

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday March 11th 2014 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: M A Wells. T Carr. K Dymond. R Gliddon. J Curtis. J Stupple.

District Councillor D Hurley.

1 Member 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.

27. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor J Dungate (Away). Councillor R Clark (Away). PCSO M Baker (Off duty).

28. Public Participation Period.

No requests to speak received.

29. 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.

30. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday February 11th 2014, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

Chairman asked that the fact that he had thanked County Councillor Barry Parsons for attending the February Meeting be placed on record. With that, all were in favour, that the draft Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

Clerk reported that, as a requirement of the Insurers, the Oak Tree in The Square needed to be inspected annually for structural soundness. Quentin Clarke, who has in the past been keeping an eye on the tree, had referred the task to a qualified arboriculturalist at Hi-Line in Exeter who had carried out a basic inspection of the tree. He concluded that considering it's history the tree was in good health despite it's age and that, at that date, January 7th 2013, any risk posed by the tree was within acceptable limits of safety. It was recommended however that a full inspection and report be carried out early in 2014. The cost of this would be £250 plus VAT. As this fee included travel to and from Exeter Clerk had been trying to find a more local person but had not found anyone as yet with the necessary qualifications. Councillors agreed that public safety was of prime importance and if the fee has to be paid so be it. Clerk will make further enquiries.

A letter had been received from Shelley Fleming regarding the Parish Allotment project. The lease for the land at New Inn has been signed, quotes to develop a car parking area have been received, and the Association is actively seeking funding and grants. The Parish Council is asked, as part of it's commitment to do all it can to assist the project, to pay the first years rent of £250 which will secure the lease and allow time to move on to the next stage of organising parking and fencing. Agreed - that Clerk raise a cheque to pay the first years rent of £250.

Clerk had been notified by TDC that the Town & Parishes Fund is to run for another year.

Clerk said that the Christmas tree had finally been removed thanks to Trevor Hookway kindly volunteering to remove it free of charge. Councillors expressed their appreciation.

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

Agreed - all items to be Part 1.

33. Any urgent agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.
None.

34. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) *To receive applications for the position of Co-Opted Councillor.* One application had been received in respect to the vacancy created by the resignation of Peter Lomax. Councillors heard the introductory letter from Mr Philip Mingham of Langs Linhay, Shebbear, who has been living with his family in the parish since 2000. His principal interests are, preparing young people for adult life and work, which he has been involved with for many years via Okehampton Air Cadets, Ten Tors, and The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. Also small local businesses and affordable housing for young local people. He hopes that his experience in these areas could be of benefit if he were to serve as a Parish Councillor.

Councillors were all in agreement that Mr Mingham be offered the post of Co-opted Councillor and that he be invited to the next Meeting to join the Council.

(2) *Public access defibrillator installation.* As agreed last month Councillor Clark, District Councillor Hurley and the Clerk had met with Mike Darby, and Barry Hunt to discuss the options available for the installation of a defibrillator in Shebbear. It was agreed that the best scheme would be to rent a device from South West Ambulance Trust which has the advantages that supply, installation, training, insurance and upkeep are all included in the price. A suitable cabinet will have to be purchased separately. The agreed intention is for the group who originated the proposal to form a consortium and take the project forward. The only requirement for the Parish Council to be involved would be if funding support were requested.

(3) *River crossing flood warning monitors.* Vice Chairman Haste and Councillor Clark had, by invitation, attended a Meeting of Sheepwash Parish Council on February 26th to hear a presentation by a representative of The Environment Agency responsible for flood alleviation in this area and the River Torridge in particular. A report, provided by Councillor Clark, based on the information gathered at Sheepwash, was heard by Councillors. This outlined the various options available with a water level monitor sited at Dipper Mill. The basic provision would be for a warning sign to be activated at Highworthy Cross. More costly alternatives possible are automatic warnings sent by text to anyone asking to be included, and the monitor being linked in to the Environment Agency's computer model for the whole Torridge area.

Councillors agreed that the concept should be followed up in more detail at the April Parish Council Meeting and, as the funding from DCC which is currently available will be withdrawn in October, all were in favour that we agree in principal to go ahead with the project subject to a more detailed assessment at the April Meeting. Clerk to notify Bradford and Cookbury Parish Council of the proposal due to their mutual reliance on the river crossing, should they wish to participate.

35. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley reported that TDC had approved a Council Tax increase of 1.95%, which, for a Typical band D household means an increase of 5p per week. 68% of the households in Torridge are in bands A, B, and C so will pay less than that. Money raised by this years increases will be used in ways to help those most affected by the current hardships, and for economic regeneration projects. David felt it is worth repeating that Torridge only keeps around 9% of the money raised, the rest goes to DCC.

TDC is bringing a roadshow to Shebbear on March 26th between 2pm and 4pm, in The Square, which will give the opportunity for parishioners to talk to TDC staff about the services currently provided by the Council. Devon County Council is currently debating proposed cuts to local care services and urges anyone concerned about any potential cuts to make their views known.

Chairman thanked David for his attendance and input to the Meeting.

36. Planning.

(a) New Applications. (Received after the agenda issued).

(1) **1/0117/2014/FUL** *Wooden Shelter at Shebbear Village Hall.* No Comments received.

(2) **1/0177/2014/FUL** *Erection of single 500kw wind turbine, 77m to tip, associated works and access, on land at Eastwood Farm, Peters Marland, Torrington.* Councillors were concerned about the cumulative impact the large turbines that are already in situ, the ones approved and not yet erected, and applications such as this one, will have on the area. If they had all been applied for at the same time they would have constituted a wind farm and been refused. All in agreement that the draft response drawn up by Councillor Carr be approved and sent to TDC with strong objections to the application being granted.

(b) Applications Granted.

- (1) *1/0028/2014/FUL 70kw solar panel array at Shebbear College.*
- (2) *1/0919/2013/FUL and 1/0921/2013/LBC Retrospective applications for steel fabricated roof structure replacement for roundhouse and threshing barn at North Worden, Shebbear.*

(c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

37. Finance.

(1) Approval of items for payment.

Proposed by Councillor Stupple, seconded by Councillor Wells, with all in favour, that items, (a) to (f) inclusive (6 items) be paid.

- (2) Proposed Allotment at New Inn Received prior to the Meeting and received by Councillors with the approval of Chairman. Request from Shelley Fleming on behalf of the Allotment Association that, now that the Lease for the land has been signed, that the first years rent of £250 be funded by the Parish Council. (Item 31 Clerk's Report refers.)

Bank Balances to February 28th 2014.

Received by the Councillors.

38. Correspondence.

(1) Town & Parishes Fund. Clerk reported that the application submitted in conjunction with Buckland Filleigh Parish Council had been successful and that the sum of £997 has been granted for the purchase of new public seats in Shebbear Square.

(2) Local Hospital closures. Letter from Mike Wright at Way House expressing concern. (Circulation folder).

Councillors Circulation

The Read Easy Scheme. DALC March newsletter. Culm Matters magazine and questionnaire.

39. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday April 8th 2014, after the Annual Parish Meeting and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

Due to the continuing problem of flooding opposite Valley View against the village hall bank caused by the camber of the road preventing water draining away, Clerk is to write to DCC Highways asking an engineer to meet with a member of the Parish Council at the site to stress the urgent need for remedial work to be carried out and the drains cleared.

Councillor Dymond raised the matter of the new Parish Plan Committee, which had gone quiet during the winter period. Councillor Carr suggested that the April Meeting would be a good opportunity to resurrect proceedings.

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

Signed..... Dated.....