

## **SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday June 10th 2014  
in the Church Room. Shebbear.**

### **Present:**

Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: Vice Chairman J Dungate. M A Wells. T Carr. J Curtis. J Stupple. R Clark.  
R Gliddon. P Mingham.

3 Members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

### **AGENDA. 2014. Commenced at 7-30 pm.**

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

#### **65. Apologies for Absence.**

District Councillor D Hurley (Away). Councillor K Dymond. (Working). PCSO M Baker (Off duty).

#### **66. Public Participation Period.**

No requests to speak received.

#### **67. Declarations of any Councillors Interests in Items on the Agenda.**

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial). Councillor J Dungate declared a prejudicial interest in Item 72(a)(2), as his dwelling is adjacent to the application site.

(b) Registerable interests. None received.

(c) Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None received.

#### **68. Draft Minutes of Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday May 13th 2014, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.**

All in favour, that the May 13th Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record after the word "commented" was removed and replaced with "reported". (Item 59(2) Allotment Project, line 1).

#### **69. Any matters arising from the Minutes. Clerks Report.**

Footpath 9 at the junction with the main road at The College. Clerk had notified the College Bursar that the muddy patch on the public footpath was to be dealt with. Reply received to state that it would pay to wait as The College intended to apply to have the footpath through the College grounds closed. Councillor Dungate, as P3 Co-ordinator had contacted P3 at DCC about this and they will deal with any application at the appropriate time. Councillors agreed that any attempt to close the footpath would be opposed as it was a safe way of avoiding Battledown crossroads. The probable reasons for wanting to close the path were understood for the safety and privacy of the pupils, but fencing would be an option to resolve that. Agreed that the Parish Council await any developments.

Local Grant for Rowden Chapel graveyard. Clerk had withheld the grant cheque as Rowden Chapel has closed and the Torridge Circuit are negotiating for a management committee to be set up for the administration of the graveyard, in which case the cheque payee details will have to be amended.

Grasscutting in Barn Close. A squad of volunteers had been observed cutting the grass and weeds in Barn Close at a recent weekend. This happened no doubt due to DCC deciding to reduce their visits to twice this year, the first to be on June 28th. In the meantime the grass had become almost knee high. Councillors voiced their appreciation for the public spirited act and wondered whether communities would have to do more of the same in the future as the authorities were neglecting their responsibilities due to lack of funding. If that were to happen there could be an option for the Parish Council to pay for fuel and materials.

Councillor Dymond had undertaken to tidy the verges by the Shebbear signs at Battledown and Hay Hill and would like to thank West Country Concrete for donating the flower troughs, and Ade and Lorna Wyard who donated the plants. Mike Wright has offered to render tlc to the flower trough near his house.

Allotment Association. The Rev Graham Slings had managed to persuade the Methodist Circuit to break the deadlock that had brought progress in completing the lease of the land at New Inn to a standstill. As a result there will be a meeting at the solicitor's in Bideford in early July when the sticking points will be clarified to the satisfaction of both sides, the lease granted, and work started to get the project under way. Councillor Clark volunteered to represent the Parish Council at the meeting and was thanked for this by Chairman.

## 70. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

Before commencing this section of the agenda Chairman proposed, with all in favour, that Item 70(2) The Future of the Devilstone Inn, be dealt with in Part 2 (Closed Session) of the Meeting as, of necessity, sensitive commercial details would be discussed.

(1) Seats in The Square. Councillors agreed that a quote for 3 new Glasdon Phoenix seats be obtained by Clerk and that the 3 old seats be removed from under the Oak following the advice from the tree specialist.  
**7-58pm.**

The Meeting was adjourned briefly while Councillors went outside to estimate the positioning of the 3 new seats and the repositioning of one of the old ones which was still in reasonable condition.

**8-04pm.** Meeting resumed. Agreed, that the repositioned seat be sited adjacent to Church Farmhouse garden wall facing South with a one metre gap between the seat and the wall to allow maintenance access, the occupier of Church Farmhouse to be notified as a matter of courtesy. The permanent position of the new seats to be finally decided after they have been delivered.

(3) World War One Commemoration. Councillors noted that the Rev Warren had planned a number of events, as advertised in Reflecting Shebbear, and agreed to offer support if requested.

(4) Parish Plan. Councillor Dymond and Councillor Carr had placed items in Reflecting Shebbear and on the Villages website asking for volunteers to come forward to take part in the startup of the new Plan. To date no responses have been received.

## 71. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley asked that the following news items be heard in his absence. Holsworthy Post Office will soon relocate to 13 The Square at a date to be announced.

The TDC First Transformation Board Meeting has been held at Riverbank House with discussions on next year's budget and beyond. The reality is that there is funding gap of £520,000 next year so hard choices will have to be made. The public will be kept informed via the Press.

Devon Library Services have also got difficult decisions to make and are running a consultation until July 17th. Holsworthy Agri Centre is due to open for business on July 18th.

**Chairman** commented that, according to Kivells, it could now be August.

## 72. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

(1) **1/0265/2014/FUL**. *Change of Use to vehicle hardstanding/parking.(Retrospective). CS of Shebbear.*

Councillors agreed that support for a grant of this application would be conditional on the use being strictly hardstanding and parking only, as complaints have been received that the land has been used for the storage of scrap vehicles, repairs in the open air and various other business activities, leaving no space for customers vehicles other than on the congested forecourt or the public highway. There are also concerns about ground pollution and nuisance to neighbouring properties, therefore action should be taken to prevent this.

(2) **1/0492/2014/FUL**. *Retrospective application for change of use to commercial vehicle/machinery repair, use and parking. Waycott. New Inn. Shebbear.*

**Councillor Dungate** left the room in accordance with his declaration of interest.

Councillors agreed that there should be strong objection to this retrospective application as a similar application was refused a few years ago and despite this, and visits by the Enforcement Officer, activities have continued. The current application suggests also that the use of the site will increase to include the repair of commercial vehicles and machinery. Shebbear Parish Council support local business and employment in general terms but this enterprise is in the wrong place. There is vacant space on Lake Trading Estate where this business could relocate away from it's current semi rural location.

**Councillor Dungate** re-entered the room.

(b) Any relevant adjacent applications.

(1) **1/0177/2014/FUL**. *Erection of a single 500kw wind turbine on land at Eastwood Farm, Peters Marland. Taken to Appeal against refusal.* Information received by Councillors.

### 73. Finance.

(1) *Approval of items for payment.* Proposed by Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Carr, with all in favour that 3 items, Clerks wage £239.37, PAYE £59.80, and one third share of cost of training session at Bradford and Cookbury Parish Hall on May 7th £76.30, be paid.

(2) *Community Aid Shebbear. Request for grant towards defibrillator.* This matter had previously been discussed in February (Item 21/1), and March (Item 34/2). The consortium having been set up and named as Community Aid Shebbear. Councillors were all in favour that a grant be made to Community Aid Shebbear for £1,600.00, representing the first 4 years lease of the defibrillator and the support package, on receipt of a formal request from the consortium.

Bank Balances to May 30th 2014.

Current a/c £7,821.74 Reserve a/c £14,040.16 - Received by the Councillors.

### 74. Correspondence.

(1) *Lake Methodist Chapel. Thanks for grant towards graveyard up keep.* Received by Councillors.

(2) *Shebbear Youth Club. Thanks for grant towards Youth Club running costs.* Received by Councillors.

(3) *Michael Wright. Comments re planning application 0265/2014, CS Garage (M&G Motors). Shebbear.* Received at Item 72(a)(1).

(4) *Jeremy Brock. (Received the day before the Meeting and allowed by Chairman). Pointing out that a review of the use of a tape recorder by the Clerk, as discontinued in November 2012, would be appropriate.* Councillors agreed that a review was not necessary as the current procedure was satisfactory, but that the matter would possibly be addressed if the recent proposals to allow the public to record and film public meetings pass into law.

Councillors Circulation

Received by the Councillors.

### 75. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday July 8th 2014 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

-----  
**Part 2 (Closed session) of the Meeting** (After members of the public had left the room).

### 70. Agenda Item for discussion and resolution.

(2) The future of the Devilstone Inn.

Councillors discussed the fact that there was concern over the impact that the threatened closure of the Devilstone Inn would have on the parish and that, as the property had been on the market for some considerable time, it was probable that a buyer would not be found before the provisional closure deadline of early December. In that case the possibility that the pub could be taken over as a parish venture was put forward, as has been done with some success in other places. Councillors agreed that, before this was taken further a public meeting should be held to provide information to those interested. This to be followed by a second public meeting to gauge whether there was sufficient support for the idea and to receive opinions on the way to proceed.

Councillor Clark offered to make preliminary enquiries with a view to arranging the first meeting in July, if possible, before the holiday season gets under way.

Many thanks to Richard for his offer from Chairman and Councillors.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10-05pm.