

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday January 13th 2015 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: J Dungate. M Wells. R Clark. J Stupple. J Curtis. P Mingham. G Quance. K Dymond.

County Councillor B Parsons. District Councillor D Hurley.

Philip Hackett (Sheepwash Parish Council). Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2015. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor Gliddon (Unwell). PCSO Baker.(Off duty).

Chairman invited visiting Councillors to give their respective reports earlier in the agenda as the icy road conditions were likely to deteriorate as the evening progressed.

County Councillor Barry Parsons reported that the Holsworthy Area Community Interest Group had been obliged to close a number of local youth centres due to lack of funds, but DCC had managed to provide £12,500 which will enable the centres to resume activities in March or April.

Regarding Assets around Holsworthy, TDC own the Memorial Hall and there is a growing feeling that Holsworthy should own it. Peter Quincey is now the Locality Leader for Holsworthy Area Assets.

Recent Government Funding. Between now and 2021 Devon will receive proportionately more towards the cost of Highways than other counties. This will go some way towards meeting the shortfall but is far from adequate. It is in addition to the existing budget.

There are still tough choices to be made, with cuts across the board and no "sacred cows". There is particular concern about bus services.

Barry reminded Councillors that there were a number of local Meetings coming up, particularly the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Meeting on January 27th.

7-49pm. Chairman thanked Barry for his attendance and report. County Councillor Parsons left the Meeting.

District Councillor David Hurley reported that the TDC Plan B, Restructuring Programme, which was initiated last October has progressed with a Task and Finish Group of Members and TDC Officers working with the Local Government Association and Local Partnerships to identify efficiencies and budget savings. The work is ongoing. There is to be more focus on Customer Services with a new telephone service and website from April, designed to be user friendly.

TDC is hoping to work with local Councils to understand the customer issues that need to be addressed, to that end a group will be set up, to include local Councillors, with a view to establishing whether this approach will be beneficial. David Hurley has been one of the first to offer support.

David is currently liaising with Little Bears over grant funding.

District Councillors have agreed that there be no increase in their allowances for the sixth successive year.

7-58pm. Chairman thanked David for his attendance and report.

Chairman welcomed **Councillor Philip Hackett** (Sheepwash Parish Council) who wished to pass on a request from the Pathfinder Fund, in relation to the planned flood warning monitor at Dipper Mill, that Shebbear Parish Council make a £500 contribution towards the project.

Councillors agreed that the matter be discussed and decided at the Meeting on February 10th

Chairman thanked Councillor Hackett for attending and conveying the information.

8-04pm. District Councillor Hurley and Councillor Hackett left the Meeting.

2. Public Participation Period.

No requests to speak received.

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

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

4. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday December 9th 2014, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

All in favour, that the December 9th Minutes 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

Clerk reported that he was in the process of arranging for the Oak Tree in The Square to have a health check. In relation to the correspondence last month about Japanese Knotweed, there is evidence that problem sites in the parish are already being treated and that there is readily available advice on the relevant precautions and treatment methods. Councillor Quance stated that it had been realised that spraying was not successful over time as that kills all other vegetation and gives resurgent knotweed a clear run. Cutting off and injecting into the hollow stem is now recommended.

Regarding the request from West Country Concrete that an earlier morning bus might be scheduled for workers, Councillors felt that for operational reasons the bus company would find it difficult to rearrange the timings. Mr Rumsam had made provision for workers by providing a caravan at the works, and, in any case there are active plans to relocate the company to another site.

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

None.

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

None.

8. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Recording of Meetings by the public.

Councillors heard that the TDC protocol relating to the recording of Meetings by members of the public, details of which had recently been circulated to Town and Parish Councils, differed in a number of ways to the guidance from DALC which Shebbear Parish Council adopted in September 2014 by amending current Standing Orders. The difference being attributed to varying legal interpretations.

All agreed that the changes had not been in force long enough to see how the changes work in practice, and that the matter be reviewed at an appropriate time in the future.

(2) Spending on the highways, a proposed local initiative.

Shebbear Parish Councillors and local residents have, for some, time become increasingly concerned about the deteriorating local roads and the length of time it is taking for major repairs to be carried out. As most of the problems arise from poor drainage Councillors suggest that more attention should be focussed on the type of work carried out by the Parish Lengthsman with hand tools. These concerns have been passed to County Councillor Barry Parsons who agreed to take the suggestion forward to the Head of DCC Highways. It being proposed also that the Parish Council undertake minor tasks themselves by arrangement with DCC in the similar manner that we currently recruit volunteer snow wardens.

Councillors agreed that Clerk send a letter to David Whitton, DCC Head of Highways, expressing concern at the length of time it has taken for two local roads to be repaired, Ladford - over a year with road closed completely, and West Wootton - also over a year with the road restricted. In addition the way the works were carried out gave the impression that bad planning meant that the jobs were not carried out as efficiently as they could have been particularly in the light of the current financial situation.

(3) TDC Housing Renewal Policy.

Received by Councillors.

9. District Councillors Report.

Report received earlier in the agenda.

10. Planning.

- (a) New Applications. None received.
- (b) Application Granted. None received.
- (c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None received.
- (d) Application Refused. **1/0947/2014/FUL**. Wind Turbine at Battledown Farm. Shebbear.

11. Finance.

- (1) *To approve the provisional Precept and Support Funding amount.*
All in favour that the Precept Demand, for the year to 31st March 2016, of **£12,960-00** (£12,303,00 plus £657.00) be forwarded to TDC.
- (2) *Approval of Items for payment.*
 - (a) Clerks wage. £239.37
 - (b) PAYE. £59.80All in favour that Items (a) and (b) be paid.
- (3) *Third quarter account summary*. Received by the Councillors.

Bank Balances to December 30th 2014.

Current a/c £6,137.24. Reserve a/c £14,044-82. Received by the Councillors.

12. Correspondence.

- (1) *Holsworthy Area MCTI. Meeting Agenda. Jan 27th.* County Councillor Parsons report refers (above).
- (2) *TDC. Task & Finish Group.* District Councillor Hurleys report refers (above)..

Councillors Circulation

DALC January newsletter. Healthwatch. Holsworthy Area Advisory Group next Meeting Agenda, Jan 19th.

13. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday February 10th 2015 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

There being no other Business Chairman closed the Meeting at 9-12pm.