

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday November 12th 2013
in the Church Room. Shebbear.**

Present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: J Curtis. J Stupple. M A Wells. R Clark. P Lomax. T Carr. R Gliddon.

District Councillor D Hurley. 1 Member of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2013. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

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

130. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor J Dungate. (Working).
County Councillor Barry Parsons (Away).
PCSO M Baker.

Councillors welcomed Police Sergeant 4298 Pennie Channing, who is the Team Leader for the Holsworthy and Torrington sectors. Pennie herself has served for 20 years and she has the support of a team of experienced officers. Although this area is classed as a low crime district, Pennie listed a number of the more serious crimes that had been committed locally in recent months and stressed that although residents could take comfort from living in a relatively quiet area it is still advisable to remain vigilant and maintain crime prevention precautions. As an example, there has been a recent theft of heating oil locally and there is currently a spate of similar offences being committed across the region. A list of precautions that can be taken has been provided by PCSO Baker and can be seen on the parish notice board. Pennie also recommended that the parish take advantage of the Community Messaging System.

7-40pm. Chairman thanked Sergeant Channing for attending and Agenda business was resumed.

131. Public Participation Period.

No requests to speak received.

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

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests.

Councillor Wells declared an Interest in Item 139 (c) as her husband is a member of a campaign group and she will consider any relevant matters with an open mind.

(b) Registerable interests.

None received.

Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

None received.

133. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 8th 2013.

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

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

As agreed at last months meeting (Minute 124(2)), Councillor Carr had met with Youth Club Committee members and his report on that meeting was received by the Councillors.

The Youth Club opened in December 2012 and has already proved itself to be a valuable asset to the parish and is worthy of support. Councillor Carrs' report focussed mainly on the financial aspects of the Club and a small shortfall had been identified. Councillors therefore debated ways in which assistance with Club overheads could be addressed.

Councillor Wells had attended a meeting in Torrington recently and heard John Hart, the Leader of Devon CC, state that the financial situation is difficult and that Youth Services will be affected. Councillors agreed that it would be appropriate for a set amount contribution for capital equipment to be made and that as the village hall was the main feature of Club activities Clerk should make a formal approach to the Hall Committee to explore ways in which the Youth Club could be assisted. The whole matter to be reviewed in 6 months time and thereafter every 12 months if required.

The Clerk reported that he had been told by the Club Leader that she was exploring the possibility of links with surrounding parishes. If so this might create opportunities for TAP Fund involvement.

Clerks Report Arrangements are still ongoing for additional road salt supplies to be obtained.

Since the public seats had received a tidy up it was found that the seat facing into The Square was in a good enough condition to be retained for the time being, but that the other two under the Oak tree will be removed. Clerk will seek public opinion via Reflecting Shebbear as to whether 3 seats are necessary under The Oak. The vacancy on the Parish Council will now have to be filled by Cooption as there had been an insufficient number of requests for an election to take place. Clerk has put notices on the notice boards and on the Parishes website to attract applications.

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

Agreed - all items to be Part 1.

136. Any urgent agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.

None.

137. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Allotments. Councillor Clark reported that he had received correspondence from the Supernumerary Minister dealing with the release of land at New Inn on behalf of the Torrridge Methodist Circuit. The question from them being, is the land still required for an allotment?

Councillor Clark had suggested that we establish how many persons were still interested in having an allotment. The Clerk had spoken to Shelley Fleming and Helen Brampton plus as many of the original applicants as were still residing in the parish and asked them to indicate, either verbally or by attending the Parish Council November meeting, whether they were still interested. No one attended the meeting to show interest but it is very likely that there are more than the six required for the Parish Council to be required to provide an allotment facility if it is possible to do so.

Shelley, Helen and Stuart Douglas had put themselves forward as trustee representatives for the Allotment Association and had signed the Lease recently. Apart from that any progress is faltering, with the obstacles relating to finance, the state of the land, fencing and access still to be tackled.

Councillors Agreed that Clerk should put the Association members in touch with the Supernumerary The Rev Whatton as a first step towards restarting the process.

(2) To receive quotations for the removal of the existing bus shelter. Councillors debated on the 3 quotations received and expressed some concern that the quotes varied to such an extent that the persons might not be aware of what the removal entailed. Clerk said that all 3 persons quoting had been give the same job description but he would go back to them and verify that they were aware of exactly what they were quoting for and that none were estimates that might prove more expensive after the event. Agreed, all in favour.

(3) Blocked culvert at West Wootton. Clerk reported that he had been asked to bring to Councillors attention the reduction to the width of the highway by the blocked culvert on the Gidcott road at West Wootton and the resulting erosion of the carriageway by the stream crossing the road. The initial blockage occurred in October 2012 and the stream crossing the road has gradually eroded the road surface to the extent that only light vehicles can safely pass the location due to the deep ditches on either side. This is restricting essential traffic movements on an important route out of and in to the parish. Highways placed a number of signs and markers at the site in March, and warning notices at the Shebbear and Gidcott road junctions and have made many visits since to check the signs, thereby incurring additional expense.

Councillors agreed that Clerk write to DCC Highways pointing out that the situation had been allowed to deteriorate for far too long and it was essential that remedial work is carried out urgently, also that it is a pity that the opportunity to carry out the work was missed during the summer when the water flow was low and during that period funding was allocated to other, less important, projects elsewhere in the parish.

(4) P3. Blocked drain. Footpath 9. Lake Chapel/College. Councillor Clark reported that the blockage has been cleared, presumably by The College.

- (5) P3. Approve a new Footpath Coordinator to replace Councillor Lomax. No nominations from among the Councillors were forthcoming at the time of the Meeting. Councillor Clark queried whether it had to be a Parish Councillor that filled the post, if not then advertise the post in Reflecting Shebbear. Agreed.

138. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley had also attended the Monkleigh meeting and reaffirmed what Councillor Wells had said earlier, that John Hart had stated that nothing was sacrosanct when economies were having to be made. Since March 31st this year Council Tax Benefit has been abolished and since that date all those of working age that were previously eligible now have to pay a minimum of 25% of the full Council Tax rate. There is an exceptional hardship fund in operation this year to help those who may be experiencing severe problems. The Government has reduced the Council Tax support funding that Local Authorities receive this year and the net result is that TDC have voted to reduce the funding they provide for Town and Parish Councils by 3.7%, this being subject to change when firmer figures are available in December. TDC is also to write a letter of complaint to the Government about the way the matter has been handled.

David enjoyed the Youth Club discussion, he has agreed to donate £250 from his fund to the Club and Barry Parsons is also to contribute from his fund.

David has had no recent contact with Rebecca Weale regarding the Community Cafe proposal.

On the subject of wind turbine planning applications, recently 2 out of 3 applications are being refused which David regards as a good sign.

Should any Councillor be available there is to be a Defibrillator demonstration in Langtree on the 16th Nov. Chairman thanked District Councillor Hurley for his attendance and report.

139. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

1/0919/2013/LBC & FUL. (Received after agenda issued). Retrospective application for steel fabricated roof structure replacement for roundhouse and threshing barn. North Worden Farm. Shebbear.

NO OBJECTIONS.

(b) Applications Granted.

None received.

(c) Any relevant adjacent applications.

1/0918/2013/FUL. Erection of 500kw wind turbine, height to blade tips 77m, at East Lake Farm, Halwill Junction. (Consultee comments invited). Agreed that Councillor Carr will assess the details and write a report for approval by members before the return date. As the site is some distance from Shebbear it is not clear whether the turbine would have a significant negative effect on the parish. The main concern being otherwise that it will add to the cumulative effect.

140. Finance.

(1) Approval of Items for payment

Proposed Councillor Clark, seconded Councillor Carr, with all in favour, that agenda items (a) (b) (c) and (d) be paid together with payment for the British Legion Poppy Appeal wreath. £25.00

(2) Approve release of Twinning Funds

Proposed Councillor Lomax, seconded by Councillor Stupple, with all in favour, that the sum of £2,186.63 be paid to Shebbear Village Hall and Playing Field Committee. (As agreed at the final Meeting of the Twinning Association held on Tuesday April 10th 2012, Minute 14).

Bank Balances to October 30th 2013.

Current account - £10,487.67 Reserve account - £15,536.43 Received by the Councillors.

Current account balance includes - Twinning Funds £2,186.63

P3 Funds £1,497.36

141. Correspondence.

(1) *Shebbear Village Hall & Playing Field Committee.* The Committee have agreed to purchase a youth shelter, which will also be useful for parents collecting children from school, for the sum of £2,400.00, which will be sited behind the village hall.

(2) *CCD. Advice and Information Surgery, Holsworthy.* Received by Councillors.

(3) *Mr J Brock. Town & Parishes Fund.* Received by Councillors. Mr Brock was of the opinion that Shebbear Parish Council had missed an opportunity by having no intention to capitalise on the benefits of the Town and Parishes Fund and had jeopardised the good relationship that traditionally exists between Shebbear and Buckland Filleigh parishes, following the approach for cooperation made by Buckland Filleigh in March this year. Councillors did not accept that this was a valid criticism, and, as Buckland Filleigh had benefitted from Shebbears' allocation of the TAP fund, probably as a result of a misunderstanding, wanted to know why TDC had released Shebbears' share of the TAP Fund without our agreement. There is certainly no ill feeling existing between the parishes as far as anyone is aware as a result of this.

District Councillor Hurley offered to make enquiries at TDC to ascertain how this came about.

The matter to be further discussed at next months meeting.

(4) *Buckland Filleigh Parish Council. Re: Town and Parishes Fund. 2013 -2014.* (Received after the agenda was issued). Councillors thank Shebbear Parish Council for joining with them in purchasing a road salt spreader with the TAP Fund which they believe will benefit both communities by keeping them connected during bad weather. Buckland Filleigh Councillors had also agreed that Shebbear parish should benefit from Buckland Filleighs' share of next years TAP Fund.

Councillors Circulation Received by the Councillors.

142. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday December 10th 2013, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10-06 pm.