

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday February 11th 2014 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: M A Wells. R Clark. T Carr. K Dymond. R Gliddon.

County Councillor B Parsons. District Councillor D Hurley.

4 Members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2014. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

Vice Chairman Councillor E Haste opened the Meeting, and welcomed all present. In particular welcomed new Councillor Kate Dymond who was present at her first Meeting, and had signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Meeting.

14. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor J Curtis (Family commitment). Councillor J Stupple (Family commitment).
Councillor J Dungate (Unwell). PCSO M Baker (Off duty).

15. Public Participation Period.

(1) Richard Tiner. *Planning application for 77m wind turbine at Badworthy Farm. Shebbear.*
Speaking on behalf of the Shebbear Parishes Protection Group Richard reminded Councillors that the policy agreed by the Parish Council must surely apply in respect to this application. The details contained within the application show that there would be serious adverse results, particularly in respect to the cumulative effect as two other large turbines have already been approved nearby. Persons living within 2 km will be badly affected, and now that 3 very large turbines have been approved at Dunsland Cross Shebbear will be sandwiched between 2 wind farms. Richard urged the Parish Council to object to the application when the item is discussed later in the Meeting.

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

- (a) Discloseable pecuniary interests. Councillor Wells stated that, in relation to Item 25(a)(1) a family member is a member of a campaign group. She herself will approach the matter with an open mind.
- (b) Registerable interests. None received.
- (c) Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None received.

17. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday January 14th 2014, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

All in favour, that the draft Minutes be approved and signed after the words "County Councillor Parsons asked that a Little Bears representative make contact with him regarding their request for a grant, as he would like to assist them with funding" be included in Item 11(1) Finance.

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

Clerk reported that the Councillor vacancy that had arisen following the resignation of Peter Lomax had been advertised since January 24th and the statutory notification period ends on February 13th. As agreed at the January Meeting Clerk had written to Kate Little at TDC to make known Councillors concerns that there did not appear to be a policy in place to deal with any fracking exploration applications that may be received in future. The resulting reply from Kate Little was read to the Meeting stating that Devon County Council as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority would deal with any applications and Torridge DC would be a consultee and would not determine any applications. Kate Little was to discuss the matter with DCC Chief Planner and other District Planning Heads shortly. Councillor Clark felt that Kate Little had missed the point.

County Councillor Parsons said that fracking had been focussed in the Local Plan and has to be dealt with as soon as possible, we have not seen anything about it from Planning. It has to be tackled now.

Councillor Clark commented that there had been a similar lack of a policy ahead of the wind turbine applications arriving.

County Councillor Parsons reported on other matters including that the DCC budget is not good news. There is only one third of the money available compared to 4 years ago. Highways will ensure that A and B roads will get priority, but we are afraid that we will suffer badly with our minor roads. There is not a lot that can be done without more Government support. It will be important that parish councils work together with the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, the Holsworthy Area Advisory Group, and the Torrington Local Community Partnership on these issues.

Councillor Wells enquired whether radon gas is ever discussed. Barry replied that it has been but not, as far as he is aware, formally.

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

Agreed - all items to be Part 1.

20. Any urgent agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.

None.

21. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) *Public access defibrillator installation.* Following the information received from Mike Darby at the January Meeting relating to the purchase, installation and insuring of a device in Shebbear village, Councillors had agreed that the matter be investigated and discussed further. Councillor Clark had sought the opinions of a number of persons with relevant experience who were mostly in favour of the devices with all agreeing that speed of treatment was the crucial factor. The latest devices are intelligent and failsafe in operation. There have been no reported cases of vandalism in the UK, and the British Heart Foundation recommend that they are not locked up at all. Mike Darby and his associates suggested purchasing a device and the Parish Council assuming ownership and providing insurance cover. Councillor Clark's enquiries revealed an alternative whereby a device could be rented from SW Ambulance Trust who provide full support for around £400 per annum. Councillors agreed that this suggestion had a number of advantages and should be taken forward. District Councillor Hurley said that he was greatly encouraged by what he had heard and felt that whichever scheme was finally adopted that it was better than none at all.

Agreed that Richard Clark, David Hurley and the Clerk should meet with Mike Darby to compare options with a view to agreeing a joint approach. To report back at the March Meeting.

8-20pm. County Councillor Parsons left the Meeting after being thanked by Chairman for his attendance and assistance.

(2) *To approve the adoption of the 2014 amended Code of Conduct, including alternative paragraph 21.*

All present in agreement that the new Code be adopted with the alternative paragraph 21 to be in force.

22. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley reported that a consultation was in progress relating to the Devon Waste Plan to 2031, (Councillors circulation refers). There is also a review being carried out into adult residential care in Devon. The new TDC Monitoring Officer is to be Jenny Wallace who will be officially appointed on April 10th, with the senior solicitor being Jamie Hollis.

Chairman thanked David for his attendance and input to the Meeting.

23. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

(1) *1/1138/2013/FUL Single wind turbine, 77m to blade tip, with associated infrastructure including crane hardstanding, access road, substation and temporary meteorological mast, with a micro-siting tolerance of 35m. Land near Badworthy Farm, Shebbear.*

The draft response drawn up by Councillor Carr which had been circulated to the Councillors before the Meeting was discussed. Chairman thanked Tony for the amount of work he had put in and queried whether it was necessary for the response to be so lengthy. Councillor Carr said that a shorter, bullet point document would be sent to the Planning Committee members nearer the decision time. Councillors commented on the close proximity of the proposed turbine to dwellings such as Langs Linhay and Little East Badworthy. Chairman raised the matter of the proposed community fund contribution of £3000 per annum. Councillor Clark suggested that it would be better for the fund to be received in one lump sum.

Also that it was not right that there was disparity between each supplier as to the fund offered for identical turbines.

Councillors agreed that the proposal would impose a significant negative impact on the parish and that the full response be sent to TDC Planners with strong objections to the application being approved.

(2) **1/0028/2014/FUL** Proposed 70kw solar array panels (4 x row of 23m in length). Shebbear College.

No objections received. All present in agreement that the application be supported.

- (b) Applications Granted. None received.
- (c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

24. Finance.

(1) Town and Parishes Fund.

All in favour of an application being submitted for the release of the current available Shebbear fund of £845, plus the sum of £152, being the agreed contribution from Buckland Filleigh Parish Council, with the intention being the purchase of public seating. Total £997.00

(2) Approval of items for payment.

Proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Dymond, with all in favour, that items, (a) Clerks wage, (b) P.A.Y.E, and (c) Reimburse Clerk for purchase of stationery, be paid.

Bank Balances to January 30th 2014.

Current account - £2,947.94 Reserve account - £14,038.39. Received by the Councillors.

(Current account balance includes - P3 Funds £1,497.36)

25. Correspondence.

(1) *Devon Waste Plan to 2031. (Pre submission consultation).* To Councillors Circulation

(2) *Victim Support. Appeal for funds.* For March Meeting agenda.

(3) *N Devon Record Office. Future of NDRO archives.* To Councillors Circulation.

Items received since agenda issued

(a) *Village Hall Committee. (Barry Hunt).* The Committee could not agree to the suggestions put forward by the Parish Council in respect to assistance with funding for Shebbear Youth Club, mainly because of the precedent that it might set with other organisations using the hall premises, also that the hall could not afford any reduction in its income.

(b) *Holsworthy Area Advisory Group.* Next Meeting April 7th 2014. (Circulation).

(c) *Police Information for February.* (To notice board).

(d) *DCC. Adult Residential Care Review.* (Circulation).

(e) *Information Commissioner.* Re complaint made by a parishioner that a request for information made in October 2012 under The Freedom Of Information Act, had not been complied with. The Commissioners decision dated 3rd February 2014 states that Shebbear Parish Council had met it's obligations under the Act and that no further action was required.

Councillors Circulation

Healthwatch Devon mag. CCD Empty Homes Toolkit for Councils.

26. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday March 11th 2014, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

Councillor Carr enquired when the Christmas tree was going to be removed from The Square as it is looking past it's best! Clerk had arranged for the removal some time ago but the weather and pressure of work has disrupted plans. It will hopefully be gone shortly.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-42pm.