

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
held on 11th October 2007

PRESENT: Mr Brown Mr Buckland Mr Cooper Mrs Cooper Mrs Hinchliffe
 Mr Hussell Mr Matthews Mr Stitson Mr Taylor Mr Tubb Mr Young

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Lomax (RYDA) Mrs Eschbaecher (Clerk) Three parishioners

APOLOGIES: Mr Carter Cllr Mumford PCSO Lawrence

POLICE REPORT

It was noted that PCSO Lawrence had dealt with some incidents of anti-social behaviour during the summer holidays, one of which had involved an attempt to light a fire in Brookings Down Wood. Action had also been taken at Collaton and parking tickets had been issued. He had been thanked for his conscientious support for the Parish during the absence of a Neighbourhood Beat Manager; PC John Nolan would commence his NBM duties on 15th October. The three crimes reported since 13th September had involved two thefts and one burglary. It was noted that Police Authority meetings would be available via www.dcpa.police.uk on 7th December and 15th February:10am.

OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised.

158/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr Carter's absence was approved.

159/07 PREVIOUS MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September were confirmed and signed.

160/07 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 Brown declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 – the grant application from the Village Hall, and left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Mr Buckland declared personal interests in item 7 - the planning applications for The Old Well House and the Oar Store, and item 10 - the grant application from the U3A Photography Workshop Group.

Mrs Hinchliffe declared a personal interest in item 7 – The Old Well House, and a prejudicial interest in item 10. the grant application from the Primary School; she left the Meeting during consideration of the grant.

Mr Matthews declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 - the planning application for The Old Well House and left the Meeting during consideration of the application.

Mr Stitson declared prejudicial interests in item 7 – the planning application for the Oar Store and item 10.- the grant applications for Revelstoke Rangers and Noss Green. He left the Meeting during consideration of these three items.

Mr Tubb declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 – the planning application for the Oar Store, and left the Meeting during consideration of the application.

Mr Young declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 – a tender for the Sports Pavilion, and abstained from voting.

161/07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

161.1 Cllr Mumford had been unable to attend due to commitments in another parish.

161.2 Street Lighting – The Clerk had sent approximately 65 emails inviting residents to comment in principle on the suggestion that there should be a reduction in lighting hours after midnight. Of the 44 replies received, 41 had been in favour with 3 against for public security reasons. Of those in favour, approximately 6 would prefer a reduction in the number of lights; this idea had been queried and a reply was awaited from Cllr Mumford. The Chairman explained his thoughts on the output from the National Grid and concluded that many parishes would have to reduce power consumption in order to make a meaningful difference to emissions.

161.3 FP37 Church Steps – Responsibility for the damaged railing had been accepted by DCC and the contractor had been authorised to proceed as soon as possible.

161.4 Parish Lengthsman Service – DCC had requested that for health and safety reasons, all instructions for the Lengthsman should be sent to the Highway Superintendent.

161.5 Fly-posting – DCC had confirmed that posters for local charitable events were acceptable, provided they were removed very soon after an event; a reminder would be submitted for the Parish Magazine. However, posters of a commercial nature were not permitted. It was noted that responses received by the Community Housing Working Group had been prompted mainly as a result of poster advertising.

161.6 Highway issues – A site meeting with DCC would be requested to consider ongoing drainage problems in Stoke Road at the junction with FP22 Axsmith's Hill. Drainage difficulties in Riverside Road West ("Northshore" area) would also be reported.

161.7 Cllr Cooper reported that an SHDC Planning Committee site meeting would consider the current application for 47 Yealm Road. The revised Yealm Management Plan had also been accepted by SHDC and would be circulated to Members. Areas for cost savings were being investigated. Refuse collection from Court Wood had been halted temporarily due to access difficulties; in view of the weight restriction, a lighter vehicle was required.

161.8 Glass recycling – A letter from SHDC had confirmed there was a market for all recycled glass, with the separated glass gaining a higher price than mixed colours.

161.9 Street cleaning – It was clear that the amount of time allocated to Newton & Noss was insufficient. The Clerk was due to meet the street sweeper to discuss his cleaning schedule.

161.10 Public conveniences in Yealm Road had been closed temporarily for cleaning and upgrading.

162/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

162.1 Seminar: Community Land Trusts – The Chairman and Cllr Cooper had attended the Seminar in Totnes but Cllr Cooper reported that SHDC had been unhappy with the Chairman's criticism of the SHDC Planning Department. Subsequently, Mr Brown had been threatened at the event by an SHDC councillor. As concluded by the Community Housing Working Group, CLTs were not without their administrative burdens and capital cost risks, and were not favoured by SHDC Planners.

162.2 Butts Park – Cllr Cooper reported that SHDC had agreed in principle to a small "exception site" development of fewer than 20 homes; it was understood that there was interest from Tor Homes but the site would be offered to other RSLs. It was anticipated that all the homes would be available for rent as the shared ownership option (part rent/part mortgage) was unaffordable for many tenants. However, it was suggested that if the land was subsidised, the houses should be reasonably priced. Under current legislation there was no guarantee that a tenant would not have a right to buy a rented house.

162.3 Seminar: Rural Housing Trust

i) Commemorative Slate Plaque to be unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal on 2nd November: The Chairman presented a quote of £341 excl. VAT from Martin & Sons (the only stonemasons able to deliver the order at short notice). RESOLVED: To accept the quote. [Vote: all in favour] [LGA 1972 s.137]

ii) Noss Hard: RESOLVED: To invite Garden Services to undertake a small amount of tidying. [Vote: all in favour]

iii) Three Members offered to assist with traffic control on 2nd November. Signs would be made by the Chairman.

163/07 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

163.1 DCC Bus Information Strategy 2006-2011 – Having read the document, Mr Hussell recommended, and Members accepted, that no reply was necessary.

163.2 Review of additional pitch requirements for Gypsies & Travellers – Mr Matthews reported that within the South-West region, 1600 additional pitches would be required between 2006 and 2011. In the Plymouth area the requirement would be 51 residential and 5 travelling pitches. Members accepted his recommendation that no response was necessary.

164/07 SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

164.1 Design or Access Statement – It was suggested that the Parish Council should comment on the current SHDC requirements and try to influence the content and scope of the information submitted to support planning applications. Particular local areas of concern which were not being addressed were the timing of developments and traffic management. In conclusion, it was agreed that it would be better to concentrate on access issues rather than design and Mr Buckland would draft some guidelines for consideration.

Agenda: November Meeting

164.2 SHDC Planning decisions – Whilst reviewing the latest decisions, it was noted that application 1672/07 for metal access stairs, platforms and a storage shed below the Leas Path had been refused; the development would result in an unacceptable visual impact on the landscape and conflict with several DCC and SHDC policies.

164.3 Oar Store, Noss Creek 1949/07/F – Storage shed for Regatta and Gig oars.

Decision: No comment. [Vote: 10 in favour 1 abstention]

164.4 1 Coastguard Cottages 2006/07/F – Resubmission of 0899/07/F for the conversion of two garages to ancillary accommodation. Three copy letters of objection had been received.

Decision in line with 0899/07: No objection provided the accommodation remained ancillary to the main house (annexe use only); no sub-division or holiday letting should be permitted in the future. [Vote: 10 in favour 1 abstention]

164.5 Boscavene, Gnaton 2027/07/F – Demolition of conservatory/porch and erection of a replacement.

Decision: No objection in principle but there was potential to improve the design. [Vote: 10 in favour 1 abstention]

164.6 The Old Well House, Court Road 2090/07/F – Retrospective application for landscaping of the existing front lawn. One letter of objection had been received. The original planning approval had including some re-grading of the garden but the levels were now slightly higher than approved.

Decision: A site visit to agree the response to SHDC would be arranged; four Members would attend.

164.7 Old Cellars - Boat Store – A copy letter to the Planning Department had been received and it was understood that an official would inspect the alterations and improvements to the new boat store.

165/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main item received had concerned:-

165.1 DAPC Training: Introduction to Planning – There was no interest in this event.

166/07 NEWTON & NOSS NETWORK

166.1 Update – The recent meeting had centred around activities for young people. Opportunities for an initial adventure day would be researched. Because of the significant expansion of the Network activities since the initial ROLI grant had prompted its formation, the Clerk would check that the scope of the formal powers and VAT legislation applicable to the Parish Council were not being exceeded.

166.2 Payments to be authorised – RESOLVED: To authorise seven payments as listed under Minute 174/07.

167/07 GRANT REQUESTS

167.1 Village Resource: Lighting Control Unit – Following a discussion on the merits of a locally owned unit compared with current hire costs and perceived needs, the Chairman withdrew the suggestion. However, Members agreed to review the idea if needs changed.

167.2 DCC Locality Budget – In response to Cllr Mumford's offer of £850 to support a community project (the funds having originated from County Hall), four applications were considered in accordance with general guidelines regarding suitability. Because the unusual 8 peel church bells of St Peter's were an important part of the village heritage, it was

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Noss Mayo Church Heritage Trust should receive the full grant to assist with restoration. [Vote: all in favour] The application would be submitted to DCC via Cllr Mumford.

RESOLVED: To invite the Primary School and Village Hall to re-submit their applications for further consideration.

167.3 Revelstoke Rangers (an after-school club) – RESOLVED: To pay the insurance renewal of £64.

[Vote: 10 in favour 1 abstention] [LGA 1972 s.137]

167.4 Noss Green – A request was considered for assistance in principle to purchase two small moveable goal posts; although it was understood that parents were willing to support the purchase, it was agreed that the children should be encourage to assist with fund raising.

RESOLVED: Provided safe storage could be guaranteed and match funding was available, up to £100 was agreed.

[Vote: 10 in favour 1 abstention] [LGA 1972 s.137]

167.5 U3A and Newton & Noss Network – A request for approximately £230 was considered for the purchase two additional display panels to supplement the existing set of panels which were proving to be very useful as a village resource.

RESOLVED: The purchase was authorised. [Vote: all in favour] [LGA 1972 s.137]

167.6 Royal British Legion – RESOLVED: To donate £100. [Vote: all in favour] [LGA 1972 s.137]

168/07 FOOTPATHS and SEATS

168.1 Donkey Path – The closing date had been extended to 8th November.

Agenda: November Meeting

168.2 Collaton – Widey link – As South West Water did not own the disused sewage works, the Clerk was making enquiries regarding ownership. It was important to secure the site before public access was permitted.

168.3 Path to Cellars Beach – Improvements to the lower section had been undertaken by DCC but the condition of the upper steps would be checked.

Agenda: November Meeting

168.4 FP9 Gnaton – For health and safety reasons, DCC had removed the central bridge and ordered a replacement. Warning notices had been posted at both ends of the path. A stile would also be upgraded by DCC.

168.5 Annual Inspection Report – It was noted that there were no locked gates on FP28 between Lambside and Stoke – a letter of thanks would be sent to the landowner. Other items highlighted would be considered at a site meeting attended by the Clerk, Mr Taylor, Mr Young, Mr Matthews and Mr Stitson.

168.6 Bishops Court/Newton Hill – Mr Buckland would consider the request for a small seat and report to the next Meeting.

Agenda: November Meeting

168.7 FP14 Doctor's Steps – The rusted and collapsed footpath sign would be reported to DCC again.

169/07 MAINTENANCE

169.1 Sports Pavilion – A tender had been received for the removal of the windows and metal shutters to be replaced by glass blocks to allow natural light into the showers and toilets. It was agreed that the building must be made safe and secure.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation of £1,436 + VAT from D S Developments. [Vote: 10 in favour 1 abstention]

Promotion of the facility would be considered at a later date.

Agenda: January Meeting

169.2 Popes Quay – Mr Carter would be asked to report to the next meeting.

Agenda: November Meeting

170/07 NOTICE BOARDS

170.1 Usage Policy – In view of the increasing number of commercial advertisements taking advantage of the notice boards, it was agreed that they should not be permitted. However, although some local education posters had a commercial element, they did provide an important health or social function and should be allowed (e.g. yoga/pilates, etc.). Parish Council and local community events posters should take priority.

RESOLVED: To adopt the above policy guidelines, a full copy of which would be held on file. [Vote: all in favour]

171/07 MEETINGS ATTENDED

171.1 Harbour Authority – Mr Matthews reported a quieter summer season than normal. Leases were being renewed.

171.2 Parish Meeting – The Chairman had presided over the recent meeting but had stressed to those attending that the Parish Council had not expressed a view on the subject under consideration. Of the 44 attendees, 43 had agreed to demand that the District Council held a Parish Poll to ask the question:- "Do you want a referendum on the current EU Constitutional Treat? Yes/No?". The SHDC decision was awaited.

171.3 Village Hall – The Hall continued to be well used and finances were good. Outstanding building issues were being remedied and the **Chairman** would check the exterior pointing.

172/07 ADMINISTRATION

172.1 Annual Review of Clerk's Salary – The Clerk left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Public sector pay negotiations were still under discussion so the National Pay Scale review for Clerks was six months overdue. In line with the NALC/SLCC Terms & Conditions, it was RESOLVED: To increase the Clerk's salary by one point to 32 [within the Scale 30 – 34] in line with the figures applicable on 1st April 2006. Backpay of £210 was also agreed (April to September @ £35 per month).

172.2 Portman Building Society – The Clerk outlined recent administrative difficulties with the Society. Although two share accounts were held, the Clerk would query the receipt of £1,000, a bonus following the merger with the Nationwide Building Society.

173/07 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.174/07.

174/07 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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|---|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Alliance & Leicester Current Account | balance at 1.10.07 | £ | 10,703.52 |
| Portman Building Society Capital Fund | 30 days' notice | £ | 45,018.83 |
| Portman Building Society Gratuity Fund | | £ | 11,432.82 |

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| The following cheques were authorised totalling | | £ | 4,043.79 |
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| R Wooderson | Cleaning: Newton Voss and steps | 71.50 |
| J Allen | Cleaning: Noss Voss/Pope's Quay | 40.50 |
| J Eschbaecher | Net salary and back pay to April 07 | 1,123.46 |
| J Eschbaecher | Expenses: postage | 9.84 |
| J Young | Sports Pavilion: balance owing for materials | 19.60 |
| Garden Services | Grass cutting: The Green – August | 30.00 |
| South Hams Newspapers | Public Notice: Code of Conduct | 53.37 |
| British Telecom | Clerk's telephone | 60.00 |
| British Telecom | Bishops Court telephone | 60.74 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | Income Tax and N.I. re the Clerk | 954.42 |
| C Woodd-Walker (Tree Warden) | Mileage to Exeter – Tree Wardens' Forum | 40.80 |
| Towergate Risk Solutions | Insurance Renewal: Revelstoke Rangers | 64.00* |
| <i>Network Payments:</i> | | |
| C Smith | Stationery and supplies | 82.82 |
| C Smith | Projector: replacement cable | 14.99 |
| C Smith | Pottery: storage boxes and boards | 23.99 |
| The Potters Connection Ltd | Pottery: equipment and materials | 385.02 |
| S Barton | Computer disks: C13 | 7.84 |
| S Bradford | Equipment for Active Tots | 250.90 |
| Devon County Council | Hire of IT Suite: CB2 C12 and DP2 courses | 750.00 |

*s.137 payments: £64.00 [Total to date: £ 1,973.03]

5/10/07Chairman

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm

