

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

in the Church Room. Shebbear.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr N Whatley.

Councillors: Cllr J Quance. Cllr M Pearce. Cllr Joan Curtis.

Cllr R Clark. Cllr J Franklin. Cllr Jax Curtis. Cllr J Stupple. Cllr Styles-Power.

C Cllr B Parsons. D Cllr D Hurley. 24 Members of the Public. Clerk M Whatley.

168. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Luxton (holiday).

Chairman welcomed C Cllr Barry Parsons to the meeting and asked if he would like to say a few words at this juncture as he was aware the Councillor had another meeting to attend that evening.

Dipper Mill.

Cllr Parsons had been in touch with the Flood Risk Team regarding the river erosion at Dipper Mill and to the foundations of Dipper Mill Bridge. The Environment Agency are not going to carry out any works at this time.

Web Accessibility for Parish and Town Councils.

New legislation was introduced by Government in 2018 that forces public sector websites to be as accessible as possible to as many people as possible whether they have visual, hearing or mobility impairment and whatever type of assistive device they may use. Councils must publish an accessibility statement by 23rd September 2020.

Coronavirus

We must all follow the Government guidelines on Coronavirus.

Chairman thanked Cllr Parsons for his report.

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

Development adjacent Meadow Park – Planning Application.

(a) Jo Clark had moved into Shebbear last year with the knowledge that a development had been given planning approval on the adjacent land, which did not overly concern them. However, she is horrified by the plans which are now proposed, which allow for ‘ three-storey town houses’, which are quite out of keeping with the village. She asked the Parish Council to support the residents in rejecting this application in its current form.

(b) Hal Watson

Mr Watson was objecting to these three-storey town houses and the steep pitch of the roofs, which in our village, would be entirely out of place. Mr Watson expressed particular concern about the drainage proposals as he lives in Meadow Park and owns the adjacent land. The drainage from the existing Meadow Park is causing problems on his land, and this new application is going to exacerbate the problem further. He urged the Parish Council to press for the best drainage system possible.

Chairman read a response received from the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team.

“We object to the above planning application because the applicant has not submitted sufficient information in order to demonstrate that all aspects of the surface water drainage management plan have been considered.”

(c) Jack Bowden

Jack Bowden had examined the application as a professional and raised a number of points, which illustrate the inaccuracies within the application. Among the observations he made : _ Plans showed no site levels as required for validation..

The scale of the proposed units is not in keeping with the village architecture of traditional 2-storey properties and bungalows. Shebbear is a village, not a town. 3-storey 'town houses' would be out of place.

Disabled access has not been considered and the designs do not appear to cater for an ageing population to allow for ground floor living for those with mobility issues.

The Parish are led by Devon County Council Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team on their response to the drainage information and object in line with their comments.

A full topographical survey, site sections, and 3D massing model should be provided, and levels added to all drawings including floor plans to enable the village to further review the submission.

Chairman thanked the speakers and said he would alter the agenda to allow for discussions at this stage.

176. Any matters raised during the Public Participation period.

Clerk to respond to TDC that the applicant has not put forward sufficient information for the parish to review the proposals fully. Shebbear Parish Council unanimously objects to the application having had regard to the concerns expressed by the residents.

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

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial).

None.

(b) Registerable Interests.

None.

(c) Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

None.

(d) Requests for Dispensations.

None.

172. Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 11th 2020 having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

This detail was edited (the word Officers was replaced by Councillors) in the draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2020, agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

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

Maintenance of St Michael's Graveyard

Approached Paul Watts, who expressed interest in helping with the maintenance of the graveyard. A Meeting has been arranged between Andrew Goode, Martin Warren, Gordon Slade, Paul Watts and the Chairman for tomorrow, Wednesday 11th March. Andrew has suggested four half days. Work not to commence before June when daffodils will have died down.

Income & Expenditure Accounts

At the last meeting Councillors queried the income account concerning reimbursement of the flood maintenance contract as money had been received from one source only. I can confirm payment is being made this week from the second donor.

Lands Trust Committee

Notified Tim Cartwright of Cllr Pearce's election as a Council representative to the Lands Trust Committee.

