

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 14th June 2007

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

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

APOLOGIES: Mrs Hinchliffe Mr Stitson Mr Young

POLICE REPORT

Crime Report – Eight crimes had been recorded – four as criminal damage and three as theft. Also two people had been seen trying to enter a vehicle but had left the scene when challenged.

OPEN FORUM

Planning applications:

- i) Ferrers Lodge, Court Road 1115/07/F – Amendment to previously approved application number 1007/06. The owners of the adjoining property outlined their concerns regarding potential loss of privacy. [Min. 109.5 refers]
 - ii) Yealm Cottage, Newton Hill 1057/07/F – New dwelling. As the applicant, Mr Buckland outlined the planning history and his discussions with the Planning Officer. [Min.109.2 refers]
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100/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The reasons for absence was approved.

101/07 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May were confirmed and signed. However, referring to the planning application relating to the existing TV mast at Coombe Down [Min.89.6], the Chairman apologised if unintentionally he had misled Members regarding the purpose of the proposed new antennae - they were required to improve the cell phone service, not the digital television signal.

102/07 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

102.1 RESOLVED: Mr Tubb would be Vice-Chairman for the time being. His replacement would be agreed at a later date. **Agenda: September Meeting**

103/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Mr Matthews declared a personal interest in item 6. Venue for Meetings as his wife was the WIC Hall Bookings Secretary.

Mr Buckland declared a prejudicial interest in item 10. Yealm Cottage as owner of the property, and withdrew from the Meeting during consideration of this item.

104/07 MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

104.1 Additional alterations were agreed but certain items were outstanding. **Agenda: September Meeting**

104.2 Village Design or Access Statement – As it was understood that a design statement would have very little influence or benefit in relation to the outcome of planning applications, it was suggested that an access statement might be more beneficial; this would be considered in more detail. **Agenda: July Meeting**

105/07 VENUE FOR MEETINGS

105.1 RESOLVED: With effect from July, meetings should alternate between the WIC Hall and the Tilly Institute on a trial basis and be reviewed in January 2008.

N.B. *Odd numbered months in Newton/even numbered months in Noss.*

106/07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

106.1 Cllr Mumford's report concerned:-

- i) **Creekside Road: poor surface** – Cllr Mumford's concerns had been reported to DCC.
- ii) **Rural Housing Trust** – The Trust was actively seeking small scale housing developments in Devon.
- iii) **Road Traffic Order** – The Order was about to be implemented and Members were asked to check the position of the short line proposed at the pinch point at the Passage Road/Noss Hard junction.
- iv) **FP37 Church Steps** – It had been confirmed that the path would be scraped and resurfaced during the summer. This decision was welcomed as the Chairman had received a formal complaint about the path and understood that without remedial action, funeral services might have to be declined.

106.2 Pillory Hill – It was noted that as recommended by the Surveyor, DCC proposed to extend the drainage pipe from the road to the foreshore to reduce erosion of the soil on the steep bank above the Pumping Station.

106.3 B.3186 – Referring to the Clerk's letter dated April 2006, DCC had declined to introduce any additional road markings between Collaton and the crossing at Butts Park. However, DCC had agreed to line the road edge at The Green outside the Estate Agent and Tea Room.

106.4 Widey Hill – John Allen would write to DCC concerning excessive water on the hill, especially during the winter. He would also check the need for some tarmac at the passing place. The Clerk would also contact DCC.

106.5 Bridgend Hill – DCC would erect an appropriate sign to discourage parking in the layby. Pedestrian safety needed further consideration. **Agenda: July Meeting**

106.6 Cllr Cooper's report concerned:-

i) **Diary Crest and Dartington College** – It was anticipated that the closures would cost the local economy £6.5m and £4.5m p.a. respectively.

ii) **Recycling and waste management** – Any property which was let for more than 139 days per annum was classed as a business and required a "trade waste" collection. Following a general discussion regarding waste disposal difficulties for properties occupied for short periods only (e.g. second homes), it was agreed that a meeting with SHDC would be requested - the Chairman, Mr Taylor and the Clerk would attend. It was noted that of the 4000 businesses in the South Hams, only 50% were registered for trade waste.

107/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

107.1 Community Land Trust – Funded Pilot Study – The Chairman and Cllr Cooper would meet a representative from Wessex Reinvestment Society. **Agenda: July Meeting**

107.2 Local Development Framework – Further significant documents were due for publication and consultation in July:- Affordable Housing, Development Control Core Policies and Rural Areas Development Plan Documents. Seven Members expressed an interest in attending consultation events.

108/07 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

108.1 Conservation Area Appraisals would be considered in July. However, initial comments prepared by Mr Buckland would be submitted to Susan Trebilco and Nils White at SHDC. **Agenda: July Meeting**

108.2 SHDC Draft Licensing Policy would be circulated. **Agenda: July Meeting**

108.3 Exeter City Council: Application for Unitary Status – A draft response had been circulated to all Members. **RESOLVED:** To send the response as an open letter to the Department of Communities & Local Government, Exeter City Council and Devon County Council. [Vote: all in favour]

109/07 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

109.1 23/25 Yealm Road – The application to demolish the existing dwellings and replace with one new dwelling had been withdrawn.

109.2 Yealm Cottage, Newton Hill 1057/07/F – Resubmission of 1730/06 for a new dwelling, garage and driveway. The neighbours had been consulted. **Decision:** No comment. [Vote: all in favour]

109.3 Even Keel & Connemara, Pillory Hill 1155/07/F – Painted wall instead of stone.

Decision: Support. [Vote: all in favour]

109.4 Toad Hall, Court Road 1163/07/F – Change of use of house and office to three dwellings.

Decision: In principle there was no objection to the loss of the commercial premises but there was insufficient parking space to support three dwellings. [Vote: all in favour]

109.5 Ferrers Lodge, Court Road 1115/07 – Amendment to 1007/06.

Decision: No objection provided the mutually agreed extension of the party wall was extended as a condition of the planning approval to maintain privacy for the neighbouring property. [Vote: all in favour]

109.6 Riverside Road East – The new bin store was considered to be an improvement and fell within permitted development rights.

110/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The following items concerned:-

110.1 Parish Plan – A review by the South Hams Strategic Partnership had queried progress to provide safe pedestrian routes and recycling opportunities. The Clerk had provided a verbal response for the Partnership's meeting on 11th June and further updates had been invited. Advice and support were offered; potential funding might also be available.

110.2 SHDC Villages in Action – a touring scheme offering professional performances of theatre, dance, music, arts and workshops. Details would be passed to Julian Eason.

110.3 Swan Inn – A concerned resident had written to SHDC regarding potential noise from music events; the Clerk had received a copy.

110.4 “Sherford Refined” – Brixton Parish Council objected to the Co-op's alternative proposals for development at Sherford and asked for support. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Co-op plan had been ill-considered. RESOLVED: To support Brixton and submit a letter of objection to SHDC.

111/07 GRANT REQUESTS

111.1 Samaritans – RESOLVED: To grant £100. [Vote: all in favour]

111.2 DCC Locality Budget – Cllr Mumford anticipated having in the region of £1,000 available for a local project(s) during the current financial year.

112/07 COMMUNITY LEARNING – NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

112.1 Update – The Lottery bid had been submitted. Two enrolment events would be held to minimise the burden of routine administration. It had been suggested that a nucleus of volunteer helpers would also be helpful. The Committee had also discussed in general terms the development of local sailing tuition/opportunities for children.

112.2 Grants received had totalled £2,430:- ROLI £1,650 (to support the Network), South Hams Radio £500 (Pottery), and Revelstoke Trust £280 (School Leavers' Day).

112.3 Payments to be authorised – RESOLVED: To authorise payments to Colin Smith of £130.32 to reimburse expenses for the School Leavers' Day, and to Sheila Barton £800, tutor fees for two computer courses.

113/07 FOOTPATHS

113.1 Donkey Path – In view of recommendations received from Mark Wilson concerning the proposed base structure, it was agreed that the suggestions would be considered for a report in July. **Agenda: July Meeting**

113.2 Handrail: Newton Hill – A quotation was still awaited but as some improvements to the Post Office entrance were planned, Mr Buckland would liaise with Mr Young. **Agenda: July Meeting**

113.3 Handrail on Swan Steps – It was agreed that a handrail would not be necessary.

113.4 Court Road – Mr Carter and Mr Tubb would discuss the damaged path with Mr McCreedy to ascertain what action should be taken to protect the edge of the path from further damage and erosion. **Agenda: July Meeting**

