

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 7.30 pm.
in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Chairman: Councillor R Clark.

Councillors: Vice Chairman E Haste. J Stupple. A Maidment

J Curtis. K Dymond. N Whatley.

3 Members of Public – P Johns. V Duggan. D Tonkin.

D Cllr Hurley. Clerk M Whatley

AGENDA. 2016. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

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

112. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Gliddon (Family commitment).

Cllr Dungate (working)

C Cllr Parsons (committed elsewhere).

PCSO Melissa Baker (on leave).

113. Public Participation Period of 15 minutes. For speakers registered in advance, with the Clerk
None.

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

(a) Discloseable Pecuniary Interests (Prejudicial)

Cllr Haste declared a Pecuniary Interest in Backway Farm and Durpley Farm as his firm conducted business with them.

Cllr Dymond declared a Pecuniary Interest in Backway Farm and Durpley Farm as her family conducted farming business with them.

(b) Registerable Interests. None.

© Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

Cllr Maidment declared she no longer has an interest in Shebbear School as her child has left.

115. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th August 2016, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Maidment, Seconded Cllr Stupple, all in favour that the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

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

Plant Container outside the Village Hall

At the last meeting, it was suggested we place a plant container / trough on the area of grass to the right of the entrance to the Village Hall. Made enquiries with Westward Homes, formerly Tarka Homes, believed to be the owners only to be informed that when looking at the transfer of land from TDC in 2007, the area outside the hall was not included.

Devon Air Ambulance.

Dropped a line to DAA informing them how to access Church Field, and received a response to pass on their thanks to the farmer who gave us the information.

Planning.

Aishleigh, Shebbear. Responded to TDC that the new proposal is on the same footprint as the existing

conservatory and would be a visual improvement. Shebbear Parish Council support this application. North Worden Farm, Shebbear. Responded to TDC “No Objections”.

Wayleaves.

There is one telephone pole and one electric pole located on Council owned land in the Square and one of each in Back Lane. Have submitted Claims to both Open Reach and Western Power for two poles each.

Annual Return.

Notice received from Grant Thornton (Auditors) that the Annual Return has been certified.

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

None.

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

(1) New Plant Containers Hay Hill & Battledown.

Cllrs Curtis and Stupple have approached Kim Rumsam of the Cement Works about acquiring two larger containers / troughs for Hay Hill and Battledown. Mr Rumsam kindly agreed to donate two 4’ x 2’ troughs free of charge. Cllrs requested to seek a quotation for an 8’ trough to be sited outside the Village Hall.

Cllr Hurley confirmed that he and C Cllr Parsons would share the cost of the soil and plants as they had originally offered to finance purchase of the containers.

(2) Speed Watch at Shebbear

Chairman had received an email from PCSO Melissa Baker that the speedwatch is going ahead.

(3) Parking outside School Gates.

To be discussed at a later date.

(4) Green Wheelie Bins for Garden Compost.

Chairman reported there was talk of introducing a charge of £35.00 to empty these.

(5) Dog Fouling – Back Lane

Complaints received of dog fouling in Back Lane where a number of irresponsible dog owners who use the footpath, fail to pick up after their dogs. There are nine dog waste bins placed around the village so no excuse for this unsociable behavior. Parish Council has arranged for neighbourhood Officer, Mr Peter Dryland, to patrol.

(6) Diamond Jubilee Mugs.

Clerk reported the Council has in its possession a quantity of Diamond Jubilee mugs. Cllr Haste suggested we donate these to the Shebbear Lunch Club with the suggestion that some are offered for sale at the forthcoming MacMillan Cancer Support Tea Party. All in favour.

119. Any matter raised during the Public Participation period.

None.

120. D Councillors Report.

Chairman welcomed D Cllr Hurley to the Meeting.

Council Tax – Single Person Discount Review

Single Person Discount (SPD) may be claimed by households where only one adult Council Taxpayer resides. It reduces the annual Council tax bill by 25%. Like all Local Authorities, Torridge receives a significant number of applications for this discount, but some of these applications from residents are not genuine – meaning that those residents are falsely claiming the 25% reduction in their Council Tax. TDC has been working with the credit scoring company Equifax to identify households across Torridge that may be fraudulently claiming a Single Person Discount. Equifax have already identified 259 high risk properties in Torridge where a Single Person Discount is currently being claimed but where multiple accounts in joint and separate names are registered. These households were written to (Wed 17 Aug) and have been asked to provide details of all persons over the age of 18 who are either living at the property or have a financial link to the property.

