

NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS
Held on 26 March 2015

PRESENT: 9 Parish Councillors
 10 Parishioners
 P.C.S.O. Andy Potter
 Cllr Suzie Cooper South Hams District Council
 Cllr Richard Hosking Devon County Council

The meeting was initially chaired by Mr Alan Cooper, Parish Council Vice Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman Suzie Cooper.

1. APOLOGIES: Mrs. Fiona Evans, Mr. Tom Taylor and Mr. Peter Stitson

2. DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

PCSO 30540 Andy Potter, Ivybridge Police Station. Tel no 101.

Newton and Noss Mayo Annual Parish Council Police Report 2014 to 2015

[From 1 March 2014 -28th February 2015]

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Newton Ferrers</u>		<u>Noss Mayo</u>	
	<u>Detected</u>	<u>Undetected</u>	<u>Detected</u>	<u>Undetected</u>
Theft [marine]	0	0	0	1
Theft	1	3	0	2
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0
Burglary – vacant premises	1	2	0	0
Burglary other				
Criminal Damage [vehicle]	1	1	1	0
Criminal Damage	0	0	1	0
Assault	1	3	0	0
Harassment				
Public Order	0	0	0	1
Drink Driver	1	0	0	0
Possession of drugs	1	0	0	0
Dog not under proper control	1	0	0	0
Dog worrying livestock	0	0	0	1
<u>Total</u>		<u>16</u>		<u>7</u>

1 non crime domestic incidents recorded in Newton Ferrers

Previous year, 23 crimes recorded in Newton Ferrers plus 4 non crime domestic incidents and 12 crimes recorded in Noss Mayo.

PCSO Potter advised that the local Boatwatch team had been very effective in reducing marine crime.

He advised that police had had cause to come to Newton Ferrers the previous Saturday evening due to a break in at an empty building.

He was thanked for coming.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 March 2014 were confirmed and signed.

A parishioner asked about the Parish Council accounts and why they were not being presented. The parishioner was advised that this was the Annual Parish Meeting. The Annual Parish Council Meeting would be held on 21 May at the WI Hall at 7pm. The Parishioner was advised that the Parish Clerk had a set of the unfinalised Parish Council accounts with her available for the parishioner to view if he wished to inspect them. The financial year end for the Parish Council was 31 March, following which the accounts would be finalised (following receipt of the final bank statement) and given to the Parish Council accounts inspection working group for final year end check. The "Notice of Appointment of date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights" would go up on the Parish Council notice boards on 1 April together with "Council's Accounts; a Summary of your Rights." The inspection period started on 20 April and would conclude on 18 May. The Clerk anticipated placing the accounts for the approval of the Parish Council at their Meeting on 23 April. The accounts should also be on the Agenda for 6 May and 21 May.

4. COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING (DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL)

Cllr. Hosking advised that he had completed eight months out of his first year at Devon County Council (DCC).

i) Bridgend Wall- Cllr Hosking had secured the reinstatement of Bridgend wall negotiating funding for the repairs.

ii) Austerity measures - DCC had been subject to 46 million pounds reduction in central funding taking in excess of 10% out of the budget. DCC was unable to cut back the base any longer and had had to increase Council Tax by 1.99% - the maximum increase possible before there would be referendum considerations. DCC was anticipating further cuts of 20-30 million pounds in central funding. DCC had pre-empted some cuts by rationalising care home facilities and youth services. The majority of residents in DCC care homes had been moved to private sector homes- just 60 residents remaining in DCC homes. The cost per resident per week in a DCC home had been £900, but in the private sector was £500 p.w. This had secured savings of 10 million pounds. Forty youth centres had been reduced to 8 Youth Service Hubs.

iii) The Care Act- was intended to integrate NHS and Social Services. Each person in need of attention would have an individual care plan. It was hoped to secure more nursing care at home so people could stay in their homes for as long as possible.

iv) Education services/Children in Care- DCC had failed the Ofsted inspection and was taking steps to remedy this.

v) Road damage and potholes- could be reported through the DCC website. Cllr. Hosking suggested reporting any potholes (30cm diameter and 4cm deep) as soon as possible. DCC had secured grants of 16 million for pothole repair, some of which could be lost if repairs were not in the repair programme before financial year end

Questions & answers

a) Care homes-Cllr. Hosking was asked whether privatising care for the elderly would lead to a fall in quality.

