

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Mr Carter Cllr Cooper Mrs Hinchliffe  
Mr Hussell Mr Matthews Mr Taylor Mr Tubb Mr Young (Chairman)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk) Mrs McDonough  
Cllr Mumford and 7 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

APOLOGIES: Mr Cooper Mr Stitson

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**POLICE REPORT**

P.C. Nolan presented the crime report. Enquiries were continuing concerning a burglary from a property at Butts Park, criminal damage to two tyres on a vehicle parked in Passage Road, and the organised theft of a large outboard engine – equipment had been used to remove the fixing bolts which had secured the engine to a trailer. P.C. Nolan had also inspected damage in Newton Wood and was aware that a motorcycle had been driven in the sports field at Butts Park.

**OPEN FORUM**

**Planning applications:**

- i) **The Lime Kiln, Bridgend (Grade 2 Listed)** – Restoration of the kiln, conversion and extension of outbuildings to a single dwelling with garage, for holiday letting purposes. Comments concerning the conservation of the dilapidated structure, the planning history, flood risk and privacy issues relating to a proposed roof light were all noted and discussed. *[Min.08.5 refers]*
  - ii) **Riverhaven, Riverside Road East** – Concerns about the progress of the development in relation to the approved plans, together with site difficulties, were noted.
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**01/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** The reasons for absence were noted.

**02/09 PREVIOUS MINUTES** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December were confirmed and signed.

**03/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare interests in the items to be discussed during the course of the Meeting; none were recorded.

**04/09 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**4.1 Cllr Mumford's** report concerned the following which had not been included on the Agenda:-

- i) Boundary review – The decision had been delayed; mid-March was the expected date.
- ii) Sustainable Communities Act 2007 – The implications of the Act were under consideration; a certain amount of community involvement and interaction was anticipated but the level of local support was unknown.
- iii) Riverside Road East – DCC had confirmed that they had no responsibility for the damaged Revelstoke railing.
- iv) Ice on Revelstoke Road (not on the gritting route) – Salt would be provided during the cold weather.

**4.2 Butts Park Crossing** – Cllr Mumford presented the options for safety improvements as prepared by DCC, details of which had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting. A temporary build-out for a trial period would cost approximately £2,000 so that idea had been discounted.

Five options had been measured and costed, four of which would provide some form of footway beside the hedge on the Newton Downs side with a new crossing included (the present crossing point and redundant footpath would be removed). However, the Traffic Team had raised safety concerns so the fifth option of a build-out had been reintroduced as the lesser of the difficult choices – originally not favoured by the Safety Auditor, but this was considered to be the least worst and most affordable scheme, costed at £5,000. Cllr Mumford thought sufficient space would remain at the junction to allow school buses and lorries to turn if necessary. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** To support Option 5 for the construction of a build-out to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic speed. [Vote: 7 in favour 3 against 0 abstentions]

Cllr Mumford would report the decision to DCC.

**4.3 Collaton/Butts Park Link** – Mr Cooper, Mr Taylor and Mr Carter had met the preferred contractor on site and had been impressed by his knowledge and experience – a useful discussion which had identified some improvements and possible savings; a revised quote was anticipated for further consideration before acceptance. The planning application would be submitted as soon as possible. The verge outside no.1 Butts Park had been confirmed as belonging to Tor Homes – DCC had offered to assist in the negotiations with Tor regarding the line of the new footway across the verge. The Chairman would visit the tenant to discuss whether the stanchion in the pavement could be altered to suit her requirements.

**4.4 Ice on pavements** – Cllr Mumford had confirmed that DCC did not salt footways and could not afford to do so.

**4.5 Street lighting** – In answer to a query regarding the effectiveness of certain lights, Cllr Mumford confirmed that there was an active programme to change to low energy bulbs which offered considerable savings in running costs.

**4.6 Report from Cllr Cooper** – SHDC had been considering the future of the tennis courts; £30,000 was the estimated cost of repairs. It had been suggested that if the Parish Council contributed £10,000, the courts might be offered to the Parish. In the absence of a central collection point, fees had not been collected in 2008. Charges income had reduced in recent years but in 2005/06, fees had raised approximately £1,000. It was agreed that the Clerk would publicise this concern and invite the regular players to form a group to demonstrate their commitment. The Chairman and Mr Carter would report to the next Meeting. **Agenda: February**

It was expected that the Design Panel would consider the Co-op redevelopment plans. If Mrs Marchant was unable to attend the meeting with Cllr Cooper, Mr Brown agreed to be a reserve.

### **05/09 BUDGET 2009/10**

**5.1 Precept 2009/10** – In line with the Members' previous discussion that the Precept should not be increased if possible, reduced contingency figures were agreed.

It was RESOLVED: To accept the revised figures and request a Precept of £39,245 for 2009/10. (0% increase on the previous year.) [Vote: all in favour]

### **5.2 Review of annual payments and fees –**

RESOLVED: The following charges/payments were agreed for 2009:- [Vote: all in favour]

CONTRIBUTION TO CHAIRMAN'S EXPENSES: £150 (Not increased)

CONTRIBUTION TO CLERK'S OFFICE EXPENSES: £350

To reflect the costs for light/heat/power/Council Tax for one room. (Not increased)

CLEANING OF NEWTON VOSS/NOSS VOSS/VARIOUS STEPS/POPE'S QUAY: To be increased by approx. 4%.

BOAT CHARGES: (Not increased)

Outhaul charge: £35.00. Big Slip charges: £5.50 per foot or £2.75 per foot for vertical space.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Eight regular payments would be renewed in 2009, in accordance with the list compiled by the Clerk.

### **06/09 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**6.1 Review of Policy** – Mr Brown had produced a first draft which summarised the conclusions of the Working Group's recent meeting; it was noted that Mr Buckland had not agreed with the outcome of that meeting. However, further consideration, debate and public consultation would be required before final revisions could be agreed by the Parish Council.

**6.2 SHDC Vision DPD** – It was suggested that in response to SHDC's invitation for submissions during the preparation stage of the Development Plan Documents, the Parish Council's updated Housing Policy should be submitted to SHDC by 31<sup>st</sup> January, unless the deadline could be extended. Therefore, an Extraordinary Meeting might be necessary in order to finalise the document.

### **07/09 CONSULTATION DCOUMENTS**

**7.1 Communities in Control:** Recommended practice on local authority publicity.

It was unlikely that this document would require a response but it would be circulated in the yellow box.

**7.2 Devon Home Choice Lettings Scheme** – The Chairman and Mr Brown would attend a consultation event on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Comments had been invited by 2<sup>nd</sup> March. **Agenda: February**

## **08/09 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**8.1 The Green House, Bridgend** - It was noted with regret that the Appeal had been allowed. It appeared that a site meeting had taken place which no-one had been aware of so there had been no opportunity for either an objectors' representative or a Parish Councillor to be present – a letter of complaint had been sent by an objector to Gary Streeter M.P., a copy of which had been received by the Clerk. The failings of the planning appeal system were discussed and it was concluded that only a change in legislation would rectify the shortcomings.  
RESOLVED: A letter of complaint would be sent to the Planning Inspectorate, copied to SHDC. [Vote: all in favour]

**8.2 The Haven, Revelstoke Road 2307/08/F** – Extension and loft conversion.  
*Decision:* No objection.

**8.3 16 Butts Park 2357/08/F** – Re-submission of 1725/08 – extension to the rear of the property. proposals had been reduced in size and were an improvement.  
*Decision:* No objection.

**8.4 Blue Shutters, 16 Noss Mayo 2379/08/LB** – Retrospective application for alterations: Phases A and B which would improve the building.  
*Decision:* No objection.

**8.5 The Lime Kiln, Bridgend 2366/08/LB and 2367/08/F** – Restoration of kiln, conversion and extension of out-buildings to single dwelling for holiday letting purposes.  
RESOLVED: A letter of disappointment would be sent to the Planning Officer – the inevitable flood risk has not been addressed adequately and the drawings did not include vital measurements (no datum, dimensions or levels). The ridge height had not been specified; therefore the Members felt unable to make an informed decision. Particular comments to be made would suggest that if the application was approved, future development rights should be lost, and there was support for the privacy issues raised by the adjacent landowner. [Vote: all in favour]

**8.6 Reviewing planning applications** – As a general point, Cllr Cooper was asked to raise with SHDC the Members' concerns and the suggestion that applications should be checked for sufficient detail before acceptance. Also, it was agreed that prior to the monthly meeting of the Planning Working Group, applications would be passed to Mr Buckland, Mr Tubb and finally the Chairman, unless it was felt that wider circulation of a particular application was necessary.

