

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday May 10th 2011 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Retiring Chairman: R Johns.

Cllrs: H Davis. R Clark. J Dungle. P Lomax. R Gliddon. M Wells.

17 members of the public. Clerk. David Walker.

Agenda. 2011. Commenced at 7-30 pm .

41. Election of Officers.

(1) Chairman. Cllr Lomax proposed that Richard Clark be nominated for the position of Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Gliddon, with all in favour. There were no other nominations and Cllr Clark accepted the office of Chairman and took charge of the meeting. (Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed).

The retiring Chairman Mr R Johns received a round of applause and joined the members of the public.

(2) Vice Chairman Cllr Lomax proposed that Howard Davis be nominated for the position of Vice Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Gliddon with all in favour. There being no other nominations Cllr Davis accepted the office of Vice Chairman.

(3) Local Auditor All agreed that Mr Mark Ohlsen, who has already expressed his willingness to assist , as in previous years, be asked to carry out this years local audit.

(4) Parish Lands Representatives. As the next Parish Lands meeting is not until July, all agreed that the nomination of 2 Parish Councillor representatives, in addition to the automatic inclusion of the parish council Chairman, be held over until the 3 councillor vacancies are filled by co-option and the full complement of members is known.

42. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr E Haste. (In Ireland).

PCSO Baker. (Off Duty). Melissa asked that Cllrs be informed that there were 4 crimes reported last month. 2 Criminal Damage. 1 Domestic dispute and 1 Assault. There were 6 calls that were logged, 2 anti social behaviour, 3 safety related and 1 crime.

43. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda. None received.

Members Registration of Interests. Forms completed .

44. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday April 12th 2011.

All in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

(1) Back Lane. Cllr Lomax reported on the advice he had received from P3 at DCC regarding the state of the surface. It had been concluded that there was ample width of sound tarmac for walkers and disability conveyances, but surface water may be a problem on occasion. Cllrs agreed that P3 be asked to let us have their conclusions in writing. Cllr Lomax also reported that the recently constructed raised wooden footway on Path 9b had been vandalised and an old shower tray and a tyre had been dumped at the location.

46. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Public Participation at Full Council Meetings. After some discussion, a period of 15 minutes for public participation will be allowed at the beginning of each full meeting, with 3 minutes allotted for each speaker. Any person wishing to speak to contact the Clerk before the agenda for the relevant meeting is issued, which is normally the Wednesday before the day of the meeting. There should also be some discretionary flexibility in these arrangements and the proceedings should be minuted. Proposed Cllr Lomax , seconded Cllr Davis, with all in favour, that Standing Orders be amended to include these resolutions.

(2) Election of DALC County Committee. Chairman R Clark was happy to allow his name to be put forward for election to the Committee. All Agreed. Clerk to arrange.

46. (cont).

(3) Correspondence from Mr J Brock and Mr S Harrup relating to Road repairs at Berry Park Corner.

Chairman confirmed that all Cllrs present had seen the correspondence relating to this matter and that he was intending to allow members of the public to contribute to the discussion, as the correspondents were present at the meeting. Chairman advised the meeting that the parish council was not obliged to read out complete letters and suggested that the criticisms could be addressed by introducing them in 4 stages.

1. Why did SW Highways take the decision to not install kerbstones?
2. The concerns over the water supplies.
3. Why did the parish council act the way it did.
4. Explore the concerns expressed about Councillor Hastes' conduct.

Councillors agreed that this would be an acceptable way of tackling the issues. Firstly Chairman explained that a member of the public could do little if a council misbehaves, however, a good council takes matters seriously and examines and regulates itself. A parish council has few powers but we would like to assist in finding out why SWH acted the way that they did, to that end it was hoped that C/Cllr Barry Parsons may have been able to attend the meeting with a rep from SWH, but he was unable to do so. If the parish council can facilitate contact between parties it will do so. The councils only contact in this matter initially was to be notified of the road closure. Any subsequent contact will be between the officials and the member of the public concerned. Chairman enquired whether the public were in agreement so far. Steve Harrup stated that he would wait to see what was decided before commenting. Richard Haste felt the suggestions would be beneficial. Nigel Brock stated that, as the land owner, he should be the only party to be consulted. Chairman moved on to the 2nd aspect, the water supplies to Ruxhill consumers. The parish council had tried to assist by arranging for an assessment to be carried out by SW Water as to the level of risk to the supply pipework by erosion of the roadside bank at Berry Park Corner. The consumers concerned had received letters from SWW stating that there was no significant risk and in the unlikely event of damage it would be the responsibility of the contractor involved to put the damage right. at no cost to other parties.

