

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday October 14th 2008 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present: Vice Chairman: S.Hillier. Cllrs: L.Quance. H.Davis. G.Slade. R.Gliddon. N.Jeffers.
E.Haste. P.Lomax. District Cllr A. Saywell.
Clerk: David Walker. 1 Member of the Public.

Before the commencement of official business a vote was taken from those present to select a permanent road name for the Midas development. From the suggestions put forward, Ackland Close received 7 votes, Broadland 4 votes, Saffron Park 2 votes and Kingdon Close no votes. Clerk will notify Midas and TDC Estates Officer that Ackland Close has been selected, with Broadland put forward as second choice in the event that one of the side roads require a name.

PCSO Melissa Baker attended and was invited to present her monthly report which included advice for elderly residents on the forthcoming Halloween Night. Posters are available for display at front doors should occupiers wish to decline the attentions of Trick or Treat visitors. The posters can be obtained at the shop. There had been one crime reported, a burglary to a stable at Ruxhill where a quantity of saddles, bridles and other equipment had been stolen during the night. The Police were asking for any relevant information to be passed on.

Agenda. 2008. Commenced at 7-46 pm, the Chair being taken by Vice Chairman Mrs S.Hillier.

Mrs Hillier began by paying tribute to Mr John Dart, who died a few days ago, and who gave many hours of faithful service to the community as a Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council.

81. Apologies for Absence.

Chairman R. Johns. (Previous engagement.) Cllr R.Clark. (Previous engagement.)

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

Cllr Hillier, Cllr Quance and Cllr Jeffers declared a prejudicial interest in a matter of Parish Lands Committee business which they hoped to report on later in the agenda.

83. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday September 9th 2008, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

84. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

Councillors received the items reported on the agenda, and no further matters were raised.

85. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

- (a) Turning of the Stone evening. Clerk reported that the Police do not operate road closures these days and to ask Highways was not thought to be an option as it was rumoured to be expensive. As the Devil Stone Inn were not inviting a band this year and the fact that Nov 5th was on a Wednesday it was thought that the event would not be so well patronised as last year.
- (b) B.T.Telephone kiosks at Rosehill and Caute. When setting the deadline for registering to adopt a kiosk by Oct 1st, BT had forgotten that applicants would first have to sign up with Western Power to take over the electricity supply (for the light in the kiosk). The deadline has been changed to Nov 1st and Clerk has sent off the required forms to WP and to date has heard nothing more and will have to make follow up enquiries.
- (c) Clerk reported that in the last few days correspondence had been received from DCC relating to Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 which came in to effect on 1st October 2008. This legislation is intended to remedy the shortcomings of the Commons Registration Act 1965 which did not ensure that the information obtained from 1965 onwards was kept up to date. There is to be a transitional period until 30th Sept 2010 when local authorities can apply to ensure that correct information is held on the Register. Clerk intends to make sure that the correct entries are registered in respect of the 4 green areas in The Square and queried with councillors whether it would be appropriate to defer the formal Commencement of Land Ownership Process until this was done.

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85(c) Cont...

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffers and seconded by Cllr Lomax with all in favour that Shebbear Parish Council commence the legal process of acquiring title to the 4 green areas of land in The Square for the benefit of the parish with immediate effect from October 14th 2008.

Clerk will also proceed with ensuring that the correct information is held on the Commons Register.

All were in agreement that the parish council would not commence any action in respect of Back Lane as it was already a registered footpath and could be maintained under the normal P3 processes. Any maintenance required for the top half, which is used by private properties for vehicular access, would be arranged in conjunction with the occupiers.

- (d) Clerk reported that he and Cllr Lomax had completed the fixed asset review. The main problems to report being the poor condition of 2 seats under the Oak Tree in The Square. Clerk to obtain quotes for replacement seats. The slow progress towards repairing the bus shelter was commented on and was apparently as a result of Mr Sluggett having to wait for oak beading to be prepared. Cllr Jeffers said that if there was any difficulty in obtaining oak he had a quantity available if required.

86. District Councillors Report.

Mr Saywell assured councillors that Torridge had no working capital or monetary reserves held in risky overseas investments. This, in reply to councillors concerns in relation to the current national financial crisis. Torridge have had the results of their inspection and have progressed from being a poor performing council to only 4 points short of excellent, which was considered a remarkable turnaround. In response to queries about the current progress of the Regional Spatial Strategy Mr Saywell will check up and let us know.

87. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

- (1) 1/0936/2008/FUL. Proposed extension at Grafton Portway, Shebbear for Mr S.Tucker.

No Objections.

- (2) 1/1046/2008/FUL. Ground Floor rear extension. South Close. Shebbear. For Mr M.Edge.

No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted

- (1) 1/0787/2008/FUL. Side Extension. 6Coronation Place. Shebbear.

- (2) 1/0895/2008/FUL. G/Purpose agricultural building. Berry Park Barn. Shebbear.

(c) Applications Withdrawn

- 1/0789/2008/FUL. Single storey extension. 8 St Michaels View. Shebbear.

- (d) There were no relevant adjacent applications.

- (e) Councillors received the contents of an e-mail from Mr M.Kingsland of Lake Farm, Shebbear detailing his objections to the proposed all weather hockey pitch between Lake Chapel and Way House. The main criticism being that the proposal had not been properly advertised nor accurately described, thereby denying objecting parties the opportunity to make their case, namely that the floodlighting and the location of the proposal would have a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties. After discussion councillors felt that the No Objections decision already returned to the Planning Officer was correct taking into account the general benefit that the scheme would have for the College and the wider community. Clerk was asked to write to the planning officer and ask that objectors concerns be considered in view of the rumours circulating that the proposed pitch was to be used for other purposes than just hockey and by outside bodies, which was not fairly described in the proposal.

88. Finance.

- (a) It was proposed by Cllr Jeffers and seconded by Cllr Haste, with all in agreement that Mr Paulgers bill for grasscutting be paid.

Councillors received revised bank account totals following transfer to reserve after 2nd precept receipt on Oct 10th. Current a/c £747.49. Reserve a/c £18,832.31.

88. Finance. (Cont)

Cllrs Hillier, Quance and Jeffers having earlier declared a prejudicial interest in a matter of Parish Lands business on which they are committee members briefly described a proposal to resurface St Michaels church path and renew the windows in the Church Room for which the Parish council would be asked for a contribution. It was agreed that the matter be considered at a later meeting when a precise costing had been done.

89. Correspondence.

(a) TDC. Advice re being prepared for problems of flooding and the suggestion that councils purchase, and hold in readiness, a supply of sandbags. Councillors felt there was insufficient parish risk to justify.

(b) Gt Torrington School. Final opportunity for any comments on the proposed change to Foundation Status to be made before November 14th next.

(d) Balfour Beatty. Closure of Hay Cross Hill. Jan 19th - 21st 2009 to repair leaking main. Councillors asked for more information.

(e) Shebbear Youth Project. Grace Millman, line manager for the project, had asked if the Parish Plan contained any survey information which might help the Youth Project identify any needs for local young people. Clerk had sent Mrs Millman a copy of the Plan.

(f) TDC. An effort is being made to ensure that all persons are aware of, and claim their entitlements to, Council Tax and Housing Benefit. TDC ask if local publications and notice boards could be used to get the message across.

Items (c)(g)(h)(i) and (j) to Councillors Circulation.

90. Items for next Meetings Agenda on Tuesday November 11th 2008, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Correspondence concerning The Sustainable Communities Act 2008, received after the agenda prepared to be included for next month.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-32 pm.

Signed..... Date.....