

NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS
Held on 2nd March 2010

PRESENT: 10 Parish Councillors
18 Parishioners
District Councillor Suzie Cooper
County Councillor William Mumford
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary;
Police Constable John Nolan
Guest Speakers; Peter Dale
David Broadgate

1. APOLOGIES: Parish Councillors: George Buckland.
Also: Reverend Cruickshank and Colin Drew.

2. DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

The full written report presented by PC Nolan is appended to the Minutes (file copy only).

The main items to note were as follows:-

i) Contact details.

If anyone needed to make contact with PCSO Sid Lawrence or Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC John Nolan;

E Mail: john.nolan@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

sid.lawrence@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Mobile telephone: PC Nolan: 0845 656 6809

PCSO Lawrence: 0845 656 7987

If they were off duty, there was an answer machine facility.

Main police switchboard number to be used to report an incident: 08452 777 444

Web site: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

ii) A description of "Neighbourhood Policing" was given.

iii) There were a total of 31 crimes reported between 1st March 2009 and 25th February 2010, the numbers of reported crimes having dropped by 6 from last year.

iv) Soft waterproof marine covers for outboard engines, to replace hard covers for outboard engines and to act as a deterrent against theft, were available for sale from the Harbourmaster.

v) Details of Marine Crimes were given including two thefts from the River Yealm, thefts of dinghies from Yealm Road, Riverside Road West and Pillory Hill and a metal boat trailer from a garden.

vi) Questions were raised and answered about flooding problems causing road hazard by Broadmoor Farm, cars with defective headlights and crime levels on housing estates.

3. DEVON & CORNWALL FIRE SERVICE

Mr David Broadgate, Green Watch Manager, Plymstock Fire Station gave an interesting talk on the development of an access plan for Riverside Road West in the case of emergencies which would be expanded to other roads where access for Emergency vehicles could be difficult. Suggestions from parishioners would be welcomed as would more consideration being given to parking on the narrow roads about the parish. An outline was given about home fire safety checks in the home. Questions were raised and answered about the choice of fire appliances for parishes with narrow roads and access difficulties.

4. MR PETER DALE SHDC COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER

Mr Dale gave an informative talk on his role. The main items related to;

i) South Devon Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Fire Service, Probation Service and the Primary Care Trust were now taking on responsibility for Crime and Disorder reduction in conjunction with the Police Authority. It addressed such issues as alcohol misuse, anti social behaviour, speeding and fear of crime. He discussed the role of street pastors and the Safer Devon Partnership with the increasing popularity of Fire and Police cadets in Kingsbridge and Totnes. He referred to the 300-350 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the South Hams.

ii) Emergency Planning. Devon County Council were keen for all parishes to have self help plans. He also referred to the importance of using ICE (In Case of Emergency) numbers in mobile telephone address books.

Questions were raised and answered about Community Messaging operated by the Police and Flood messaging operated by the Environment Agency.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

1/2March2010.....Chairman

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24^h March 2009 were confirmed and signed.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The full written Report presented by the Chairman is appended to the Minutes (file copy only).

The main points of the Report concerned:

- i) The changeover of Parish Clerk.
 - ii) The Boundary Committee's recommendations being ignored by the Secretary of State and awarding unitary status to Exeter with the existing two tier system for the rest of Devon remaining in place.
 - iii) Hope at the end of the tunnel with respect to affordable housing
 - iv) A second monthly Parish Council Meeting to keep up with planning applications and considerations.
 - v) Neither the Parish Council nor SHDC the Planning Authority, had been doing well in the democratic process with reference to recent planning appeals relating to properties at Bridgend and Membland.
 - vi) Central Government was cutting subsidies to Local Authorities. SHDC were looking for ways to downgrade or cut services to the Council Tax Payer and were trying to off load services onto the Parish Council with the possibility of little or no money to provide these extra responsibilities. The Precept could have to be increased in future years if residents of Newton and Noss wanted the services to continue.
 - vii) The Collaton Butts Park link was getting started.
 - viii) The Chairman reviewed progress of the targets referred to at the 2009 Meeting.
- The Governors of Newton Ferrers Primary School were congratulated on the completion of the new school building in the school grounds.
- Questions were raised about responsibility for and the condition of the Tennis Courts in Noss Mayo. The position of the newly formed tennis Club was outlined as was the possibility of the Parish Council taking over responsibility for the Courts – provided they were handed over in pristine condition by SHDC.