## **09/09 VILLAGE PLANS**

**9.1 2004 Parish Plan** – The six sections were allocated to Members for review. **Agenda: February**

**9.2 Emergency Plan** – Mr Carter and Mr Tubb would update the Plan, with particular emphasis on DCC's advice to consider arrangements for Pandemic Flu. The local Pharmacy or an alternative central collection point would be required for the allocation of anti-viral medicines. A copy of the Yealmpton Plan might be useful – the Clerk would ask.

## **10/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** The main items received had concerned:-

**10.1 Private land at the junction with Passage Road/Noss Hard** – A resident had asked the Parish Council to consider contributing towards the estimated cost of £700 to clear unwanted growth from the boundary wall which bordered land owned by Mrs Lane. Although it might be of benefit to the village to tidy the land, the Parish Council could not commit public funds to tidying work for which there was a private responsibility. The Chairman and Mr Carter would inspect the site with Mr Allen. **Agenda: February**

**10.2 Tidal Waters development** – The RYDA had written a lengthy letter to the SHDC Planning Officer, a copy of which had been provided to the Parish Council. The Chairman would discuss the Certificate of Lawfulness with Mr & Mrs Leonard with a view to the Parish Council providing some support for their case. **Agenda: February**

**10.3 Plymouth City Strategic Land Availability Assessment** – An interesting overview of current progress had been prepared by Robin Hogg. There had been no official response on the progress of the proposed development at Sherford. It was thought that South West Water was still hoping to discharge into the Yealm rather than the Plym so a close watch on this strategic decision was still needed.

## **11/09 MAINTENANCE**

**11.1 Assessment of Parish Assets** – For review in February. **Agenda: March**

**11.2 Handrails** - For review in February. **Agenda: February**

## **12/09 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**12.1 Village Hall** – The Management Committee and Playgroup were concerned about the possible adverse implications of the plan to erect a building at the Primary School for extra curricular activities. As reported to the December Meeting [Min.195.4], it was confirmed that there was a genuine need for the alternative accommodation and there was no intention to duplicate activities currently provided in the village.

**12.2 Primary School** – There were 89 children on the roll, rising to 91 in the summer term. In the Parish as at 29.4.08, the formal statistics had recorded 28 children under 3 years, 21 from 3 to 4½, and 193 from 4½ to 15. The Playgroup provided 22 early education places. The current concern was the future viability of the Before and After School Clubs (capacity: 16 places in each) as they had to be financially self-supporting.

## **13/09 ADMINISTRATION**

**13.1 Telephone kiosks – purchase from B.T.** – After considering the terms of the Agreement, it was RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to sign and return the Agreement to B.T. with Clause 5.5.4 omitted (relating to restrictions on the future use of the kiosk).

**13.2 Clerk's Overtime 2008** – RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the outstanding 94.5 hours. [Vote: all in favour]

**13.3 Issues for future consideration** - Suggestions for future discussion were noted.

## **14/09 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. 15/09

## **15/09 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

<b>Alliance &amp; Leicester Current Account Balance at 1.1.09</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>6,298.72</b>
<b>Nationwide Building Society Capital Fund</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>47,104.29</b>
<b>Nationwide Building Society Gratuity Fund</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>14,084.71</b>
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<b>The following cheques were authorised totalling</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>4,629.84</b>
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Society of Local Council Clerks	Training pack: Working with your Council	50.00
R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss, Doctors Steps and bus shelters	143.75
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	41.75
J Eschbaecher	Net salary and balance of overtime worked in 2008	1,986.03
HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax and N.I. re the Clerk	1,587.65
Garden Services	Grass cutting: The Green – November	15.50
Ricoh UK Limited	Photocopier rental and copies	49.85
River Yealm Harbour Authority	W.C. cleaning – half year contribution	376.00
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: cards and postage	20.56
<i>Network payments:-</i>		
J Thorne	Part honorarium in lieu of hours worked	90.00
G Roberts	Tutor fee: Split Cane Weaving	137.50
Staples (C Smith)	Printer inks	36.25
Xtremity (C Smith)	Awards for All: 10% deposit for one Optimist	85.00
Newton & Noss Village Hall	Hire: Upholstery class (November £15 x 4)	60.00

\*s.137 payments: nil    Total to date: £2,958.74

*The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm*