

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

Held on 8 March 2012

PRESENT	Cllr Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Taylor	Mr. Carter	Mr. Gough
	Mr. Tubb	Mrs. Ansell	Mr. Stitson	Mr. Barnett	Mr. Lyndon
ALSO PRESENT					Mrs. McDonough (Clerk)

2 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

OPEN FORUM

Police Matters- apologies had been given by PCSO Potter and PC Batchelor.
No other matters were raised.

62/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- there were apologies for absence from Mr. Hussell and Mr. Matthews.

63/12 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 matters relating to Briar Hill Campsite by virtue of living next door.

64/12 MINUTES –The Minutes of the 9 February Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record save for an amendment to the heading to delete reference to the attendance of Mr. Tubb and Mr. Taylor.

65/12. COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

65.1 County Councillor’s Report.

i) Budget-the budget had been agreed with a nil increase from DCC for Council Tax. As a result DCC would receive 2.5% from central Government as an offset. £8,000,000 would be spent on one off highway maintenance (concentrating on C roads), on residential homes and an extra Parish Lengthsman.

ii) Funding- small and micro businesses would have access to an investment fund through the South West Investment Group.

iii) Rural Broadband- Cllr Mumford stressed the importance of completing the Broadband connectivity questionnaire through www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk particularly in early evening. The response from the Parish had not been particularly good. It was hoped to have the programme running by the end of the year.

iv) Highways- most of the A379 work was almost complete. Road signage and speed limits were changing between Yealmpton and Modbury.

v) Trains- First Great Western franchise tendering process was in consultation. It was hoped to ensure a better morning service from London to Plymouth. The rail network usage had grown by 91% since 2001. It was hoped to secure a Devon Metro service for branch lines. Timetabling would be important. Plymouth were keen to reduce the number of stopping stations between Plymouth to Paddington but it was felt that such services should be in addition to existing services.

vi) New England Quarry- nothing further had been heard from Viridor as yet.

vii) Quarry at Lee Mill- the operators of a quarry had been dumping waste from the demolition of the old Naaffi building in Plymouth. There had been concerns as the brooks on the land led into the River Yealm. DCC had taken enforcement measures and had won the appeal brought by the operators.

65.2 Highways/Transport-

i) Puslinch- DCC had advised that they would be placing a sign “Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles” at the turning to Puslinch at Collaton. With respect to a permanent weight restriction on the Puslinch Road, this was not something which would be considered a great success. The restriction would be only 7.5 tonnes except for access. If this was viewed as an appropriate restriction it would not be seen as a high priority for implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order.

ii) Towable gritter- the Clerk had been provided details of an insurance company through whom a DCC Councillor had managed to secure insurance to tow a gritter behind his privately owned car. The insurance company had advised that it would be possible to provide such insurance incorporating Class 1 business use. An individual’s details would be needed to provide a quote. Mr. Barnett advised that he would be prepared to tow such a gritter and would make enquiries.

65.3 District Councillor’s Report- The Chairman advised that there had been a meeting at SHDC to discuss the budget. She had made enquiries with SHDC regarding use of Noss Green/Gypsy Meadow for the Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch. SHDC required confirmation of insurance coverage and a risk assessment. If the Parish Council assumed responsibility for arrangements for the Big Lunch, the Parish Council’s Public Liability Insurance would cover the event. It was agreed the Chairman and Mrs. Ansell would prepare the risk assessment. **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council would assume responsibility for organizing the Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch on Sunday 3 June. *(Vote: Unanimous)*

65.4 SHDC Asset Transfer- Mr. Gough and the Vice Chairman from the working group had met to discuss the Tenders to conduct the legal work for the proposed transfer. Six firms had tendered, costs varying between £1000- £3550. After much deliberation, it had been agreed to accept the lowest Tender of £1000 plus VAT from Messrs Trobridges. Members were advised that Trobridges were likely to require an instruction letter accepting their terms and conditions together with

monies on account of costs and disbursements. Trobridges would also be asked for details of their proposed course of conduct to enable the Council to consider what matters or decisions could be delegated to the working group.
RESOLVED: to delegate approval of the Solicitors' instruction letter to the working group and to authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign the same. *(Vote: Unanimous)*

65.5 Community Orchard/Noss Play Park Improvement Project- Mr. Buckland had suggested that any grass cutting in the play park be undertaken such to let the grass grow higher than usual to enable roots to establish. Mr. Buckland had suggested laying gravel in the most badly affected areas and had provided a sample and details of costs. It was proposed to undertake some staking/forking in the play park the following Sunday to see if this led to any improvement. It was agreed to ascertain what improvements were effected by the forking/staking before deciding on further action. .

65.6 Village Housing Initiative- the Chairman advised that all parties had agreed the documentation. It was understood plans were being made for an event to mark the start of construction.

65.7 Collaton/Butts Park Link- Mr. Taylor advised that the launch would take place on Friday 25 May at 11am at the junction off the B3186 leading to Livingstone Avenue. The Primary School had been invited to take an active part. Guests and members of the public would be invited. It was agreed to invite the police and to ask them to request the owners of parked cars at Butts Park, along the route from the School to the path, to refrain from parking their cars on the pavement. The grass/hedges may require attention before the event but this would be kept under review. It was agreed to liaise with Cllr. Mumford regarding DCC publicity requirements as the main funders.

65.8 Butts Park play park- concerns regarding its condition and suggestions for improvement were considered. Tenders had been invited for some maintenance work which would be considered at the next Meeting. Two houses at Butts Park had broken fencing to the rear which was lying in the play park. It was agreed the Clerk would contact SHDC regarding the same.

65.9 Ivybridge & Surrounding Area Cluster Group- Mr. .Graham Swiss from SHDC had been appointed as the new Link Officer.

66/12 PLANNING-

Applications received:

66.1 49 Yealm Road 37/0340/12/F- householder application for construction of hard standing with garden room under and provision of dropped curb for access. Application affecting the setting of a Conservation Area. DECISION: No objection *(Vote; 6 in favour, 4 abstentions)*. *Mr Tubb left the Meeting*

Certificate of Lawfulness Applications:

66.2 Briar Hill Farm 0386/12/CLE Lawful Development Certificate for existing use for camping and caravan use of the land and **0387/12/CLE** Lawful Development Certificate for existing use for storage of trailers, boats and caravans. The Parish Council had received two letters from SHDC requesting evidence to either support or refute the claims that the land outlined on the location plans had been used for the purposes described in excess of the last ten years. The application would be dealt with on the basis of factual evidence only- the planning merits of the use of the land did not fall to be considered. The Meeting was advised that it was possible to view aerial shots of the site going back to 2002. Some Members advised the meeting that they had had many representations from parishioners who had said that the land had not been used for the purposes described for the last ten years. RESOLVED: To write to SHDC Development Control to advise that Members had received many representations from Parishioners who had knowledge of the site and who had advised that the land had not been used for the purposes described by the applicant over the timeframe stipulated, to forward aerial photographs of the site taken between 2002 and 2005 and that the Parish Council object to the granting of Certificates of Lawfulness over activities which were not conducted lawfully in the first place. *(Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstention)*. *Mr. Tubb returned to the Meeting.*

66.3 Enforcement- 16 Perches Close- SHDC had been investigating an alleged breach of planning control. Concern had been raised about whether permission to extend the property had expired before works started on site, whether the development was being carried out in accordance with the approved plans, and whether drainage issues had been considered. SHDC Officers had visited the site and South West Water consulted. No breach of planning control had been identified.

66.4 Court Wood- concerns regarding the height of fences along the river side of the road would be considered at the next Meeting. **Agenda March 22**

67/12 ADMINISTRATION

67.1 Clerk's employment-

i) It was agreed the effective date for the increase in the Clerk's contractual hours from 1100 to 1200 hours pa would be 1 January 2012.

ii) The employment working group was to meet to review of the Clerk's current salary pay scale. **Agenda April**

67.2 Annual Parish Meeting- final arrangements were considered.

67.3 Parish Council website maintenance- Mr. Gough outlined the plans suggested by the website manager to improve the Clerk's ability to maintain the website RESOLVED: to authorise the website manager to conduct work to improve the website and administrative capabilities for the Clerk to a maximum cost of £100. *(Vote: Unanimous)*

67.4 Localism Act 2011- the potential introduction of the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) Prescribed conditions) order 2012 by April 2012 was noted. It was agreed that requirements relating to the General Power of competence to would be delegated to the employment working group.

