

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday April 8th 2014 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: M A Wells. T Carr. K Dymond. J Curtis. J Stupple. J Dungate. R Clark. P Mingham.

Councillor Slawec Rakowski (Chairman - Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council).

6 Members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2014. Commenced at 7-42 pm, after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Vice Chairman Councillor E Haste opened the Meeting, and welcomed all present, in particular, newly co-opted Councillor Philip Mingham who was attending his first Meeting.

40. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor R Gliddon (Family commitment). District Councillor D Hurley (Attending another Meeting). PCSO M Baker (Unavailable).

41. Public Participation Period.

No requests to speak received.

42. Declarations of any Councillors Interests in Items on the Agenda.

- (a) Discloseable pecuniary interests. None received.
- (b) Registerable interests. None received.
- (c) Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None received.

43. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday March 11th 2014, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

Proposed Councillor Dymond, seconded Councillor Carr, with all in favour, that the March 11th Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

Clerk apologised for an error that had been noticed in the approved Minutes of February 11th (Item 17) which had been corrected, with a revised page circulated to Councillors and the public copy amended accordingly. All in favour that the correction be approved.

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

Clerk reported that he had located a tree specialist from Braunton who is qualified to carry out an inspection on the Oak Tree in The Square for the requirements of the Insurers. The result of the inspection is not yet received.

45. To Agree any items to be dealt with in Part 2, closed session, of the Meeting.

Agreed - all items to be Part 1.

46. Any urgent agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.

None.

47. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Dipper Mill Flood Warning Monitor.

Chairman welcomed Councillor Rakowski, the Chairman of Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council, who was present for this agenda item, as Bradford & Cookbury may participate in the scheme.

Councillor Clark outlined to those present details of meetings that Councillor Haste and himself had attended at Sheepwash with representatives from the Environment Agency, and Hydrologic, where a similar scheme is

being planned. Further discussions with the parties involved revealed that the project was feasible and the cost, with DCC support funding, was affordable in relation to the anticipated benefits. The cost to the Parish Council being the annual maintenance charge of around £400, and even that may be match funded.

Early reactions from parishioners have been positive. Lindsay McLean (Environment Agency) will possibly attend the Parish Council Meeting on May 13th to discuss the details relevant to the Dipper Mill installation.

(2) New Parish Plan.

Councillors agreed that another attempt to start the production of a new Parish Plan was very worthwhile. The previous start up set in motion by the Parish Council had resulted in a Committee made up of a number of persons from different backgrounds, who, while all being enthusiastic about the concept of a New Plan, for reasons not fully understood, did not see eye to eye on the way the project should be tackled from the start. For this reason the first attempt fizzled out.

Councillors agreed that a different approach was needed, and that the formation of the action team should start with a small nucleus of persons who will identify anyone who expresses an interest in individual topics within the Plan and who will be willing to apply that interest to gathering information to feed in to the draft document. The use of community messaging is agreed to be a productive way of reaching individuals within the parish, and beyond, and if useful, anonymous contributions could be considered for following up. There will still have to be a degree of formality involved particularly where the administration of funding is concerned. It was emphasised that a cautious approach to start with would be necessary. Councillors Katie Dymond and Tony Carr will make a start with a view to building up gradually, and will report back on progress made.

(3) Allotment project.

As agreed at the March Meeting Clerk had contacted the Solicitor acting for the Methodist Circuit with a view to paying the first years rent for the lease on the land at New Inn. The solicitor informed Clerk that the Circuit Committee were unsure whether the allotment project was viable under the terms of the lease and would not grant the lease at the moment even though it had been signed. The solicitor also advised against paying the first years rent. Clerk had passed this information on to the Allotment Association and the Councillors, the former being disappointed because of the work they had put in and the time it had taken for the land owners to prepare the lease, and the Councillors being puzzled as to what was going on. Councillor Clark reported that he had since been contacted by the Rev Slingo who assured Richard that the Circuit were for the project and it was assumed that there were differences of opinion within the Circuit tiers of administration..

Councillors agreed that the matter be put off until the May Meeting when hopefully a clearer picture will have emerged.

(4) Highways - standing water by the Village hall bank.

As requested Clerk had written to Highways about the hazardous situation by the village hall including the fact that since the last Meeting a member of the public had had a fall due to a pothole at the location. The reply from Simon Phillips, the Neighbourhood Highway Engineer stated that he was aware of the situation, had assessed the work required, and had applied for funding. Due to the dire financial situation he could not say when, or if, the work will be carried out, as the remedy will require the road surface to be reprofiled.

9-05 pm. District Councillor Hurley joined the Meeting.

48. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley reported that due to the need to make cuts TDC is asking staff if they would like to volunteer for redundancy or early retirement.

The 500 page Draft Local Plan is in the process of being issued to Councillors.

Changes to the Planning Regulations were announced in the recent Budget. Changes that affect our area will allow agricultural barns, shops and light industrial buildings to be converted to residential use, and developments of less than 10 units will not be required to include affordable housing.

It is proposed to move Holsworthy Post Office from Fore Street to The Square.

The newly appointed Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer for Torridge District Council, Jamie Hollis, starts work on April 9th.

Chairman thanked David for attending after a previous engagement and giving his report.

49. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

(1) **1/1072/2013/FUL.** *Sub divide dwelling. 1 Old Village Cottages. Shebbear.*

All in favour of Objection to the proposal. Property is too small to be divided, no scope for parking of extra vehicles, and insufficient details provided to suggest that proposal is viable.

(b) Application Refused. (Adjacent parish).

(1) **1/0654/2013/FUL.** *250kw wind turbine at Langtreemoor Lane. Langtree.* Received by Councillors.

(c) Any relevant adjacent applications.

(1) **10918/2013/FUL.** *Erection of 500kw wind turbine and associated infrastructure at part East Lake Farm. Halwill Junction.* Taken to appeal on March 14th. Received by Councillors.

50. Finance.

(1) *To receive the draft accounts for the year to March 31st 2014 and approve the Annual Return.*

Item to be dealt with at a later date as late arrival of bank statements delayed completion of finalising.

(2) *Approval of items for payment.* Proposed by Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Dymond, with all in favour that 3 items, Clerks wage £239.37, PAYE £59.80 and DALC subscription £195.69 be paid.

Bank Balances to March 28th 2014.

Current a/c £2,823.53 Reserve a/c £14,038.39 - Received by the Councillors.

51. Correspondence.

(1) *Paul Watts. Appreciation for the support towards the Parishes website.* Received by Councillors.

(2) *Inter parish footpath walks.* An informal group of walkers invite anyone interested to join them on their treks. Details on notice board.

(3) *Monica Thysby. Copy of objection letter sent to TDC re Item 49(a) Planning.* Heard while application was discussed.

Councillors Circulation

DCC Emergency Management.

52. Items for the Annual Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday May 13th 2014 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

Election of Officers.

Flood Warning Monitor.

Allotment Project.

Accounts for the year ending March 31st 2014.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10pm.