

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL held on 8th February 2007

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Mrs Cooper Mrs Hinchliffe Mrs Roe
Mr Stitson Mrs Wilcox Mr Woodd-Walker Mr Young

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Mumford Cllr Hallett Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk)
Eight parishioners attended part of the Meeting

APOLOGIES: Mr Carter Mr Taylor Mr Tubb

POLICE REPORT The main items of P.C. Richards's report concerned:-

Crimes reported – Four incidents were outlined and parishioners were reminded that houses and outbuildings should be kept secure at all times.

Speeding – During a recent speed check at Butts Park, two fixed penalty notices had been issued and several motorists had received warnings; all of the offenders had been "local". Further checks would follow without notice.

Parking restrictions – P.C. Richards would report to DCC on the current Road Traffic Order consultation and was interested to hear residents' opinions on the proposals. It was noted that legally the use of Police traffic cones was a temporary solution as they were enforceable for only 28 days.

Public/Police contact – It had been suggested that the Parish Room in Bishops Court might be a useful base for the Police if a need was identified. P.C. Richards noted the suggestion that parishioners might wish to record information in a book kept at the Post Office but reminded the Meeting that with the introduction of the new team working arrangements, the Police presence in Newton & Noss would increase.

OPEN FORUM

Parking restrictions – Two parishioners took the opportunity to explain their reasons for opposing the yellow lines proposed by DCC and their views were supported by two others. In response Cllr Mumford explained that because the revised Road Traffic Order had been difficult to obtain and was expensive to introduce, the feared expansion of lines to other areas of Noss was unlikely. Currently the future of enforcement was under debate; in 2008 the responsibility might pass from the Police to local authorities.

19/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reasons for absence were approved.

20/07 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order 15, the Clerk advised that revised drawings for the boathouse at "Nymet" had been received and would be included at item 9. SHDC Planning Department.

21/07 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January were confirmed and signed.

22/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare interests in the items to be discussed during the course of the Meeting and these were recorded as follows:-

Mrs Hinchliffe declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 – the planning application for Hockaday's Yard. She left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Mr Stitson declared a personal interest in item 10 – reimbursement of costs in connection with the Sports Pavilion.

Mrs Roe and Mrs Wilcox each declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 – the grant application from the Primary School. They left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Mr Stitson declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 – the grant applications from the Yealm Gig Club and Revelstoke Rangers. He left the Meeting during consideration of these items.

Mrs Roe and Mr Woodd-Walker each declared a personal interest in item 11 - the grant application from the Yealm Gig Club.

23/07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

23.1 Report from Cllr Mumford – Cllr Mumford was concerned to report the budget difficulties faced by DCC. Under-funding by Central Government had resulted in a shortfall of £50 to £60 per head - the full effects of rural deprivation were not recognised and the increasing age of the population would continue to place a strain on the Social Services budget. Also there were concerns about the future for Devon if Exeter attained unitary status. Regarding development at Sherford, Cllr Mumford thought it was increasingly unlikely that the Co-op scheme would be approved. It was anticipated that the impact on the A.379 would be less than envisaged considering the amount of work planned at the A.38 Deep Lane junction joining Stag Lane.

23.2 Parking restrictions: Revised Road Traffic Order – Cllr Mumford was invited to join the Meeting during consideration of this item and the Chairman outlined the background which had led to Devon County Council's revision and extension of the RTO.

On 2nd February the Clerk had received official Notice that the Public Consultation period was in progress, the closing date being 26th February. Drawings of the proposals had been circulated to all Members but only Mr Buckland and Mr Woodd-Walker had been available on 6th February to accompany the Clerk on a site visit; however, at each of the three locations in Noss, a number of residents had commented on the plans. (Proposals for a yellow line in Stoke Road at Junket Corner were uncertain – clarification from DCC was awaited so a further site meeting might be necessary.)

