

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday February 12th 2008
in the Church Room, Shebbear.

Present: Chairman: R.Johns. Cllrs: L.Quance. E.Haste. P.Lomax. H.Davis. G.Slade.
R.Clark. R.Gliddon. S.Hillier. N.Jeffers. 7 Members of the Public.
PCSO Melissa Baker.

Prior to the opening of the meeting PCSO Baker gave a short report on local happenings on the law and order situation.

Agenda. 2008.

11. **Apologies for Absence.** D/Councillor A.Saywell.

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

Cllr Quance declared an interest in item 17(e) as he is on the Village Hall committee. Also in item 18(d) as he is a member of the Parochial Church Council.

Cllr Clark declared a prejudicial interest in item 17(a), erection of dwelling adjacent to 1 Halwill Cottages, Shebbear, as the proposal would be likely to affect his property value, which may be seen as influencing his judgement and would retire from the room at the appropriate time.

13. **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday January 8th 2008**, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

14. **Any matters arising from the Minutes.** None.

15. **Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.**

(a) Turning of the Stone evening. Councillors felt that it would be difficult to form a committee made up of representatives of participants as it appeared that various groups, bands etc just turned up on the night. The necessity for road closure to ensure crowd safety was paramount and will be applied for well in advance. **Cllr Quance** offered to act as coordinator for the event, in his private capacity, to draw the various attractions together.

(b) Devon Community Plans database. **Cllr Davis** hoped to be able to attend the workshop at Bideford Arts Centre on Friday 22nd February and will report back.

(c) The Draft Register of Assets and the Risk Assessment were unanimously approved after minor amendments had been made, and will be used for Insurance and Audit purposes.

(d) P3. Parish Paths. **Cllr Jeffers** reported that with the assistance of **Cllrs Lomax** and **Davis** he was progressing well with annual path inspections. There were several instances of missing signs and evidence that the P3 map did not tally with the actual paths in places, but these matters will be dealt with in liaison with the footpath warden and P3 in Exeter.

(e) Street Lighting. **Cllr Clark** had attended a presentation at Petrockstowe parish council given by Mr Shane Bayley, senior lighting engineer for Devon C.C. Area North. Street lighting represents D.C.C. biggest outlay for electricity costs and they want to reduce that expense by more efficient use and type of lighting. At present a standard street light uses about £30.00 of electricity per year. One option, the preferred one, is to replace the present 70 watt orange sodium lamps with efficient white lights, 60watts on main roads and 45 watts on side roads. These give satisfactory light levels as well as minimising light pollution. The other option would be to cause the lights to switch off, for example at 1 am, and during winter, back on at 6am. This option is not recommended by the Police and has road safety implications. It would not be popular with residents concerned about security. Turning off individual lights is not possible. The choice of option will be left to individual parish councils and when a change has been made it cannot be reversed. The Government is making funds available for the initial cost of lamp replacement and County is only responsible for the, more efficient, running costs.

As Woolserly and Hartland are in the process of having their lights changed, councillors were of the opinion that Shebbear would be wise to wait for feedback from the other parishes before debating the matter with our own parishioners. We will not have anything imposed on us but we are expected to make a choice.

16. **District Councillors Report.** None presented as Mr Saywell was unable to attend.

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17. Planning.

1/0068/2008/FUL. Single storey end extension and new garage. West Folly. Shebbear. For Mr & Mrs J. West. No Objections raised.

1/0058/2008/Ful. Gen purpose agricultural building for storage of hay, straw and machinery. Berry Park Barn. Shebbear. For Mr S. Harrup. No Objections raised.

8-47 pm Cllr Clark left the room.

1/0076/2008/FUL. Erection of dwelling. Land adjacent to 1 Halwill Cottages. Shebbear. For Mr S. Tucker. Grafton Portway. Shebbear. Objection on the grounds that this application had been previously refused as the site was deemed too small for development, and, being nearly opposite the school any on street parking would cause a hazard due to narrow roadway and bad visibility.

Items (b) (c) & (d) received by council. **Cllr Clark** returned to the room.

(e) Village Hall Improvements. **Cllr Quance** reported that plans were in the early stages of being prepared for improvements to the stage end of the hall which will involve doing away with the present stage and combining the space with the present committee room to create extra space in the main hall together with a new toilet facility and better committee room. The kitchen will also be refurbished to modern requirements. There will be temporary staging, to be stored out of the way when not in use. Sources of funding were still being identified and detailed plans and Building Regulation drawings were being prepared. The Hall Committee had discovered that if the Parish Council applied for planning permission on their behalf the cost would be less, and the Council were asked to approve this. All were in favour.

(f) Section 106 applications. As the early obtaining of a Sect 106 Agreement in the planning process would give the parish council the opportunity to place conditions, or exert some control over any application it was felt that councillors should be aware of the procedure involved in obtaining an Agreement as up to now we haven't had much of a say at parish level. Clerk will find out details and relay to Councillors.

18. Finance.

It was proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Jeffers with all in favour, that items (a) Clerks wage, (b) Audit Commission fee and (c) Clerks phone line rental be paid. Also that (d) a sum of £25.00 be paid to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of electricity for the Christmas tree lights for the years 2006 and 2007.

(e) 3 quotations had been sought to remove the dying oak in the Square and two were considered by councillors, the third contractor consulted having withdrawn at the last minute. As the quotes were very similar it was unanimously agreed that Mr Q. Clarke be instructed to carry out the work.

19. Correspondence.

- (a) SW Lifelong Learning network. Follow up correspondence awaited.
- (b) CCD. Climate Change project. Cllrs felt that sufficient attention was being given to the subject already without any further local involvement.
- (c) George Mingham. Request for grant towards Duke of Edinburgh Award. There has been no previous case of Parish council support for similar requests. It was thought that the Parish Lands Committee might be a more suitable contact for Mr Mingham. Clerk to notify.

Items (d) to (j) inclusive were received by councillors.

Items (k) to (p) inclusive circulated for councillors information.

20. Items for next Meetings Agenda on Tuesday March 11th 2008, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Cllr Hillier raised the possibility that she would have to resign from vice chairmanship due to her work commitments coinciding with council meetings, a situation that will continue for the next few months. Councillors decided that we would get by as we are and Cllr Hillier was persuaded to stay in position.

Concerns were raised over the amount of potholes and damaged road edges that had been marked for attention last year and are still awaiting repair, along several byroads in the parish. Also a dangerous grating adjacent to the Industrial Estate. Clerk to report to Highways.

It was suggested that Mr Lock be contacted and asked if the redundant signs for Endford Garden Centre could be removed as they are becoming unsightly. Clerk will arrange.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at **9-35pm**.