7. UPDATES

COUNCILLOR WILLIAM MUMFORD (Devon County Council)

The main points raised by Cllr Mumford concerned:

- i) The unitary bid by Exeter which was being fought in the House of Lords. The estimated cost of the decision 2/3 years ago was 25 million pounds. From evidence of other Councils in a similar position, the costs could be double. The decision could cost Exeter Council Tax payers an extra £200 each. It would leave a huge rural Devon with a vast road network and no large cities. Future Public sector funding would be affected. Many of the funding formulae over the next 10-15 years were based on inner city deprivation indexes which attracted greater funding from central government.
 - ii) Council Tax would be subject to an increase of under 2%. Central Government were requiring 4% savings. DCC were employing costs containment measures but more whole scale measures may be required next year.
 - iii) By the end of January 2010 20,000 tonnes of grit had been spread in comparison to 12,500 tonnes in a normal year.
 - iv) A number of matters had been out to consultation including domiciliary care, care home provision and the Mobile Library Service.
 - v) The progress of the wind farm in the Bristol Channel with the potential subsequent employment opportunities for North Devon.
 - vi) Development in East Devon including residential, the Sky Park and Science Park.
 - vii) Exciting projects had been coming forward to increase Broadband speed in rural communities
 - viii) The new School building
 - ix) New England Quarry - there were concerns that it was planned for the wrong place, that Viridor had not listened to concerns or made provision for sufficient precautions to prevent discharge into the River Yealm. There were also traffic considerations and the visual amenity aspect.
- Questions were raised about potential for the decision for an Exeter Unitary Authority to be overturned following a change in Government after the General Election. In answer to a question about a centre for a Rural Devon Council, Cllr Mumford felt that a purely rural county was high risk unless the funding streams reflected reality.
- A question was raised about Langage Development. Cllr Mumford advised that there was about 20,000 square metres which already had permission to be developed with a potential for 100,000 square metres.
- In response to a question about a change of Government and the effect on Budget, Cllr Mumford advised that cuts would take place irrespective of whoever came into power.
- Cllr Mumford was asked about road repairs. It was accepted that there was a huge backlog of maintenance as a result of the winter weather. DCC did what it could with their budget to deal with 10,000 miles of road. 7,000 pot holes had been repaired since January.

2/2March2010.....Chairman

COUNCILLOR SUZIE COOPER (South Hams District Councillor and Parish Councillor)

Cllr Cooper's report primarily concerned:

- i) The District Council were trying to save costs. One method was by sharing services firstly with Teignbridge and then West Devon.
- ii) An affordable Housing Scheme for the Parish was progressing. It was hoped plans would be in by the end of the month. The scheme would incorporate 95% rural affordable housing for people in the Parish.
- iii) Work had started on a light industrial unit at Membland.
- iv) Plans for the Co-op were in the "doldrums". The tenants in the flats above the Co-op had been granted a further 12 month lease.

7. OPEN FORUM

Discussions and questions from Parishioners:

Concern was raised about ultra modern housing designs in the Parish and the apparent undemocratic process involved with appeals dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate. The important role of the CPRE and the local MP was referred to.

The Chairman of Devon CPRE was present and referred to the fact the Parish had an advanced Parish Council who had conducted a Housing Needs Survey and a Survey on potential site allocations for Housing. The Housing Allocation Study by the Princes Trust for the SHDC LDF had come down 100% against what the community had spent three years establishing. The Parish had expressed their view and persuaded the planning authorities to take notice. There were no grounds to appeal against a decision by the Planning Inspectorate save through Judicial Review which could cost in excess of £400,000. It was also necessary to ensure that a Parish Plan had legal status and would become part of supplementary planning documents.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Signed..... John Young, Chairman