113.5 Collaton/Butts Park link – A site meeting with the landowner would be arranged.

114/07 MAINTENANCE

114.1 Sports Pavilion – Routine maintenance was continuing but the electrical work had been delayed.

114.2 TPO Trees – It was noted that SHDC had approved routine maintenance at Court House.

114.3 Seats – The following recommendations were agreed:-

- i) RESOLVED: To remove two seats which were beyond economic repair – the Billson seat at Kilpatrick Steps and the Andrew Yonge seat in Court Road – **Mr Tubb** would make enquiries about a replacement for the latter.
- ii) RESOLVED: To accept Mr Leonard's estimate of £60 to repair the Bill Hall seat in Stoke Road.
- iii) RESOLVED: To authorise Mr Leonard's invoice for £20. In the interests of public safety he had removed a vandalised seat (dedicated to Constance Ching) from St Catherine's Park.

The families would be contacted if possible and items would be prepared for the Parish Magazine and website. It was agreed that softwood benches should be discouraged in favour of materials with no or low maintenance.

114.4 Bus shelters –

- i) **Butts Park** - RESOLVED: To invite tenders for the replacement of all the glass with Perspex.
- ii) **Collaton Park** – Members accepted the Directors' reasons for deciding to remove the shelter.

114.5 Bishops Court Consulting Room – In the interests of doctor/patient privacy, the following recommendations were agreed:-

- i) RESOLVED: To invite John Leonard to fit a draught strip to the base of the Consulting Room door, and
- ii) RESOLVED: To purchase a small radio and/or CD player for permanent use in the residents' lounge.

115/07 EMERGENCY PLAN

115.1 Vulnerable List – As an extended loss of power was the most likely cause of an emergency situation, it was suggested that it might be prudent to compile a list of residents who would be "at risk" in such circumstances. The **Chairman** would discuss this idea with Tim Deacon.

Agenda: July Meeting

116/07 MEETINGS ATTENDED

116.1 Harbour Authority – The main item reported concerned possible mooring controls to protect the eel grass beds, particularly in Cellar Bay.

116.2 Halls – Some items for the contractor's attention were still outstanding at the Village Hall. The Quiz Night at the WIC Hall had raised £900 towards the heating improvements and a grant had been received from the Revelstoke Trust.

116.3 A379 Cluster Group – The Chairman reported that several documents relating to Sherford would need an informed response from the Council. A combined response might be a sensible solution but some funding would be needed if professional advice was sought. An approach to I.C.C. would highlight the lack of provision for students wishing to partake in after-school activities.

117/07 ADMINISTRATION

117.1 End of Year Accounts 06/07 - The Internal Auditor's Financial Risk Assessment had concluded that the overall risk was low and all tests had been satisfactory. However, it was recommended that the Fidelity Guarantee should be increased to £75,000 (year end balances plus half the Precept). RESOLVED: To authorise the Chairman to sign the application to Allianz as prepared by the Clerk.

117.2 Auditor's Contract – The Clerk recommended renewal for the next four financial years. RESOLVED: To authorise the Chairman to sign the Contract.

117.3 Bishops Court Rent – RESOLVED: Future rental payments would be paid by Standing Order; two signatories were authorised to sign the bank mandate.

117.4 Charging Policy – RESOLVED: The hire charge for the projector should be £5.00.

118/07 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr Carter and listed in the Financial Statement Min.119/07.

119/07 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account	balance at 1.06.07	£	2,940.03
Portman Building Society Capital Fund	30 days' notice	£	54,780.33
Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund		£	11,432.82

The following cheques were authorised totalling £ **3,229.93**

R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	71.50
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	40.50
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	954.28
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage/supplies/Norton renewal	47.46
Tilly Institute	Hire: January - June : Six meetings @ £10	60.00
River Yealm Regatta	Grant: fireworks display 2007	50.00*
Garden Services	Grass cutting: The Green – April	29.00
C Smith	Expenses re School Leavers' Day	130.32
S Barton	Tutor fees: Computer courses CB2 and CI2	800.00
K Abraham	Audit fee: Accounts 2006/07	170.00
South West Water	Tap: Pillory Hill	5.80
Signpost Housing	Bishops Court rental: February to June 2007	870.68
John Leonard	Removal of damaged bench: Parsonage Road	20.00
John Leonard	Axworthy Steps: new handrail (Min.69.3)	470.00
Samaritans	Grant	100.00*

s.137 payments: £150.00 [Total to date: £ 1,759.83]

5/06/07Chairman

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm