

## SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday October 13th 2009 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

#### **Present:**

Chairman: Cllr R Johns. Cllrs: H Davis. G Slade. J Curtis. R Gliddon. J Dungate. R Clark. L Quance.  
County/Cllr B Parsons. Clerk: David Walker. 3 Members of the public.

#### **Agenda. 2009. Commenced at 7-30 pm**

##### **93. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr E Haste (Holiday.) Cllr P Lomax. (Prev Comm). D/Cllr Saywell (Holiday). PCSO Baker. (Off duty).

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

Cllr J Dungate declared a prejudicial interest in Planning item 99(a)(4) Change of Use at Waycott, Shebbear, and would leave the meeting while the application was discussed.

##### **95. Minutes of the Meeting held on September 8th 2009.** All were in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

##### **96. Clerks Report.. Any matters arising from the Minutes.**

- (1) Scout Group Finance. The Torrington Scout Group Treasurer has notified Clerk that the previously ring fenced funds were taken into the general fund after 2 years under the group rules. Recommended that the correspondence be retained and produced in the event that a Shebbear Scout Group were to be formed in the future, to support any application for funds. Retained by Parish Council. Mrs Ashdown informed.
- (2) Dog Fouling. Clerk had been in touch with Carl Cresswell , TDC Animal Welfare Officer, who had arranged visits by enforcement patrols. These had not identified any offenders and further random visits would be made. Fixed Penalty Warning notices had been put up in suitable locations and an article had been carried in the October issue of Reflecting Shebbear. With regard to the dog bin at the industrial estate, there have been no objections from TDC or Highways to its being moved to beside the main road. Clerk will contact Richard Haste at TDC to arrange the move and also to request that an extra bin be located at the top of Hay Hill. This will have to be paid for by the parish council and once the cost is known this will become a Finance item on a future agenda.
- (3) Hayes Cross Signpost. Highways have been asked to provide replacement arms for Shebbear and New Inn directions on the signpost.
- (4) Endford Water Gardens sign at Battledown has been taken down by Cllr Davis.
- (5) Grasscutting. Adrian Caudwell has carried out 2 cuts in the Square and 1 at New Inn, and will give The Square a final tidy up prior to Turning of the Stone if necessary.
- (6) Meadow Park roadside grass strip and the roadway in Meadow park have now been adopted, hopefully the grass will now be included in a cutting schedule.

##### **97. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.**

- (a) Parish Council computer. Due to the computer, monitor and mouse/keyboard being unused and obsolete and consequently of no value, all were in agreement that the equipment be taken to Recycling. Insurance cover will be amended accordingly. Clerk will continue to use his own machine.
- (b) Christmas Tree 2009. All were in agreement that Clerk should make suitable arrangements to obtain, erect and illuminate this years tree and ask for such voluntary assistance as may be required. Cllr Quance suggested that a larger tree than last year be obtained. As that would need more lights all agreed that Clerk use his judgement as to what may be required.
- (c) Update of Financial Regulations. All agreed that Cllrs Clark and Davis, together with Clerk, form a Working Group to modify the Model Regulations for the use of Shebbear Parish Council, and report back to full council for approval and adoption.

**97 (cont)**

(d) Repairs to Assets. The bus shelter and village sign have been treated with preservative. The war memorial and the stone trough have been tidied and planted with winter pansies. The streetlight bracket on The Lawns can be painted by Adrian Caudwell once he is given the go ahead. Chairman has 2 concrete drinking troughs that will be ideal for floral displays at the Shebbear name signs. Proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Curtis that 12 x 3m lengths of recycled plastic slats be purchased with which to repair the 2 seats in the Square, all agreed. The power has been reconnected to the phone box at Caute and Cllr Dungate will repair the light. Clerk had been unable to prepare a repair budget yet as the costings for the tasks were not ready. The work needed to reinforce the bus shelter with masonry was still being assessed.

