

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday April 14th 2009 in the Church Room, Shebbear, after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present: Chairman: R Johns. Cllrs: H Davis. G Slade. L Quance. E Haste. P Lomax. R.Gliddon.
District Cllr A Saywell. Clerk: David Walker.
5 Members of the Public. PCSO M.Baker.

Agenda. 2009. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

31. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr R.Clark. (Previous eng.)

Cllrs received letter of resignation from **N.Jeffers** stating too busy to apply himself to Council affairs. Clerk will write to Mr Jeffers and thank him for his time in office, and notify the Elections Officer.

32. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda/ Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

Cllr Quance declared an interest in Village Hall and P/F Committee item. (Minute 35b). He is still a committee member but has resigned as Treasurer.

Chairman suspended official business briefly to allow PCSO Baker to give her months report. This consisted mainly of outlining the latest crime figures which overall were down 8% with a detection rate of 28%. There were substantial decreases in thefts of, and from motor vehicles and cases of harassment with 95% of drug offences detected. There was a 6% increase in domestic burglaries. In Shebbear there had been 4 recorded crimes in the last 30 days - a theft of building materials from the College and 3 domestic related offences. Cllr Quance asked that the policing team be thanked for their visits to the village recently which were making a difference locally. Cllr Haste asked if there had been any thefts of livestock recently. Only one incident, of sheep stealing had been reported and that was elsewhere in the county. Chairman thanked Melissa for her attendance and official business was resumed.

33. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday February 10th 2009, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

34. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

- (1) Councillors received a letter from Shebbear Methodist Circuit, in connection with last months introduction to a proposal for a low cost housing development at New Inn. As a result of points raised at that meeting it has been decided not to proceed with the project.
- (2) P3. In the light of the resignation of Neil Jeffers a suggestion was made that Cllr Lomax might like to take over as P3 liaison councillor. Peter would like think the proposal over before accepting.
- (3) Insurance quotations. Clerk had 2 alternative quotes being prepared which hadn't yet arrived but would be available for the May meeting in time for the June 1st renewal.

35. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

- (a) S.M.C. at Endford. As a result of complaints made last November of dust and noise originating from the works premises, TDC Environment Officers have been making enquiries and have told SMC that they will have to apply for an operating permit. As the company has apparently not done this yet, it is believed that TDC are considering instructing solicitors. Neither Clerk nor District Councillor Saywell had any more information to add. Chairman Roy Johns said that he had received a number of opinions on this matter from local people. The former Endford Engineering, now SMC, had been carrying out the same light industrial production on the same site for many many years and were a valued local employer and supplier of buildings and concrete products to local farms and businesses. The current proprietor had taken over the business when it employed 8 people and there are now 18 working there. At a time when local firms are laying off workers SMC is a local asset. The proprietor is keen to work with the authorities in keeping noise and dust to a minimum. It had been pointed out that if people choose to live in close proximity to such an enterprise, some disturbance was unavoidable. There was also the opinion that SMC had a responsibility to minimise the effects their activities had on parishioners.

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35(a). Cont....

The last thing anyone wants is for taxpayer funded legal processes to be instigated which would be likely to bring about the closure of the company. It is to be hoped that satisfactory compromises can be reached before this happens. Mr Saywell will endeavour to find out more and report back.

- (b) Village Hall & Playing Field Committee. Chairman read a report from Adrian Wyard, the VH&PFC Chairman which detailed the activities concerning the Hall and Playing field over the past year, a copy of which is attached to the Minutes. Clerk had received more details as requested from the VH&PF Committee detailing the plans to improve the facilities within the hall, and recent accounts outlining the financial health of the village hall and playing field. These were scrutinised by Councillors before debating how the project could be supported. This matter had been raised briefly at last months meeting (Min 25b) when a figure of £10,000 had been suggested as an appropriate level of support. There was general agreement that the Village Hall was deserving of substantial support as it was a facility central to most village activities. There was some concern that to allocate a single large sum immediately would compromise the parish councils ability to support any other worthy Parish cause which may seek help in the near future. As it had been established that funds for the improvements were not required straight away, as work was unlikely to commence for another 12 months, a commitment to set aside the sum of £10,000 to be paid in 2 amounts of £5000, was made. The first to be paid at the request of the VH&PFC when the work was in progress and the second when payments were due. This was felt to be a reasonable compromise, that the parish council funds did not suffer a sudden large depletion, and at the same time the Village Hall had the assurance of financial backing to seek match funding elsewhere. Proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Gliddon with all in agreement, that this arrangement be carried through and the VH&PFC be informed by letter of the commitment. The allotted sum to be declared separately within the Bank Balances each month.

36. District Councillors Report.

Mr Saywell said that he had been in post for 2 years now and gave a brief review of his time in office. He is pleased that the Council Tax has not been increased this year and that he has been able to help local organisations with grants. On the other hand, like many others, he is frustrated by the stalling and dithering of the Boundary Commission and their enquiry into Unitary Status for Devon, which as a result looks likely to run out of Parliamentary time and be consigned to the long grass after much expense and effort. Andrew is now at Exeter University and due to complete a Masters degree in September, after which he intends to seek a part time job to run alongside his council duties. He assures us that he is still fully involved and in contact, and feels honoured to represent the area where he has lived all his life. Finally he still has a £2000 budget to allocate.

Cllr Haste asked how much this Boundary Commission enquiry was going to cost. Andrew said that no one knows at present but no doubt a Freedom of Information request will tell us at some future date. Chairman thanked Andrew for his attendance.

37. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

1/0215/2009/FUL. Extension and internal alterations. 1 Endford Cottages. Shebbear.

For Mr & Mrs Furber. No Objections.

1/0244/2009/FUL. Variation of Condition 3 of application 1071/2007 relating to access and visibility splay at land adjacent to Devonport House. Shebbear. For Wedbuild Ltd. No Objections.

The following 2 applications were heard at the Chairmans discretion in order to prevent a hold up in the decision making process.

1/0320/2009/FUL. Extension & internal alterations. Ladford Mill. Shebbear. For Mr Gareth Williams.

No objections.

1/0268/2009/FUL. Erection of single storey garage/storeroom. Greenfields. Shebbear. For Mr Patrick Faulkner. No objections.

37. Planning. (Cont)

- (b) Applications Granted. 1/1291/2008/REM. Construction of 3 Industrial Units at Lake Rural Workshops.
- (c) There were no relevant adjacent applications.

38. Finance.

- (a) Proposed by Cllr Quance and seconded by Cllr Lomax with all in agreement, that 4 wks Clerks wage (£164.76) be paid.

Bank balances received by Councillors.

39. Correspondence.

- (a) DCC. P3. Letter received by Cllrs. As we have a balance in surplus no funds will be allocated this year.
- (b) Shebbear Methodist Circuit. Letter received by Cllrs earlier. Minute 34(1) refers.
- (c) Bradford and Bridgerule Schools. Amalgamation of governing bodies. Does not involve Shebbear.
- (d) Further Boundary Commission - Further Draft proposals. Received by Cllrs.
- (e) Opening of new Holsworthy SureStart Centre. Invitation to attend on 24th April. 10-30 am.

Information folder circulated to Cllrs.

40. Items for the Annual Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday May 12th 2009, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

- (1) Election of Officers. In view of the resignation of N. Jeffers, Cllr Quance asked if Gordon Slade would consider joining the Parish Lands Committee with his extensive local knowledge.
- (2) New Bench seat. Having seen the seat obtained from Solway Recycling, councillors are of the opinion that it did not resemble sufficiently the 2 existing seats under The Tree and would have to be sited somewhere else. To be decided.
- (3) Cllr Davis asked what was happening regarding Waycott, New Inn. D/Cllr Saywell said that the action taken by TDC Enforcement Officers had gone to Appeal and that we would no doubt hear the result in due course.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9 pm.

