

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday June 9th 2009 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present: Chairman: R Johns. Cllrs: H Davis. G Slade. P Lomax. R Clark.
District Cllr: A Saywell. Clerk: David Walker.
2 Members of the Public.

Agenda. 2009. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

52. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr L. Quance. (Delayed due to family illness.) Cllr E. Haste.(Business Commitments.) PCSO M.Baker.

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

None.

54. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday May 12th 2009, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed after an addition had been made to Minute 50(1) that the 2 vacancies that had arisen as a result of the resignations of S. Hillier & N.Jeffers were to be filled by co-option, there having been no call for an election during the statutory period. It had been agreed that Clerk would advertise the vacancies on the notice board and the website and also ask Reflecting Shebbear magazine to carry an article.

55. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

The visit of the Lengthsman in July is an opportunity to have any outstanding defects attended to and the list already includes Pitt Hill and the strip alongside Meadow Park. Verge trimming has got under way earlier this year and hopefully the obscured vision at many junctions and bends will soon be improved. Mention was made of the number of potholes, which isn't the lengthsman's job to repair although he does report any that he considers need attention.

Cllr Quance entered the meeting room.

56. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(a) S.M.C. at Endford. Cllrs heard the contents of a letter from Mr McCurrach of Rigby's Hay. While welcoming any extra employment brought to the village there are problems with dust and noise during extended working hours, particularly at weekends said the writer. He personally is only affected by dust when the wind blows from the North but he is sure that the whole village population must be at risk from dust borne on the prevailing wind. As works of this type are usually located downwind of centres of population Mr McCurrach wonders if the local authority could relocate this one. Clerk summarised the contents, and the responses made by SMC in their permit application.

There is very little dust released to air during the manufacturing process. Some cement dust gathers on the ground and may blow about when it is windy. To date no risk assessments have been carried out on site as it is considered a low risk operation. The site supervisor carries out weekly checks to correct any problems. The site is enclosed by walls and sheds and screened by conifer hedges which reduce noise and dust which may affect neighbouring properties. The yard is regularly scraped when wet and is swept with a sweeper on the fork lift. Consequently there is little effect on the local environment. Comments from neighbours indicate that ground dust is the main problem, particularly when blow-down exhausts on vehicles send up large clouds of dust, which then blows across the road towards dwellings. In response to the observation that the works had been operating for over 40 years without major problems, before a lot of the houses and bungalows had been built, it was pointed out that the regulations governing the control of emissions were introduced in their current form in 2007, and when an operating permit has been issued the local authority is under legal obligation to monitor sites and apply government guidelines to regulate the operation. Now a permit has been applied for it is in the hands of Torridge DC. Having heard from all sides Cllrs felt that regular and frequent use of an industrial vacuum cleaner would go a long way towards solving the problem. The business has been rapidly expanded recently and the proprietor has been concentrating on that, perhaps now that the matter of dust and noise has been brought to his attention he will ensure that more attention is paid to the problem and thereby avoid the full impact of legislation. Clerk will write to TDC setting out the views of the Parish Council.

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56. cont...

- (b) Applications for 2 Councillor vacancies. Proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Quance with all in agreement that the 3 applications received should be considered as confidential business and heard in closed session after the main agenda.
- (c) All in agreement that the 2009 Audit Return be signed by Chairman and Clerk/RFO as approved.
- (d) Norwich Union Insurance. New provider Policy and Schedule received by Cllrs.

57. District Councillors Report.

Mr Saywell reminded Cllrs that the planning application for floodlights at the new sports pitch at Lake was to be considered by the planning committee on June 11th and that parish councillors were now allowed to attend and make representations. He understood that the application had been recommended for approval. Enquiries to establish the current situation regarding affordable housing in the village were still being made. The Appeal against enforcement action at Waycott, New Inn, has resulted in a refusal to allow the property to be used as a vehicle and machinery repair premises and the enforcement action is to continue, although Mr Knight has been given 4 months, instead of the original 2 months, in which to comply with the Inspectors recommendations, and to consider his way forward. This may result in a planning application. The Inspectors decision was based on the facts that the activities involved have a detrimental effect on the local rural environment, and also that it was likely that activities would increase in the future.

58. Planning.

- (a) New Applications. None received this month.
- (b) Applications Granted. Received by Councillors.
- (c) No relevant adjacent applications received.

59. Finance.

- (a) Proposed by Cllr Quance and seconded by Cllr Lomax with all in agreement, that a payment to Rowden Chapel for the upkeep of the graveyard to the amount of £100 be paid. Also that the payment for grasscutting (£95.00) to Mr Paulger and the Wayleave payment to Dr Miller (£1.00), as well as a payment for a training booking (£25.00) to DAPC, lately received, be paid.

Bank balances received by Councillors.

60. Correspondence.

Letters of appreciation for local grants from:

- (a) Lake Methodist Chapel.
 - (b) Torridge & Bude C.A.B.
 - (d) Little Bears Pre-School.
 - (e) Shebbear Village Hall & PF Committee, also Shebbear Short Mat Bowling Club and Shebbear and Buckland Filleigh Historical Society, were all read to the meeting.
 - (c) Gt Torrington Town Council reports that the earlier notification that the Minor Injury Unit in Torrington was to close, has been reversed as a result of local opposition.
- Village Green Magazine circulated to Cllrs.

61. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday July 14th 2009, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

A suggestion that the village sign and the bus shelter were in need of a coat of preservative is to be debated next month, in the meantime Mrs Hillier will be asked if there was any treatment left over from the last occasion the job was done.

Cllr Clark mentioned, for the record, that he had gone to Bideford on May 21st (Min 50(4) refers) and found that the meeting had been cancelled without warning.

Clerk has heard from Midas Homes, who are offering to transfer ownership of The Green in Ackland Close to the parish council. To be debated next month during which time Cllrs can visit the site in question and consider the implications.

Cllr Lomax suggested and all agreed, that the Village Hall Committee and all involved, be commended for the resounding success of the D Day Nostalgia Exhibition and the 1940's evening held on the 6th June.

Part 2.

8-58pm. Min 56 (b).

Members of the public left the meeting and Business continued in Closed Session to elect Co-opted Councillors to fill the 2 current vacancies. 3 applications had been received, from Mr John Dungate of Welcome Hill, New Inn, Shebbear, Mrs Marilyn Pearce of The Linhay, Ruxhill, Shebbear, and Mrs Joan Curtis of Tis fair, BarnClose, Shebbear. After some debate it was agreed that a vote be taken which resulted in Mr Dungate and Mrs Curtis being elected to serve as co-opted councillors on Shebbear Parish Council. Clerk will arrange for the new members to sign Acceptance of Office and Registration of Interests forms in advance of their first meeting. Also to thank Mrs Pearce for her application, which was much appreciated.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-20 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....