The 3rd element, relating to the performance of the parish council, was introduced by Chairman asking Mr Harrup if the paragraph in the parish councils' letter dated February 10th 2011, that alleged that he, Mr Harrup had laid the kerb stones outside his house, and that this made negotiating the bend more difficult, was the core of his complaint. Mr Harrup agreed that it was and stated that SW Highways laid them on his property. Cllr Davis asked if Mr Harrup had asked for the kerbs to be laid, Mr Harrup said that he had. Chairman said that he did not intend to read Mr Harrups last letter but it was clear that the Clerk was being blamed. Mr Harrup said that all he wanted to know was, was the Clerk acting with the Councils authority. Chairman asked if Andrew Haste would like to speak. Andrew said that everybody knows that the problem has appeared since the kerbs and grit bin have been placed. Mr Harrups' house looks great but it encroaches onto the highway causing vehicles to avoid it and go over to the other side. The route past Mr Harrups is the only one suitable for HGV's. Richard Haste commented that it was all about loss of headroom on the corner that was the cause of the problem. Mr Harrup said that there was a photo of the damage to the opposite hedge. Cllr Lomax said that the issue was a technical one which he was not qualified to comment on. He felt that Councillors were also parishioners and volunteers, and were getting into an argument when we should be agreeing a solution together in a friendly manner. He said he was uncomfortable with the way it was going. Cllr Dungate said it was not possible to be friendly and fair to everyone. Cllr Gliddon said it is nothing to do with the parish council, it must be dealt with by Devon Highways.

Lastly Chairman moved the discussion on to the subject of the behaviour of Cllr Haste and the parish clerk, and, referring to Jeremy Brocks' letter noted that it had been inferred that Cllr Haste had used his position to his advantage. The persons present were advised that there was recourse to the Standards Board in cases like this and Chairman explained the procedure involved to make a complaint about a councillor.

(4) Training for New Councillors. Cllr Wells asked to attend the Course on June 8th at Filleigh. Clerk will arrange.

(5) Councillor Vacancies. TDC have notified Clerk that the 3 current vacancies are to be filled by co-option as soon as possible. There has been some interest shown and applications will be considered in Part 2, (Closed Session) of the June meeting.

47. District Councillors Report. No report this month.

48. Planning.

(a) New Applications (Received since issue of agenda, allowed by Chairman).

(1) 1/0237/2011/FUL. Erection of Barn/Stable. Land adjacent to Pitt Bridge Cottage. Shebbear. For Mr S. Powell. No Objections conditional on own domestic useage.

(b) Applications Granted. None.

(c) Any relevant, adjacent applications.

(1) 1/0260/2011/FUL. Proposed wind turbine. Gidcott Farm. Milton Damerel. For Mr R Reed.

(2) 1/0270/2011/FUL. Installation of single 55kw wind turbine. Henscott Barton. Bradford.

Cllrs debated the fact that both these proposals would affect residents in Shebbear parish and village. Information was received that TDC intend to consider the recent surge of similar applications, thought to number about 30, as a whole, in order to assess the impact on N Devon area. Cllrs agreed that Clerk write to TDC supporting this intention and to ask that more accurate and reliable information, particularly relating to noise emissions, be supplied by the applicants.

49. Finance.

(a) Accounts for year to March 31st 2011. Proposed Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Lomax, with all in favour, that the prepared accounts, previously circulated, be approved. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return signed prior to Internal Audit by Mr Ohlsen and forwarding to the Audit Commission.

(b) Accounts for payment. Prop Cllr Dungate. Sec Cllr Davis with all in favour, that the following be paid:-

(1) Local Grants for 2011, previously agreed Minute 119 of 2010. Total £2350.00

(2) St Michaels Church. Room hire. £93.00 Electricity £25.00 Total £118.00

(3) Annual Insurance premium. £265.00

(4) Adrian Caudwell (Grasscutting). £120.00 Back Lane (P3) £6.00 Total £126.00

Bank Balances to April 28th, received by Cllrs. Current a/c - £6476.14 Reserve a/c £12,520.33 (Includes P3 reserve balance of £1634.36)

50. Correspondence.

Items (1) and (2) dealt with earlier in the meeting at Minute 46(3).

Circulation Folder DALC Newsletter (May/June).

51. Items for the Annual Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday June 14th 2011 and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Chairman and Cllrs congratulated the Committee of the recently formed Shebbear Allotment Association on the progress made so far in creating an allotment garden on land owned by the Methodist Church at New Inn. Support has been given by the Community Council of Devon. There are 10 inches depth of soil on the site, and samples have been taken for analysis. TDC have been consulted and have reacted positively with regard to planning issues.

Cllr Davis reported that he was progressing well with preparing the Tithe Map Apportionments for on-line access in conjunction with Devon Records office.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-28pm.