

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 13th 2015 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor R Clark.

Councillors: Vice Chairman E Haste. J Stupple. A Maidment. R Gliddon. G Quance. J Curtis (From 9-05pm).

County Councillor B Parsons. District Councillor D Hurley.

4 members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2015. Commenced at 7-38 pm.

Chairman R Clark opened the Meeting, and welcomed all present.

121. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor J Dungate (Away). Councillor K Dymond (Working). Councillor J Curtis (Working).

122. Public Participation Period.

No requests to speak received.

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

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial). None received.

(b) Registerable interests. None received.

Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None received.

124. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday September 8th 2015, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

All in favour that the draft Minutes of the September 8th Meeting be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

The TDC plan to compile a list of Emergency Evacuation of Casualties in the event of a major incident had been circulated to Councillors who recommended that the Village Hall would be the most suitable premises in Shebbear for this purpose. Clerk to refer the matter to the Village Hall Committee.

Chairman invited County Councillor Barry Parsons to present his report in order to allow him to leave early for another Meeting elsewhere.

Barry firstly informed Councillors that Devon Highways will be hosting a Parish Council Conference at Bradford and Cookbury village hall on Wednesday October 21st from 9-30am to 3-30pm.

Hospital beds. The campaign to persuade the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust to continue to provide community hospital beds in Holsworthy has been successful. The Mayor and Barry are grateful to all who supported our local hospital throughout this campaign.

Library Service. As a result of the extensive consultation last year on the value communities place on their local library DCC have approved the formation of a new Public Service Mutual to deliver the County's statutory library service obligation. This will come into effect on April 1st 2016.

Holsworthy Agri-business Centre. The official opening of the Agri-business Centre will be carried out by HRH The Princess Royal on Monday October 19th.

Barry is concerned about the future of small local schools, particularly Sutcombe Primary where only 15 of the 42 pupils in the catchment area attend the school. Barry believes that the children at the school are receiving a fine education and is supporting the School for the good health and well being of the youngsters.

7-51pm - Barry left the Meeting after being thanked by Chairman for his attendance and report.

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

Proposed by Councillor Quance, seconded by Councillor Stupple with all in favour, that Agenda Item 128(4), Vacancy for Parish Clerk (Applications), be dealt with in Part 2, closed session, of the Meeting.

127. Any urgent Agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.

All in favour that Item 130 (a) (1), new planning application number 1/0991/2015/FUL for 5 new dwellings at Balleroy Close, Shebbear should be dealt with at this point.

Councillor Haste felt that the small size of the proposed houses was ridiculous and that to site a communal rubbish enclosure next to an existing dwelling was not right.

Councillor Stupple said there were issues with privacy, electricity poles and the inevitable increase in traffic. Councillor Gliddon could foresee that due to the small size of the houses the children would be forced into tiny bedrooms.

Councillor Quance was concerned that, on a cramped site, there would be disturbance during building work, particularly affecting the public footpath across the site.

Councillor Clark said that Western Power had not yet been consulted.

Councillor Maidment predicted that parking will be a problem as the proposal is overdevelopment. Is the proposal necessary, bearing in mind the numbers in Shebbear already agreed in the Local Plan?

Councillor Clark spoke about the ratios of housing developments in the adjacent area, and by comparison the proposal was overcrowded. DCC Highways have also made comments about lack of parking space.

Councillor Haste said that the outline approval was for 2 houses, we ought to stick with that.

Councillor Clark also had issues with the existing footpath being shut in and may need to be lit. It would be intimidating for older people.

District Councillor Hurley commented that there were no dimensions given for the houses, but using the width of the stairs as a guide, the houses are literally rabbit hutches.

A member of the public present, who lives next to the site, was concerned about privacy, as the houses will overlook their bungalow, which is also right by where all the refuse will be accumulated, with associated noise and smell nuisances.

Councillors unanimously agreed that Shebbear Parish Council object to the proposal for the reasons of -

- Overdevelopment..
- Lack of parking provision.
- Loss of amenity space.
- No evidence of need (with reference to the Local Plan agreement).
- Relocated refuse store will be offensive for local residents.
- Problems relating to changes to the public footpath.

Clerk to respond to TDC accordingly.

128. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) *Review Standing Orders.*

To be carried over to the November Meeting.

(2) *Annual Fixed asset Inspection.*

The annual inspection had been carried out by Chairman and Clerk on September 28th. Updated list circulated to Councillors.

Councillors agreed that 3 new dog waste bins be purchased. 1 to be sited by the village hall entrance where the existing has been damaged. 1 to be sited outside Sheila's Folly, Rowden and 1 additional bin at the Trading Estate entrance. Clerk had checked prices and TDC represented best value for money as they include installation and emptying the additional bins.

Councillors recommended that the road gritter be given a check over in readiness for the winter. Clerk will contact Mr Chamberlain to arrange.

