

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday May 19th 2015 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: J Dungate. J Stupple. J Curtis. A Maidment. K Dymond. R Gliddon. R Clark. M A Wells.

District Councillor D Hurley. PCSO M Baker. 3 Members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2015. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

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

51. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor G Quance (Working). County Councillor B Parsons (Previous engagement).

52. Election of Officers.

(1) Chairman.

Chairman E Haste called for nominations for the office of Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Gliddon nominated Councillor Haste, which was seconded by Councillor Dymond. Councillor Wells said that, in view of the number of votes he received in the Local Election, she nominated Councillor Clark, which was seconded by Councillor Maidment.

The resulting votes by show of hands gave Councillor Haste 2 votes. Councillor Clark 6 votes.

Councillor Clark elected for the coming year, took over the Chair and continued the Meeting.

(2) Vice Chairman.

Nominations received for Councillor Haste and Councillor Dungate.

Votes by show of hands gave Councillor Haste 5 votes. Councillor Dungate 3 votes.

Councillor Haste elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

(3) Local Auditor.

Mark Ohlsen had indicated that he was willing to continue as auditor and all were in favour that he be invited to do so.

(4) Representatives for the Parish lands Committee.

In addition to the ex officio duty by the Chairman, Councillors M Wells and J Curtis volunteered to serve.

Chairman invited PCSO Baker to give her report in order that she could leave for another commitment. Melissa reported that the total number of crimes reported for the year was down by 3. There were 4 Assaults, 2 criminal damage, 1 drink driving, 3 thefts from motor vehicles, 3 nuisance calls, 3 burglaries, 2 dog related offences, and 1 attempted arson which was deemed to be the most potentially serious. Regarding the continual problems associated with one individual in the village Melissa said that the Police were doing all they can and emphasized that the more calls with information that they receive the better. Chairman raised the possibility of a Community Speed Check being carried out in Shebbear as is done in Frithelstockstone. Melissa described the procedures involved in setting up a scheme. After receiving the appreciation of the Councillors, Melissa left the meeting at 7-50pm.

53. Public Participation Period.

No requests to speak received.

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

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial).

None received.

(b) Registerable interests.

None received.

(c) Registration of Interests.

Newly elected Members' Registration of Interests forms collected by Clerk for forwarding to the Monitoring Officer at TDC. (Copies retained by the Clerk).

55. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday April 14th 2015, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

All in Favour that the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday April 14th 2015, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

All in Favour that the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

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

Clerk reported that the 3 new seats had at last been installed in The Square and was grateful to Adrian Pett for carrying out the task with very little disruption or damage to the turf .

The new "Welcome to Shebbear" sign on Pitt Hill is now in situ and hopefully the signs for the top of Hay Hill and Battledown Road will also be "planted" shortly.

57. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) *Housing Needs Survey.*

Enquiries have revealed that TDC are unable to assist with a survey but Janice Alexander, a rural housing specialist at Devon Communities Together (formerly Community Council of Devon) in Exeter has offered to undertake a Housing Needs Survey on our behalf. It will be up to Shebbear parish to promote the scheme by way of the parish magazine, the website and possibly an open meeting. Facebook was also suggested as an effective publicity facility. Distribution of the questionnaire would be carried out by the parish with the results being returned direct to DCT to ensure confidentiality. The cost would be around £300 for the work done by DCT plus the administrative costs incurred within the parish. It was agreed that the project be started as soon as possible in view of the proposed development at West Country Concrete.

58. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley congratulated the Councillors on their recent election or re-election. New officers were elected at the AGM of Torridge District Council the previous evening. Of the total of 36 Members, 16 are new to the Council. The Torridge Transformation process is continuing and all staff in Bridge Buildings are expected to have moved by March or April 2016. DCC are asking for responses to a consultation on the reorganization of the County Council divisional boundaries. The consultation will run until July 6th and details are on the parish noticeboard.

A new funding source has been announced, the Community Impact Support Scheme (CISS), with an initial £450,000 sum being made available over the next 2 years to help the social economy to meet the needs arising from welfare reform and public sector budget cuts for the benefit of communities across Devon. Applications welcomed from organizations who work to support people most affected by welfare reform, and focusing on those who are unemployed, or employed but heavily benefit dependent.

Chairman thanked District Councillor Hurley for his report and raised the question as to whether any of our Councillors could volunteer for planning training being run in conjunction with NDDC.

