

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

Held on 6 May 2015

PRESENT	Cllr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Matthews	Mrs Evans	Mrs. Ansell	
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. Hussell 2 Parishioners	Mr. Taylor	Mr. Stitson	Mr. Carter	Mr. Tubb Mrs. McDonough (Clerk)	Miss Cove

OPEN FORUM

Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo Parish Council Police Report April 2015

PCSO potter reported on the following;

Newton Ferrers

16th, theft from motor vehicle. A car had had its window smashed and property removed from within. Enquiries were ongoing [CR/025628/15]

25th, criminal damage. A security light and roof tiles of a house had been damaged [CR/028154/15]

Noss Mayo

No reported crime

Grass cutting- a parishioner raised concerns regarding hedge trimming and grass cutting in the areas around Butts Park. The parishioner was advised Devon County Council, as a result of budget cuts, had said that they would only be cutting visibility splays in urban areas four times a year. The first cut should be completed soon. If it was not a visibility splay there would be no routine cuts on DCC verges unless there was a safety reason. The matter was on the agenda for consideration by the Parish Council. The parishioner raised specific areas which needed attention

i) The hedge by Butts Park water tower- he was advised this issue had already been raised by the Clerk with Devon County Council Highways both by email and in person at a meeting earlier that day.

ii) Collaton/Butts park path- the parishioner suggested it had not been maintained last year. He was advised that it was understood DCC had trimmed the roadside verges and a contractor had been employed by the Parish Council to trim the hedges/grass both sides of the path last year. Account had had to be taken of nesting season and Wild Chicory growing in one section. The matter was on the agenda for the Parish Council Meeting.

iii) Path from Butts Park to the School- Cow Parsley was starting to grow over the path. The parishioner was advised that responsibility for trimming the hedge lay with the landowner. The verge had been the responsibility of DCC. The matter was on the agenda. The parishioner was also concerned about a dropped kerb which he thought was a risk to pedestrian safety.

iv) The path adjacent to the water tower- was beginning to become overgrown.

The parishioner was advised by Mr. Matthews that Devon County Council had funding issues and their grass cutting budget had been cut. Areas previously maintained by DCC would not be cut. The Parish/parishioners may need to start on taking some responsibility for some grass cutting themselves.

Parsonage Farm development proposals- the landowner advised that a public consultation regarding proposals was being held on Wednesday 13th May from 3.30 – 6.30 at the WI Hall. It would be an opportunity to see, and comment on, proposed plans for 5 affordable and 6 market value houses on land adjacent to Parsonage farm, Parsonage Rd. The landowner advised that the proposal included intermediate affordable housing- for those who could secure a mortgage but needed to purchase at a discount. The discount would be agreed by SHDC. The landowner was asked if the housing would be for local people- the landowner advised that it was all up for discussion. A village trust was being considered. She advised that SHDC Planners had taken into account the potential Village Housing Initiative Development on Parsonage Road but not the Collaton development proposals. The landowner said she had been speaking to a number of planning officers at SHDC but not the affordable housing team.

99/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- there were apologies from Mr. Taylor.

100/15 MINUTES –the Minutes of the 23 April Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

101/15 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED - members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. None were declared.

102/15 DISPENSATION REQUESTS- none.

103/15 VARIATION OF AGENDA- RESOLVED: matters relating to consideration of pre planning applications/ planning enforcement matters should be considered in Committee. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

1/6May2015.....Chairman

104/15 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

104.1 County Councillor's Report- Cllr. Hoskings had sent apologies.

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

104.3 Highways/Transport- Mrs Ansell and the Clerk had met with Mr Nick Colton Neighbourhood Highways Officer that morning;

i) Noss Green-reference had been made to a potential drainage problem arising from the stream running from Gypsy Meadow underneath Noss Green. Mrs. Ansell had suggested this could be caused by the grill covering the drainage channel on the boundary becoming blocked. It should be included within a regular inspection schedule and risk assessed.

ii) Noss Car park-Mr. Colton had considered the condition of the surface to be fine. Once the transfer was completed, the signage making reference to SHDC would need to be removed/adapted. Risk assessment had been discussed.

iii) Verges-Mr. Colton would send a map of the DCC verges in the Parish as requested by the Clerk. Highway verges were unlikely to be cut save for visibility splays four times per year or as required by safety issues. The verge by Collaton/Butts Park link would not be cut. Mr. Colton had subsequently confirmed by email that, with regards to the urban grass cutting, four cuts were programmed to be carried out during April, June, July and September (if all proceeded to programme).

