

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday December 14th 2010
in the Church Room. Shebbear.**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Johns.

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

2 members of the public. Clerk. David Walker.

Agenda. 2010. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

112. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr R Clark. (Prev Engagement). D/Cllr Saywell. (Unwell).

Chairman welcomed Mr John Stupple as the new co-opted councillor. After signing his Declaration of Acceptance of Office Cllr Stupple joined the Meeting.

113 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda/ Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.
None received.

114. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 9th 2010.

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

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

Chairman and Clerk had received complaints relating to horse droppings in The Square following the Stevenstone Hunt Meet last month. Cllr Slade said that any mess in previous years had always been picked up and the Hunt members would ensure that this was done in future.

P3 footpaths. The annual paths survey had been completed by Cllr Lomax and forwarded to DCC. It was apparent from the report that Peter had worked hard to get the paths network into good order, which will stand us in good stead as it is likely that P3 funding will be an early target for cut backs, a figure of 25% had been predicted at a recent P3 meeting in Merton attended by Peter.

War memorial. The memorial had been tidied by Clerk prior to Remembrance Day and thanks were expressed to Mrs Muriel Johns for kindly supplying bedding plants free of charge.

Seat at New Inn. Clerk had spoken to Mr and Mrs Geary about the possibility of moving the seat elsewhere. As the seat was still used by passers by Cllrs agreed that it should be left in situ.

Drains at Lake. Cllr Davis reported that drains to the west of CS Garage were still full of debris. Clerk will make a further request to SWH for attention.

116. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(a) Reduction of street lighting. While supporting the concept of economising, Cllrs agreed that it would be desirable to retain full street lighting in The Square and The Street to Battledown. Concerns were voiced about the recent spate of anti social behaviour and whether less lighting would encourage more of the same. All were agreed that it be requested that the Barn Close lights remain lit also. DCC have said that the situation can be reviewed if the Police so advise in future.

(b) Replacement litter bin for New Inn. TDC are unable to supply a wall mounted bin, which is required for the location so it will be necessary to purchase a suitable replacement.

Additional items introduced by Chairman.

(c) Chairman had attended a meeting at the College to hear proposals for 2 wind turbines on College land which it is calculated will provide two thirds of the College electricity needs. It is intended that the necessary planning applications will be lodged in the New Year when public response can be made in the normal way.

(d) Chairman had just been informed that the workforce at SMC (Endford) had been issued with redundancy notices, and asked Cllrs to be aware of the changed situation.

(e) Chairman had received correspondence relating to the road improvements at Berry Park Corner which had been the reason for the recent road closure. **Cllr Haste declared a prejudicial interest** in this matter and would leave the meeting if he was required to do so. The correspondence referred to a dispute that had arisen over the work that had been carried out and the degree of prior consultation. Clerk informed Cllrs that the only involvement by the parish council was to be informed, in September, of the road closure, and as a result he made suggestions to SWH regarding the Berry diversion and to ensure they were aware that a water main ran under the work site. He attended a site meeting, by invitation, the week before work commenced, to ensure his suggestions had been received. Also, for the purposes of clarification, Cllr Haste described for Cllrs what work had been carried out, and the complications that had arisen. Cllrs agreed that, as the situation involved the Brock family at Berry Farm, Andrew Haste and SW Highways, and not the parish council, that action should be confined to Clerk responding to the letter from Jeremy Brock received by Chairman.

117. District Councillors Report.

In the absence of Mr Saywell, no report was received.

118. Planning.

- (a) New Applications. None received before the issue of the agenda. Application 1/1051/2010/FUL for extensions and garage at Fairview, Hay Hill, Shebbear for Mrs S Page was received the day before the meeting and held over to the January meeting to allow any public comment.
(b) Applications Refused. None. (c) Applications Granted. None.
(d) Relevant adjacent applications. None.

119. Finance.

- (1) After hearing requests from local organisations Cllrs agreed unanimously that the following grants be paid in 2011. Short Mat Bowlers £100. Lake Chapel £100. St Michaels Church £100. Rowden Chapel £100. Reflecting Shebbear £50. Little Bears £350. Village Hall £1000. Shooters £50. Football Club £300. Historical Society £100. Citizens Advice £100.

Chairman welcomed County/Cllr Barry Parsons, who had joined the meeting at 8-55pm. Barry said that most topics were influenced by the current economic situation, and difficult times could last for some years. He has endeavoured to spend his Community Budget evenly and still has some left. He is hoping to assist Shebbear Village Hall with the recent unexpected demands on their funds. The County roads budget is already under pressure due to the weather, and a lot of salted grit has been used. There are reserves left and more supplies are on the way. Barry drew attention to the proposal to train local Snow Wardens, who would be included in local Emergency Plans, and recommended that Shebbear participate in the scheme and also take note of the latest legal briefing relating to icy conditions. (Circulation folder).

There are many vulnerable people about, so please keep an eye on them. Cllr Slade felt that, even though he had a personal interest, it should be pointed out that it was a backward step to make the village elderly residents warden redundant this year, when, during the times when she was most needed, the new warden now responsible lives in Holsworthy and can't get here. Barry suggested that hopefully more of the decision making will be done locally in future. Cllr Haste suggested that further salt supplies could be purchased by the parish council and stored within the parish. Clerk to obtain details.

After being thanked by Chairman for his report, C/Cllr Parsons left at 9-13pm.

- (2) Cllrs agreed a budget for the financial year 2011 - 2012 of £9244, to which was added £1500.00 for any unexpected Parish Projects, and £1500.00 for any costs that may fall on the parish resulting from the elections to be held in May 2011.

All in Agreement that the sum of £12,244.00 be the Precept set for the coming year.

- (3) Account for payment. Prop Cllr Lomax, seconded Cllr Davis, with all in favour that item (a) be paid.
Bank balances Received by Cllrs.

120. Correspondence.

(1) Torridge Volunteer garden service. Scheme being set up to connect persons over 60 with unused garden areas with those seeking a plot to cultivate or tidy up.

(2) Holsworthy AAG Meeting. Dec 13th. No Cllrs able to attend.

Circulation Folder (Including recently received Gypsy and Traveller Policy and Village Green Magazine.)

Received by Cllrs.

121. Items for the Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday January 11th 2011, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Cllr Dungate reported that the serious assault which had occurred in the village recently, had caused many residents to question the wisdom of housing individuals within the community that need support and attention that is not available in a rural area, the level of violence and drunkenness being outside the scope of local resources to deal with when the Police can be, and usually are, many miles away. Clerk asked to write to the official bodies concerned, and the matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Cllr Curtis asked that a sunken manhole cover located in Barn Close be reported to SWH for attention.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10 - 09 pm.