

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday January 14th 2014 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: J Curtis. J Stupple. M A Wells. R Clark. P Lomax. T Carr. J Dungate.

District Councillor D Hurley. 4 Members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2014. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

Vice Chairman Councillor E Haste opened the Meeting, and welcomed all present.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor R Gliddon (Family Commitment). County Councillor B Parsons. (Hoping to attend later after another Meeting).

2. Public Participation Period.

(1) *Mike Darby. Defibrillators.*

A proposal to install a defibrillator in the centre of the Village for public access. By virtue of its location Shebbear would be an appropriate place to site a defibrillator. Keith at the shop has agreed in principal that it could be sited outside his premises. Dr Fernandez had sent a letter to the Parish Council (received at the Meeting) expressing his support for the proposal. The necessary funds have been identified and the County and District Councillors are also willing to contribute. The St John Ambulance Service will assist and a person has been provisionally identified who will supervise the project. Statistics show that survival rates away from hospital for heart attack victims are very poor. Insurance for the scheme will be a problem if the Parish Council is not on board, we therefore ask for your support.

Councillors agreed that the matter should be investigated and placed on the Agenda on February 11th.

(2) *Wendy Passmore. Parish Luncheon Club.*

Wendy wishes to launch a scheme to bring elderly residents together, initially on one day a week possibly as a community luncheon club. If enough interest is generated it could progress to other activities and involve all age groups and other parishes to improve community spirit. Sources of funding are being established. There will be an article in the magazine about the proposal.

Councillors mentioned that Rebecca Weale had come to the Parish Council Meeting last October with a suggestion for a Community Cafe and perhaps, as the two suggestions are on the same track, they might cooperate.

Chairman congratulated Wendy for her initiative and enthusiasm.

3. 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.

Councillors present allowed to speak and vote by agreed dispensation in relation to the setting of a budget and the precept. Re agenda items 11(2) and (3).

4. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday December 10th 2013, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

Proposed Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Stupple, with all in favour, that the draft Minutes be approved.

County Councillor Barry Parsons arrived at the Meeting. (8-07pm).

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

Clerk reported that, as instructed at the last meeting, he had made Freedom of Information requests from DCC Highways for the costings for the repairs to the blocked culvert at West Wootton and the collapsed culvert at Ladford. A reply had been received that the Ladford repair would cost £7,000 but no response had been received re West Wootton despite 2 follow up requests.

Councillors pointed out to County Councillor Parsons, in no uncertain terms, that an explanation should be forthcoming as to how the County Highways spends its money. Two routes out of the parish are affected, one is closed indefinitely and the other, an important road for local traffic is severely narrowed and getting worse. Due to the financial situation we are told that any repairs are unlikely to be carried out for the foreseeable future, and yet over £21,000 was spent recently at Ruxhill on remedial works where the general public was not previously inconvenienced or exposed to any hazards.

County Councillor Parsons answered that he was very mindful of the situation but had not been able to get as involved as he would have liked. It is no secret that he was shocked at the sight of the walls that had been built and the expenditure involved. However, there is a real issue across the County with Highways needing £60 million and facing a massive deficit. The weather hasn't helped, creating an extra £12 million of emergency tasks to be tackled. Torridge has been relatively lucky. Barry has written to Stuart Hughes at DCC saying that we ought to have something done here, especially regarding the access problems.

Councillor Clark suggested that perhaps the Parish Council could make a loan of £7,000 to Highways to have West Wootton repaired. Barry thought that that could prove problematic.

Councillor Haste suggested that if local people volunteered to regularly check the temporary signs set up at the locations to make sure they were in order, it would save Highways attending at least twice a week, and thereby save a lot of money, as by now it must have cost hundreds, if not thousands of pounds already. The money saved to be put towards the essential repairs in Shebbear parish.

Clerk reported that, in addition, he had just been notified that the Parish Lengthsman Programme has been suspended to release staff for emergency work elsewhere.

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

Agreed - all items to be Part 1.

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

None.

8. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) *To receive applications for vacancy of Co-opted Councillor.*

Councillors received an application letter from Miss Katie Dymond of Battledown Farm, Shebbear, who wished to be considered for the position. Katie is 24 and has lived in Shebbear all her life. Since graduating from University where she studied Agriculture she has returned home to work with the family farm business. While at school and university she worked periodically in Shebbear shop and experienced the everyday life of the village. She is a member of the New Parish Plan Committee and has also set up a Dairy Discussion Group for local farmers and hopes that this will build on its early success. She would like to be able to offer an input to the Parish Council from the younger generation and also to help strengthen the importance of rural village life.