**98. District Councillors report.**

In the absence of Mr Saywell Chairman welcomed County Cllr Barry Parsons who reported that TDC Chief Executive Mr van der Laarshott was leaving shortly to take up a new position at Stoke -on-Trent. As the Boundary Commission has yet to make a decision on the future of the regions local authorities the process of appointing a new Ch/Exec will have to be put on hold until the dust settles. On the subject of Highways, they are under a lot of pressure with funding being scrutinised. Meanwhile new works are being planned and smaller routine repairs are being carried out. Chairman commented that there was a lot of money being wasted locally by building up the verges with good topsoil when it would be better to lower the verges to allow the road surface to drain off. Barry said that he had raised the matter of the Lengthsmans duties at Committee level and he had Chaired the Torridge County Committee and invited any suggestions which could be taken forward. He was concerned to see that surveys have shown that Shebbear & Langtree residents were not satisfied with the performance of TDC and appealed for information as to why that was. He is aware the Highways and Recycling are always in the forefront of concerns and would like to know in more detail why. The Audit Commission records indicate that TDC is one of the best performing councils in the country not just in the region. Councillors reported that the road from Hayes Cross to Highworthy was probably the busiest stretch in the parish and was not being maintained to suit the amount and type of traffic as the edges were continually breaking up due to lorry movements over inadequate repairs and special attention was needed. Clerk reported that TDC were in the early stages of instigating the separate collection of food waste and a roadshow was planned in The Square on October 21st. Barry said that it was early days yet and that he had only just heard about it. Chairman thanked C/Cllr Parsons for his report.

**99. Planning.**

**(a) New Applications.**

- (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.
- (4) 0843/2009/FUL. Change of use of domestic garage/workshop and land, to workshop for servicing and minor repairs of vehicles and equipment. Way Cottage. New Inn, Shebbear.

**Cllr Dungate left the meeting room.**

Cllr Clark commented that the recent Appeal against the current Enforcement Action had resulted in the Inspector being unhappy with certain aspects of the activities at Way Cottage and had dismissed the Appeal, despite saying there was merit in small scale enterprises and being under the impression that there were no local repair facilities. All locals know there are numerous repair facilities already in the neighbourhood, the Inspector couldn't have done his homework. The Parish Council have already objected to this previously. Cllr Davis had looked at the application online and said that there was a lot of support for Mr Knight from satisfied customers but they were nearly all from places like Northam and Torrington. Cllr Clark observed that there was already land in the parish with B1 permission and it would be a better location for an activity like this to be on unused land on the trading estate. There is naturally sympathy for Mrs Knights health problems but the trading estate was not far to travel from Waycott. Cllr Gliddon said that the cost and the beaurocracy involved would make it unviable.

Chairman invited comments from members of the public present. A neighbour to Waycott said that she had never had cause to complain about the activities next door, and that Mr Knight did good prompt work, and in doing so took the pressure off C.S and Rosehill garages. Another neighbour said that Mr Knights activities did not interfere with them but he had gone about it the wrong way and should be paying business rates like everyone else. Cllr Gliddon commented that there were a lot of people avoiding paying business rates. Another nearby resident was worried it would "grow and grow".

**Planning (a)(4). cont**

A view was put forward that if Mr Knights activities were carried out at an acceptable level there would be less need for screening and keeping the big ugly gates and CCTV cameras currently in use.  
Chairman called for a vote on the issue which resulted in 3 votes against , and 4 votes for the proposal.  
Resolved - No Objections, provided Conditions were imposed in line with the misgivings expressed by the Planning Inspector in his Appeal decision of 11th May 2009.  
**Cllr Dungate rejoined the meeting.**

(b) Applications Granted.

(1) 0652/2009 and 0653/2009. Stainless steel chimney at West Pennicknold. Shebbear. Received.

(c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

**100. Finance.**

Accounts for payment items (a) to (e) inclusive. Proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Curtis with all in agreement, that these be paid.

Bank Balances Previously circulated and received by Councillors. Adjusted figures to allow for transfer of £5000 to reserve account from current account received by Cllrs.

**101. Correspondence.**

(a) BT. Clerk had queried with BT the fact that the nominal £1 for the purchase of the adopted kiosk at Caute had not been demanded and would that mean that legally the transaction was not complete. BT had replied that they were under the impression that the £1 had been paid and to forget about it as the transaction had been finalised.

(b) Village Hall & PF Committee request to be considered for grant in 2010.

(c) Rowden Chapel request to be considered for grant in 2010.

(d) Lake Chapel request to be considered for grant in 2010.

(e) (f) and (h) to Councillors Circulation folder.

(g) Holsworthy Area Advisory Group. No one was available to attend the meeting on the 5th of October.

**102. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday November 10th 2009, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.**

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-25 pm.