

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday October 9th 2007 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present: Chairman R. Johns. Cllrs: S.Hillier. L.Quance. E.Haste. N.Jeffers. G.Slade. P.Lomax.
R.Clark. R.Gliddon. H.Davis.
7 members of the public.

Agenda.

- 347. Apologies for Absence.** D/Cllr A.Saywell. (Away.) PCSO.Baker. (Training.)
- 348. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda./Any Registrations of Interest.**
Signed Declaration and Registration forms complying with the new Code of Conduct were handed in by councillors.
- 349. The Minutes of the Meeting** which was held on Tuesday September 11th 2007, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed after the word "clarified" was substituted by the word "explored" in Minute 341(a). Also a letter from Mr & Mrs McNab, of 4 College Rd, Shebbear, which expressed their disappointment that Minute 341(a) did not fully convey their misgivings about the proposed new football pitches at Shebbear College, was read to the Meeting and a copy attached to the Minutes.
The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday September 27th 2007, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed.
- 350. Agenda items for discussion and any matters arising from the Minutes.**
- (a) Shebbear Youth Project. Chairman Adjourned the Meeting at 7-40 pm to allow the Youth Leader Liz Prangle and Josh Warren, to outline their proposal to contribute to the national youth event "Slum Survivor" which would involve themselves and about 10 others setting up shelters built of wood, cardboard and plastic sheeting in which they would live for 3 days and 2 nights over the half term weekend on October 26th to 28th next, the intention being to simulate the conditions that approximately one sixth of the world population are forced to endure in their normal lives. It was hoped that they would be permitted to use a prominent site in The Square preferably the green outside Vicarage Cottages. Councillors were all in favour of the proposal on condition that the residents involved were consulted and their peace and quiet not compromised. It was suggested that if any members of the public were interested they could be invited to share the hardships!
The Meeting was brought back into session at 7-53 pm
- (b) Parish Council Website. Cllr Davis suggested that, as a lot of councils had very successful websites, it might be an idea for Shebbear parish council to have one of their own for the purpose of circulating material. As the suggestion had been made a year or so ago and dismissed on the grounds of cost, it was proposed that Mr Watts, who was in favour of the idea, be asked about the possibility of providing a linked page on the Village Website. Clerk will follow up and report.
- (c) Improvements in the Square. A letter from Mr Harvey Paulger was read to council. Mr Paulger offered to carry out much needed tidying work to the War Memorial and the flower bed by the Stone at minimal cost in return for a suggested budget of £30 to cover the cost of new plants, compost etc. This was approved by all councillors.
It was also recommended that R.Gist & Son be asked to repair the lettering on the Memorial stone. Also that Mr Clarke the tree surgeon be asked to take down the dying young oak tree and recommend and quote for a replacement.
Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

351. District Councillors Report.

Mr Saywell is at University and unable to attend this months meeting. He has sent his apologies and has nothing of note to report.

352. Planning.

- (a) 1/1071/2007/FUL. Erection of detached house adjacent to Devonport House. No Objections.
- (b) 1/1108/2007/FUL. Conversion of redundant barn to holiday cottage at West Pennicknold. No Objections.
- (c) 1/1109/2007/LBC. Listed Building Consent to convert barn to holiday cottage at West Pennicknold. No Objections. [(b) & (c) refer to same building.]
- (d) 1/1122/2007/FUL. Demolition of part existing outbuilding and rebuild into 2 storey extension to dwelling house. Farthinglands. No Objections.
- (e) The Grant of permission for 1/0884/2007/FUL at 2 Goamans Cottages. Shebbear was heard by councillors.
- (f) There were no relevant, adjacent applications.

353. Finance.

The payments for:

- (a) Grasscutting £88.00. (b) Clerks wage £156.92. (c) Newspaper advert £58.50 +vat were proposed for payment by Cllr Hillier and seconded by Cllr Lomax with all in favour.

354. Correspondence.

- (a) Sally Strange, Shebbear Community School head teacher, has written to say that the proposed new covered area has run into some unforeseen snags which has meant that the project is running behind schedule with a second set of plans having to be drawn up. The first proposal was found to be extremely expensive and unaffordable. It is hoped that with modification to the structure and use of different materials the project can be realised within the available budget and before the onset of winter weather.
- (b) Mr McGivern of Taffel Enterprises acknowledges the resiting of the telephone kiosk to the roadside by Brambles House instead of by the village hall.
- (c) Mr McNab's letter is dealt with at Minute 349.
- (d) Mr & Mrs Knights letter was circulated to councillors for early perusal and was also read to the meeting. The letter related to grievances the Knights had over the way they had been dealt with by Shebbear Parish Council in relation to complaints received by the council concerning the repairing of vehicles and planning issues at Waycott, New Inn, the home address of Mr & Mrs Knight.

At 8-20 pm Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Mr & Mrs Knight and their advisor, Mr Camilleri, to make any comments they wished to the meeting.

After a lengthy exchange of views the Knights were persuaded that the council were not carrying out a campaign of what they described as harassment, but acting on written complaints received in January 2006 from neighbouring properties to Waycott. These complaints had been referred to Torridge D.C for investigation as they are the authority empowered to take action. The fact that the actions were taking so long to finalise was out of the parish councils hands and being dealt with between Mr & Mrs Knight and Torridge D.C.

With regard to Mr & Mrs Knights suggestion that the parish council was not complying with the requirements of The Freedom of Information Act it was pointed out that they had visited the Clerks premises on 2 occasions and had had unhindered access to all paperwork relevant to Waycott and any council minutes they wished to read.

Clerk was asked to confirm the points raised by letter to Mr & Mrs Knight.

- (e) A letter from Torridge D.C. with an accompanying leaflet explaining Housing Renewal Grants was received by councillors who recommended possible interested parishioners for the scheme and that the leaflet be publicly displayed.

Items (f) to (j) were circulated to councillors for their information.

355. Items for next Meetings agenda on November 13th and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

The subject of Congestion caused by vehicles and the safety of pedestrians, particularly in the vicinity of the shop and the surgery, was raised and reference was made to the proposals laid out in the Shebbear Parish Plan to attempt to improve matters. It was suggested that the use of bollards as a way of providing a pedestrian friendly pathway between Back Lane entrance and The Square be put forward to gauge the strength of public opinion to such a proposal bearing in mind that due to the narrow nature of the highway it would involve making traffic flow single lane. Council will await feedback to the proposal after the scheme has been publicised and also to encourage public input for any alternative suggestions.

The 1844 Shebbear Tithe Map, which had been on display during the recent Historical Society Exhibition, was examined by councillors who were dismayed to see areas of damage which appeared to have been caused by the map being folded whilst in Record Office custody. Senior councillors remembered that the map used to be kept on a roller which prevented the formation of creases. As the map is Church property it was suggested that the Church consult with North Devon Record Office with a view to minimising any future damage when it is back in storage.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded at 9-36 pm.