

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday April 13th 2010 in the Church Room, Shebbear, after the Parish Meeting.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Johns. Cllrs: P Lomax. G Slade. J Dungeate. H Davis. L Quance.
R Clark. R Gliddon. J Curtis. E Haste.
D /Cllr A Saywell. 4 members of the public. Maria Bailey from TDC
Clerk. D Walker.

Agenda. 2010. Commenced at 7-54 pm.

31. Apologies for Absence.

C/Cllr B Parsons (Other meetings.)

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

None received.

7-58pm. At this point Chairman invited Maria Bailey from TDC, who was able to attend at the last minute, to speak about the Core Strategy consultation. Maria had seen the coverage in Reflecting Shebbear and the Parish Council response. There had been over 1000 responses received and these were being collated with North Devon District Council. There had been a lot of concern over the amount of development and Maria was keen to correct any misunderstandings that had been created by the consultation document. The figures quoted for the rural areas are across all villages, not just the hubs, and include villages that have had no development but may have wanted some. Maria stressed that it is in our hands to ask for what we want, including what facilities, employment and infrastructure improvements are needed, and added that these matters were not made clear in the consultation procedure, nor was the fact that nothing will be imposed on communities. The next phase will include every site in the TDC area and the results will be ready later in the year when the plan will be taken back to the parishes for further consultation. Recent Parish Plans will also be taken into account.

Cllr Clark enquired why only 6 villages were referred to as hubs when all villages are now being included. Maria said that hubs were the villages with the most facilities.

8-12 pm. Cllr Curtis gave apologies and left the meeting on urgent business.

Cllr Clark made the point that the opportunities for employment planned, were disproportionately biased in favour of the N Devon area, which in effect meant Barnstaple, and that was no good for Shebbear, being over 20 miles distant. Maria said that efforts were being made to convince Government that Torrridge needs a higher allocation of employment particularly in rural areas where there is little work at present. Chairman wondered where 13000 jobs would come from, they won't appear by magic. Maria said that it will be a problem to be addressed, and an emphasis on Live/Work schemes will be included, which has been successfully applied in Cornwall. This had been one of the failures of the current Local Plan, preventing some things happening, being inflexible and frustrating to use and giving no room for manoeuvre. It is over 10 years old and no longer fit for purpose.

Maria gave an undertaking that the Parish Council and the Editor of Reflecting Shebbear would be kept informed about the matters raised and the progress of the Core Strategy as time goes on.

8-40 pm, Chairman thanked Maria for her attendance and report, whereupon she left the meeting.

33. Minutes of the Meeting held on March 9th 2010.

All were in agreement, that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

34. Clerks Report.. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

Cllr Davis enquired whether the decision to ask Adrian Caudwell to clear the grass and weeds that are encroaching onto the footpath in Back Lane had been actioned. Clerk reported that Adrian had commenced grass cutting and had been asked to paint the lamp bracket in the Square and will be formally requested to clear Back Lane in due course.

35. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(a) The amended contract to allow BT to resume responsibility for the electricity supply for Caute phonebox had been checked over by Chairman and Clerk and Cllrs were in agreement that it be signed and delivered to BT. The Cllrs decision to dispense with the electricity supply altogether to be taken up with BT thereafter.

35 (cont)

(b) Requests for allotments. Clerk reported that a further 5 requests for plots had been received making the total 8. Cllrs decided that, now more than the required number of written requests had been received, the applicants should be informed that the parish council will commence enquiries, to firstly, if possible, identify a suitable plot of ground. Also to cultivate an awareness of the relevant legislation and harvest any useful information from any councils who have recent experience in setting up allotments.

36. District Councillors Report.

Andrew reported that Devon CC had launched a judicial review against the decision to allow Exeter to gain unitary status. He had recently followed up complaints of dog fouling in Shebbear village and called upon the warden to make visits. He was pleased that he had been able to arrange for Maria Bailey to visit this evening and is impressed by the work that she and the Core Strategy team are carrying out.

37. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

1/0196/2010/FUL. Erection of conservatory at rear of Caute Bungalow. Shebbear. No Objections.

1/0218/2010/FUL. General purpose agricultural building at Ladford Farm. Shebbear. No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted.

Received by Cllrs.

(c) Application Refused.

None.

(d) Any relevant adjacent applications.

None

38. Finance.

Bank Balances

Previously circulated and received by Cllrs.

39. Correspondence.

Heard by Cllrs:

(b) Tessa Osborne. This letter drew attention to the conflicting positions existing over Shebbear being classed as a rural Hub. In one respect being a Hub may increase Shebbears chance of attracting investment in better facilities, on the other hand it may mean that we get unwanted extra housing. The writer was of the opinion that it would be better to withdraw (if possible) from Hub status. After some debate Cllrs felt that to remain classed as a rural Hub would be the better option now that clarification of the objectives of the Core Strategy indicated that the proposals were not as draconian as feared previously, and new developments would not be imposed on unwilling communities. Clerk will forward a copy of the letter to Maria Bailey.

(c) TDC. Acknowledgement of receipt of Shebbears Core Strategy response.

(d) Notification of Audit Commission auditor for 2010-2012.

(e) DCC. P3 Annual grant. As we have £1718.36 P3 balance in reserve, a grant this year will not be paid. But Cllr Lomax had been assured by P3 that should a substantial scheme be planned in the meantime support will be available.

Circulation Folder

Items (a) (f) (g) (h) and (i) together with Senior Council for Devon Spring Magazine.

40. Items for the Annual Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday May 11th 2010, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Election of Officers.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-45 pm.