Dipper Mill Flood Warning System

I am pleased to report that our flood warning system is being used by many more people within the community, and has proved invaluable in this exceptionally wet year.

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

None.

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

(1) Worden Corner Drainage Issue – Road Closure.

Letter received from Kieran Stanbury, Neighbourhood Highways Officer, regarding Worden Corner. “The surveys have been completed and alongside the drainage issue there are works which are needed to repair the retaining wall at the outlet, which are likely to be extensive. Budget allocated. These works could take up to 5 weeks and will need to be completed under a closure with the official diversion out to Stibb’s Cross/Holsworthy. We are looking at the summer holidays to have the least impact for the community”.

Clerk to respond to Kieran that Shebbear Parish Council is of the opinion that these works should be completed as soon as possible.

(2) Dipper Mill Bridge

Cllr Quance had attended a meeting with Cllr Parsons, Cllr Hurley, Kieran Stanbury (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) and Andrew Quance (landowner) to discuss the Worden Corner section of road and the erosion at Dipper Mill. Kieran has since reported that they have completed the surveys and alongside the drainage issue at Worden Corner there are works which are needed to repair the retaining wall at the outlet, which are likely to be extensive. A budget has been allocated for these works to be completed in the new financial year. A letter has been sent to the Environment Agency raising the issue of Dipper Mill as erosion has increased dramatically in the past few months.

The Environment Agency has no plans for works to be carried out to the road bank or bridge foundations at Dipper Mill for any time soon.

Cllr Quance raised the service report recently received and pointed out that the engineer had only spent some 10 minutes on site, and had not changed the battery nor cleaned the sensor due to high water levels. Clerk to write to Hydro-Logic.

(3) Footpaths (Footpath Warden)

Cllr Franklin reported that he was in touch with Ros Davies, Rights of Way Officer, who is making enquiries as to ownership of the path, at Lovacott Lane but, if push comes to the shove, they will go ahead and do the work

(4) Community Health Meeting (Report Cllr Styles-Power)

Cllr Styles-Power had attended the Community Health Involvement Group meeting in Holsworthy and reported that Holsworthy Hospital would not now be opening beds for inpatients due to staffing problems. 3 beds would be made available in a Holsworthy-based care/nursing home for end of life and rehabilitation and 4 beds in Stratton Hospital for more intensive 24/7 nursing care. Holsworthy Hospital has increased the range of health and wellbeing services, including outpatient appointments such as podiatry, diabetes checks, etc. and in the past year the number of people attending has risen from 500 to 2000 per week.

Chairman thanked Cllr Styles-Power for his report.

176. See Above.

177. District Councillor’s Report.

Council Tax

Council Tax notifications for this year are being sent out on Friday. Councillors took the decision to raise C/T by £5 per Band D property. This is the annual increase and equates to 3.06% of a Band D property. Funding from Central Government to Councils has been dropping year on year and it is expected that Councils make up some of this shortfall by increasing Council tax by the maximum allowed each year. This year this is 1.99% or £5 per Band D property. In addition Council Tax was frozen for two consecutive years at the request of Central Government and one off payments were awarded to Councils to offset the waived income. However by doing this is, income to the Council by way of lost increases from those two “frozen years” is gone forever. In the case of Torridge, the accumulative amount over the past 7 years is in the region of £2million.

Further pressure to increase C/T to balance the budget was provided by the announcement that New Homes

Bonus is to cease from this year. Because of the way the system operates Torrridge will receive less than half what was received in the peak year (2016-17) and this sum is used in both the Capital and Revenue budgets. Bear in mind that DCC have increased their C/T by 3.99% , Somerset and Devon Fire Brigade by 1.99%, Office of PCC by £9.36 (4.41%) and Town and Parish Council precepts by 5.5%. As a result of higher preceptors than Torrridge, the share of the C/T collection for Torrridge has fallen from 9.5p in the £ to 8.4p

Western Power Distribution

The Priority Services Register that WPD offer, a service aimed at customers who rely on electricity for medical equipment or who are elderly, very ill or disabled. Registering for this service gives access to a direct line to WPD, get informed about a planned interruption, keep customer informed as much as possible in the event of an unplanned power cut and also provide special help, if needed, through the British Red Cross. Registering is via the website or contact WPD for more information.

Meeting with Kieran Stanbury

Met Neighbourhood Highways Officer Kieran Stanbury, some extensive work is to be carried out at Worden Corner with regard to drainage and road repairs. In addition more interest is being shown to the problem with the riverbank erosion, and the consequent danger to the road at Dipper Mill. Unfortunately, as ever, money is tight and the Caute to Rowden pot holed section of road will have to wait until funds are available.

Kivells

An agreement between Kivells and TDC with regard to final costs has at last been reached.

Jenny Wallace

Jenny Wallace is stepping down as Head of Paid Service and finishing her local Government career after 46 years, 32 of these at TDC. Jenny became Interim Head of Paid Service in 2012 and the role was made permanent in 2013.

Rental Properties and TDC

TDC is looking to Landlords for available properties that it can lease on a 2-4-year basis to temporarily house people who are homeless or need of housing assistance. The Council will manage the property, ensure that it is returned in the condition that it was leased and provide the landlord with a guaranteed

income for the duration of the lease. Further info can be obtained via the TDC website.

Fly Tipping Conviction

A local builder was found guilty of dumping around 400kg of builder's waste in a lane off Clovelly Road in Bideford, in January 2019. Witnesses were also able to confirm they had seen the builder load the plaster and window into his van shortly before the waste was reported as fly-tipped. He was given a community order of 150 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay a victim surcharge and

costs totalling £1,529. Member of the public can report fly tipping incidents by calling the Council on 01237 428700 or via email at environmental.protection@torridge.gov.uk

New Partnership formed to clamp down on fly tipping and litter

Devon has launched a new multi-agency task force to combat fly tipping known as the Clean Devon task force. It will provide a single, coordinated way of reporting fly tipping anywhere in the county, via its website <https://cleandevon.org>, as well as advice to residents, businesses and landowners about how to dispose of waste legally.

The National Press have reported that the Government will unveil plans for a mobile phone app that will allow people who spot dumped rubbish to report it at the touch of a button. An image of the area can be sent that will allow Local Authorities to identify hot spots and better crack down on fly tippers.

178. Planning.

(1) New Applications.

(a) 1/1169/2019/REMM. Land East of Meadow Park

Reserved matters application pursuant to 1/12226/2015/OUTM

Having listened to concerns from members of the community, Clerk to respond to TDC that the applicant has not put forward sufficient information for the parish to review the proposals fully.

Shebbear Parish Council unanimously objects to the application having had regard to the concerns expressed by the residents

(b) 1/0135/2020/FUH. Berry Barns, Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon.

New Orangery to existing dwelling.

Clerk to respond to TDC that Shebbear Parish Council has no objections to this application.

(c) **APPEAL. 1/0503/2019/FUL. APbP/W/1145/D/19/3239729**

Little Meadow, Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon.

Creation of driveway and erection of carport, porch and rear two storey extension.

Clerk to respond to TDC that whilst we agree in principle, Shebbear Parish Council feels this too large and overbearing for its location.

(2) Applications Granted.

None.

(3) Applications Refused

None.

(4) Any relevant adjacent applications.

None.

179. Finance.

(1) Approval of Items for Payment.

(a) Shebbear Village Hall – Release of Funds held in Reserve £500.

Proposed Cllr Joan Curtis, Seconded Cllr Stupple, all in favour that the funds be released.

Bank Balances.

Current Account: £5,193.44

Reserve Account: £19,796.77

(1) Great Torrington Town Council – Plough Arts Centre.

Received by the Councillors.

(2) CPRE Devon's Best Churchyard Competition.

Much humour amongst members as graveyard in need of much tidying up work.

(3) Coronavirus Update (C Cllr Parsons). Circulated)

Circulation File.

Council Planning Lists. Plough Arts Centre. CPRE Devon's Best Churchyard Competition. CPRE Devon's Best Churchyard Competition. Holsworthy Rural (C Cllr B Parsons). Coronavirus Update (C Cllr B Parsons). DALC Coronavirus. Devon Home Choice. Clerks & Councils Direct Mag.

181. Agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday April 14th 2020 at 7-30 pm (subject to the meeting going ahead because of Coronavirus) and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Dated