- The purpose of the grass cutting programme was to maintain visibility for highway users and to provide forward visibility to signs.

- Visibility included junctions, inside of bends and laybys, and applied to all road users.

- Therefore places where pedestrians were encouraged to cross, e.g. where PROW met a road and pedestrian refuge areas, were to be included.

- Cutting would be undertaken on a planned programme basis to meet this objective.

- Visibility areas were only considered on public highway. Therefore junctions with private roads and drives would not be included. Public facilities such as schools, hospitals, would however be included in the policy.

- Some Districts and parishes were responsible for cutting urban grass via a financial contribution from Devon County Council

- Some districts /parishes were cutting areas in addition to visibility; however this was at their discretion and funded by themselves via other means.

iv) SLOW-The sign on the road by Butts Park on B3186 was still being encroached by the adjacent hedge. Mr. Colton had advised that the DCC would take action if the hedge intruded more than 1 metre in or caused cars to drive over the central line of the road. It was for the landowner /DCC to resolve. He suggested reporting it online under signs and markings as an obscured sign.

v) Butts Park hedge-he would take a look and arrange for it to be cut.

vi) A379- the structural engineers would be looking at the subsidence on the approach to Brixton from Yealmpton. Repair estimates varied from £250,000- £1,000,000.

vii) Lengthsmen-2 lengthsmen for 75 parishes. The Parish Council was likely to get 4 days pa. He would let the Clerk know when the lengthsmen would be coming. Mr. Colton had subsequently confirmed that the lengthsmen programmed visit to Newton & Noss would next be between 14/10/15 to 16/10/15 for three days if the programme stayed on schedule. According to the programme they were last in the parish between 20/04/15 and 22/04/15 again for three days. This would mean in effect they would be in Newton & Noss parish twice this year for a total of six days.

viii) Rosemount-it was thought a lorry had reversed into the roadside wall causing stability concerns. The owners had to apply for a retrospective permit to deposit material on the highway. Amberon was coming to undertake traffic management. Fences had been put up due to the risk to cars and pedestrians.

viii) Road repairs generally-Mr. Colton had advised that there was currently a 750 million pound backlog of highway repairs.

ix) Chapter 8 Training- Cllr. Hosking had advised that Devon County Council were facilitating and organising training for volunteers in the Community Self Help initiative and wished to determine the demand and uptake for the training necessary to carry out the work. There were three levels of participation requiring three different levels of training. No volunteers had come forward from the Parish to act as Parish Lengthsman or Road Warden. The Snow Warden had advised that neither himself nor the volunteers thought training necessary. No members of the Parish Council wished to undertake training for events organisation.

x) Parsonage Road- it was agreed the Clerk would report the dropped kerb causing concern near "Ashcroft" to DCC.

104.5SHDC Asset Transfer/Parish Asset Land Registration-;

i) Draft Tree Management Policy- had been circulated to Members and would be considered at the next meeting.

ii) Noss Green request- a parishioner had sought permission to have a childrens' birthday party on Noss Green, with a bouncy castle on 11/12 July or 18/19 July. It was agreed the parishioner would need to forward her request to SHDC as current landowners given the transfer of the land ownership to the Parish Council had not yet been completed. The Parish Council would not object to the proposed party.

iii) **Legal** – there had been no update since communication from Curtis Whiteford Crocker on 29 April to the effect SHDC had provided the plan to insert into the contract. SHDC would revert back with word on the signature of the contract and other documents.

v) **Tennis Club**- Mr. Matthews had drafted a Licence for which he was thanked. Discussions took place as to whether the proposed arrangement should take the form of a lease or licence. The Parish Council could consider legal advice. Mrs. Ansell would discuss the matter with the Tennis club.

vi) **Football/cricket clubs**- Mr. Tubb had passed on the draft Licences to the respective clubs.

105/15. PLANNING

Planning applications received :

105.1 The Mudd, 37 Yealm Road 37/0889/15/F- householder application to extend bedroom 3 and modify elevation at level below Yealm road. Application affected the setting of a Conservation Area and the setting of a Listed Building. DECISION: No objection (*Vote; Unanimous*)

105.2 The Sheilings, 97 Court Road, 37/0903/15/F-demolition of existing building and erection of replacement dwelling. The Council was unable to consider the application as hard copy plans were awaited from SHDC and full plans could not be accessed via the SHDC planning application website. SHDC Development Management and the planning officer had been advised that the Council would consider the matter at their Meeting on 21 May.

