

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7-30 pm on Tuesday December 11th 2007 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present: Chairman: R.Johns. Cllrs: L.Quance. E.Haste. P.Lomax. H.Davis. G.Slade. N.Jeffers.
R.Clark. S.Hillier.

Agenda. 2007.

366. Apologies for Absence. Cllr R.Gliddon. Dist/Cllr A.Saywell. PCSO Baker.

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

2 councillors, L.Quance & R.Clark, stated that, when the agenda item concerning Local Grants was discussed they ought to declare a prejudicial interest due to their involvement with local activities. Cllrs discussed recent experiences of similar cases coming before the Standards Board, which had provoked considerable concern that too strict interpretation and application of guidelines was having an adverse effect upon efficient and responsible decision making. Members present were of the opinion that in a small community like Shebbear, everybody has an interest in village activities and therefore, taking guidelines to their extremes, which is what now appears to be happening, no-one would be able to take any part in decision making. Everyone was in general agreement that as a council we conduct ourselves using common sense and trusting each other as individuals to arrive at decisions in a fair and sensible fashion and would continue to carry on business in that fashion. Another aspect causing great concern is the high cost to the taxpayer of dealing with even the more trivial complaints, which, from April 2008 will have to be assessed and dealt with locally instead of being screened centrally as at present in Manchester, which will put even more of a burden on the local taxpayer. The topic was felt to be so contentious as to warrant discussion as an agenda item at the meeting on Jan 8th 2008.

368. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday November 13th 2007, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

369. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

In connection with item (360 b), the HGV meeting at Merton, Cllrs Clark & Davis had spoken to Mervyn Way, of M.Way Transport, after the meeting about the delivery of aggregates to the concrete works at Endford, and asked Mr Way if the lorry movements could be made via Highworthy Cross in order to cut down on the amount of lorry traffic through the village street. Mr Way will investigate the practicalities of articulated vehicles negotiating the bends and was willing to assist if possible.

370. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(a) T.D.C. Local Development Framework. Those councillors who had already read the document felt that the content was so important for the future of the district, that we would have to make our response within the extended deadline during January, after everyone had had time to digest the details. It was agreed that the topic would be included in the January 8th meeting agenda with a period for public participation allowed.

371. District Councillors Report. In addition to his apologies Mr Saywell had nothing of note to pass to the meeting apart from wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

372. Planning.

- (a) 1/1166/2007/LBC. Demolition of pig house and rebuilding and extension of collapsed cob wall. Little Worden farm. Shebbear. For Mr & Mrs Eden. Councillors raised no objections as site is at a distance from the public highway and proposals were in sympathy with adjacent structures.
- (b) There were no applications Granted.
- (c) No relevant or adjacent applications of interest were received.

373. Finance.

(a) Clerk presented Council with the suggested Precept figures for 2008/09, which had been circulated to councillors before the meeting, these were agreed after the figures for next years local grants of £1800.00, and a sum of £3000.00 to allow for Village projects, had been added. This resulted in the precept being set at £9854.00, which was a small increase of £154.00 on last years figure. It was proposed by Cllr Lomax and seconded by Cllr Jeffers with all in favour that this figure be submitted to Torridge D.C. for 2008/9.

(b) The following Local Grants were agreed for 2008/9:

Rowden Chapel £100.00	Lake Chapel £100.00	St Michaels Church £100.00
Reflecting Sheb Mag £150.00	Little Bears £200.00	Village Hall £300.00
Sheb Shooters £100.00	School Support Gp £150.00	Football Club £100.00
Historical Society £100.00	Citizens Advice £100.00	Shebbear Youth Project £100.00
Friends of Sheb Medical Practice £100.00	N Tamar Community Transport £100.00	

Mr Watts, for the Shebbear & Buckland Filleigh Website, had not asked for a further grant. Councillors felt that as more use was being made of the website and that an increase in use was anticipated when Minutes were to be made available on line, Mr Watts be approached with the suggestion that he invoice the council periodically with an agreed useage fee. Clerk to contact Mr Watts with the idea. Councillors also agreed that grant recipients and any other local organisations who may be considering projects in the near future should contact the Parish Council, who may be able to offer some financial assistance.

(c) It was proposed by Cllr Hillier and seconded by Cllr Lomax that the Clerks wage (160.82) and the payment for the Christmas tree lights (70.95) be paid. All in favour.

(d) In view of the anticipated cost of replacing the dying oak tree Clerk was asked to obtain two more quotes for the job and report back.

374. Correspondence.

(a) Ruby Country. Local Development Framework. Noone was able to attend the meeting at Cookworthy Forest Centre. However Clerk had displayed posters in the village for some time for the benefit of any local business interests who may wish to attend.

(b) Devon Talk magazine and (c) Devon Rural Transport Partnership newsletter, together with a late arrival, Village Green (Dec 07), were circulated to Councillors for information.

375. Items for next Meetings Agenda on Tuesday January 8th 2008, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

In addition to the requirement to discuss the implications of Predjudicial Interests (Minute 367 refers), Councillors briefly considered the suggestion that a committee be formed to oversee the running of the annual Turning of the Stone ceremony, and agreed that with the increasing popularity of the event and the added attractions there was a need for some organisation and that the matter should be discussed next month.

Clerk read a letter from Shebbear School which had just arrived , and said that a contractor had now been engaged to carry out the construction of the new covered play area and work should begin fairly soon. It is requested that the councils financial contribution be agreed for payment as Mrs Strange is gathering the finance in anticipation of completion of the work.

It was reported that there was no Grit Bin on HayCross Hill, Clerk will report the matter to Highways. In reply to a letter from Mrs G.Slade requesting that a plaque be erected to commemorate the planting of spring flower bulbs in memory of Charles Lossock, Councillors agreed that a suitable plate could be mounted on the post of the Shebbear sign in the Square.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at **9-46pm.**

Signed..... Date.....