Councillors thanked Katie, who was present at the Meeting, for an excellent application letter. Councillors felt that it would be of great benefit to have someone with Katie's background, age and enthusiasm as a member of the Council, particularly for an increased input from the farming community, as it was commented that some people moving to the parish had no idea what went on on a farm.

Councillors voted unanimously that Katie should be invited to fill the vacancy as a co-opted Councillor.

Clerk to write to Katie to confirm the decision, and invite her to attend the February Meeting.

(2) *Draft Torridge and N Devon Local Plan, Part 3.*

The Draft, which had been previously circulated, received a favourable response from Councillors who were impressed that the details included in the Shebbear response had been accurately recorded in the draft, and agreed that no amendments were necessary.

9. District Councillors Report.

District Councillor Hurley reported that he had attended the January meeting of the Holsworthy Area Advisory Group when Kate Little gave a presentation on the reception of the Local Plan.

Regarding fracking, David was concerned that TDC did not appear to have a policy in place ahead of any possible explorations that may be applied for. There is no confirmation that this area has the type of geology required although it has been suggested that the Barnstaple area may be suitable.

3.

Councillors agreed that Clerk should write to Kate Little to recommend that a Policy be put in place ahead of any possible applications for fracking exploration applications.

The new Holsworthy Area AgriCentre is proceeding well towards completion.

The appointment of a new Monitoring Officer at TDC will soon be announced.

David also returned to the subject of defibrillators and that Langtree parish now had two installed, one at the Village Hall and one at Travis Perkins in Stibb Cross.

Chairman thanked David for his attendance and report.

10. Planning.

- (a) New Applications. None received.
- (b) Applications Granted. None received.
- (c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

11. Finance.

(1) To consider applications for Local Grants.

Applications were received from 9 organisations for consideration for local grants. Councillors were all in agreement that the following grants, totalling £2225, should be paid in April/May 2014:-

Shebbear Village Hall & Playing Field £500. Shebbear Shooters £50. Shebbear Football Club £200.

Citizens Advice Bureau £100. Shebbear School Support Group £440. Shebbear Shunters £85.

Shebbear Youth Club £500.

Grants were also agreed towards the upkeep of the graveyards at *Lake Chapel £100, Rowden Chapel £100* and *St Michaels Church £150*.

County Councillor Parsons asked that a *Little Bears* representative make contact with him regarding their request for a grant, as he would like to assist them with funding.

(2) To agree the budget for the financial year 2014-2015.

Councillors all in agreement that the budget for the coming financial year be set at **£12,709**.

(3) To agree the Precept demand.

Councillors all in favour that a Precept demand of **£12,709** be sent to TDC.

(4) Town and Parishes Fund.

Councillors debated a number of options, and to allow time for further consideration the matter to be resolved at the February 11th meeting, which will allow time for the application to be forwarded before the deadline of February 28th.

(5) Approval of items for payment.

Proposed by Councillor Lomax, seconded by Councillor Curtis, with all in favour, that items (a) Clerks wage, and (b) P.A.Y.E, be paid.

Bank Balances to December 30th 2013.

Current account - £1,743.99 Reserve account - £15,536.43 Received by the Councillors.

(Current account balance includes - P3 Funds £1,497.36)

12. Correspondence.

(1) *DCC. Accommodation strategy for older people*. Received by Councillors.

(2) *Shebbear and area TorrAGE initiative*. Received by Councillors.

In addition, received after the agenda issued, a revised copy of the Code of Conduct, which was adopted on January 1st 2014 by TDC, circulated to Councillors ahead of possible approval for adoption by Shebbear Parish Council at the February 11th Meeting.

Councillors Circulation

Holsworthy Area Action Group agenda and minutes. Devon Senior Voice magazine.

13. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday February 11th 2014, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

(1) Councillor Lomax announced that he is resigning from the Parish Council with immediate effect as his house move away from Shebbear is imminent. Chairman thanked Peter for all the work he has put in during his period in office, which was echoed by all the Councillors, with best wishes to Peter and Jean for the future in their new home.

(2) The possibility that the Devilstone Inn may be closing down.

(3) Replacement gates on Footpath 9b, (School Corner to Manna Park).

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10-29pm.