

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held on 14 July 2011**

PRESENT Cllr Cooper Mr. Cooper Mr. Hussell Mr. Carter Mr. Gough

Mr. Taylor Mr. Matthews Mr. Tubb

ALSO

PRESENT

Mrs. McDonough  
(Clerk)

6 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

**OPEN FORUM**

**POLICE MATTERS:** Apologies had been sent by PC Batchelor and PCSO Potter.

Jl/11/446: Overnight on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a motor vehicle was stolen. The vehicle had since been recovered and enquires were continuing.

Jl/11/455: Overnight on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 some plants were stolen. There were no further lines of enquiry.

Jl/11/464: On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a fight occurred. Enquires were ongoing.

Jl/11/469: On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a vehicle had a catalytic converter stolen from it. Enquires were on-going.

Jl/11/478: On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a damaged vehicle was stolen. Enquires were on-going.

Jl/11/500: On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a motorcycle was stolen. The registration number of the bike was J983 RFJ. The police asked to be contacted if it was seen.

Jl/11/501: On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a theft from motor vehicle occurred. Enquires were on-going.

Jl/11/532: On 01<sup>st</sup> July 2011 a fraud took place. Enquires were continuing.

COMMUNITY-Police visited a number of residents in Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo to see if residents felt safe in their homes and out and about in the village. Nearly all people questioned felt very safe. Some intelligence was gathered and some complaints were received which the Police would look into. Patrols were continuing regarding marine crime including use of a covert police car which had "Automatic Number Plate Recognition" which was a vital tool in tackling crime.

**BUS TURNING POINT, NOSS MAYO**- a parishioner raised concerns regarding difficulties caused for bus drivers at the turning point with cars parked on the corners. A bus driver had advised that if the buses had difficulties turning then the buses for the remainder of the day could be cancelled. Cllr. Mumford advised that he would ask DCC Highways Department to speak with Tally Ho to see if any suggestions could be made to remedy the problem.

**DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**- a parishioner expressed frustration about the unnecessary postage expenses incurred by the organisation. Cllr Mumford made a note of the concern.

**178/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – there were no apologies for absence. Mr. Carter would be arriving late.

**179/11 MINUTES** –The Minutes of the 9 June Meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**180/11 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED** - Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. Mr. Tubb declared an interest in matters pertaining to Yealm Medical Centre. All Members declared a possible interest in matters relating to the Yealm Yacht Club by virtue of being members.

**181/11 PROPOSAL TO VARY THE AGENDA** –

RESOLVED: that items relating to consideration of quotations for hand rails for the Donkey Path should be considered in Committee. (Vote: *Unanimous*)

RESOLVED: that items relating to consideration of quotations for hedge trimming for Collaton/Butts Park Link should be considered in Committee. (Vote: *Unanimous*)

**182/11. COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**182.1 County Councillor's Report-**

**a) New England quarry-** the planning application had been due to be determined on 20 July. A letter had been received from Viridor the previous evening asking for the decision to be deferred on the basis that they felt that they had not been given adequate notice of some matters. Upon receipt of legal advice DCC had felt obliged to agree to defer the decision. The Planning Officer strongly recommended refusal of the application. Cllr Mumford wished to offer thanks to the high quality letters of objection received from local people and organisations.

**b) Highways-** the team had now been reorganised. Mr Jim Morrison was now Highways Superintendant for the area working from Ivybridge. Mr Nick Colton was the local point of contact.

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**c) Snow Wardens-** Cllr Mumford recommended the benefits of the scheme. The Snow Warden's actions would come within DCC Public Liability Insurance. It would entitle the Parish to receive 5 tonnes of grit before winter subject to storage facilities. If there was a further harsh winter, by the time grit bins were empty, DCC would usually have had a directive to only grit priority routes. There was a better chance of dealing with problem area if the Parish had their own store.