Cllr. Hosking confirmed that a survey had been undertaken in which the majority of former DCC care home residents had been happy with the move. He was asked whether there was plenty of capacity in the private sector to accommodate residents reasonably close to where they had lived. Cllr. Hosking advised he had no particular knowledge nor had received any reports in this respect but felt sure that there was availability.

b) DCC Budget-Cllr. Hosking confirmed the total budget for last year had been 400 million pounds. There had been a cut of 47 million with a further cut anticipated of 30 million pounds. This was on the assumption that there was not an increase in Council Tax. Certain services were statutory.

c) Public transport-Cllr. Hosking confirmed the consultation on bus services ended in April and encouraged parishioners to look at it. Cuts were proposed reducing the existing No. 94 service from 5 to 3 per day. Most services for which cuts had been suggested were costing considerable amounts for DCC- some up to £20 per passenger per journey. He was aware the bus service was very important to those who used it. Some changes had been suggested to the use of bus passes. Based on feedback users had suggested that they would prefer to pay a contribution rather than lose the service. No charges could be made for those with bus passes but possibly charges could be made for the provision of the bus pass. The Vice Chairman encourage parishioners to object to the proposals. The bus took a lot of people to Yealmpton and Plymstock. If the Collaton development proposals went ahead there would be more demand for the bus service. Miss Cove, a Parish Council Member suggested that once the service was cut back it could become ineffective and the service reduced even further. A parishioner agreed saying that once the service became infrequent, it would become inconvenient. He suggested local communities could take matters into their own hands. DCC could use the money spent on the local service to give the local community a grant to start up their own service designed to meet the needs of the community. Mr. Lyndon, Parish Council Member, suggested combining it with school transport to make it more commercially viable. A parishioner suggested that he had lived in a village in Gloucestershire 15 years ago which had its own bus and driver. Cllr. Hosking suggested DCC would welcome discussing alternatives and advised parishioners to complete the survey.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Suzie Cooper arrived and chaired the meeting.

5. COUNCILLOR SUZIE COOPER (SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL)

Cllr Cooper apologised for arriving late.

i) Land transfer-Cllr. Cooper advised that she had asked South Hams District Council (SHDC) to transfer their land assets to the Parish Council as there had been fears that SHDC may build on the land. The transfer of the land assets was almost complete.

ii) Budget reduction-SHDC had joined with West Devon Borough Council to provide a number of services. A lot of staff had left, some staff were shared between the two councils. The reduction in staff had led to those remaining staff being dispirited. Cllr. Cooper was asked what the Councillors at SHDC were doing to address the situation and to get things under control. Cllr. Cooper advised that complaints were being made. Cllr. Cooper was asked if it was a cost savings exercise and whether SHDC were still supposed to provide the same service-Cllr. Cooper advised it was not working. A parishioner queried whether customers were getting a satisfactory service.

iii) Collaton development- Cllr. Cooper advised that Newton & Noss Parish Council had been against the proposed development at Collaton whereas Yealmpton had supported the proposals. Cllr. Cooper advised that it was due to come before the Development Management Committee the following month. The proposed development would be seen from Dartmoor.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

i) Neighbourhood Plan-the Chairman was asked about the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. She advised that this was being led by members of the River Yealm District Association who had undertaken the Scoping Study. Mrs. Ansell advised that several Parish Council Members were on the Steering Group. There had been some consultative meetings and work was ongoing in the background but there was still a search for someone to lead the group.

Mr. Peter Brown advised that working groups were being set up. A website was being built for the Neighbourhood Plan with broad agreement as to how it should look. There would be a meeting to take the website further forward. Two public meetings had taken place with a third planned for the following month. After the third meeting the groups would start looking at Forward Planning for the next 15 years. The groups would then go to the coordinating committee who would draw it all together. Nothing would become official until it was accepted by the Parish Council. It would also need to be approved by SHDC. The Vice Chairman advised that the Parish Council had appointed five of its Members to the Steering Group and it was intended there should be five non parish Council Members.

ii) Village Housing Initiative-a parishioner asked about plans for affordable homes in the Parish. The Chairman advised that 17 homes were planned for a proposed development at Parsonage Road - 14 affordable homes, 2 open market and a home for the landowner. She felt the last hurdle over drainage may have been resolved. She had not been given a start date.

The Clerk confirmed that the five candidates for the South West Devon Constituency invited to a "Hustings" meeting at the WI hall on Friday 7 April had accepted. The meeting was to be chaired by Mr Andrew Matthews.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed....., Chairman