Torridge Boundary Review.

Boundary Commission had stated they wanted each Ward Councillor to represent approximately 1600 residents +/-5%. This Ward is presently within these limits, but other Wards are not. To achieve the required Ward numbers a Task and Finish Group was set up, and a new Ward Map has been drawn up. The Boundary

Commission have proposed an alternative to this map and has opened a public consultation on its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for TDC. The consultation opens 6th September 2016 and closes on 31st October 2016. This interactive map can be viewed and comments submitted on their website at www.consultation.Igbc.org.uk and www.Igbc.org.uk

Empty Houses. There is a shortage of accommodation in Torrridge. One of the Council's contractors has been working through a list of properties thought to be empty, to note their current status, conditions, etc. Partly based on the findings of this research TDC officers across various departments are holding meetings to discuss empty properties in the area and how best to deal with them.

Speedwatch – I'm pleased it's going ahead.

Chairman thanked Cllr Hurley for his report.

121. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

(1) **1/0793/2016/FUL. Eastfield, Shebbear, Devon**

Conversion of Stable to Annexe.

Clerk to respond to TDC that Shebbear Parish Council support the application.

(2) **1/0795/2016/FUL. Brambley Barton, Shebbear Devon EX21 5HN.**

Removal of Condition 1 Agricultural Tie of Application 1/1146/1996.

The property had been given planning consent originally tied under an Agricultural Occupancy Condition. Being adjacent to Backway Farm which runs a dairy herd, cows are driven past either in the lane to the front of the property or on the track directly behind the house on a daily basis at certain times of the year. The members felt that the intensely rural nature of the location and its subjection to the inevitable side-effects of agriculture, i.e. mess and flies, rendered it unsaleable to anybody outside of agriculture as they would not put up with the difficulties and could make it impossible for the farmer to continue. Cllr Haste reported that precisely this situation had occurred a few years ago within the locality.

Peter Johns of Backway Farm was noted to be in the public gallery but had not registered with the Clerk to speak under the '3 minute rule'. Mr Johns was asked by the Chairman to confirm information only after the members had debated the matter and was also asked to confine his remarks to planning issues. He confirmed there was no water to Brambley Barton and no right to water from Backway Farm. It was his intention to increase his milking herd numbers in the future.

The farming members felt the report by Kivells significantly understated the current level of agricultural wages and salaries in this area. They were having to pay up to twice the Kivells figure for their own employees.

Members also considered that the promotion and marketing of Brambley Barton had not been done with sufficient vigour and enthusiasm to prove their case. If this had been a S106 home for local occupancy, the catchment area radius would have gone considerably wider than their marketing.

The members did not feel that a case had been established to lift the Tie. Clerk to respond to TDC that Shebbear Parish Council strongly oppose this application.

(3) **1/0779/2016/FUL. Dipper Mill Farm, Shebbear, EX21 5TA.**

Conversion of three agricultural buildings to dwellings under Class Q.

Clerk to respond to TDC that as a Council, Shebbear Parish Council does not approve of farm sheds for conversion. We support conversion of the stone barn. However, the other two buildings are steel frame agricultural buildings with asbestos roofs on pad foundations and Shebbear Parish Council recommends that TDC refuse planning on these.

(4) **1/0725/2016/FUL. Durpley Farm, Stibb Cross, Torrington, Devon.**

Construction of slurry store and reception pit.

Clerk to respond that Shebbear Parish Council supports this application, but are concerned that the Environment Agency appear not to have been consulted.

(b) Applications Granted

None.

(c) Applications Refused.

1/0596/2016/FUL. Land at Balleroy Close, Shebbear, Devon.

1 New Dwelling.

Received by the Councillors.

122. Finance.

Approval of Items for payment.

(a) Adrian Caudwell – Grass Cutting £216.00

(b) Information Commissioner Annual Registration Fee £35.00

Proposed by Cllr Dymond, Seconded Cllr Curtis that items (a) and (b) be paid. All in favour.

Bank Balances

Current Account: £7,042.94

Reserve Account: £14,056.59

123. Correspondence.

(1) PCSO Melissa Baker Police Report.

No Report.

Circulation.

Area Advisory Groups. Police Report 9th August. Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter. Parish Council Planning List 26/08/16.

124. Agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday October 11th 2016 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

125. Parish Lands Charity Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday October 11th 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Church Room. Reminder to Committee members.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

Dated.....