

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30 pm.
in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor R Clark.

Councillors: Vice Chairman E Haste. J Stupple. J Dungate.

A Maidment. R. Gliddon. K Dymond. N Whatley

D Cllr Hackett. C Cllr Parsons. District Councillor D Hurley.

2 members of the public. Clerk M Whatley.

AGENDA. 2016. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

Chairman R Clark opened the Meeting, and welcomed all present.

32. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Curtis (another commitment). Cllr Quance (Working).

33. Public Participation Period of 15 minutes. For speakers registered in advance, with the Clerk.

1. D Cllr Hackett – Dipper Mill Flood Warning Signs.

D Cllr Hackett reported that the telemetric flood warning signs are now installed and operational at Dipper Mill although the alarm activation settings may need a little tweaking to ensure that they go off when the river reaches the correct trigger level. Remote signs had been sited well up the road from the bridge to encourage motorists to turn back when they saw the flashing signs warning of flooding. Sensor boxes located at the bridge would automatically send out text and email alerts to subscribers, with river levels also being shown on the internet. A meeting at the Devil's Stone Inn, Shebbear, had been scheduled for the following afternoon for a demonstration on how to receive text and email alerts and access the internet. Cllr Hackett thanked Shebbear for taking on this system, which he felt was a first class facility to keep residents safe.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hackett for his attendance and participation at the meeting.

2. Mr A Frankel, who was listed to speak on the North Devon and Torridge Wind Energy Consultation for the Local Plan, did not attend.

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

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial). None received.

(b) Registerable interests. None received.

Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

- (1) Cllr Haste asked Members to be aware that he had agreed to rent a further 35 acres in the village although nothing had as yet been finalised. The Chairman said this would need to be registered once finalised.

35. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday February 9th 2016, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Haste, seconded Cllr Stupple, all in favour.

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

Dog Litter Bin, Rowden Farm. A Licence to enter on to the property on a weekly basis for the emptying and maintenance of one dog litter bin had been agreed.

Free IT Digital Course. Clerk had attended the free course at Ashwater Village Hall last month, which was quite informative.

Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk had booked the Church Room for Tuesday 19th April and made all the necessary arrangements.

Dipper Mill Floor Warning Signs. Clerk reported the flood warning signs at Dipper Mill were now live, and that there will be a demonstration of the signs tomorrow, 9th March at 2.00pm at the Devil's Stone Inn, to see how technology works and how one can register for email and text alerts, and access the information on the Internet.

Pot Holes and Minor Road Repairs. Clerk had written to Highways to enquire whether it was permissible for us to employ a professional road contractor to carry out minor repairs identified by us and quoted for, to be paid for out of Shebbear Parish Council funds, and had received a response from Simon Phillips, Area Manager of Highways, who replied: "Yes theoretically it is possible for the Parish to employ contractors to carry out works on the highway subject to them having the necessary accreditation to work on the highway and the required public liability insurance. This shouldn't be necessary in respect of potholes though as DCC have a statutory duty to repair these and any that are reported and meet the size criteria (over 300mm on any horizontal direction and a minimum of 40mm deep) will be repaired in accordance with our policy".

Planning Application for single storey extension to Mill Cottage, Shebbear.

Clerk had sent response to TDC that Shebbear Parish Council had 'No Objections' to this application.

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

None.

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

- (1) Correction to January 2016 Minute re. Sutcombe School.

Amend the Minute to read 'then perhaps schools such as Sutcombe would be in a stronger position'.

Proposed Cllr Maidment, seconded Cllr Stupple. Approved by all Members.

- (2) Licence for Dog Litter Bin, Rowden Farm, Shebbear.

Clerk produced a draft Licence for appraisal by the Members, and confirmed this had been forwarded to Jamie Hollis at TDC for his comments, being 'looks ok but perhaps requires a little embodiment'.

- (3) Queens 90th Birthday, Report on Response from Facebook by Cllr Maidment.

Cllr Maidment reported there appeared little interest as it was a week day. However, comments that were received suggested a bonfire in the field near the church might be considered. Clerk to make enquiries as to who owns the field.

39. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

- (1) Wind Energy Consultation Period. Chairman reported that the Government has changed the rules and TDC has had to re-assess the Statement, which came out in June 2015. Chairman gave a brief reminder of a previous Parish Meeting when the Consultation from TDC listed 4 optional amendments to the Local Plan, which were included on the section relating to wind turbines. Councillors had agreed that Option 3 was the preferred amendment, which used sites such as *AONB's, SSSI's, and bird sanctuaries, ancient woodland or heritage assets, etc.* as boundaries. TDC has declared the whole of Torridge and North Devon as areas that are potentially suitable for wind energy development, subject to two caveats: 1) Height of any turbine must not exceed the limit that is defined by the topography of the land. 2) The application has to pass stringent terms and hurdles to determine that all planning issues are considered in full. Cllr Maidment felt the localism vote has not been given sufficient weight or acknowledgment in the draft Policy, and members agreed especially as the Government Statement lists local approval as its first criterion. Cllr Hurley reminded members that the Consultation Period on Wind Energy Development ends on 24th March 2016. Clerk to respond to the Consultation.

- (2) **Chairman introduced and welcomed County Cllr Barry Parsons.**

Devolution. Cllr Parsons raised the question of Devolution for the South West, which had been on the Agenda for some months and confirmed the Prospectus for Productivity had been submitted to

Government. Central to the proposals is a commitment to increase productivity, create jobs, build the right infrastructure and make progress on key issues like health and social care integration. However, Cllr Parsons was of the opinion that the Agenda was already pre-set and he stressed he had reservations about the level of weight given to local opinion. He had sent an email to Devon County Council leader Cllr John Hart, which he read to the Members.