105.3 Neighbourhood Plan –the treasurer for the Neighbourhood Planning Group had confirmed that the invoices to Hoot media for the neighbourhood Plan website had been settled using all funding from Community Development Foundation Neighbourhood Plan Bridging Grant.

105.4 Good Energy- no Members had been available to attend the Newton Downs Farm solar farm proposals exhibition. Mr Peter Brown from the Yealm Energy Community Group, who had attended the event, had offered to answer any queries. It was agreed to ask Mr Brown what benefits the community should be seeking from good Energy as part of the proposals.

106/15 ADMINISTRATION

106.1 End of Year Accounts- South and West Internal Audit had completed their internal audit. The report had been circulated to the Parish council Members. The report advised that the records were well organised and there was clear evidence of internal control functions being carried out. Findings from the testing showed that all financial procedures were working as expected. There were identified no identified non – compliance issues in the testing carried out.

106.2 Parish Council Insurance- two quotations had been received. One from the Parish Council's existing insurance brokers Came & Co who had gone to three insurance companies and one from Zurich. Details had been sent to Mr. Matthews and Mr. Carter. An outline comparison of the quotes was given to the Council. Further information was needed from came & Co. Renewal date would be 1 June 2015. RESOLVED; the decision regarding Insurance renewal arrangements would be delegated to the Chairman and Mrs. Ansell. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

107/15 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 108/15

108/15 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Santander Current Account :	Total balance at 1.05.15	£69982.16
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:		£1916.45

Chq			
No	PAYEE		AMOUNT
1939	WI Community Hall	Hire fee NNPC Meeting 6 May 2015	£25.00
1940	WI Community Hall	Hire fee NNPC Meeting 21 May 2015	£25.00
1941	M. Hingston	Newton Voss & steps cleaning April 2015	£124.00
1942	S. McDonough	Net salary-April	£1,215.98
1943	HM Revenue & Customs	Clerks monthly Tax & National Insurance	£294.97
1944	S. McDonough	Travel expenses reimbursement- accounts for audit (internal)	£31.50
1945	South and West Internal Audit	Fees for internal audit services 2014-2015	£200.00

Total **£1,916.45**

SO	Spectrum Housing Group Ltd	Bishops Court rent May 2015	£342.93
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*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments:£0 total to date;£75

3/6May2015.....Chairman

109/15 MEETINGS ATTENDED:

109.1 Harbour Authority-Mr. Carter advised that Mr. Dermot Drought and been reconfirmed as Chairman and Mr. Martin Oates as Vice Chairman.

109.2 Halls- Mrs. Ansell had been unable to attend Newton & Noss Village Hall AGM. The Vice Chairman had nothing to report on behalf of the WI Hall.

110/15. MAINTENANCE

110.1 Butts Park –concerns regarding overgrown hedging had been reported to DCC.

110.2 Collaton/Butts Park path- one quote would be obtained for two hedge/grass trimming cuts. One was to take place as soon as possible and the other in September.

110.3 Water Tower- a parishioner had expressed concern regarding the overgrown grass within the water tower area.it was agreed the Clerk should write to South West Water and ask them to attend to the area around the water tower.

110.4 Annual Spring maintenance- Mr. Tubb passed the contact details of the person whose relative had left a legacy to maintain the Revington seat and area. It was agreed to write to him putting forward the Council’s suggestions for the bench maintenance before submitting the quotation invitations to potential contractors. Mr. Stitson would look at the Tennis Courts seat causing concern.

110.5 Other areas for consideration

i) Bus turning sign- Mr. Lyndon advised the bus turning sign by Noss Green needed attention. The Clerk would report to DCC.

ii) Sports Pavilion- it was agreed the Clerk would ask Mr. James Baldwin for a quote for the annual electrical/PAT testing. Mr. Stitson suggested some of the showers may also need replacing.

111/15 RETIRING PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr. Stitson, Mr. Matthews and Mr. Taylor were thanked for their hard work and time on the Parish Council.

In committee

112/15 PRE PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

An alleged planning enforcement issue regarding “Elstow” Yealm Road had been resolved by the decision made in respect of planning application reference 37/3139/14.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm