

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday November 8th 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.

11 members of the public. Clerk. David Walker.

Agenda. 2011. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

107. Apologies for Absence.

None received.

108. Public Participation Period.

No requests received.

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

Cllr Davis declared a personal interest in Item 112(1), Wind Turbines Meeting, a family member is an active campaigner.

Cllr Wells declared a personal interest in item 112(1), Wind Turbines Meeting, as a family member has recently joined a campaigning group.

110. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 11th 2011.

All in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

In addition, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on October 18th relating to wind turbines, were approved and signed, with all in agreement, as a correct record, after "Mrs Osborne also expressed concern about the proximity of the village school", was included at the end of Item 2.

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

Clerk suggested that, with Cllrs approval, we should sign up to the Public Sector Mapping Agreement which is made available by Ordnance Survey, and allows free access to OS data for use in Council projects. All in agreement that this would be of benefit. Clerk will action.

With the approach of Christmas, Clerk will be arranging the siting and decoration of a tree for The Square which has met with approval in previous years. All in agreement this be continued this year.

112. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Public Meeting re Proposed wind turbines.

The Council Meeting open to the public held on October 18th in the village hall on the subject of wind turbines was reviewed by Cllrs who were all of the opinion that it was well attended, conducted in a civilised and comprehensive manner, and gave those in attendance the opportunity to hear a range of information across the board. It was noted that there was considerable focus on Shebbear College. The suggestion of a site visit to an operational turbine, which proved popular from the comments received, is to be arranged. There was support for the suggestion that the parish council should form an approved policy for dealing with any applications in advance of them being received. This led to consideration of the issue of distances from turbines to the nearest dwellings, and the fact that there was no clear, defined figure laid down. There was a substantial majority indication from the meeting feedback that 1 mile was an appropriate distance, against the figure of 600 metres suggested in official circles although even that figure may be open to adjustment. Chairman had drawn up some example charts to illustrate the coverage of a series of 600m, 500m and 400m circles centred on a spread of habitations throughout the parish which indicated that there were very few sites where a turbine could be sited if those distance criteria were to be enforced.

112. (Cont)

Chairman emphasised that the charts were not official documents, but produced purely for illustration purposes for the parish council and reminded members that HM Government was encouraging district councils to approve turbine applications unless there were good grounds for refusal.

With reference to the calls for a parish referendum on the matter, Cllrs felt that the public should have their say. All were agreed that the easiest and fairest way to achieve this would be via Reflecting Shebbear magazine which could carry a questionnaire, in the December issue, returnable by way of a collection point to be arranged. The main drawback with a referendum being the difficulty of deciding the question to be asked. There was also a discussion over the security of a questionnaire.

The importance of anonymity being maintained in the procedure was stressed by Cllrs.

Two letters objecting to turbines were received in summary by Cllrs, the original letters placed in the November information folder for Cllrs to read at their convenience, together with a technical account of the operation of community turbines received from Infinergy.

(At the end of this item all but one, of the members of the public originally present, left the Meeting).

(2) Parish Website.

Since the last meeting when it had been suggested that a person to help Paul Watts to administer the Villages website be found, no one had been identified. All were agreed that a more proactive approach would be for Paul to write a short article for insertion in the December issue of Reflecting Shebbear.

(3) Snow Wardens/Winter preparations.

Cllrs received the news that the 3 volunteers for Snow Warden duties, Ted Haste, Graeme Quance and Robert McCurrach, had received a package by email from DCC, consisting of instructions and advice literature relating to Snow Warden operations. DCC had decided that it would be acceptable for Wardens to have read the literature to be considered as satisfactorily trained. All that would be required thereafter would be for volunteers to sign and register themselves, and give instructions for the delivery of the salt required. Cllrs were concerned that, should an incident occur resulting in any liability, a keen lawyer would have a field day making a case for inadequate training. Agreed that Clerk should obtain, from DCC, a written assurance that they were satisfied that their training method met the requirements of the insurance cover they are instigating in connection with the scheme. This to be done before Volunteers sign up.

A message was received from Milton Damerel parish council asking if it would be possible for gritting to Gidcott Bridge to be continued as far as Gidcott Cross to help MD residents to access Shebbear facilities. All in favour of this provided MD salt was used for the job. Cllrs added that this mustn't set a precedent for Shebbear Wardens to be expected to be gritting in other neighbouring parishes.

All agreed that the quantity of salt to be ordered from DCC was to be 2 one tonne dumpy bags and 3 tonnes of 25kg bags, also that Clerk enquire what the price of further supplies would be if more was needed.

(4) TorrAGE. Neighbourhood Links.

Cllrs received an appeal from the TorrAGE project, for volunteers to join the team being assembled to deliver emergency supplies and prescriptions to elderly residents in bad weather conditions. The scheme is run by TTVS in Bideford and supported by the National Lottery, and is particularly keen to recruit in the rural areas. Chairman suggested a feature in Reflecting Shebbear would be appropriate.

113. District Councillors Report.

No report this month.

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

1/0927/2011/LBC. Replacement windows. Little Worden Farm. Shebbear. For Mrs Jane Foulkes.
No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted.

None.

(c) Applications Withdrawn. None (d) Relevant adjacent applications. None.

115. Finance.

(a) To approve items for payment.

Proposed Cllr Haste, seconded Cllr Davis, with all in favour, that item numbers (1) to (4) inclusive be paid. In addition, all agreed that the payment for the Remembrance Day wreath be paid this month, £17.00 rounded up to £25.00 by way of a donation to the Poppy fund.

Cllrs also agreed that a letter of thanks, with a bunch of flowers, should be sent to Mr & Mrs Wyard for arranging the refreshments at the council meeting on October 18th in the village hall.

(b) Support for village hall playground initiative.

The hall committee is currently assembling finance to fund improvements to the playground equipment, and has access to £16,000 of Section 106 money held by TDC resulting from the Midas Homes development. As this is slightly less than the amount required to fund the first phase of the project, ways of raising the remainder are under discussion. Cllrs decided to await the results of the VHMC meeting on November 17th before further consideration.

Bank Balances to Oct 28th, Current a/c - £7,498.20 Reserve a/c £12,523.47
(Reserve includes P3 balance of £1598.36).

116. Correspondence.

(1) Mike Wright of Way House has offered his technical expertise in relation to wind turbine noise emissions to ensure that the village and parish have the best possible advice when dealing with the anticipated planning applications. Letter to Circulation Folder.

(2) Mr & Mrs Wonnacott. Expressing their objection to wind turbines. Letter to Circulation Folder.

(3) TDC 2012/13 Budget and draft Strategic Plan questionnaire. To be completed by Chairman and 2 Cllrs.

(4) Jenny Fish. Suggestion for a local walking group. Received by Cllrs.

Cllrs Circulation. Received by members, plus recently arrived (1) Letter from Mrs Bevis, Barn Park.

(2) Victim Support grant request. (3) DALC newsletter. (4) Parish matters mag. (5) DCC Winter Precautions.

117. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda to be held on Tuesday December 13th 2011, and any other matters at the Chairmans discretion.

Budget 2012/2013. Local grants for 2012. Review grasscutting.

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