

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 14th May 2009

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

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

APOLOGIES: Mr Young

OPEN FORUM

Parking enforcement:

Mr Chris Lucas, Head of Environmental Services at SHDC, was welcomed to the Meeting. He confirmed that responsibility for parking enforcement had passed from the Police to SHDC. In April, enforcement officers had visited the Parish on five occasions. Concerns were raised regarding the parking "hot spots" in the two villages, particularly around Newton Hill, the area outside the Co-op, Yealm Steps and Noss Mayo. It was agreed that a letter identifying the problem areas and the areas where waiting time restrictions were not being respected would be sent to Mr Lucas. [Min 92.9 refers]

Newton Ferrers Primary School:

As Chairman of Governors of the Primary School, Mrs Mary Wilcox confirmed that DCC had approved unanimously the Planning Application for the new school building. She hoped that the difficulties caused by the application could be forgotten so progress could be made for the benefit of the Community. The Council agreed and referred to similar comments made by the Chairman at the Public Consultation Meeting.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Lawrence presented the crime report for April and May, the details of which were noted; damage to three parked vehicles had remained undetected, a visitor to the area had been cautioned following the use of a dinghy, but the circumstances relating to two other incidents had remained confidential.

He also confirmed that parking enforcement was a massive problem but the Police had retained the ability to deal with any vehicle which caused an obstruction – parking on a double yellow line was deemed to be an obstruction.

In the Chairman's absence, the meeting was chaired by Mr Alan Cooper, Vice-Chairman.

84/09 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: Mr John Young was elected as Chairman to April 2010. (Vote: 9 for, 2 abstentions)

85/09 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: Mr Alan Cooper was elected as Vice-Chairman to April 2010. (Vote: all in favour)

86/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mr Young's reason for absence was noted.

87/09 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. The following was declared:-

Mr Stitson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Planning Application relating to "Hilsea", as he overlooked the property.

88/09 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order 15, it was agreed that the following item required immediate action and should be discussed at the end of the Meeting - the proposed letter to the residents of Court House. [Min 104/09 refers]

89/09 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE AGENDA in order to consider confidential items in Committee. It was agreed that a tenders for the Collaton/Butts Park Link would be considered at the end of the meeting.

90/09 MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES – The list for the forthcoming year to April 2010 was reviewed. Mrs Wilcox had asked to remain as the NNPC representative re Noss Mayo Church Heritage Trust, supported by a letter from the Trustees dated 14th May; her appointment was agreed.

1/05/09Chairman

The effectiveness of the Planning Working Group would be reviewed in June.

Agenda June

A suggestion to form a working group for the Co-op development and potential parking areas was declined but would be reviewed once the Council had received the views of the Court House residents.

It was agreed that Members' Responsibilities for 2008/09 would stand and be renewed for 2009/10.

91/09 MINUTES – The Minutes of the two April meetings were confirmed and signed as a correct record, save for an amendment to 65.4 to clarify the submission of the Parish Council's further comments re The Swan Licence.

92/09 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

92.1 Cllr Mumford reported the following:-

- i) Butts Park Crossing – Funding for safety improvements was in place. A safety audit was awaited.
- ii) Transport provision – Mr Matthews would analyse the School Survey results, liaise with Cllr Mumford and report to the next Meeting. It was noted that the Radmores bus to Holbeton was private. **Agenda June**
- iii) Road repairs – Potholes at the side of Widey Hill had been repaired. Cllr Mumford supported the view that tarmac repairs should be sealed and had flagged up concerns regarding the finish on the recent repairs. There were ongoing discussions between the landowner and DCC regarding the concerns at Middlecombe. A large pothole at the junction of Newton Hill with Yealm Road would be reported.
- iv) Unitary Government - All was quiet but there had been concerns about the Exeter/East Devon bid.

92.2 Highways maintenance - A letter was read from Cllr Greenslade regarding highway maintenance figures. The County Council budget for 2009/10 was £58 million. In view of the damage caused by the unusual winter weather, a further £2 million had been targeted for repairs.

The following item was discussed out of Agenda order whilst Cllr Mumford was present:-

92.3 Primary School - Planning Application - The application for the new building had been approved with conditions. Mr Brown had undertaken some effective research on an alternative roofing system which could allow a reduction in the ridge height by 0.8m. A request had been made that this be made a condition of the Planning Consent. It was hoped that the building would have a lower pitch roof, be lower in the ground to the east and slightly smaller than the building originally envisaged (Plan A). Mr Brown had spoken to some of those concerned who had appeared to be content with this. Mr Brown and Cllr Mumford were thanked for their time and negotiations.

Mr Matthews advised that whilst not speaking for everyone, the neighbouring residents seemed to regard the situation as a good outcome.

92.4 Collaton – Butts Park Link [Min. 107/09 also refers]

- i) Progress report - the Contractors' tenders would be considered in Committee. The Clerk had been invited to submit a grant application to the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group. The proposed Contractor had laid a very small section of path as an example.
- ii) British Telecom - Although B.T. had been aware of the proposed path, a new pole and stay had been erected without consultation. As a guide Cllr Cooper had been quoted £850 to replace the new stay and £2,000+ to move the pole. It was hoped that modifications would not be necessary as there should be sufficient room for pedestrians.
- iii) Daffodils - The contribution offered by the Garden Society to purchase and plant new bulbs on the verge was noted with thanks.

92.5 Report from Cllr Cooper - There were no particular items to report; it was the last day for Boundary Review Submissions.

92.6 Tennis Courts - The funds earmarked for the refurbishment had been diverted by SHDC. Mr Tubb reported on the positive development of the Tennis Club which was a good result.

92.7 The Swan Licence – The Licensing Application had been granted subject to conditions.

92.8 Play area maintenance and improvement –

i) Drainage, Noss - SWW had confirmed that they had no pipes under the play park. No leaks had been found in the pipes surrounding the area. SWW agreed that a clay layer might be contributing to the problems. From the O.S. map, Mr Brown suspected a stream might divert under the play park – an underground pipe might have become blocked. Regarding the Lease, the Clerk had reminded SHDC of their obligations for drains/channels. Concerns regarding trees and Western Power lines were also discussed. Cllr Cooper reported that she and Mr Stitson would meet SHDC representatives on 18 May and 21 May. Nettles and equipment needed attention. The grass could not be cut and the play area had been virtually unusable. **Agenda June**

ii) SHDC Maintenance programme – Painting had been completed at Butts Park.

iii) Grant funding – The Expression of Interest Form had not been completed as there had been insufficient time to gather the supporting information required. Work had commenced to complete the necessary background work

for submission within the next round of funding opportunities and Mr Brown had prepared a draft questionnaire with pictures of some equipment options as ideas; he would revise the draft for discussion at the next Meeting.

Mr Stitson reported that some young people would like a bigger climbing frame. It was felt that the request for a skateboard facility at Noss was not a viable option.

Agenda June

92.9 Parking enforcement – It was agreed that Mr Matthews would draft a letter of thanks to Mr Lucas; the “hot spots” would be clarified and the assurance that the area would continue to receive regular attention from parking enforcement officers would be confirmed. The situation was be kept under review.

Clerk’s note: Members understood Mr Lucas to have said that officers did not work at weekends. In a subsequent email, Mr Lucas clarified that enforcement was undertaken on seven days a week and apologised if he had misled the Meeting.

92.10 Noss Green - Application for permission to park – Mr Stitson had advised the applicants that the Council had no objection to their request to park cars on Noss Green for a wedding, provided the weather conditions were appropriate and no damage was caused to the ground.

92.11 Request for disabled parking bay – The Council considered the request for a disabled parking bay outside The Rectory, the details of which were contained in a letter from DCC. Whilst the Members had every sympathy for the applicants, they felt unable to support the application because the position of the proposed bay was a narrow public highway and there was an alternative parking space at the lower end of The Fairway.

RESOLVED: The request for the disabled bay would not be supported. (Vote: 10 for, 1 temporarily unavailable to vote)

93/09 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

93.1 Development currently proposed – It was understood that plans for up to 15 homes were being prepared by Tor Homes in consultation with SHDC Planning Officers; the site was favoured due to its natural link to the village.

93.2 SHDC Housing Surgery – The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman had taken the opportunity to meet the Planning Officers in April. An informal discussion had been useful but there was nothing specific to report.

94/09 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

94.1 SHDC Development Site Allocation for Development Plan Documents (draft) for inclusion in the Local Development Framework: Options Consultation and Community Engagement Programme. SHDC had planned for 400 homes, spread around 52 villages. Newton Ferrers had been identified as one of 16 “sustainable” villages most likely to be allocated a site due to its school and shops. 11 potential development sites had been identified (9 in Newton and 2 in Noss). The Community Engagement Programme was to be completed by the end of June but there would be further consultation in the autumn. It was agreed a public meeting should be held during the week commencing 8th June to gauge opinion. The **Housing Group** would meet on Monday 18th May to discuss the format; Mary Wilcox and Robin Hogg would be invited to attend. A Prince’s Foundation workshop for the Ivybridge hinterland would be held on Tuesday 16th June; the **Vice-Chairman and Mr Brown** would attend. **Agenda June**

95/09 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

95.1 Co-op plans – Representatives from the Co-op would be meeting Malcolm Elliott, Senior Planning Officer, on 21 May. Cllr Cooper understood that the future of the Co-op was in doubt if a viable redevelopment could not proceed. She had stressed to the Planning Department that the Parish wished to retain the Co-op. Concerns were raised about the potential impact of a proposed takeover of the Co-Operative organisation. **Agenda June**

95.2 SHDC planning decisions – The most recent decisions received were noted.

95.3 Applications received – The current applications were considered:-
CARRIGEEN, 38 YEALM ROAD 37/0636/09/F - New balcony and decking in front of dwelling.
Decision; No objection. (Vote: 8 for, 3 abstentions)

WIND JAMMER, RIVERSIDE ROAD WEST 37/0663/09/F - extension to rear of dwelling.
Decision; No objection. (Vote: 8 for, 3 abstentions)

HILSEA, REVELSTOKE ROAD 37/0731/09/F - Alterations to dwelling.
Decision; No objection. (Vote: 9 for, 2 abstentions)

CREEK COTTAGE, NOSS – The Planning application had not been received.

95.4 Planning Inspectorate – The Vice-Chairman read the disappointing response from the DoE following the NNPC complaint about the Inspector’s site visit to view The Green House Appeal. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would reply notifying that the Parish Council wished to be represented at all future appeal visits affecting the Parish. **Cllr Cooper** referred to a meeting to take place at SHDC regarding the impact of Parish Plans/Village Design Statements. **Mr Brown** and **Cllr Cooper** expressed an interest in attending. **Agenda June**

96/09 VILLAGE PLANS

96.1 2004 Parish Plan – Transport, Travel and Parking report was handed to the Clerk. **Agenda June**

96.2 Emergency Plan – The update would be considered at the next Meeting. **Agenda June**

97/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

97.1 Canoe Storage – No details of a rack design for Noss Hard had been received.

97.2 Planning training – Ivybridge: 28th May. **Mrs Hinchliffe, Mr Matthews and Mrs McDonough** would attend.

98/09 NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

98.1 Final Balance Transfer – RESOLVED: To authorise the transfer of £4234.20 to Newton & Noss Network.
(Vote: unanimous)

99/09 TOURIST INFORMATION BOARD The suggestion of an information point at The Green was considered. The Clerk would contact SHDC and DCC to ask for advice. **Agenda July**

100/09 PARISH ASSETS The meeting with the RYHA had not taken place. It was agreed **Mr Matthews** and **Mr Carter** would look at the matter further. **Agenda June**

101/09 MAINTENANCE

101.1 Handrails – Swan Steps: Mr Allen reported that the bottom two thirds had been installed. The top third had not been installed as the wall had been damaged. **Agenda June**

101.2 Footpath inspection forms were distributed by Mr Taylor who asked that they be returned to him for the July meeting. **Agenda July**

101.3 Footpath Guides – It was agreed that Mr Taylor would organise a re-print to be purchased direct by Mr Tubb. The inclusion of a map was not supported because of the expense and O.S. maps were readily available from the Post Office.

101.4 Court Road Path improvements (Briar Hill: probably the most walked path in the village) – Permission had been received from Mr McCready and Mr Lister to obtain some costings. It was suggested that when the Collaton link path was being constructed, Mr Daniels' advice and quote should be invited. SW Highways and the contractor who laid the Holy Cross tarmac should also be invited to quote.

101.5 Doctor's Steps – The faulty handrail had been repaired temporarily by Mr Leonard. He had been invited to quote for a more permanent repair. **Agenda June**

101.6 Noss Hard – The **Chairman** and **Mr Carter** would look at the condition of the Hard in the autumn and recommend any action required for the following spring. **Agenda October**

101.7 New Trees - It had been noted that during the previous week, 3 or more trees had been planted by persons unknown, in the verge adjacent to the footpath between the pedestrian crossing point and New Barn. It was disappointing to note that within a few days, the trees had been removed.

102/09 MEETINGS ATTENDED

102.1 Harbour Authority – Mr Carter reported on the Annual Meeting, the main items being his re-election as Chairman, the increasing popularity of canoes and the possible introduction of charges which would be considered.

102.2 Yealm Estuary Management Group - Mr Taylor reported:-

- i) Yealm Enhanced Water Monitoring Programme - generally the Yealm was an encouragingly clean river but there were concerns about both farm run-off and sewage treatment.
- ii) Emergency repairs had been carried out on the Warren Point Ferry Steps by RYHA, but additional work would be required.
- iii) The New England Quarry had been identified as one of four possible sites for a Waste to Energy Plant.
- iv) There had been developments with the proposed cycle/footpath between Brixton/Yealmpton with the routes running over the Kitley Estate (either the estuary or the road route).
- v) Rural Ideas Organisation and the Marine Biological Association were undertaking an environmental project with the Primary School which would culminate in the creation of an Information panel. They would be seeking an appropriate site for the panel. Mr Sewell would contact the Parish Council.

102.3 Halls - Mr Brown reported no difficulties.

102.4 Primary School - Mrs Hinchliffe confirmed that the management partnership was continuing. There were 92 children on the roll with 2 joining. One member of staff was leaving. The School was looking to recruit 1.6 to replace her so they could move to 4 classes in September. The new Optimists would be launched on 26 June. Caroline Taylor would be retiring as Governor, and would be replaced by Valerie Sharples.

102.5 SHDC Parish Cluster Meeting - The Clerk reported:-

- i) Ivybridge Children's Centre. A representative from the new Centre would be contacting the Council with a view to attending a meeting.
- ii) The Local Government Review. The majority of Councils favoured the status quo.
- iii) Budget. SHDC hoped to develop links with other Districts to share services and reduce costs. There had been substantial efficiency savings within the SHDC budget. There were concerns about the Police passing more responsibility to the District Councils with the subsequent impact on costs. The Government Grant had been reduced; investment income had fallen but demands had risen.
- iv) Housing Development. SHDC looked to target empty homes – 600 in the District.
- v) The Development Plan Documents site allocations were looking towards 2026 with the Regional Spatial Strategy. It would be 2011 before the plans would be adopted.

103/09 ADMINISTRATION

103.1 Insurance – The Insurance premium had increased by £90 to £1096.

RESOLVED: To accept the Annual renewal premium. (Vote: unanimous)

103.2 Bishops Court – The Clerk's position statement (attached) was referred to. The request for an increase in rent (backdated) for the room and parking space was considered, together with strategies to address the shortfall in income. **Mr Cooper** and **Mr Brown** would discuss matters with the Manager of the Yealm Medical Centre. It was agreed to comply with Signpost's request to amend the Standing Order to a Direct Debit payment as provided for in the Lease. It was noted that the single parking space allocated for the Doctors and contained within the Lease, had been assigned to a resident; from time to time the Doctors had difficulty parking within the site. **Agenda June**

103.3 Sewage - The Vice-Chairman reported a meeting with South West Water regarding two leaking man holes on the foreshore near Big Slip Quay. Unfortunately repairs had been effected to the wrong manhole covers. SWW had now effected repairs to the correct manholes. A manhole leaking near Tidal Waters would be reported to SWW.

Mr Matthews left at 10pm.

103.4 Future Meetings - In view of limited space in the Tilly Institute, the **Clerk** was asked to make enquiries about the availability of the Village Hall for future meetings in Noss Mayo.

Agenda June

104/09 URGENT BUSINESS

The Council considered whether to send a letter (as drafted and circulated prior to the Meeting) to the residents of Court House regarding the possibility of using land for parking in the vicinity of the Co-op. Concerns were expressed that if DCC Highways Department became involved, the subsequent delay could impact on the Co-op's redevelopment programme. The Co-op would be meeting the SHDC Planning Department on 21 May.

A proposal was put forward and seconded, that the draft letter should be sent but the Resolution was not carried. (Vote 2 in favour, 8 against).

RESOLVED: That the issue should be discussed at the June Meeting. (Vote 6 in favour)

Agenda June

105/09 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.106/09.

106/09 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account Balance at 1.5.09 £ 55,194.74

Gratuity Fund £ 16,396.07

The following cheques were authorised totalling £ 7,625.08

Newton & Noss Network	Transfer in lieu of fees received UP4	247.00
Newton & Noss Network	Transfer in lieu of cheques received re Sail Training	315.00
R Wooderson	Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps	76.70
J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay	43.50
J Eschbaecher	Net salary	1,067.02
J Eschbaecher	Expenses: postage, office supplies, miles	25.80
Allianz Insurance	Insurance renewal 2009/10	1,095.99
WIC Hall	Hire for Digital UK presentation on 2 nd June	30.00*
WIC Hall	Hire: 8 th April and 29 th April	45.00
C Woodd-Walker	Mileage to Tree Warden event	14.96*
Garden Services	Grass cutting: The Green – April	31.00
Devon Conservation Forum	Annual subscription	20.00
Signpost Housing Association	Bishops Court Rent 25.3.09 to 31.3.09	49.02
Signpost Housing Association	Bishops Court Rent review 25.6.07 to 24.6.09	332.01
J Eschbaecher	Norton security renewal	44.99
S McDonough	Net salary	514.89
Newton & Noss Network	Transfer of closing balance at 31.3.09	4,234.20

*s.137 payments: £54.96 Total to date: £190.08

In view of the confidential nature of the item to be discussed, it had been agreed that the following should be considered in Committee:-

107/09 CONSIDERATION OF TENDERS - COLLATON/BUTTS PARK LINK [Min. 92.4 also refers]

A Quotation had been received from W Daniels Plant Hire Ltd for the main construction work. Mr Daniels was a well respected local contractor with many years' experience and expertise in laying footpaths.

Mr Phil Hingston had given the Clerk a verbal quotation which he had promised to confirm in writing once his computer had been repaired.

Another contractor had been unwilling to quote for the entire surfacing due to lack of expertise. Therefore his quote for part of the work had been rejected.

RESOLVED: To accept the quote provided by W Daniels Plant Hire Ltd dated 13 May 2009. (Vote unanimous)

The Meeting closed at 10.15 pm

6/05/09Chairman