Taking into account the observations, discussions and representations made at the site meeting, each Drawing was considered and it was agreed that the following recommendations should be submitted to the County Solicitor:-

12b Yealm Road:- There should be a short lengthening of the lines at points A, B and C. Between points C and D, two spaces should be allocated and marked as a short stay loading/unloading area as there was a particular need for a safe area at the top of Yealm Steps where people could drop off/collect passengers, provisions, etc. (important for families with young children.) [Vote: 8 in favour with 1 abstention]

12a The Brook:- The proposals were acceptable with the exception of point E – in order to maximise the number of parking spaces available, the line should be extended by three metres, not five as proposed. [Vote: all in favour]

12f Newton Hill and Riverside Road East:- The single parking bay on Newton Hill at point F should be retained. The Order was at variance with the existing lines in Riverside Road East (point G) but as no parking difficulties had occurred, it should be suggested that the double line was not painted. [Vote: all in favour]

12e Pillory Hill:- The proposed lines had been discussed on site with only two residents as there had been insufficient time to notify all the interested parties. It was understood that the SHDC refuse lorry had difficulties on a regular basis. It had been suggested on site and accepted by the Meeting, that the line between "Cliff Close" and "Shore Steps House" should be extended to points H to K; the line on the opposite side should be reduced to points I and J. [Vote: all in favour]

12d Hillhead:- The two residents consulted had agreed that the following proposed lines were unnecessary:-

- a) *At the bottom of Revelstoke Road (point L),*
- b) *Adjacent to the boundary of "Yonder Coombe", as far as the bus stop (either to include or exclude the bus stop [dependent on Traffic Regulations] (point M), and*
- c) *Curving a short way into Middlecombe Lane (point N).*

The Meeting agreed to recommend deletion at points L, M and N. [Vote: all in favour]

12d Coach Road:- Bearing in mind P.C. Richards's earlier reference to the temporary nature of the traffic cones, Members considered the remaining lines proposed to prevent obstruction of the narrowest section; the cones had been effective but could not remain indefinitely and the area had a history of obstructions and associated problems. Whilst there might be alternative solutions (e.g. permanent bollards or road widening), a decision regarding the introduction of yellow lines had to be made. Therefore, it was agreed that the section of the RTO relating to the lines proposed for both sides of the road extending towards the car park (point O) should be accepted in principle only, pending further consideration of an alternative solution; hopefully the introduction of the lines could be delayed. [Vote: 7 in favour and 2 abstentions]

12c Passage Road:- The proposed lines had been discussed on site with four residents, all of whom had been opposed to the lines. However, they were concerned that one parked vehicle could obstruct access into Passage Road at the Noss Hard junction so a couple of permanent bollards at that point were favoured. Members agreed that the extent of the proposed lines was unnecessary; at the "pinch point" a short yellow line should be provided on the western side of the road only, maximum length four metres. [Vote: 9 in favour]

23.3 Parking restrictions: publicising the RTO – The Clerk reported that all the drawings were on the two main notice boards; information had been circulated as widely as possible by email and the NNPC website. Details would be posted to residents with a particular interest who had not already been contacted. The Public Consultation had also been mentioned in "The Private Nose". The timing of the Consultation had not permitted inclusion in the Parish Magazine.

23.4 Parking restrictions at Yealm Steps – Cllr Mumford offered to make enquiries about residents' permits but queried how such a scheme would be policed. It was suggested that this issue should be considered once the new RTO had been implemented. **Agenda: November Meeting**

23.5 Update on highways issues – Following the January Meeting various items had been reported to DCC Highways and the Clerk had met with Steve Bryant to discuss progress. In particular, the gulleys on the B.3186 near Broadmoor Farm had been cleaned and Middlecombe Lane had received special attention to remove mud and a fallen tree; also potholes had been repaired.

23.6 Bank collapse below FP13 Leas Path – Following a collapse of the bank, the footpath had been checked by the DCC Footpath Officer who had no immediate concerns for public safety. However, it was understood that a formal inspection of the bank would be arranged. Cllr Mumford warned that due to the instability of the whole bank, the future of the Leas Path could not be guaranteed by DCC in the event of a major and expensive collapse.

23.7 Report from Cllr Hallett – Cllr Hallett was also concerned to report that the Central Government grant had been increased by only 2.7% which was insufficient to meet rising costs, e.g. the cost of free bus passes introduced in April 2006 had been £130,000. The SHDC element of the Council Tax was expected to increase by 3.9%.

23.8 SHDC LDF Core Strategy – A copy of the Adopted Core Strategy would be circulated. It was clear that there was insufficient provision for low-cost housing throughout the District.

23.9 SHDC Conservation Area Appraisals – It was anticipated that the draft documents might be available for consideration at the March Meeting. Issues surrounding unsightly fencing had been included in the Report to SHDC.

23.10 SHDC Consultation "Special Places Active Spaces" – Mr Young would attend an event in Ivybridge on 1st March.

24/07 VENUE FOR MEETINGS

24.1 Following a suggestion that some Meetings should be held in Newton for the convenience of parishioners who might wish to attend, it was agreed that this item should be considered by the new Council. **Agenda: May Meeting**

25/07 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION

Thursday 3rd May: Nominations closed at Noon on Wednesday 4th April. The Clerk hoped to have forms available at the March Meeting.

26/07 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

26.1 Yealm Estuary Management Plan 2006-2011 – The publication of the Draft had been delayed.

26.2 D.T.I. The Post Office Network for response by 8th March. Individuals were urged to respond to the consultation document which was available on the D.T.I. website – a copy was passed to Mr Buckland. The number of financial transactions, insurances sold and currencies ordered were all important measurements in evaluating the use of the Post Office. The proximity of the P.O. in Yealmpton was a threat to the future of Newton Ferrers and this would be highlighted at the Annual Parish Meeting.

26.3 Model Code of Conduct – Amendments had been proposed for response by 9th March. Members were asked to note the reference to the definition of a close acquaintance. The document was available via the Internet.

27/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

27.1 Letter to the landowners – Now that the LDF Core Strategy had been adopted, the Chairman presented his draft letter for approval. The letter would be sent to each of the landowners identified during the CHWG Study. A copy would also be sent to the owners of the land in The Fairway and Briar Hill Farm.

27.2 Meeting at Follaton House – Mrs Wilcox reported her conversation with SHDC and it was noted that Newton & Noss had achieved more than any other South Hams Parish in identifying potential development sites and producing supporting evidence for low-cost housing. However, there were aspects of the SHDC position which needed clarification so a meeting would be held at Follaton House on 5th March. The **Chairman, Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Cooper** would attend.

28/07 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

28.1 Copy correspondence – Copy letters of objection had been received concerning "Riverhaven" and "Riverdene". [January Minutes refer]

28.2 Old Cellars 2245/06/F – Details of proposed landscaping had been received. Although comments had not been invited, it was agreed that the Clerk should reply to the Planning Officer suggesting that in view of the prominent situation within the AONB, the trees and shrubs planted should be sufficiently robust to withstand the coastal conditions.

28.3 Portside, Yealm View Road – Alterations to boathouse. Revised drawings had been received showing a slight alteration to a south-facing window. Although comments had not been invited, it was agreed that the Clerk should reply to the Planning Officer reiterating the previous objections [Min.08.5 refers]

28.4 Nymet, Pillory Hill 2189/06/F – Replacement boathouse – The Planning Officer had invited comments on the revised drawings. It was noted that the building would be raised to allow for the predicted rise in sea levels. After careful consideration, the response agreed was “No objection.” [Vote: 6 in favour 1 objection 2 abstentions]

28.5 Land at Hannaford – Since receiving and commenting on revised drawings, the Clerk noted that the application had been approved.

28.6 Tidal Waters, Noss – It was noted that a Certificate of Lawfulness had been issued for the alterations proposed – the works constituted Permitted Development. The Parish Council had not been consulted.

28.7 Hockaday’s Yard, Membland 0047/07/F – Erection of four industrial units plus owner’s flat. On copy letter of support had been received.
Decision: Support but the units must remain for mixed use. A need for local employment opportunities had been highlighted in the 2004 Parish Plan and the site had been identified by the CHWG 2006.

28.8 Appledore, Court Road 0106/07/F – Replacement garage, workshop and home office.
Decision: No objection.

29/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The following items concerned:-

29.1 Community Partnership Forum 5th March – The Parish Council would be represented if possible.

29.2 Mobile Banking Service – Following a request for permission to park a vehicle, it was agreed in principle that The Green would be the most suitable location.

29.3 Public Tap, Creekside Road – As John Allen was thanked for arranging a small repair to the water pipe, it was RESOLVED: that his expenses should be reimbursed: £36.00.

29.4 45 Noss Mayo – John Allen reported that drainage problems appeared not to have been resolved. He would contact the builders and report back.

29.5 Sports Pavilion – RESOLVED: that Mr Stitson’s expenses should be reimbursed: £50.00.

30/07 GRANT REQUESTS

30.1 DCC Grant £500 – Referring to the discussion at the January Meeting, two applicants had been invited to provide more detailed information in support of their funding requests:-

- a) Yealm Gig Club planned to have an oar store, estimated cost £500 but specific details had not been provided.
- b) The Primary School had not responded to the request for information.

Members felt unable to proceed without any supporting information so the decision would be deferred. The Clerk would contact the applicants again. [Vote: 5 in favour and 1 abstention] **Agenda: March Meeting**

30.2 Theatre Lighting as a village resource [Min.10.2 refers] – A specific application had not been received but the Chairman explained the electrical detail of the project and diagrams were circulated. **Agenda: March Meeting**

30.3 Revelstoke Rangers – RESOLVED: In March, to reimburse Mr Stitson’s insurance premium on production of the supporting invoice: approximately £70.00. [Vote: 6 in favour and 2 abstentions]

31/07 COMMUNITY LEARNING – NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

31.1 Progress Report – The Chairman, Clerk, Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Roe would attend a meeting of the Committee on 9th March. Also, Mrs Wilcox and the Clerk were due to meet the ROLI Administrator (Stuart Allardyce) to discuss the grant application. Mr Allardyce had been very impressed by the courses provided and future plans.

31.2 Payments to be authorised – RESOLVED: Payments were authorised to Elva Sinnott, Colin Smith, DCC, and Plymouth C.A.D. as detailed in Minute 37/07. [Vote: all in favour]

32/07 FOOTPATHS

32.1 Donkey Path – On 23rd January, the Chairman, Clerk and Mr Taylor had met Mr Derry and Mr Studd when it had been agreed that surfacing work was needed in the interests of public safety. Offers of funding in principle had been received from Mr Derry and Mr Studd and it was understood that Mrs Chambers and Mr Longhurst would also be willing to contribute. Mr Buckland recommended the use of concrete blocks rather than concrete but in order to level the path, the hedge bordering the eastern side of the lower section might have to be removed with the owner's permission. A further site meeting would be needed.

32.2 Handrails – In the absence of Mr Carter and Mr Taylor, this item was deferred. **Agenda: March Meeting**

32.3 Court Road – The owner of Briar Hill Farm did not claim ownership of the land between his boundary wall and the highway, nor did he have any objection to some work to upgrade the right of way.

32.4 Boathouse Steps (Kiln Quay) – A report from the Works Committee was awaited. **Agenda: March Meeting**

32.5 DCC Footpath Officer – The Clerk reported on conversations with Mr Guy. DCC would undertake a routine inspection of the footpath network later in the year when any outstanding maintenance work would be identified. He had attended a site meeting with Mr Hicks to discuss persistent drainage problems at the Stoke Road end of FP22 Axsmith's Hill, he had looked at the steps on FP17 behind the Yealm Hotel, and it was noted that FP39 Wadham was closed.

33/07 MAINTENANCE

33.1 Popes Quay – Details would be available for the next Meeting. **Agenda: March Meeting**

33.2 Sports Pavilion – Mr Stitson and Mr Young recommended that the exterior of the building should be painted and they were authorised to purchase the materials required. A spare set of keys had been purchased. RESOLVED: To reimburse Mr Stitson's expenses: £50.00.

Agenda: March Meeting

33.3 Trees at The Green [Min.13.1 refers] – As part of the TPO application process for permission to undertake maintenance work, Mr Woodd-Walker (Tree Warden) had been invited by SHDC to comment on the proposals. It was noted that he felt unable to support the decision to remove the Holm Oak.

34/07 MEETINGS ATTENDED

34.1 Harbour Authority – In the absence of Mr Carter and Mr Tubb, no report was received.

34.2 Halls – The Chairman reported that some of the Bonds issued by the Village Hall were being repaid early.

34.3 SHDC Budget Consultation – The Chairman and Mrs Hinchliffe had attended the meeting but agreed the public consultation exercise had had little benefit.

34.4 Devon Association of Parish Councils – Mr Young had attended. Items discussed had included the possible reduction in street lighting to save energy and reduce emissions, altered responsibility for parking restriction enforcement from April 2008 (still under discussion), and funding for self-help schemes to deal with climate change. Regarding public transport, Mr Young commented on the poor standard of the rural buses compared with those used within the City.

34.5 AONB Partnership Committee – Cllr Hallett announced that he would chair a public meeting to be held at the Village Hall on 16th March from 10.30am.

35/07 ADMINISTRATION

35.1 Precept 2007/08 – It was noted that the overall increase of 3% in the Parish Council's Precept would equate to a rise in individual bills of approximately 0.78%.

35.2 Boat charges for Big Slip [Min.16.3 item 4] – Referring to the decision to increase the charges by 3% to the nearest Pound, the Clerk suggested that the amount of the increase was too small to be workable. Therefore, it was RESOLVED: The charges should remain unchanged at £5.00 and £2.50 for the forthcoming year. [Vote: all in favour]

36/07 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mrs Hinchliffe and listed in the Financial Statement Min.37/07.

37/07 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.02.07	£	2,793.22
Portman Building Society Capital Fund	30 days' notice	£	44,191.77
Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	9,006.70

The following cheques were authorised totalling £ **3,762.22**

R Wooderson		Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	74.25
J Allen		Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	42.00
J Eschbaecher		Net salary and part backpay for 2006	1,220.48
J Eschbaecher		Expenses: postage/office supplies	20.89
Signpost Housing Association		Bishops Court rent: VAT due 25.06.06 to 19.10.06	155.12
Signpost Housing Association		Bishops Court rent: 20.10.06 to 24.02.07	906.45
River Yealm Harbour Authority		Cleaning: Newton Voss – 20L SLIPWAY	37.60
Information Commissioner		Data Protection Act – annual registration renewal	35.00
Staples		Office supplies/stationery re the Clerk	89.23
Staples	ROLI	Printer ink, copy paper and supplies	34.92
E Sinnott	ROLI	Tutor fees: Painting Course (1)	200.00
E Sinnott	ROLI	Balance required for artists' materials purchased	38.50
C Smith	ROLI	Purchase of wireless connection	69.99
Devon County Council	ROLI	Digital Photography Course: hire of School for 10 weeks	150.00
Devon County Council	ROLI	Painting Course – hire of School for 5 weeks	50.00
Plym. College of Art & Design	ROLI	Purchase of a secondhand kiln	100.00
S Barton	ROLI	Tutor fees: Two Computer Courses – 10 weeks	400.00
Newton Ferrers Primary School		To reimburse re First Aid course payment	5.00
Ricoh UK Limited		Photocopier rental + copies	47.19
P Stitson		Expenses re Sports Pavilion	50.00
J Allen/M Dodd		Repairing water leak to public tap in Creekside Road	35.60

Total s137 payments to date:- £2,277.50

6/02/07Chairman

The Meeting closed at 10.30pm