**d) Locality budget-** The grant available was £4000 which included a carry over from the previous year and from Invest in Devon. The Council was asked to promote the funding available, to consider applications and to advise Cllr Mumford of its decision. John Hart was trying to introduce a fund equivalent to 50p per elector for use of the community which could be increased to £1 per elector in the future. A number of Parishes had requested additional grit bins. There were 2 categories- those in DCC approved locations which DCC would then fill and maintain and those unapproved for which the Parish would need to be responsible. The costs of supply and installation would be £300. The requested bin for Hillhead was a DCC approved site.

**e) Butts Park Bus Stop-** the Highways Department had been asked to amend the Clearway parking restrictions such that it finished at 18.30 to coincide with the departure of the last bus.

**f) Wembury Steps-** Cllr Cooper advised of concerns regarding the condition of the Yealm ferry steps at the end of the public footpath in Wembury which she had raised with John Hart. Cllr Mumford confirmed he would look into this.

#### **Highways-**

**182.2 Grass cutting-** Devon County Council had advised that the cutting of some grass verges within 30mph speed limit areas would be reduced from 6 to 4 cuts per season. The County Council had committed to arrange for additional cuts at some road junctions only if growth compromised safety. Concerns about safety should be raised directly with Devon County Council. The County Council had also withdrawn the weed spraying service from the area. They would deal with litter and loose organic detritus but not fixed weed growth. In these circumstances, Members suggested that Parishioners may wish to consider looking after the areas outside their own properties.

**182.3 Street lighting-** Devon County Council had approved a policy of part-night lighting in residential areas across the County to reduce emissions and energy costs. The policy for the Parish would apply to all residential areas except for the B3186 from Parsonage Road to the junction with Church Park. This section would remain lit all night. This would result in the lights being switched off in all other residential areas from about 12.30am for 5 hours. The County Council had set up a web site- [www.devon.gov.uk/partnightlighting](http://www.devon.gov.uk/partnightlighting) to explain its policy. PC Batchelor had been consulted. The proposal had been circulated to the Parish council database. Those responding had been in favour. As a result of suggestions, Members proposed that additional lights remain on from Church Park to the junction with Newton Hill and on both sides of Newton-Noss Voss.

**182.4 Road closure-** application for temporary road closure starting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 for up to five days, from Bridgend Cross to the Stoke Road/Pillory Hill junction, was noted

**182.5 Devon County Council Snow Warden Scheme 2011-** introduction of new arrangements for the provision of grit and suggested appointment of a snow warden was considered. It was agreed that it was important to appoint a snow warden. An advert would be placed in the Parish Magazine for a volunteer. The request for a grit bin at Hillhead had been approved by Devon County Council, but not approved for the suggested location mid way down Newton Hill. A suggestion was made that a local resident could be asked to keep a couple of sacks of grit for use when needed.

**182.6 Locality Budget-**it was agreed to advertise the available funding including an advert in the Parish Magazine. Closing date for applications would be shortly prior to the first Meeting in September.

#### **182.7 Collaton-Butts Park Link –**

i) Transfer of the verge outside 1 Butts Park to the ownership of the Parish Council had been completed. RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the invoice from Ashfords LLP for Tor Homes legal costs in the sum of £480 inclusive of VAT. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

ii) The estimate received for further latches and infill was considered. RESOLVED: To accept the estimate from EG Hingston & Son to supply and fit 2 two way self locking gate latches, unilatch gate kits and unilatch 'u' shaped handles plus square rails to sides of gateways, in the sum of £421.50 plus VAT. *(Vote; Unanimous)*.

iii) Handrail- the resident at 1 Butts Park had been asked to reconfirm consent to the removal of the apparent redundant handrail protruding onto the pavement outside 1 Butts Park.

iv) Completion- a quote for completion of the work was awaited. It was agreed that the contractor would be asked to raise the kerb to prevent car parking on the final section of the path outside 1 Butts Park. The position would be monitored and if the problem persisted, consideration would be given to the placement of bollards.

**182.8 District Councillor's Report-** SHDC had been working with West Devon on shared services.

**182.9 SHDC Asset Transfer-** a draft letter in response to the proposals put forward by SHDC had been circulated. The draft letter was approved and would be signed by the Vice Chairman in the Chairman's absence. The working group had prepared a draft presentation for the purposes of a public consultation on the implications of accepting a transfer of SHDC land assets to the Parish Council with particular reference to a potential significant increase in the Precept. It was agreed that a

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public consultation should be advertised which would take place at 7pm on 22 September 2011 in advance of the Parish Council Meeting.

**182.10 Village Housing Initiative-** two copies of letters in support sent to SHDC Development Control were noted. It was agreed that a letter from a Parishioner referring further to his previous correspondence would be responded to on the basis that Members, whilst not agreeing with the points raised, regarded the issues as now closed.

**182.11 Noss Play Park-** the Clerk gave a brief report on progress with respect to improvements advising that the leader of Noss Play Park Improvement Group, Mrs. Hinchliffe, was intending to come to the next Meeting to give a full report. Eden Design, the Landscape Architects, were preparing invitations to tender for the work to send to contractors. RESOLVED: To delegate responsibility for approving the invitation to tender to Mrs. Sue Hinchliffe. It was likely that the Parish Council Chairman would be asked to sign the contract with the play park contractors in August. Mr. Matthews agreed to look over the contract but not on the basis of offering legal advice to the Council.

**182.12 Butts Park Playing Field-** there was no update from SHDC, as landowner, relating to application for designation as a Queen Elizabeth II field and the potential funding opportunities. It was agreed to take no further action unless SHDC came back with any developments.

**182.13 Allotment Group-** Members considered a letter from Members of the potential allotment association requesting provision of allotment/allotment gardens giving the playing field at Butts Park as a potential site.

Mr Carter arrived at 8pm

Members considered the suitability of a section of the playing field at Butts Park for allotment gardens. Some Members felt this was the most suitable site as it was owned/would be owned by SHDC/the Parish Council. It would reduce costs and could attract more funding. Other Members were against the playing field being used for this purpose and felt its present use should be preserved. The Council was referred to the obligations upon the Parish Council to provide allotments/allotment gardens once a need had been established. Fifteen people had expressed a wish. Another potential site was discussed- a private landowner having indicated a willingness for some of his land to be used for allotments. It was agreed **Cllr Cooper, Mr Hussell and Mr Gough** would speak with the landowner and look at the site. It was agreed the **Clerk** would write back to the allotment group advising that that some Members were reluctant to surrender part of the Butts Park amenity area for allotments and that another potential site was to be investigated.

### **183/11 PLANNING-**

**183.1 Globe Cottage, 15 Noss Mayo 37/1542/11/F-**planning application for fitting of photovoltaic panels to east elevation roof. DECISION: No Objection. (*Vote: 5 in favour, 3 abstentions*)

**183.2 Planning Display-** a laptop had been purchased. It was agreed that the Clerk would have custody of the laptop and would be responsible for downloading planning applications from the SHDC website prior to Parish Council Meetings, for the following three meetings. RESOLVED: To authorise purchase of a portable/desk top projection screen subject to a maximum cost of £200 plus VAT.

### **184/11 ADMINISTRATION**

#### **184.1 Bishops Court**

i) **Licence arrangements** - Yealm Medical Centre had taken on a new Partner within its practice. RESOLVED: To forward a new draft Licence to Yealm Medical Centre for approval, reiterating existing terms but making provision within the accompanying letter for the current rent to be increased by 5% per annum. (*Vote; 7 in favour, 1 abstention.*)

ii) **Hire Fee-** RESOLVED: To offer a standardised introductory rate for the hire of the consulting room at £15 per session for the first six months after which the rate would increase to £20 per session. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

**184.2 Standing Orders-** a review of the revised first edition NALC Standing Orders for Local Councils continued. **Agenda September.**

**184.3 Equal Opportunities/Equality Act-** it was agreed to review the Equal Opportunities Policy in January 2012.

**184.4 Parish Council website-** the pending retirement of the website manager was noted. It was agreed the Clerk would clarify the date of retirement and then advertise for a replacement in the Parish Magazine.

**.5 Meetings-** it was agreed that the Meeting 4 August should be cancelled.

### **185/11 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** The main items received concerned:-

**185.1 Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils-** it was agreed the Vice Chairman would attend the meeting 20 July 2011.

**185.2 Submarine Dismantling Project-** Members had no comment in respect of the conclusion of the statutory consultation and confirmation of candidate sites.

**185.3 Diamond Jubilee-** it was agreed Mr. Tubb would liaise with the local Coastguards concerning the suggestion of the Queens' Diamond Jubilee Beacons, having organised a similar Beacon for the Golden Jubilee. Mr. Matthews confirmed that he would be prepared to assist also.

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## **186/11 FOOTPATHS**

**186.1 Definitive Map Review**-there was no update.

**186.2 Kiln Quay Slip**- the matter of access to the foreshore had been discussed with the landowner who considered public had a right of way to the foreshore. It was agreed to consider access as a customary right.

## **187/11 MAINTENANCE**

**187.1 Parish Notice boards**- Mr. John Young had completed signs for the foreshore. They would be passed to Mr. John Shepherd to fix. RESOLVED: To authorise payment of Mr .Young's invoice in the sum of £66.85. (*Vote: unanimous*).

**187.2 Bottle bank**- a suggestion by a parishioner for a bottle bank in Newton Ferrers was noted. Members agreed that the matter had been considered on a number of previous occasions and that there was no suitable location. The previous bottle bank situated along Parsonage Road had resulted in causing a public nuisance.

**187.3 Routine Spring Maintenance**- RESOLVED: to authorise payment of the invoice from M& S Garden Services for the annual tidying of Big Slip Quay, Noss Hard, Kilpatrick's Steps and the area around the public bench at the Maltheuses (£185) upon confirmation from Mr. Taylor that the work at Kilpatrick's Steps had been completed. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

**.4River Yealm Water Quality**- Members reviewed the position regarding potential designation of the River under Bathing/Shellfish waters designation. Mr. Tubb would speak with Mr George Buckland to see if he would be prepared to continue with his work in this respect.

**187.5 Noss Hard** – it was agreed to accept Mr Buckland's suggestion that resurfacing should take place in early November and to place a notice in the parish Magazine to this effect. Mr. Tubb would speak with the Landlord and Landlady of The Ship regarding any contribution to costs.

**187.6 Public Toilets- cleaning**- Mr. Matthews declared an interest and left the room. The increase in contribution sought from the RYHA following an increase in costs was noted and approved. Mr. Matthews returned.

**187.7 Other areas for consideration**- there were no other areas for consideration.

**188/11 TWINNING** - there were no concerns regarding a proposal from a Wine Merchant and General Store to hold a Christmas market in Newton and Noss.

## **189/11. GRANT REQUESTS**

**189.1 Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association**- an update on usage following a request for financial assistance was considered. The Association had reported;

2009-2010 116 passengers used the service from Newton Ferrers

2010-2011 123 passengers used the service from Newton Ferrers

Voluntary Car Service-they did not normally get many passengers from the area for this service because the Parish had had its own small village scheme but last year they had started to get many more requests for hospital transport.

2009-2010 4 passengers

2010-2011 98 passengers.

RESOLVED; to make a grant of £150 to the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association (*Vote: Unanimous*)

**189.2 Yealm Yacht Club**- the request and decision to grant financial assistance for repairs to the Club quay was further considered in light of concerns raised by a Member regarding the number of Members who potentially held an interest in the matter. The Chairman had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer SHDC who had advised against involvement. The Clerk had been asked to seek advice from the Society for Local Council Clerks who had suggested that it was the Members' responsibility to declare their interests. An application for a dispensation could be applied for from the standards committee which would enable members to declare an interest and vote. Members considered the matter and felt that the slip was not exclusive to the Yacht Club and was used by members of the public and by Yealm Community sailing. RESOLVED: That the decision made on 9 June 2011 in respect of the grant application by the Yealm Yacht Club should stand. (*Vote: 4 in favour, 3 abstentions, 1 against*)

**189.3 Devon & Cornwall Crimestoppers**- RESOLVED- to make no contribution. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

**190/11 CO-OP**- concerns expressed by a parishioner regarding the effects of a possible status downgrading of the store were considered. It was agreed the **Clerk** would write to the Co op to express concern, for confirmation as to whether the store in the Parish had been downgraded and if so the reasons for the downgrade and the implications.

**191/11 MEETINGS ATTENDED:** To receive brief reports regarding the following:-

**.1 Harbour Authority** – Mr. Carter advised that the new Harbour Master was now in situ.

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**191.2 Halls** - the Vice Chairman had no report.

**191.3 South Hams "Super Cluster" Meeting** -the Vice Chairman reported on the following issues which had been raised:

- i) Ermington, a parish of 1200, had raised their Precept by 50% to render improvement to their Reading Room. There had been no objection. They also held a sustainable market every two weeks.
- ii) Viridor had sought deferment of determination of their planning application.
- iii) Grants- John Hart was seeking to award grants to parishes equivalent to £1 per elector for 2012/2013 from Devon County Council and 10p per elector from South Hams District Council.
- iv) Cluster groups- SHDC wished to cooperate with regard to the implications of the Localism Bill. Cluster groups would be important in taking advantage of economies of scale. SHDC were looking to offer a Cluster Link Officer.
- v) Standards Committee Consultation- the Code of Conduct would disappear in approximately a year.
- vi) Rural Broadband- it was hoped there would be significant improvement in provision 2015-2020.

**192/11 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS** — Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by Mr. Hussell and listed in Minute 193/11.

**193/11 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**Alliance & Leicester Current Account** : Total balance at 1.7.11

**£68668.66**

**The balance includes: Hedge Cutting Bond**

**£3000**

**Grant monies held for Play Park Improvement**

**£17515**

**The following cheques were authorised totalling:**

**£ 2661.24**

Chq No	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
1328	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC Meeting 14 July 2011	£20.00
1329	WIC Hall	Hire NNPC Meeting 28 July 2011	£20.00
1330	J Allen	Cleaning: Noss Voss & Popes Quay June 11	£47.00
1331	John Young	Parish notice board signs	<b>£66.85</b>
1332	S. McDonough	Net salary-June	£964.82
1333	S. McDonough	Expenses; Laptop, antivirus software, postage, stationery	£343.58
1334	D. Goodchild	Grass cutting: the Green 16 & 30 June	£32.00
1335	RYHA	Public W.C.: Cleaning-contribution Jan-June 2011	£400.00
1336	RYHA	Slipway Cleaning fluid	£19.99
1337	Ashfords LLP	Tor Homes Legal Costs; Transfer of verge 1 Butts Park	£480.00
1338	M. Hingston	Cleaning: Newton Voss & steps June 2011	£82.00
1339	M. Hingston	Spring maintenance	£185.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,661.24</b>

*\*Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payments: Nil. Total to date:£150*

**In Committee**

**194/11 HANDRAILS** quotations received for the hand rails for the Donkey Path were considered. An adjacent landowner had kindly offered to fix a rope handrail from his gate post to the entrance to Derry's Cottage. RESOLVED: To take up on the resident's offer to fix a rope handrail and take no further action in respect of steel handrails. (Vote; Unanimous)

**195/11 COLLATON/BUTTS PARK LINK-** RESOLVED: to accept the estimate from EG Hingston & Son received for hedge and grass trimming in the sum of £320 plus VA T conditional on it being inclusive of the steel debris being cleared.(Vote; Unanimous)

*The Meeting closed at 9.30pm*

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