

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday April 8th 2008
in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present: Chairman: R.Johns. Cllrs: S.Hillier. L.Quance. E.Haste. P.Lomax. H.Davis.
District Cllr A. Saywell. PCSO M.Baker.
Mr James Morrish. Leader of Torridge District Council.
1 Member of the Public.

Agenda. 2008.

- 31. Apologies for Absence.** Cllr R.Gliddon.(Family Commitment). Cllr N.Jeffers.(Unwell).
Cllr R. Clark (Previous engagement) Cllr G.Slade. (Holiday)
- 32. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda/ Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.**
Chairman R.Johns declared an interest in item 37(a), a planning application associated with his farm.
Cllr Quance declared an interest in item 37(a) due to his membership of the Village Hall committee.
- 33. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday March 11th 2008,** which had been previously
circulated, were approved and signed after the words "and Cllr Jeffers" were inserted after "Clerk"
in Minute 29 relating to the Community Council of Devon.
- 34. Any matters arising from the Minutes.**
None.

At 7-36 pm Chairman briefly adjourned the Meeting to allow PCSO Baker to make her monthly report to the
Council.

A new policy in relation to stray Dogs came into force on April 6th. Responsibility for strays is now transferred to the local authority (Torridge D.C.) who should be contacted when necessary. PCSO Baker has stressed that any other matters concerning dogs, for example dangerous or nuisance dogs, are still a Police responsibility. There are posters displayed in the village giving more details. PCSO Baker had followed up the enquiry as to whether a speed limit could be introduced at New Inn as there was a street light there. As the light was deemed to be an amenity light rather than a proper street light the criteria for a limit was not met.

Councillors asked that the parking restrictions at road junctions and at night could be clarified and attention given to any offenders who are noticed. PCSO will make enquiries and report back.

At 7-45 pm Chairman called the meeting back to session after thanking PCSO Baker for her report.

35..Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

- (a) Bus shelter. Some damage had been reported to the shelter, which after inspection was thought to be the result of deterioration of the woodwork retaining the panels. Councillors agreed that Mr Sluggett be asked to include the repairs in the remedial works he was already undertaking.
- (b) Bank account authorisations. Clerk reported that the bank had made an administrative error recently, having reverted to the authorisations in place for the previous Clerk, which had been obsolete since February 2007, and those of Councillors who had retired in May 2007 likewise. The Bank were asking Clerk to perform the whole authorisation process again. Clerk will report back on the outcome.
- (c) Mill Field development. Following the report in Item 30 last month of complaints of machinery noise and nuisance caused by lorries visiting the site Councillors had no further problems to report and the work required to prepare the entrance and the off street parking areas was going ahead satisfactorily.

36. District Councillors Report.

District Cllr Saywell introduced Councillor James Morrish, Leader of Torridge D.C. who outlined the latest progress of the Boundary Commission enquiry into Unitary Status for the County of Devon, not including Plymouth and Torbay which are already Unitary Councils. 8 Members of the Commission recently toured the county visiting Districts to gain some idea of the local structure. Their approach seems to be "big is beautiful" and they are working along the lines that any Authority should be administering to at least 175,000 people to be viable. This would automatically rule out a simple merger of Torridge and N. Devon. The B.C. say that they are considering all options put forward but

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stress, rather ominously, that they will have the final say. The most favoured option put forward was for the whole county, (excluding Plymouth and Torbay who want to expand their areas to include most of S.Devon, for extra revenue) to be one unitary area centered on Exeter, including East Devon and right round the North of the region to Tavistock/Okehampton. This would fail if Exeter reapply for unitary status in their own right as they would want to take in the E. Devon area to give themselves the necessary "clout". This would leave the remainder, with a population of about 300,000 possibly centred on Barnstaple, which wouldn't have the necessary influence to operate effectively.

There are so many options put forward, Teignbridge, for example, put forward 6 suggestions without stating a preference, that arriving at a decision appears an unenviable task.

The B.C. have until 14th December to make their recommendations to the Minister, Hazel Blears. Mr Morrish felt that it was a disappointment that after all the hard work of the past 12 months to get Torridge back on its feet, for which they had been commended by Government, it would all be in vain with the B.C. having the final say and probably having made their minds up even before the consultation period in August/September.

A full Torridge council meeting had produced a narrow decision (by 17 to 15) in favour of a single County unitary including Exeter.

Any changes would not take effect until the middle of 2010.

Chairman thanked Mr Morrish for his report and the agenda business was resumed.

37. Planning.

(a) Councillors considered the following new applications.

1/0253/2008/FUL. Wildlife pond and woodland area. West Folly. Shebbear. NO OBJECTIONS.

1/0298/2008/FUL. Single storey extension to Shebbear Village hall. NO OBJECTIONS.

1/0272/2008/AGR. Extension to calf rearing shed. Backway Farm. Shebbear. NO OBJECTIONS.

(b) Applications Granted. None received.

(c) Applications Refused.

1/0058/2008/FUL. General purpose agricultural building. Berry Park Barn. Shebbear. Councillors queried why the application had been refused after the parish council had raised no objections.

District Councillor Saywell was of the opinion that the refusal was on a technicality and that if the applicant were to discuss the matter with the planning officer it was possible that approval may be given if the technicalities could be ironed out.

1/0076/2008/FUL. Erection of dwelling adjacent to 1 Halwill Cottages. Shebbear.

(d) There were no relevant, adjacent applications.

38. Finance.

It was proposed by Cllr Haste and seconded by Cllr Hillier that payments detailed in items 38 (a) to (e) inclusive be paid. All in agreement.

Councillors received the bank balances as at March 28th.

39. Correspondence.

Items 39 (a) (b) (e) (f) (h) (m) (n) (o) were circulated for Councillors information.

(c) Holsworthy Area Advisory group. Relating to Boundary Review, received too late to respond by deadline.

(d) Parkham P.C.A. Re wind turbine protest. No Comment - as the proposal does not directly affect Shebbear and councillors had mixed feelings about the turbines.

(g) Gt Torrington MCTALCP. Councillors received details of the meeting held at Dolton on March 18th.

(i) Calor Village of the Year. Could be considered for next year when more advance notice given.

(j) D.A.P.C. questionnaire. Clerk to submit.

(k) PCSO response- dealt with during earlier report.

(l) CCD Community Buildings Forum. Passed to Village Hall Committee.

Correspondence (cont)

2 items received after production of the agenda.

- (1) Agenda for the AGM of Holsworthy Area Advisory Group on Monday April 14th. Cllr Haste hoped to be able to attend, work permitting.
- (2) Affordable Village Housing Trust seminar at Merton on Tuesday 13th May, in the presence of its President HRH The Princess Royal. Cllrs Lomax and Davis will attend.

40. Items for the next Meetings Agenda on Tuesday May 13th 2008, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

None put forward.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-24pm.