Chairman thanked Cllr Parsons for taking the time to attend the Meeting and for his input.

40. District Councillors Report.

Wind Turbine Consultation. District Cllr Hurley reported the Public Consultation was 11th Feb – 5pm Thursday 24th March. Available to view Online at offices of N Devon and TDC and at libraries throughout northern Devon. <http://consult.torridge.gov.uk/>

Planning Training. Planning Manager will respond shortly about the training sessions for Parish Councillors.

Dipper Mill Flood Warning System.

Now up and running, and will certainly be beneficial to local residents.

Burton Art Gallery

Transfer of the Burton into Trust status takes place on 1st April 2016, subject to all applicable legal documentation being in place. To be known as The Burton at Bideford. TDC will support the Trust financially for a period of 5 years, reviewed after three.

Visit of DCC Leader.

John Hart, Leader of DCC, visited TDC last week to keep TDC up to date with discussions being held in Exeter. Afterwards he was taken on a walk through Bideford to highlight the condition of the road surface off Mill Street. He agreed there was a need to get the costings in place to repair the road. D Cllr Hurley to watch this space with interest as he is constantly told there is no money available for roads in his Ward.

Cashless Torridge.

With effect from 31st March 2016, TDC will no longer be taking cash payments at BB or RBH. Cash Payments can be made at Post Offices and 21 PayPoint Network locations in the District, details to be found on the TDC website.

Smoke Free Playparks.

Responsibility for Public Health moved to Local Authorities from the NHS in April 2013. Under an informal Northern Devon Health and Wellbeing Forum to improve the wellbeing of children new ‘smoke free’ signs at play parks in Torridge and North Devon have been installed as part of a bid to encourage residents and visitors to stub out smoking where children play. Signs have been installed at Bideford Childrens Centre and Victoria Park in addition to parks in Torrington and Holsworthy.

Council Tax

TDC increased by 1.99%.

DCC increased by 3.99%, which includes 2% for Adult Social Care, Band “D” up £46.35 to £1207.62.

Speedwatch – Correspondance from PCSO Melissa Baker.

“Shebbear is currently under discussion as the data does not show a need for a speedwatch and it is likely that each session would result in zero letters being sent as the number of vehicles is very low. With regard to Langtree, I am hoping to complete the data collection in the very near future and will forward this to our Road Safety Officer to get his input on that area as well”.

Connection Devon and Somerset:

BT has confirmed it has provided access to fibre broadband for Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) to just over 7,000 home and businesses so far in this quarter (Jan-Mar 2016). Around 220,000 premises can access superfast broadband, representing 80% of CDS’ target for phase 1. Average take up of superfast services for the whole area is now close to 22%. In areas where superfast broadband has been live for over 2 years, take up is over 40%.

Devon School Lollipop Patrollers relieved

Devon County Council leader John Hart has shelved plans to ask schools to pay for their own lollipop men and women after reviewing representations from families across the county. The Authority had planned to save £250,000 as part of the £26 million budget cuts for 2016/17.

Rural Council and Lorry Drivers

Councils are calling for new powers to combat lorry drivers who cause chaos in rural communities.

The Local Government Association said incidents of reckless driving were causing disruption to rural communities and putting lives at risk.

Chairman thanked D Cllr Hurley for his attendance at the meeting for his very comprehensive report.

41. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

1/1319/2015/FUL. Land at Balleroy Close, Shebbear.

3 new dwellings (amended proposal).

Having considered two previous applications for this site to include relocation of the waste bin, Councillors were still not happy with the proposed location of the waste bin, and felt this should be placed where the two houses were to have been; the bin should be placed on hard standing and additional car parking spaces could be provided beside the bin. It was felt there should also be a contribution towards the children's play area.

Clerk to respond to TDC:-

Shebbear Parish Council would accept the proposal subject to the following Conditions:-

- (1) Bin to be relocated where two houses were to be sited.
- (2) Bin to be placed on hard standing.
- (3) Additional parking space to be available next to the waste bin.
- (4) Contribution to be made towards the Play Area.

(b) Applications Granted

None received.

(c) Applications Refused.

None received.

(d) Any relevant adjacent applications.

None.

42. Finance.

(1) February Income & Expenditure Account Summary.

Received by Councillors.

(2) VAT Return.

Clerk reported she had submitted a VAT Return in the sum of £167.38 for the period 30/11/14 – 29/02/16.

(3) Approval of Items for payment.

Donation of £800.00 to HRCT

All in favour that Item (3) be paid.

Bank balances.

Current Account £7,180.64

Reserve Account £14,053.67

43. Correspondence.

(1) e-mail from Martin Prentice, HRCT.

Clerk had informed Martin Prentice of the Donation, and had received an e-mail in response "Great news, really appreciate it, thank you".

(2) Clerk had received an HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative Medal for Schools and Councils, and it was agreed Cllr Maidment put this up on Facebook and also offer to the school.

(3) Chairman reported there were currently three properties offered for rent from DCH. Cllr Dymond had applied and been informed she didn't qualify despite living in the parish all her life, as had other residents. It was reported that the standard of finish and sound-proofing was extremely poor, and the condition of the properties was not considered suitable for modern living. Councillors agreed they should talk to DCH re availability, suitability and allocation.

Clerk to write to DCH and invite them to attend a Parish Meeting. D Cllr Hurley to contact Building Control at Torridge about noise and finish and whether any action could be taken at this late stage.

- 44. Any Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday May 10th 2016 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 9.15 pm.

Signed

Dated