

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday November 10th 2009 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Johns. Cllrs: H Davis. G Slade. J Curtis. J Dungate. R Clark. P Lomax. E Haste.
D /Cllr A Saywell. PCSO M Baker. 8 Members of the public. Clerk: David Walker.

Agenda. 2009. Commenced at 7-30 pm

103. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr R Gliddon. (Working) Cllr L Quance (Prev Comm).

104. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda/ Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

None Received.

7-35pm. Chairman suspended official business and invited PCSO Baker to present her monthly report and to hear from Councillors details of complaints of nuisance caused by young people in the village recently. PCSO Baker said that the monthly Police Newsletter referred to 4 logged complaints from Shebbear, 2 of which were reports of anti social behaviour. Cllrs informed the meeting that 3 youths were in the habit of hanging around the village hall area making a noise until 2-30am on occasions which was distressing the old people particularly when their doors and windows were being knocked. There was also a report that 3 male youths were by the war memorial one night at nearly 4am. PCSO Baker said that she would request additional Police attendance, and asked that as much information as possible could be forwarded which would help enquiries. This will be heard in confidence, and the contact details are on the newsletter displayed on the village notice board. There is currently a recent report of damage to a car in the Square being investigated. Cllr Davis asked about cycling on the footpaths. Melissa said that it was an offence but one where discretion is used over the age of the offender. Really young children are excused on safety grounds while teenagers are usually stopped and given advice. Melissa then presented the meeting with the recorded crime figures for the April to September 2009 period which showed a considerable reduction across the full spectrum of offences with Northern Devon Police area being rated Best in Force in customer satisfaction surveys. Full details are on the notice board. D/Cllr Saywell informed the meeting that he has recently become involved in the Safer North Devon Campaign and will be giving more details soon.

7-48pm. Chairman thanked Melissa for her attendance and official business resumed.

105. Minutes of the Meeting held on October 13th 2009. Cllr Curtis proposed and Cllr Slade seconded, with all in agreement, that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

(1) Asset repairs. Enquiries have revealed that recycled plastic seat slats will be unsuitable for repairing the seats in the Square due to excessive flexibility, and a supply of wooden slats will be sourced instead.

(2) Dog bin for Haycross Hill. Clerk was still waiting to receive the cost of supplying a bin from TDC.

A letter from Mr McCurrach of Rigby's Hay was received by Cllrs. Mr McCurrach feels that a bin is not necessary at Haycross Hill due to the rural location where it would be out of place and where any dog or horse mess is rapidly dispersed by vehicle wheels. Cllrs report that many people enjoy walking the circuit around New Inn and Battledown and that there is a demand for a bin somewhere along the route. Clerk will liaise with TDC once a suitable site has been agreed and the expenditure approved.

(3) Highways. Cllr Curtis said that the drains in the vicinity of CS Garage had not been sucked out despite the suction lorry having been in the parish recently. There was a problem with standing water on the road as a result. Clerk had reported this along with other problems recently and was of the opinion that Highways were not acknowledging messages, which, if the works requested were not done, which sometimes happens, gives the impression that the messages haven't got through in the first place. D/Cllr Saywell offered to look into this.

(4) Lake Rural Workshops. Clerk had just heard from Lara Self from the SWRDA, who was offering to meet representatives of the parish council to discuss the future of the vacant land on the Industrial Estate. Clerk to inform SWRDA that the parish council has no interest in the land at the moment, apart from pointing out that it was in need of tidying up and that the promise to cut back the road hedge had not been carried out yet.

107. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

- (a) Councillors received details of the updated Financial Regulations. Proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Lomax, with all in agreement, that these be adopted by Shebbear Parish Council.
- (b) P3. Parish Footpaths. Cllr Lomax informed Cllrs that all the minor works like signs etc had been attended to. He was now seeking approval for the major improvement to footpath 9b, School Corner to Manna Park, which was virtually impassable where it crosses the brook due to deep poaching by drinking cattle. With the consent of the landowners involved, the area P3 Warden and an approved DCC contractor, Environmental South West, are proposing that a 25 metre boardwalk be installed leading to the existing bridge. The cost of materials to be £1,200.00 and labour £1,058.74. Devon P3 have suggested that they will pay for the materials and Shebbear PC pay the labour cost from the existing P3 budget reserve. As the labour cost is substantial, the parish council is required to seek 3 quotes for the work which would entail finding, not only the best quote, but a contractor able to comply with all the relevant legislative conditions as well as the necessary specialist expertise and indemnity cover. Under the circumstances Cllr Clark suggested that it would be more sensible if DCC/ P3 were to act as the procurement body with the parish council paying them for the labour costs. All were agreed that this would save the Parish Clerk a lot of work plus DCC already have a list of approved contractors. Cllr Lomax will contact P3 with this suggestion. It was proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Lomax with all agreeing, that the work be postponed until Spring 2010 to avoid unnecessary damage to the fields.

