalism. The District Council did not insure any of its play equipment against theft and vandalism, whether on its own property or elsewhere. It was at the Parish Council's discretion whether it wished to undertake that level of cover. Fencing and gates, benches and other things falling outside play equipment and surfacing would not be covered by SHDC. The Parish Council's insurers had advised that 90% of claims at play parks were of a theft and vandalism nature. They could not provide cover for purely theft and vandalism. .

It was agreed to seek a quotation to insure Noss Play Park that in light of the recent refurbishment. Butts Park Play Park should fall under the SHDC insurance offered.

A draft management plan for the SHDC land assets had been circulated to Members. The main proposal was for the assets to be divided up with two Councillors taking on responsibility for each division. It was agreed Members would consider matters over the next couple of weeks, the matter then being considered at the next Meeting. SHDC would be asked for copies of their risk assessments for all of the land assets.

183.5 Village Housing Initiative- there was no update.

183.6 SHDC Public Conveniences- figures provided by SHDC for the maintenance costs had been circulated together with suggested dates for meeting to discuss the proposed winter closures. Suggested matters for consideration had included

i) The realistic level of winter service required by the locality – this should be considered from the premise that closures for winter periods had been accounted for in the SHDC 2014/15 budget in order to maintain statutory services;

ii) An increase in parish precept to cover winter opening if preferred;

iii) A charging/pay on entry scheme, where such a scheme was viable;

iv) A locally provided winter, (or possibly annual service); and

v) The running of suitable toilets by a third party where applicable or a contribution by a third party for the running costs of a toilet facility.

It was agreed the Chairman and Vice Chairman would attend a meeting with Mr. Stuart Jellings from SHDC on Friday 4 October.

183.7 SHDC Flood Forum Event- no Members were available to attend

183.8 Super Cluster Meeting- it was agreed the Vice Chairman would attend on Monday 11 November and would complete the survey. Members would consider TAP fund suggestions.

183.9 SHDC Council Tax Reduction consultation- there was no comment.

183.10 SHDC draft new warding arrangements- it had been proposed that Newton & Noss should form a new two Member ward with Holbeton, Yealmpton and Sparkwell. There was no further response to the consultation.

184/13 PLANNING

184.1 Planning applications received

96 Yealm Road 37/1812/13/F-householder application for refurbishment of existing dwelling with new lower ground floor extension and deck. Remodelling existing dormer by raising roof by 150mm to include French windows and balcony between existing gables. The site adjoined/affected a public right of way. DECISION: No objection (*Vote; 8 in favour, 1 abstention*)

184.2 Wind Turbines- Luson Farm, Westlake, Ermington- the planning application had been refused

184.3 Trees - Woodville- the Parish Council had been copied in on a suggestion made by the Tree warden to SHDC Tree Officer for a Tree Preservation Order/s to protect the wooded area at Woodville, Pillory Hill in light of planned development. It was agreed that the matter should be left in the hands of the Tree Warden at this stage.

185/13 ADMINISTRATION

185.1 Councillor vacancies- Mr. Gough and Mr. Barnett had retired from the Parish Council. The SHDC Monitoring Officer had been advised and notice of the vacancies had been publicised on 1 August 2013. There had been no request for an election within the requisite time period so the Council could now take steps to fill the vacancies by co option. It was agreed that the Chairman should approve the advertisements to fill the vacancies, with any candidates being considered for Co option at the 28 November Meeting.

185.2 Bishops Court-

i) As from 25 June 2013, the rent had been increased by 3.8% (June RPI 3.3% plus 0.5%). The revised charge would be £2891.31 plus VAT being £250.10 per month plus VAT. The service charge for 1/4/13-31/3/14 would be £461.13pa, equating to £38.43 per month.

ii) Notification of internal decoration of all communal areas and external decoration of all properties had been given

iii) A car parking consultation was being undertaken. There had been no reports from Yealm Medical Centre regarding any problems with parking for the Doctors.

186/13 CONSULTATION/CORRESPONDENCE

186.1 Devon Senior Voice- no Members were available to attend the Senior Council for Devon AGM 23 October 2013

186.2 Noss Hard- Members had been advised of an incident on 26 July 2013 when a holidaymaker's car had been flooded on an incoming tide whilst parked on Noss Hard. The holiday maker had sent the Parish Council a letter before action holding the Parish Council responsible. The matter had been passed to the Parish Council's insurers who had asked the Clerk to provide a statement. The draft had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting and was approved unanimously.

186.3 Rural Fair Share Petition-Members signed the petition for forwarding to The Rural Fair Share Campaign at the House of Commons.

186.4 Point View- Members had been circulated a letter from the owner dated 27 August 2013 regarding the development of Point View and which included an allegation that a Member had breached the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. Following advice from SHDC Monitoring Officer the Clerk had sent the owner the Parish Council's Code of Conduct, SHDC complaint form and guidance notes for completion and onward transmission to the Monitoring Officer. The Member had taken advice from the Devon Association of Local councils. A resident had written a letter in support of the Member. The Council would take no further action in respect of the letter.

186.5 Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm- details of a charity Chilli Evening on 18 October had been circulated to Members.

187/13 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 188/13.