2/8March2012.....Chairman

67.5 Standing Orders/Financial Regulations-a review had been scheduled of the revised first edition NALC Standing Orders for local Councils (*min 216/11* refers). It was agreed to consider the matter at the next Meeting. **Agenda April.**

68/12 DIAMOND JUBILEE-

68.1 Commemorative mugs –Mr. Taylor advised that the presentation of the Commemorative mugs to the Primary School children would take place at 11am on Thursday 31 May. The play group presentation would take place beforehand, the time to be confirmed. 250 mugs had been ordered.

68.2 The Big Lunch- Mrs. Hinchliffe had confirmed that the Bouncy Castle Hire Company had its own insurance.

68.3 The Beacon- it was thought it would be lit between 10-10.45pm. Mr. Stitson would be seeing the landowner the following week.

69/12 FOOTPATHS/NOTICEBOARD/SEATS

69.1 2011 Annual footpath inspection-there was no report.

69.2 Parish notice boards- Mr. Carter confirmed that the issue of the signs on the notice boards would be resolved in conjunction with Mr. John Young.

70/12. MAINTENANCE

70.1 River Yealm Water Quality- Mr. Carter gave a report of the meeting between South West Water and the RYHA. The meeting had mainly concerned Sherford Development-the development's sewage would now go to Marsh Mills sewage treatment works. SWW had confirmed that they would be looking into the leaking manhole covers. There was due to be a meeting with May Gurney that week to discuss the relining of pipes under the Voss.

70.2 Yealm Steps- a request for a canoe rack at Yealm Steps was considered. It was not thought any land was available for a rack. The land around the Yealm Steps was not owned by either the Harbour Authority or the Parish Council

70.3 Other areas for consideration- it was agreed that some attention was required for the lettering on the War Memorials at Holy Cross and St Peter's. In the case of the latter, any action would be undertaken in conjunction with the Parochial Church Council. The Clerk had approached four stonemason firms for tentative quotes but none had responded. It was agreed to investigate whether any parishioners would be prepared to help were the Parish Council to provide the materials.

71/12 GRANT REQUESTS

71.1 Domestic violence & Abuse Service- the Clerk had asked whether the service had assisted any parishioners, but had received no response.

71.2 Yealm Yacht Club- the Yealm Yacht Club had provided copy invoices totalling £10808 for quay repair work RESOLVED; to give final approval for the request for financial assistance for Yealm Yacht Club Quay repairs in the sum of £500. (*Vote: 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention*).

72/12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

72.1 Harbour Authority- Mr Cater advised maintenance work was ongoing. Repair work would need to be undertaken on the pontoon at the Yealm Steps.

72.2 Halls- Mrs Ansell advised that Newton & Noss Village Hall had taken delivery of their new china with which they were very pleased, The Vice Chairman advised about two fund raising events- the "Knitathon" and the Irish Evening. The Annual Meeting would be held on 14 March.

73/12 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr.Stitson and listed in Minute 74/12.

74/12 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Santander Current Account : Total balance at 1.03.12 **£51158.90**
The balance includes: Hedge Cutting Bond **£3000**

The following cheques were authorised totalling: **£5,040.01**

Payments 8 March 2012

Chq No	PAYEE		AMOUNT
1447	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC Meeting 8 March 2012	£22.00
1448	WIC Hall	Hire- NNPC Meeting 22 March 2012	£22.00
1449	WIC Hall	Hire- Annual Parish Meeting 8 March 2012	£22.00
1450	J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss & Popes Quay February 12	£50.00
1451	S.McDonough	Net salary-February including 2011 overtime	£2,301.79
1452	Dementia Friendly Parishes	Grant; Contribution to costs of a community	

3/8March2012.....Chairman

	around the Yealm	development worker*	£100.00
1453	C. Robinson	Costs: Speaker for Annual Parish Meeting***	£40.00
1454	M.Hingston	Cleaning: Newton Voss & steps February 12	£82.00
1455	S.McDonough	Reimbursement expenses: stationery	£38.21
1456	RYHA	Slipway Cleaning Fluid	£19.99
1457	Yealm Yacht Club	Grant; Contribution towards Quay repair costs**	£500.00
1458	HM Revenue & Customs	Clerks Tax and National Insurance	£1,842.02

Total £5,040.01

*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments: £100 Total to date;£975

** Section 19 Local Government(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

*** S.150 Local Government Act 1972

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm