

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday August 11th 2009 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present: Chairman: R Johns.

Cllrs: H Davis. G Slade. P Lomax. R Clark. J Curtis. E Haste. R Gliddon.

District Cllr: A Saywell. County Cllr Barry Parsons JP.

PCSO Melissa Baker. Clerk: David Walker.

Agenda. 2009. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

73. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr J Dungate. (Work Commitments.) Cllr L Quance. (Away.)

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

None.

75. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday July 14th 2009. All were in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

76. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

Clerk reported that the Endymion Shield and Scroll had been presented to Ted & Sheila Lott by Chairman R. Johns, at the Flower Show, on behalf of the N. Devon Conservation Society, for the creation of the Rowden Wood project. With thanks to the Flower show committee for providing a slot in the afternoon timetable. Caute phone box. Arrangements with BT, Western Power and edf energy have been concluded and the final hand over is expected very soon.

Barn Close play area. TDC have been asked to clean the play equipment. No reply yet received.

5 & 6 Valley View. The 2 unoccupied bungalows had been tidied up within days of the last meeting following D/Cllr Saywells reporting the matter. There is no likelihood of any reoccupation in the near future.

Lake Industrial Estate. SWRDA have agreed to have the roadside hedge cut back and tidied. Paul Calvert of SWRDA had also said that the plans to develop 3 additional units, for which planning approval had been gained, had been abandoned and that the vacant land was for sale on a freehold basis.

Dog bin at Lake Ind Estate. Mr Crocker at TDC has said that there was no reason why the bin could not be moved but it would have to be done by the Parish Council.

Lengthsmans visit. Clerk had spoken to the lengthsmen during the weeks visit. The first 2 days had been spent washing road signs, and the rest of the week clearing grips and gullies with only partial success as he had not had the full backup from his mate with the pick up truck due to technical problems. It was hoped that the jobs could be completed the following week. A metal detector had been used to locate a gully opposite Valley View. None was found. Highways had also agreed to clean out the ditches between Way House and Battledown Cross. It has been verified that the Meadow Park strip is owned by DCC.

Bus Shelter & village sign. Clerk had spoken to Mr Paulger about grasscutting, which has not been carried out to the usual standard mainly because of the wet weather but also due to family illness. Under the circumstances Mr Paulger had not been offered the task of applying preservative to the bus shelter and sign, as Clerk felt it to be unreasonable to pressure Harvey at this time.

Football field gateway. The request for an extra gully to collect water entering the highway from the football field had been put to Highways who have put it on the "to do" list as and when finance is available.

7-47 pm. Chairman invited PCSO Baker to present her report.

Melissa said that unusually there had been 2 thefts and a burglary committed recently in the parish at Caute and on the main road, with similar offences being committed in neighbouring areas. As a result parishioners are urged to be extra vigilant and report any unusual occurrences either to Crime Stoppers or local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators.

7-51pm. Official Business resumed.

77. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

- (a) Annual Fixed Asset Inspection. Cllr Davis agreed to accompany Clerk on the annual inspection.
- (b) The War Memorial is in need of a tidy up, being weedy and overgrown. Councillors suggested that this would be an ideal job for Mr Paulger but under the circumstances it may be necessary to find an alternative worker. Clerk would first see if Harvey wanted to take on this and the bus shelter and village sign painting. If necessary, Cllr Lomax offered to tidy up the memorial and raised stone flower bed.

78. District Councillors report.

Mr Saywell reported that he had recently become a member of Torridge Planning Committee and so would not in future be able to comment on individual cases at parish council meetings. He still has £1800 in his community fund should there be anyone else interested in applying. **Cllr Clark** said that when D/Cllr Bewes was elected to the planning committee he wrote an article for the Reflecting Shebbear magazine about the local planning system in general, would Andrew be able to do likewise?

7-58pm. Chairman suspended official business and welcomed **County Councillor Barry Parsons JP** to present a report to the meeting. Barry began by saying that his first few days in his new position as County Councillor had been rather fraught due to the initial workload coinciding with family illness but he was pleased to say that he is now pulling things together and is not finding any difficulty in getting on with the job. He is on the County Committee dealing with a number of tasks and complaints county wide. He congratulated D/Cllr Saywell on his appointment to the Planning Committee and assured him of his support. C/Cllr Parsons also has a Community Fund which currently stands at £10,000 and is available across parishes in the Holsworthy area. **Cllr Clark** asked if, as he is involved with a number of local organisations which would benefit from funding, he could have a list of application parameters. C/Cllr Parsons said that, in relation to Highway matters, 5 TDC members had been elected to the county highway committee and will be looking to follow up any local concerns. Parish Lengthsman numbers have been reduced and certain tasks have not been completed. Cllr Davis wondered how the dwellings in Ackland Close were being allocated as there were early signs of public nuisance causing concern. Cllr Slade gave instances of obscene language being shouted in the street in the small hours recently. D/Cllr Parsons said that similar incidents were occurring in Holsworthy and that the Police were not being very active. D/Cllr Saywell congratulated the Flower Show Committee for another wonderful show this year. Cllr Slade thanked Andrew for his work in the parish.

8-02pm Chairman thanked Cllrs for their reports and **Official agenda business was resumed.**

79. Planning.

- (a) New Applications.
 - (1) 1/0648/2009/OHL. No Objections.
 - (2) 1/0640/2009/FUL. No Objections.
 - (3) 1/0622/2009/FUL. No Objections.
 - (4) 1/0652/2009/FUL & 1/0653/2009/LBC. No Objections.
- (b) Applications Refused. None.
- (c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

80. Finance.

- (a) Reimburse Clerk for ink/paper purchase £86.41 and Audit Commission fee of £155.25, recently received, and considered at Chairmans discretion, proposed by Cllr Lomax and seconded by Cllr Curtis with all in favour that both be paid.

Bank Balances Previously circulated and received by councillors.

81. Correspondence.

- (a) Devon CC & Devon & Cornwall Constabulary are jointly focussing on lower speed limits in vulnerable areas and will shortly be releasing details of their proposals.
- (b) TDC. Empty Homes register. No suitable properties were identified in Shebbear parish.
- (c) Holsworhty AAG. Details of recent meeting received by Councillors.
- (e) Midas Homes. Acknowledgement that the parish council did not wish to purchase The Green in Ackland Close, also, in reply to the PC suggestion that The Green would be better used as parking spaces, that the allocation of space for parking had been decided in the planning stages to meet set down criteria.

(f) Mrs Sue Ashdown, who was involved with the Shebbear Scout Group which was disbanded in August 1996, has handed letters to the parish clerk which acknowledge the receipt of funds in the sum of £534.94 by The District Treasurer of Torridge District Scout Council following the Shebbear Group closure. These funds were to be earmarked in the name of the Shebbear Group. As Mrs Ashdown is leaving the area the parish council is requested to retain the correspondence for future reference. In the first instance Clerk will make contact with the present District Scout Treasurer to establish whether these funds are still dedicated to any future Shebbear Group that may be reformed, as 13 years has passed since the letter was drafted. Items (d) & (g) placed in Councillors August Circulation folder together with a draft updated copy of Financial Regulations.

82. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday September 8th 2009, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Mobile Post Office. There have been complaints that the steps into the van are bouncy and causing older persons to be nervous. It was suggested that Clerk mention these concerns to the van staff in an informal way.

Cllr Lomax said that he was shortly to be meeting Ros Davies, the P3 Administrator at DCC to discuss parish footpaths and will possibly have a report for next meeting.

Chairman R. Johns gave advance warning that he would be unable to be present next month. **Vice Chairman R. Clark** hoped to be in attendance.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 8-53 pm.