

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday November 13th 2012 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Clark.

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

C/Councillor Barry Parsons. 12 members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

Agenda. 2012. Commenced at 7- 32 pm.

114. Apologies for Absence. None received.

115. Public Participation Period.

(1) Mr Kim Rumsam. (West Country Concrete Ltd, Endford). In response to enquiries about the future plans for the Company Mr Rumsam told the Meeting that WCC has expanded considerably and is affected by lack of space. They are doing their best to work with TDC with regard to complaints about noise and dust. They are also actively liaising with TDC with a view to relocating to a site more suitable for the increasing workload, so there would be the possibility the site could be sold for housing if planning was approved. Contrary to the rumour that WCC was not a local employer, of the 13 employees, 4 are from Shebbear, 7 from the local area including Bude and Bideford, and 2 from S Molton.

(2) Mr Peregrine Mears of Mears (Architects) Barnstaple, spoke in support of West Country Concrete Ltd and described the projected plans as logical, given the problems being experienced on the present site.

(3) Tessa Osborne for Shebbear Parishes Protection Group informed the Meeting that the Groups 167 members are against the industrialisation of the area and that there is concern over the fact that the size of the proposed wind turbine at Battledown Farm has been increased since the screening application was completed. The application contains many inaccuracies, the turbine will be made abroad and will be of no benefit to the area. There will be a negative impact on tourism, particularly Buckland House, through loss of trade. The performance of TDC Planning has already attracted votes of no confidence from other parishes and SPPG urges Shebbear Parish Council to vote in similar fashion.

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

(a) Discloseable Pecuniary Interests.

Councillor Dungate declared an interest (Item 123/3) as he is presently employed at E C Haste & Sons.

(b) Registerable Interests.

Councillor Haste. (Item 123/3). A family member involved.

Councillor Wells. (Item 121/a/1). A family member belongs to a campaign group.

Councillor Davis. (Item 121/a/1). A family member belongs to a campaign group.

Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None received.

117. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 9th 2012.

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

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

No matters reported.

119. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Minute 283 of 2007. Voice recording of Meetings.

Chairman reviewed the consent given by the Council in March 2007 for the Clerk to use a voice recorder as a memory aid when drafting Meeting Minutes, on the condition that the recording was not to be used for any other purpose and was erased immediately it was no longer required. Chairman said that he personally was not at that Meeting in 2007 but Councillor Curtis, who was present, confirmed that those facts were correct. As the question of whether the practice should be continued was to be decided, it was suggested that there might be occasions when it might be useful if a record was kept. A different view was put forward that if, as

has been the traditional case, that an accurate and approved set of Minutes are available that is all that would be necessary. Clerk said that he was happy to dispense with the use of a recorder and would not be in favour of a recording being available as he could foresee that, with the legislation currently in place, he would be obliged to create and supply possibly many copies once the option became publicised, and he did not have the time, or the equipment, for extra duties of that nature. Councillors said that the Clerk requested to use the recorder in the first place, and if he was happy to do without it then there would be no problem with that.

Proposed by Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Wells, with all in favour, that the practice be discontinued, and that the Council reserve the right to use a recorder should the need arise, the situation to be reviewed in 6 months time and the legal situation clarified in the interim.

(2) Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and the granting of Dispensations.

Councillors discussed the effects of the recently adopted (July 10th 2012) Code of Conduct, on Standing Orders, and the situation that had arisen whereby the new legislation had effectively barred members from participating and agreeing a Precept. All in Agreement that Members follow the procedure recommended by the District Council solicitor whereby the Parish Council Proper Officer (the Clerk) is authorised to issue dispensations to Councillors to allow them to participate and vote in the precept setting procedure .

All Councillors then signed requests for a dispensation, valid with immediate effect, and for the duration of the electoral period to May 2015. Any new Councillors appointed in the same period to be required to make a similar request.

120. District Councillors Report.

D/Cllr Lewis not in attendance. **County Councillor and TDC Leader Barry Parsons**, who was in attendance, invited by Chairman to speak instead.

Barry reported that this was a difficult time for TDC, he is very concerned over votes of no confidence that have been expressed, and was not happy with the situation that existed when he took over as Leader. Since then new staff including David Green are tackling the problems and aiming for improvements. Barry assured those present that he was very aware of the problems surrounding wind turbine proposals, he has a planned development near his home address.

Tessa Osborne, from the public area, was permitted to make a brief point to Barry, and said that it was apparent that public opinion was of no consequence to TDC planners during the decision making process.

Barry's reply was that Torridge is struggling to cope against the constraints of legislation and the inadequate funding received from central government.

On a change of topic, Chairman asked Barry if the decision to fix the Banding for next years Council Tax could be made as soon as possible ahead of the setting of precepts.

Chairman then thanked Barry for his attendance and report.

121. Planning.

(a) New applications.

(1) **1/0831/2012/FUL. Erection of single wind turbine (maximum height to blade tip 77 m), formation of new vehicular access track, and associated infrastructure. Land at Battledown Farm, Shebbear. (Turbine site in Buckland Filleigh parish). For Murex Energy Ltd. Mell's Park. Mell's. BA11 3QB.**

Councillor Carr reported that he had finished the draft response that day but as there were some consultee comments still to arrive on the website it may be necessary to make adjustments. The response is due in to TDC by Nov 23rd.

Chairman said that in the past lengthy responses have been condensed down to just "Objection" by TDC. Councillor Carr suggested that a copy of our response, in précis form, be given to individual planning committee members before the planning meeting so that they have fuller details of our objections and criticisms. Planning Officer Barry Connolly has agreed that this would be acceptable. We have also concentrated more on the important issues - noise, visual effects and the close proximity to populations in both parishes.

Councillor Davis commented that developers noise assessments contained serious flaws and were thus totally unacceptable.

Councillor Wells suggested that, in addition to the recommended responses to TDC, that we should make Geoffrey Cox aware of the impact these turbines are going to have on our parishes and ask for his support.

Agreed that the modified response procedures, as suggested, be sent, through the Parish Clerk, to TDC Planners. Also a letter sent to Geoffrey Cox requesting his support.

8-38 pm. C/Councillor Parsons left the Meeting.

(2) *1/0859/2012/FUL. Proposed covered yard. Battledown Farm. Shebbear. For Mr R Dymond.*
Councillors all in favour of supporting this application which was seen to be a necessary improvement to the existing farm building complex, with the intention to separate dung from rainwater to reduce the potential for pollution.

(b) Applications Granted.

1/0885/2012/AGR. Agricultural storage building. Allacott Farm. Shebbear. Received by Councillors.

(c) Any relevant adjacent applications. None.

122. Finance.

(1) Approval of accounts for payment.

All in Favour that the 3 items listed should be paid

Bank Balances to October 30th 2012.

Received by Councillors.

123. Correspondence.

(1) *TDC Changes to the Planning Service - Systems Review 2012.*

The proposed changes are that correspondence would in future be by email in the interests of efficiency. Councillors felt that the idea had merits but were in agreement that some items, such as photo montages and A1 copies in planning applications, were too large for emailing and that the Council should have the option to request that these items be sent through the Post. **Clerk to reply accordingly.**

(2) *SW Highways. Road closure Monday Dec 3rd to 7th. Torridge Bridge to Village Hall. Black Torrington.*
Received by Councillors and publicised on notice board and parishes website.

(3) *Correspondence from Mr Harrup. (Previously circulated to Councillors).*

Letter read to the Meeting. Councillors pointed out that the subject of voice recording of Meetings had been discussed earlier, (Min 119/1). No other comments made.

(4) *New information signs at Shebbear College.*

A local resident had suggested that the new signs that have recently been erected around the College site were too large and too many in number, and was it likely that planning permission would have been needed beforehand. **Councillor Davis** was to visit the College on another matter and agreed to discuss the concerns about the signs and report back.

(5) *Correspondence from Mr J Brock. (Previously circulated to Councillors).*

Emails and related letter read to the Meeting. Queries raised in relation to the recording of Meetings had been discussed earlier. Clarifications requested by Mr Brock made by Chairman and Clerk.

Councillors Circulation. P3 Autumn Newsletter. Holsworthy Area Advisory Group. Parish Matters Magazine. TDC Emergency Planning Information re Flooding.

124. Items for the Council Meeting Agenda to be held on Tuesday December 11th 2012, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairmans discretion.

Councillor Wells requested advice on how best to proceed with a complaint that she had received from a parishioner concerning an allegation that work had started on a building after planning permission had been refused for the project.

All agreed that, if the identity of the informant was known, that he/she should be advised that the allegation should be made in writing, as word of mouth can be misconstrued.

Standing water in the road outside Arden House and slippage of the bank opposite following the recent heavy rain, which has added to the problem, brought to the attention of Councillors. **Clerk** to report to DCC Highways.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-55pm.