188/13 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Santander Current Account :	Total balance at 1.09.13	£60404.65
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: **£4094.07**

Chq No	PAYEE		AMOUNT
1690	WIC Hall	Hire- NNPC Meeting 12 September 13	£22.00
1691	WIC Hall	Hire- NNPC Meeting 26 September 13	£22.00

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1692	J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss & Popes Quay August 2013	£50.00
1693	S.McDonough	Net salary-August	£1,144.08
1694	HM Revenue & Customs	Clerks monthly Tax & National Insurance	£288.97
1695	WIC Hall	Hire-meeting with South Hams District Council	£33.00
1696	Ivybridge&District Community Transport Assoc.	Grant: ring & Ride Community Bus**	£150.00
1697	S.McDonough	Reimbursement expenses: anti virus software	£44.99
1698	D. Goodchild	Grass cutting; The Green 11 July	£16.00
1699	S.McDonough	Net salary-July& backdated payscale increase to 1/4/13	£1,258.52
1700	South West Water	Public Tap Pillory Hill-24/5/13-8/8/13	£8.28
1701	Foot Anstey LLP	Legal fees- Caution application	£160.00
1702	Ricoh Capital Ltd	Photocopier lease 1/8/13-31/10/13	£148.40
1703	Ricoh UK Ltd	Invoice for copies 1/5/13-31/7/13	£38.32
1704	Spectrum Housing Group Ltd	Bishops Court rent increase 25/6/13-31/7/13	
		Service charge increase 1/4/13-31/7/13	£22.53
1705	Spectrum Housing Group Ltd	Bishops Court rent/service charge increase August	£13.00
1706	Flete Gardens	Noss Hard/Noss Fountain maintenance	£450.00
1707	RYHA	Slipway Cleaning Fluid	£39.98
1708	D. Goodchild	Grass cutting; The Green 8 & 22 August	£32.00
1709	S.McDonough	Reimbursement expenses: stationery	£8.00
1710	M.Hingston	Cleaning: Newton Voss & steps August 2013	
		Cutting off exposed reinforcement bars	£144.00
		Total	£4,094.07
1678	S.McDonough	Net salary-July &backdated payscale increase to 1/4/13	£0.00
		CANCELLED-mislaid in post	

*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments:£00 Total to date;£260.60

**Local Government and Rating Act 1997 sections 26-29

189/13 FOOTPATHS

189.1 Definitive Map Modification Orders 2013- there was no update.

189.2 Footpath inspections- Members were thanked by Mr. Taylor who would look at the sites.

190/13. MEETINGS ATTENDED:

190.1 Harbour Authority- Mr. Carter advised there had been no meeting in August. July/August had been good months.

190.2 Halls- Mrs. Ansell advised that there was to be a Coffee Morning the following Saturday with the intention of receiving suggestions for the usage of the Revelstoke Room in light of the playgroup moving.

The Vice Chairman advised that the funding for refurbishment had reached £95,000. They had received £14,000 from Community Council of Devon as a result of an application made in July. A provisional date in spring for start of the work had been given.

190.3 South Hams Citizen Advice AGM- Mr. Matthews had been unable to attend.

191/13 MAINTENANCE

191.1 Sports Pavilion

i) Mr. Tubb advised that he and Mr. Stitson had inspected the Pavilion which was basically sound. They would review/update health and safety matters/risk assessments.

ii) Yealm Football Club- the Vice Chairman advised that the current seasonal fees for the Cricket and Football Club for use of the Sports Pavilion was £125. It had been proposed to increase the fees to £150 per season. The Vice Chairman believed there was a capital fund of approximately £1000 to carry out improvements.

191.2 General routine maintenance- one of the contractors had suggested a meeting to discuss a regular programme of maintenance around the Parish. It was agreed that the contractor would be thanked for the offer which the Council would keep under review.

191.3 SWW – the holidaymaker had kept the Parish Council advised of correspondence entered into with SWW following concerns raised about river water quality. It was agreed that the holiday maker should be thanked and advised that the contents had been noted.

191.4 Noss Fountain/Noss Hard- the work had been completed to clear vegetation. Payment was authorised for Flete Gardens.

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191.5 Noss Park Play area- the removal of the damaged bench was noted.

191.6 Broken Way- Members were advised that SHDC Tree Officer had passed on a parishioner's concerns regarding four dead elm trees at Broken Way. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Carter had visited the site and thought there were up to six dead trees that required felling. In light of health and safety issues, tenders had been sought to fell the trees, the deadline for submission of tenders being 25 September to enable them to be considered at 26 September Meeting. Quotations for a tree inspection for the area had also been sought. Mr. Taylor advised that one very heavy tree needed to be looked at in view of its proximity to the Pumping Station. There was also concern about the wall bordering the highway which Mr. Taylor would be looking at with Cllr. Mumford.

191.7 Himalayan Knotweed- a parishioner had reported a potential alien invasive species of Himalayan Knotweed by Puslinch Bridge. It was agreed further investigation as to whom this should be reported would be undertaken.

191.6 Other areas for consideration-Bridgend Wall- the Chairman reported that she had been advised that the cost to reinforce the wall would be in the region of £6000. The Chairman had tried unsuccessfully to establish ownership but the consensus was that it fell to DCC responsibility as it supported the Highway,

192/13 PLANNING PRE APPLICATIONS

The meeting with Development Control in August had made reference to the Parish Council becoming more involved in pre applications. It was suggested by a Member that those involved in any site visits should come back to the Parish Council to formulate a view to be reported back to SHDC

Land East of 85 Court Road- a pre application site visit had taken place on 12 September. There were concerns about the "long view" whilst there was an acceptance that the design sought to address those concerns. It was felt however that the design of the building was the wrong design in its context. It was inappropriate from the street scene and there was a much local opposition. The Chairman, in her capacity as District Councillor, would feedback Members initial views to the planning officer Mr. Kinsella.

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm