

## **SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday December 13th 2011 in the Church Room. Shebbear.**

#### **Present:**

Chairman: Cllr R Clark.

Cllrs: H Davis. P Lomax. M Wells. J Stupple. T Carr. E Haste. J Dungate. R Gliddon J Curtis.

PCSO Melissa Baker. 2 members of the public. Clerk. David Walker.

#### **Agenda. 2011. Commenced at 7-30 pm.**

In addition to welcoming all present to the Meeting, Chairman said that he had just heard of the death of Philip Jenkinson earlier in the day following a short illness. Philip was a much respected local figure and Royal Air Force war veteran, who will be greatly missed. Sympathies were extended to all his family and friends by Councillors.

#### **118. Apologies for Absence.**

None received.

**Chairman invited** PCSO Baker to give her report to the Meeting. Cllrs heard that it had been fairly quiet recently, with the most activity taking place in Holsworthy and Bideford. There has been a slight increase overall in reported crime across the County. Changes in staffing are continuing, but Melissa and Sandra are still covering the rural area as PCSOs, there is still no dedicated rural Constable as yet. Chairman asked if there was any possibility of this area being covered from Okehampton instead of Barnstaple. Melissa replied that, the Police radio coverage includes the Okehampton and Launceston areas meaning that this area receives good response backup to incidents already. There had been 2 crimes reported for Shebbear in the last month, Melissa could not give more details as they were domestic matters.

#### **119. Public Participation Period.**

No requests received.

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

Chairman R Clark (Shebbear Shooters) and Cllr P Lomax (Neighbourhood Watch) declared that as the organisations they were involved with were applying for grants (Item 126 (a) Finance), they had an interest and would leave the room while the grants were discussed.

#### **121. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday November 8th 2011.**

All in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record, after " There was also a discussion over the security of a questionnaire" added in line 8, page 2.

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

Snow Warden scheme. The towable gritter had been fetched from Tetcott by Cllr Gliddon, and was stored at Stoneleigh Farm ready for use. The salt had been ordered, 2 tonnes each for Warden Haste and Warden Quance, and 1 tonne for Warden McCurrach. In addition all the parish bins were topped up. In case further supplies were needed, which would have to be paid for by the parish, the cost would be about £100 per tonne in dumpy bags and £150 per tonne in 25kg bags.

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

(1) Grasscutting. The concerns raised related to the grassed areas in the Barn Close and Balleroy Close vicinity that had received inadequate attention this summer, some areas being cut and the mowings left in situ, other areas not cut at all. One problem being that some of the work is done by Tarka Housing and the rest by TDC, with each of them having their own way of dealing with the task. All agreed that this be looked at in the New Year to see if the parish council can improve the situation. In addition, the problem of moss on the pavement in Barn Close to be considered at the same time.

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**123 cont..**

(2) Questionnaire re wind turbines. All in agreement that the responses, received from the public by way of the comments from the public meeting and the questionnaire circulated in Reflecting Shebbear, formed the basis on which the parish council could formulate a Policy to be used when dealing with planning applications that affect Shebbear parish. The Policy should focus on distance, amenity and noise, and apply solely to wind turbines. Other renewables proposals to be considered on their different characteristics, solar panels for instance, seem to be looked upon more favourably than turbines, and in most cases do not require planning approval. Agreed, that a Working Party be formed to assemble the comments into an acceptable form. Ideally, the Working Party should comprise Cllrs and neutral members of the public to maintain an impartial approach, as it was acknowledged that not everyone is anti-turbines. It was realised that finding someone neutral would be difficult. Cllr Carr expressed his willingness to initiate the Working Party, identify the members, and form a framework document for final approval by full Council. This was agreed by all, with thanks to Tony. Items of correspondence received relating to turbines entered in Correspondence Circulation.

**124. District Councillors Report.**

In the absence of D/Cllr Lewis, who has had an operation, C/Cllr and TDC Leader Barry Parsons spoke to the Meeting. It is a fact that the Torridge area is a prime target for the location of wind turbines. As Leader of the District Council Barry will insist that our local communities will always be supported. Each planning application will be dealt with on its own merits. But there will have to be awareness that disputed decisions may go before the Inspectorate and thence to a Court, with the cost implications that may follow. Barry was grateful that Shebbear has enrolled into the Snow Warden scheme, and pleased to hear that we have collected our towable gritter. There is an ongoing appraisal of County and District finances looking for areas where economies can be made to assist with an already tight budget. The sharing of resources with other districts, namely Teignbridge, is not working out, although agreements with North Devon DC are taking shape. Problems within departments at TDC are being tackled. Barry also wished a speedy recovery to D/Cllr John Lewis after his operation.

**125. Planning.****(a) New Applications.**

(1) 1/0908/2011/FUL. Convert space over garage to studio flat for holiday letting. Berry House. Shebbear. For Mr Fraser Lynn. No Objections, a positive use of an existing building.

**(b) Applications Withdrawn.**

1/1052/2011/FUL. Installation of single wind turbine (46m to blade tip). Land at Shebbear College. For Shebbear College. Notification received by Cllrs.

**(c) Applications Granted.**

1/0899/2011/FUL. Demolish agricultural building and extend farmhouse. Southcombe Farm. Shebbear. Notification received by Cllrs.

**(d) Relevant adjacent applications.**

None.

**C/Cllr Parsons** left the Meeting. Chairman thanked Barry for his attendance and Seasonal Best Wishes were exchanged.

**126. Finance.**

**(a) To receive applications for grants from local organisations, and to agree grants payable in April/May 2012.**

**Chairman R Clark and Cllr P Lomax** left the room at this point, and Cllr Davis took temporary charge of the Meeting.

Letters had been received from 16 organisations asking to be considered for grants, with each being received by the Meeting. After debate the following grants were agreed:

Short Mat Bowlers - £100. Lake Chapel Graveyard - £100. Rowden Chapel Graveyard - £100.

Little Bears - £350. Shebbear Village Hall & PF - £1000. Shooters £50. Shebbear AFC £200.

Shebbear & B/Filleigh Historical Society - £100. Citizens Advice Bureau - £100.

Victim Support - £50. Neighbourhood Watch - £25. Crime Stoppers - £50.

These Section 137 local grants totalled **£2225.00** and **all agreed** that this amount be included in the budget considerations for the next financial year to March 31st 2013. Any request received too late for consideration, or one off requests for support, will be debated at a later Meeting, and paid as donations from the Parish Projects budget or Reserves, if approved.

**Chairman R Clark and Cllr P Lomax** rejoined the Meeting.

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**126 cont:** (b) Consider the suggestion that a laptop projector be purchased for parish use.

Cllrs concluded that the suggestion was worth taking further, as some local organisations already gave illustrated presentations when they were able to borrow the necessary equipment. If a projector was purchased and was made available on loan, possibly for a small fee, more organisations may be encouraged to use it. Clerk asked to obtain sample prices for the matter to be debated at the Meeting on January 10th.

(c) To approve the Budget for the financial year ending March 31st 2013, and set the Precept.

Clerk presented the figures for the current financial year to date and the estimated costs for the year to 2013. Two small overspends had been highlighted, £2 on the DALC subscription, and £18 on the War Memorial, the total of £20 to be drawn from the Christmas Tree budget which had not been used this year thanks to the tree being donated by the Friends of Shebbear College.

The fact that the sum of £1500, set aside for possible election costs this year, and was not spent, was taken into account when the budget for next year was set at £12221.00, representing a decrease on last years budget and Precept demand, while still allowing for any parish projects or grant requests.

Proposed by Cllr Lomax, seconded by Cllr Davis, with all in favour, that the budget be accepted and the Precept demand of £12,221.00 be sent to TDC.

(d) To approve accounts for payment

All agreed that items 126 (d) (1) and (2) be paid.

Bank Balances . (To November 30th). Current a/c £7,172.60. Reserve a/c £12,423.47 . (Includes P3 balance of £1,598.36).

**127. Correspondence.**

(1) SWH. Notification of road closure for patching, between Battledown X and Sedgewell X, Monday January 16th to Friday January 20th 2012. Received by Cllrs and placed on notice board and website.

(2) Marion Bevis. Re: Objection to wind turbines. To Circulation.

(3) B J Bevis. Re: Objection to wind turbines. To Circulation.

(4) The Information Commissioner. Complaint from Mr S Harrup. This letter, together with a similar complaint raised by Mr J Brock, were received by Cllrs. The complaint being that they had been denied access to the briefing note used in the meeting of June 14th 2011 (minute 61 (3) refers). At the time, this document was classed as internal only and was in informal style. A letter based on the information contained in the briefing note and in proper format was prepared by Clerk and sent to Mr Harrup on June 16th. Cllrs agreed that, as the content of both documents was virtually the same, there was no reason to justify withholding the briefing note. Clerk will deliver a copy to both complainants.

(5) Mike Wright. Renewable energy information. Received by Cllrs and placed in Circulation folder, together with recently received letters objecting to wind turbines, from Mr & Mrs Don & Gail Pearce and Mr & Mrs D Simpson.

Cllrs Circulation. Received by members.

**128. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda to be held on Tuesday January 10th 2012, and any other matters at the Chairmans discretion.**

Parish Projects. The Bus Shelter. Update to Parish Plan. Laptop projector.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10-55 pm.