

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday November 13th 2007
in the Church Room, Shebbear.

Present: Chairman R.Johns. Cllrs: L.Quance. G.Slade. R.Clark. N.Jeffers. H.Davis.
R.Gliddon. E.Haste. District Cllr: A.Saywell.
6 members of the public.

Agenda.

356. Apologies for Absence. Cllr S.Hillier.(Illness.) Cllr P.Lomax.(Prev engagement.)
P.C.S.O. Baker. (Training.)

357. Declarations of Interest./ Any variations to members Register of Interests.

Cllr Haste, who's business involves livestock transport, wondered if he should declare an interest in connection with agenda item 360(b). As the matter originated from outside Shebbear and there was to be a meeting arranged between local councils, district agencies, and hauliers, not enough detail was known at this stage to say whether it would be necessary for Cllr Haste to declare.

358. The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday October 9th 2007, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed after the words "**Cllr Clark**" were deleted and replaced by "**It was**" in Minute 355, as Cllr Clark was concerned that the suggestion to site bollards was his alone and not a suggestion which originated in the Parish Plan. The Chairman took the opportunity to remind the meeting that Shebbear produced a Parish Plan in 2005 in which one chapter related to Traffic and Road Safety which was formulated using the results of a questionnaire which was used to obtain the opinions of the whole parish, independantly assessed by a lady in Cornwall, and it was from the public submissions that the proposal arose. It was therefore not right that the proposal originated from the Parish Council.

359. Any matters arising from the Minutes . In relation to Minute 350(c) Clerk reported that Mr Paulger had tidied the flower beds in the Square and the War Memorial, Mr Gist had refreshed the lettering on the memorial stone and cleaned the stone setts, and Mr Jenkinson and members of the British Legion had made repairs to the post and chain surrounds. Council are grateful for the above efforts which resulted in the memorial looking splendid for Remembrance Day.

Mr Quentin Clarke had inspected the young oak tree which is unfortunately dying, and in his opinion and that of an expert who he consulted, the tree has at sometime been partly ring barked by a strimmer which had allowed a fungal infection to attack the tree which he will remove and replace. Cllr Jeffers said that he had a 7 year old oak grown from an acorn from the original Tree in the Square which he offered to the council as a replacement. This offer was gratefully accepted by council.

360. Agenda items for discussion and resolution.

(a) Consideration of Road Safety suggestions in relation to narrow parts of the village street.

At this point, **7-41pm**, Chairman suspended the Meeting to allow a short period of public participation.

Keith Horwell, the shop proprietor, informed the meeting that a petition against the proposal which he had initiated with his customers had attracted over 380 signatures, the majority being those of local people. Clerk was now in possession of the petition. A quantity of e-mails submitted to the Shebbear website were also on display in the meeting. The overwhelming view expressed being of opposition to any scheme which would detract from the villages' character. Most respondents acknowledging that the village street was

narrow and potentially hazardous but not impossibly so provided drivers and pedestrians were careful and considerate. Comments from the floor referred to instances of vehicles being parked far away from the edge of the road causing hold-ups to passing traffic and suggestions that the hedge opposite the shop dwelling be cut back. There was even a view expressed that hold-ups were not necessarily a bad thing as it slowed the traffic down! As the public had made their views on the subject clear and that there was no obvious practical solution Chairman closed the public debate and at **7-46pm**, reconvened the council meeting.

(b) Consideration of complaints relating to Heavy Goods Vehicles using minor roads as alternative routes in Shebbear and neighbouring parishes. Buckland Filleigh, Merton and Petrockstowe have invited Shebbear to join with them to ascertain why so many large lorries are currently using narrow lanes through rural areas. Councillors were of the opinion that Shebbear did not currently have a serious problem in this respect, although recently cement lorries have started operating from Endford Engineering and were travelling through the village. It was felt important that early recognition of a hazard and an effort to prevent a serious accident was better than being sorry after the event, which was a failing of local authorities who only respond to situations often only after someone has been killed. Cllr Quance had spoken to local lorry drivers who were of the opinion that a lot of the problems were caused by visiting drivers who were seeking alternative routes around road closures using SatNav. The point was made that there are probably fewer lorries on the road now compared to years ago when there were several shops in the village taking deliveries. One factor which makes the problem more serious today is the size of modern lorries, but local businesses need transport to survive, milk tankers to farms and goods vehicles to Stapledon Yoghourt being two examples given. One of the main complaints related to clay lorries which did not directly affect Shebbear, although they had been noted around Farthinglands and Furse Cross on occasion. It is important to remember that these local industries provide much needed jobs.

(c) Website, making Parish Council Minutes and Agendas publicly available. Councillors agreed that minutes should be approved and signed as correct, and thereby become an official record before being made publicly available at the earliest opportunity.

(d) Christmas Tree Lights upgrade. Clerk reported that he had been in touch with 4 qualified electricians to obtain quotes for upgrading the tree lights. One was not interested, one was more inclined to improve the low voltage (24v) system, and the other two had promised quotes to upgrade the system to mains voltage. To date only one had supplied a quote of £106.00 + vat. It was agreed that, as time was becoming limited for getting the improvement done before Christmas that it be left to the Clerks discretion to move things along.

361. District Councillors report.

Mr Saywell reported that T.D.Councillors voted unanimously recently to share services with North Devon D.C. He stressed that it was not a merger as had been rumoured in some circles but confined to sharing certain services such as waste disposal and information technology. This would bring about efficiencies which will lead to savings for the tax payer. More details will be forthcoming when agreements have progressed further.

The Football Club/Shebbear College planning application for an all weather pitch and pavilion has been granted. Mr Saywell stressed that it was only an outline approval at this stage and that certain conditions had been attached such as the requirement that on pitch activities should cease and lighting switched off by 9pm, also stipulations concerning hedges and tree screening applied.

Mr Saywell noted that agenda item 364(f) referred to Galsworthy wind farm and said that although the proposed site was in Bulkworthy parish and outside his Ward, there would be

people affected of concern to him in the Newton St Petrock area so he will be keeping an eye on the developments which in all probability will not affect Shebbear. In any case the proposal was still in the early stages with an application yet to be lodged.

Cllr Clark added that, in relation to shared services between local councils, matters concerning The Standards Board would also be dealt with more locally.

362. Planning.

- (a) 1/1230/2007/FUL. To erect white PVCU conservatory at rear of property. Valley View. New Inn. Shebbear. For Mr & Mrs B.Avon. No Objections raised.
- (b) Applications Granted.
 - 1/1122/2007/FUL. Two storey extension at Farthinglands, Shebbear for Mrs Vanstone and Mr White.
 - 1/1071/2007/FUL. Erection of detached house and garage adjacent to Devonport House, Shebbear. For Wedbuild Ltd.
 - 1/0697/2007/OUT. All weather sports facility and pavilion opposite Shebbear College for Shebbear F.C.
- (c) Applications Refused.
 - 1/1108/2007/LBC with 1/1109/2007/FUL. Conversion of redundant barn to holiday cottage at West Pennicknold, Shebbear for Mr & Mrs Wells.
- (d) No relevant neighbouring applications to be considered.

363. Finance.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffers and seconded by Cllr Davis and all agreed that items (a) to (d) inclusive be paid.

(e) Chairman presented a bill from the Royal British Legion for the Council wreath for the sum of £15.00. As councillors felt that this amount had remained at that level for some years Cllr Haste proposed that the sum of £25.00 would be more appropriate, this was unanimously agreed to be paid.

Councillors received the bank account balances as at October 30th.

364. Correspondence.

- (a) Ruby Country Initiative. Councillors heard of the launch of Phase 3 of the R.C.I. with an invitation to a debate at Holsworthy Memorial Hall at 7-30pm on Wed 28th Nov when the guest speaker will be Prof Michael Winter.
- (b) Shebbear Village Hall & P/Field Comm thanks the parish council for local grant.
- (c) A.D.V.A. Councillors invited to a seminar relating to domestic violence and abuse.
- (d) P3 Christmas workshops for councillors at Swimbridge on Tues 4th Dec.
- (e) T.D.C. Local Development Framework. The Strategy Document was delivered on 17th Nov and councillors are asked to comment on the contents before mid Jan 2008 to ensure our local views are taken into account. (Circ)
- (f) Galsworthy Wind farm proposal dealt with in Dist/Cllrs report.(361)
- (g) Detox for Devon. A campaign to highlight the hazards of binge drinking.
- (h) P.C.S.O. Baker apologises for being unable to attend the meeting and her November newsletter was read to the meeting.
- (i) D.A.P.C. Nov/Dec newsletter. Circulated to councillors.
- (j) P3 Autumn newsletter. Circ.
- (k) S.W.Water- Review & Consultation. Circ for comments.
- (l) T.D.C. Recycling review. Circ and comments.
- (m) T.D.C. Planning Obligations Consultation. Circ for Cllrs info and suggestions.

365. Items for next meetings agenda on Tuesday December 11th 2007, and any other business at Chairmans discretion.

Cllr Slade reported that the bulb planting had been successfully completed at various locations around the parish by a team of volunteers.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9-07 pm.