108. District Councillors Report.

In connection with the imminent resignation of the TDC Chief Executive, moves are being made to find a replacement as it is thought to be inappropriate to have no one at the helm. The appointment will be an interim measure and may be shared with another Authority. Business should then carry on as normal. As mentioned earlier in the meeting Mr Saywell has been appointed to the Safer North Devon Campaign whose remit is to do something about crime and disorder in the area. If there are any organisations looking for a monetary grant Andrew still has funds available in his Community Fund kitty and will welcome any applications from local organisations. On a personal level Andrew is officially no longer a student and is spending more time on his council duties.

109. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

(1) 0991/2009/FUL. 7 Holiday Lodges. Berry Barns. Shebbear. Mr J Whitton.

Before this application was discussed Cllr Clark informed the meeting that he had been approached by the applicant Mr Whitton and also by Mr Lynn of Berry House but had only discussed planning procedures with them, with no other involvement.

D/Cllr Saywell stated that as he is a member of the Planning Committee it would be inappropriate for him to make any comments on the application, in case it went before the Committee.

Cllrs requested clarification of the dimensions of the lodges as they were not stated on the plans. These were established to be 12m x 7.5m for the 2 bed, and 14.5m x 7.5m for the 3 bed lodges.

Cllr Haste asked if there was going to be sufficient demand bearing in mind that there were 2 holiday barns on the site already. Mr Whitton said that the lodges will be built in stages to reflect the demand, however, the services for all the units will be installed at once to minimise disruption. Torridge DC is keen to support local tourism. All the units will have a low environmental impact.

Cllr Haste hoped that it wouldn't turn into another Woodford Bridge timeshare setup. The applicant said they would be conventional holiday lets, restricted by Conditions to holidays only.

Mr Kent, who lives opposite Berry Barns entrance was concerned that the project was not properly advertised and is far too large, and would generate a lot of traffic and disturbance outside his house.

Mr Whitton's dwelling and the 2 existing holiday barns already use the entrance, and Mr Kent was opposed to the proposal on the grounds of noise, litter and too much traffic on the narrow lanes.

Cllr Dungate said that he had been asked by a parishioner who lived very close to Berry Barns, and who wanted to remain anonymous, to tell the meeting that the benefits from local employment and trade outweighed the disadvantages the proposal would cause.

Cllr Davis suggested that a separate entrance for the lodges would be better. Mr Whitton said that TDC Planners preferred one entrance and were not keen on opening up further access points, and in any case one entrance makes it easier to control and welcome visitors.

All Cllrs agreed the decision - No Objections, but as the proposal will make a considerable impact on the local surroundings, it should be phased in as, and when, the demand for it is established.

(b) Applications Granted.

- (1) 0661/2009/FUL. Livestock building at Stoneleigh Farm, Shebbear. No Objections.
- (2) 0664/2009/FUL. Agricultural storage building. at Stoneleigh Farm, Shebbear. No Objections.
- (3) 0665/2009/FUL. General agricultural building at Stoneleigh Farm, Shebbear. No Objections.

(c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

110. Finance.

Accounts for payment item (a) and the invoice for the Remembrance Day wreath (£25.00) recently received by Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Curtis with all in agreement, that these be paid.

Bank Balances Previously circulated and received by Councillors.

111. Correspondence.

(a) Holsworthy Town Council. The proposal by DCC to impose Pay & Display street parking charges had been abandoned.

Items (b) to (h) Circulated to Cllrs for information.

Requests for Grants for the coming year from Holsworthy Family Resource Centre, Shebbear Shooters and Reflecting Shebbear Magazine were received by Cllrs and will be debated, with others, next month.

The report from the Shebbear Ecumenical Youth Project, which had been circulated to Cllrs during the past month was returned to the meeting and it was recommended that Cllrs make their own views known to the Project leaders.

Chairman had been contacted by Keith Ogborne of Marnkie, Back Lane, who is converting his house to oil fuel, asking if it was acceptable for oil delivery lorries to use Back Lane. Cllrs felt that there would be no problems as gas was being delivered there already.

112. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday December 8th 2009, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-33 pm.