59. Planning.

(1) *New Applications.*

(a) **1/0007/2015/SCR.** *Screening opinion for 30 dwellings at West Country Concrete Products. Shebbear.*

(b) **1/0125/2015/OUTM.** *Outline application (all matters reserved) for 30 dwellings and 3 live/work units with associated landscaping and play space. West Country Concrete Products. Shebbear.*

Items (a) and (b) debated together by Councillors.

Councillors agreed that , taking the various matters involving the application into consideration, that the proposal would be of benefit to the village. The outline application did raise a number of concerns which needed clarification. The number of affordable units needed to be firmly established as the percentage stated appears to be at variance with the number previously discussed. The width of the access to the site appears narrow on the plans and Councillors wish to ensure that two vehicles can pass at the entrance to avoid a hazard being created on Hay Hill. Councillors are concerned that the proposal for "shared surface roadway" will pose a safety issue for pedestrians, as a 30 dwelling site will generate considerable traffic either vehicular or on foot, and pavements should be included. The suggestion in the application that there will be good opportunities to promote bus useage will depend on the service being improved, as it is currently deficient.

The Parish Council wish to submit the results of the Housing Needs Survey which will be carried out shortly and would like them to be included as the application progresses.

Agreed - Clerk to respond to the application and include the concerns raised.

59. Planning (cont).

- (c) **1/0418/2015/AGMB.** Conversion of building to 1 dwelling under Class Q(a). Brentleigh. Shebbear.
This proposal was previously refused for 3 reasons (1/0937/2014/AGMB refers), two of which are still relevant, the site is next to a working farm and workshops and the existing building was granted permission to be built for domestic use and does not qualify for consideration as agricultural. Councillors agreed they were not in favour of the application.

60. Finance.

(1) Accounts for payment

- (a) Grasscutting (Mr A Caudwell). £204.00
(b) Shebbear Village Hall. (DSIAG meeting 18/3/2015). £6-00
(c) Reimburse Clerk for Stationary purchase. £16.00
(d) St Michaels Church. (Hire of Room for Council meetings, April 2014 to March 2015, £108.00, plus contribution towards electricity useage £25.00) - £133.00
(e) Annual Insurance Premium. The Broker Network. (Aviva). £265.00 (Subject to agreement for the renewal of 3 year long term agreement, otherwise £278.95). Councillors agreed not to renew the 3 year agreement and that £278.95 be paid.

In addition (f) an invoice in the sum of £300 for the installation of the 3 new seats in The Square from A P Construction received after issue of agenda.

Proposed by Councillor Stupple, seconded by Councillor Gliddon, with all in favour, that the 6 items be paid.

(2) Payment of previously agreed Local Grants (Minute 156(1) of 2014)

Little Bears £300. **Shebbear AFC** £200. **History Society** £100. **Citizens Advice Bureau** £100. **Shebbear Youth Club** £550. **Shebbear Shooters** £50. **Lake Chapel Graveyard** £100. **St Michaels Church Graveyard** £150. **Rowden Graveyard Fund** £50. **Shebbear Village Hall**, contribution towards the refurbishment of the toilets £500. **Shebbear School Support Group**, match funding towards new staging £350. **Holsworthy Rural Community Transport**, Shebbear Parish Council to pay for the 2015 HRCT adverts in Reflecting Shebbear £100.

Proposed by Councillor Stupple, seconded by Councillor Gliddon, with all in favour, that the 12 local grants listed and previously agreed, be paid.

(3) To review (a) the system of financial control, (b) cheque signatories, also receive updated draft Financial Regulations for consideration next month. (Copy in Circulation folder for info).

- (a) Councillors agreed that the current system of financial control was satisfactory and complied with requirements.
(b) As the already authorized cheque signatory Councillors had been re-elected, all were in favour that the current arrangement be continued and reviewed if there were to be a change of Members.

Bank Balances - on April 30th 2015.

Current account £9,330-77 Reserve account £14,047-77

Received by Councillors.

61. Correspondence.

- (1) DCC. Temporary road closure, 1 week from July 6th 2015, for remedial works to existing kerbing and hedgebank at Ruxhill bend and patching works at Berry Park bend.
(2) DCC. P3. Free brushcutter training courses in June, July and August.
(3) N Devon Hospice event – Floating Bye. Instow beach on June 14th.

Items received by the Councillors who also heard that a representative from Devon Fire and Rescue has offered to attend a Parish Council Meeting and give an update on the Service situation. Agreed that he be invited.

Also agreed that a Tree of Life be erected in the Square by a parishioner for a short period into the summer.

Councillors Circulation.

Draft updated Financial Regs. NWatch Spring newsletter. DALC Training dates. Draft Electoral review.

62. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday June 9th 2015 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

There being no other Business Chairman closed the Meeting at 9-13pm.