Chairman suggested that it would be useful if individual seats could be identified, either by numbering or possibly by memorial plaques. Parishioners could be given the opportunity to have a plaque of their choice on a seat. Reflecting Shebbear could publicise this.

(3) *Dispensations.*

Councillors present signed Dispensation requests, remainder to be done shortly.

(4) *Vacancy for Parish Clerk. (Applications).*

To Part 2 of the Meeting.

(5) *Dog bin for Rowden.*

See Item 128(2).

129. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley reported that the Consultation on the TDC Transformation Project had ended with only 60 replies having been received, most of them from Holsworthy Show where TDC had a stand giving out information. Staff at Bridge Buildings will engage with users of the services that the Customer Hub will provide to try to gain more feedback on what users expect from the new service.

Torbay are closing 2 of their 3 existing customer hub locations. There is currently a consultation in progress and it will be interesting to see what response they get.

TDC have appointed a part time Section 125 officer, Sue Pennington, who will liaise with landlords whose properties have fallen below acceptable standards of good repair, or suffer from neglect. In the first instance TDC can ask the landlord to bring the property up to acceptable standard, and, if not done within a reasonable time can appoint a contractor to do the work and pass the cost of the work to the landlord for payment.

DCC Highways are running a drop in conference at Bradford and Cookbury Village Hall on Wednesday 21st October which will give visitors the chance to hear the latest about the many aspects of Highways responsibilities.

Information has been released regarding the Social Housing stock in the Torridge area, it is interesting to see that Shebbear is second only to Winkleigh in the number of Social Houses it has.

Improvements at TDC Riverbank House are almost complete but the move from Bridge Buildings may be delayed as redesigns to the building at RBH are to be carried out.

David hoped that the Rural Roads Petition, instigated by Geoffrey Cox MP, will be well supported.

Clerk added that the petition had been available in Southview Stores and Beech House Surgery for the past couple of weeks and has attracted many signatures already.

130. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

- (1) **1/0991/2015/FUL.** 5 new dwellings. Land at Balleroy Close. Shebbear.

Dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

- (2) **1/1011/2015/FUL.** Two storey front extension, single storey rear extension, alterations and extensions to existing garage store and workshop and first floor rear extension. Coham Bridge House. Shebbear. All Agreed - No Objections.

- (3) **1/1023/2015/FUL.** Proposed garage. Resubmission relating to 1/0728/2015/FUL (See (c) below). All Agreed - No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted

- (1) **1/0577/2015/FUL.** Sheep Shelter. Field at North View. Shebbear. Received by Councillors.

- (2) **1/0343/2015/FUL.** Change of use from chapel to live/work, with single storey extension. Rowden Chapel. Received by Councillors.

(c) Applications Refused.

- (1) **1/0728/2015/FUL.** Single storey extension and garage. Mill Cottage. Ladford. Shebbear. Received by Councillors.

(d) Any relevant adjacent applications.

None.

131. Finance.

Approval of Items for payment.

- (1) DALC. Annual subscription. £197.41

- (2) Cumbria Clock Co. £156.00

- (3) Shebbear Village Hall. (H N Survey meetings). £33.00

Proposed Councillor Haste, seconded Councillor Stupple, with all in favour, that Items 131 (1)(2)(3) be paid.

Bank balances.

Current Account £9,889.97 Reserve Account £14,050.73. Received by Councillors.

2nd quarter to Sept 30th, balances and bank reconciliation circulated to Councillors with Agenda.

132. Correspondence.

(1) *Geoffrey Cox QC MP. Rural Roads petition.* Available for signing in Shop and Surgery.

(2) *TDC. Re Parish Councillor vacancy at Shebbear.* Vacancy now open for a co-opted candidate.

Recently received -

(3) *Holsworthy Rural Community Transport.* Request that HRCT be considered as a recipient of this years TAP Fund allocation (£871.00), or part of it. **Clerk** to enquire to what extent Shebbear residents use the service.

(4) *Devon Communities Together.* Information & Advice Surgery at Swimbridge. Oct 19th. (Circ).

Circulation

(1) Devon Wheels 2 Work. (2) Electoral Review of North Devon.

At this point County Councillor Parsons, District Councillor Hurley and the members of the public left the room.

9-10pm. Part 2. Closed session of the Meeting.

128. (4) Vacancy for Parish Clerk. (Applications).

One application had been received and Chairman opened the sealed envelope, in the presence of the applicant, from Mrs Mary Whatley of Vaddicott Corner, Caute, Shebbear.

After receiving Mrs Whatley's impressive CV and references and hearing her responses to interview conducted by Councillor Maidment, Councillors were unanimous that Mrs Whatley be offered the post of Parish Clerk and RFO. Mrs Whatley accepted the offer and all were in agreement that Mary take up the position with effect from November 1st. All were in favour also to the suggestion that the current Clerk remain in post for a 2 month period to ensure a smooth changeover.

133. Any Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday November 10th 2015 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

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