

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 8 April 2010

PRESENT Mr. Young Mr. Carter Mr. Stitson Mr. Taylor Mr. Hussell
(Chairman)
Mr. Cooper Mr. Matthews Mr. Tubb Mrs. Hinchliffe Cllr Cooper
ALSO Mrs. McDonough
PRESENT (Clerk)
6 parishioners were present for part of the Meeting

OPEN FORUM

Parking restrictions – a parishioner raised her concerns about parking restrictions recently introduced outside the bus shelter at Butts Park and unresolved safety issues which she felt could be resolved by moving the bus shelter. The Chairman confirmed that the matter would be raised with Cllr Mumford.

U3A Environmental Cluster Group – a member of the U3A outlined further details for a project for renewable energy installations for public buildings in the Parish. The Parish Council was being looked to act as the “Responsible Financial Body2 for funding purposes. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were keen to support and empower the project but would need further and better particulars before committing to the substantial role proposed. Mr. Matthews confirmed that he would be prepared to liaise with the U3A and report back to the Council.

Police Report: Apologies had been received from P.C. John Nolan and PCSO Sid Lawrence. The following crimes had been reported:

Jl/10/233 - An out building was entered at South Fork between 14th and 15th March, and several items were stolen from the freezer located in the out building, following a large weekly shop. Local enquiries had failed to identify those responsible.

Jl/10/236 - Between November 09 - March 10, a static home was broken into at Widey Cross. A window was forced open and several bottles of alcohol were taken. No forensic evidence was available however, enquiries were continuing.

Jl/10/287 - Between 7th - 28th March an unoccupied second home was burgled at Yealm Rd and a 32” TV stolen. Entry had been gained by smashing a ground floor window. The crime remained un-detected however, enquiries were continuing.

Jl/10/295 - Overnight on the 28th March a Suzuki motorcycle was taken without consent from an unlocked garage at Membland Court. The bike had since been recovered and a male person was under investigation and was due to be interviewed this week.

98/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Reasons for absence were noted from Mr. Buckland and Mr. Brown.

99/10 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting 25 March 2010 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

100/10 INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Members were invited to declare interests in the items for discussion during the course of the Meeting. The following interests were declared- Mr. Tubb and Mr. Carter in matters relating to the Reading Room by virtue of being Trustees, Mr. Hussell having a personal interest in the Reading Room by being a member. Mr. Hussell and Mr. Matthews declared interests in items relating to the School as their spouses were employees and Mrs. Hinchliffe as a Governor.

101/10 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILS

101.1 County Councillor’s report –Cllr Mumford had been unavailable to attend.

101.2. Locality Budget –the construction of the boat rack had been completed.

RESOLVED; to authorise payment of the invoice from Mr. Leonard for construction and positioning of a steel frame boat rack for Noss Hard using Grade D tubing. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

RESOLVED; to authorise an application for £500 from Cllr Mumford’s Locality Budget (*Vote; Unanimous*)

101.3 Collaton-Butts Park Link –The Clerk had received an update from the DCC Solicitor on negotiations with Tor Homes regarding land outside 1 Butts Park and the difficulties which had arisen over whether there was to be an easement or outright transfer. The solicitor had not felt the costs quoted by Tor Homes solicitors to be unreasonable.

RESOLVED ; The Parish Council would no longer take issue with the costs quote given by Tor Homes for dealing with the transfer/easement of land outside 1 Butts Park. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

The contractor had started work on 7 April. There was doubt as to whether the tendering procedure adopted by NNPC would satisfy SDCLAG’s procurement procedure requirements. The Clerk was waiting for clarification. It was noted that the NNPC had been prepared to meet any funding shortfall when the project had been first proposed and that nay funding from SDCLAG would have been a bonus.

The Clerk advised the Council that conditions of the Funding Agreements with both DCC and SDCLAG were such that land ownership issues were to be resolved before release of funds. If the land issue with Tor Homes had not

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been resolved then the path could not be completed, and funding may not be released, but the contractors could request a substantial part payment of costs. It was for the Council to consider whether work on the path should proceed.

RESOLVED: The Contractor should continue with work on the Collaton/Butts Park path irrespective of the fact land ownership issues had yet to be finalised. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

The Clerk would continue to press the DCC Solicitor to resolve matters as quickly as possible.

101.4 Butts Park Crossing- the Clerk was waiting for an update from DCC Highways Department.

101.5 Highways – Junket Corner- copy communication between a concerned parishioner and DCC regarding to regarding parking difficulties near Junket Corner was noted. It was agreed **Mr. Stitson** would speak to residents in the area causing difficulty and report back to the Council in May. **Agenda May**

101.6 District Councillor’s Report- Cllr Cooper referred to;

i) New planning procedures to be introduced including pre application consultation.

ii) Lack of progress being made with the plans to redevelop the Co-op. RESOLVED: The Clerk would write to Mr. James Carter to ask for an update, whether there were any issues delaying matters which the NNPC could assist with and that the Parish Council were keen to see the redevelopment go ahead. *(Vote; Unanimous)*

iii) SHDC Planning Department and Tor Homes were in discussion regarding the plans for affordable homes in the Parish.

101.7 Tennis Courts- copy correspondence from the Chairman of the Tennis Club dated 11 March 2010 to SHDC was noted.

101.8 Noss Play Park maintenance and improvement –Environment Agency Consent had been received for the proposed works. It was agreed the Clerk would make contact with those who had expressed a willingness to help with fundraising in the responses to the play park questionnaire to see if they would still be prepared to assist and would report back to the next Meeting. **Agenda May**

102/10 PLANNING Applications received –:

102.1 READING ROOM AND PREMISES, RIVERSIDE RD EAST 37/0451/10/F-Installation of solar panels on roof of building. A member of the U3A Environment Group outlined the project. Councillors had concerns about the visual impact of a roof of solar panels in the Conservation Area. DECISION: Objection *(Vote; 2 in favour of objecting, 1 against objecting, 5 abstentions)*. *(Mr Tubb and Mr Carter did not take a part in the discussions or Vote.)*

102.2 WATERWYNCH, YEALM ROAD 37/0479/10/F-Householder application for alterations to existing garage DECISION: No objection. *(Vote; 9 in favour, 1 abstention)*

103/10 ADMINISTRATION

103.1 Bishops Court Consulting Room- arrangements in respect of a request from a parishioner for hire of the room were considered. RESOLVED: To offer hire of the consulting room at an introductory rate of £15 per session for 6 months from the date of commencement of hire. *(Vote; Unanimous)*.

103.2 U3A Environment Group –the implications of the request for the Parish Council to become the responsible organisation/accountable body for a Renewable Energy Project for Community Buildings in Newton & Noss were considered. The Clerk had sought advice from the specialist financial advisor at the Society Local Councils Clerks which had been circulated amongst Council members. The Clerk had spoken to SDCLAG who had advised the accountable body would be responsible for delivering the project. SDCLAG made payments in arrears. The Council would also need to consider, amongst other matters; the increased turnover could increase the accounting /audit band, that the Parish Council were subject to statutory powers to make payments out, increased insurance and risk assessment. The Parish Council were also considering undertaking a number of other projects and would need to review available manpower resources.

103.3 Data Protection and Information Security Policy- RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the Data Protection and Information Security Policy *(Vote; Unanimous)*.

103.4 Devon Playing Fields Association-RESOLVED: to renew membership at a cost of £35 *(Vote; Unanimous)*.

104/10 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The main items received concerned:-

104.1 Parking- an expression of intention to use the Hard for parking for a wedding September 11 and the request of additional parking on Noss Green was noted. The Clerk had referred the enquirer to SHDC regarding parking on Noss Green.

104.2 Bridgend- a letter from DCC Highways regarding the condition of the wall at Bridgend was noted. DCC Highways had no immediate concerns regarding the condition of the road and wall, but would pass the matter on to their Structures Section to inspect and carry out any repair works.

105/10 MAINTENANCE

105.1 South West Water – The response from the Environment Agency dated 12 March 2010 following concerns being raised regarding leaking manhole covers was noted. The Environment Agency did not have monitoring sites in the areas to enable them to make an assessment. They were monitoring progress of work being conducted in the area. They were to inspect the work with SWW shortly. The Clerk had spoken with a member of May Gurney on 22 March 2010 who had advised that there was an ongoing programme of works but in view of the end of the financial year, work had stopped. Work may carry on once an evaluation had taken place. He had confirmed that SWW were aware of sewage leaking into the River Yealm.

105.2 Court House Wall- following concerns raised about the wall, Members noted the response from Court House Management Ltd confirming that a builder would be looking at the wall.

105.3 Widey- a Member expressed concerns about the hedge growth between 30 yards and 130 yards east of Widey Cross on the South side of the road. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the owner to ask for the hedge to be cut back to prevent a hazard being caused to motorists and cyclists.

106/10 BIG SLIP QUAY- further to formal notices which were served on 14 December 2009, and the notice issued in the Parish Magazine, one bid of £31.00 had been received for an unidentified kayak not registered for storage space on the quay.

RESOLVED: To accept the bid of £31.00 (*Vote; Unanimous*)

107/10 RECYCLING- a request from Planet Aid UK to place a textile recycling bank at a site in the Parish was considered. Members agreed there had been difficulties with the bottle bank at the car park by Noss Green. There were no other appropriate sites in the Parish. RESOLVED: To refuse the request. (*Vote; Unanimous*)

108/10 FOOTPATHS & SEATS

108.1 WIC footpath – It was agreed the Chairman would mark out the parts requiring repair and estimates for the work would be obtained. The contractor who had resurfaced the Hard had, as a goodwill gesture repaired part of the path for no charge.

108.2 Court Road Footpath- further concerns had been raised by parishioners regarding the state of the footpath running from outside Briar Hill Farm to opposite the rear entrance of Holy Cross. DCC had confirmed that it was the landowners' responsibility and that DCC had no responsibility for private land.

109/10 PARISH ASSETS – members considered further a draft schedule of real property in which the Parish Council had an interest.

110/10 CARE IN THE COMMUNITY – a request from a concerned parishioner to look into Parish Council involvement with care in the Community together with a request for inclusion in the Parish Plan was considered. It was agreed that **Mrs Hinchliffe** would speak to the parishioner further. **Agenda May.**

111/10 NEWTON FERRERS PRIMARY SCHOOL – Mr. Taylor gave an update on progress to find a site for the "Information Blob". Concerns were raised by Members regarding potential vandalism, ongoing maintenance and public liability were the "Blob" to be moved from its present secure site. **Mrs. Hinchliffe** would speak to the School. **Agenda May**

112/10 GRANT REQUESTS-

112.1 Newton Ferrers Primary School – Mrs Hinchliffe and Mr Hussell left the Meeting. RESOLVED: To make a grant of £500 to Newton Ferrers Primary School to assist with support of ICT provision within the School and the wider community. (*Vote: Unanimous*)

112.2 WIC Hall – a request for funding to assist with structural improvements contained in a letter of 9 March 2010 was considered further. The Council were advised that the WIC Committee had not yet reached a decision as to which improvement model was to be carried forward. It was agreed that the Clerk would advise the WIC Committee that the Members were delighted to hear that options for improvements were being explored and researched and once plans for the project had been finalised, the Parish Council would be pleased to consider making a contribution towards the capital cost.

113/10 MEETINGS ATTENDED: Reports were received regarding the following:-

- **Harbour Authority**- Mr Carter advised that the Accounts had been signed that day. Those on the waiting list for a Mooring would now only be able to have one A/B/C/D mooring now.
- **Halls** – Mr Brown was not present to give a report on the Village Hall. WIC Hall – Min 112.2 refers.

- **Primary School-** Mrs Hinchliffe reported that the opening of the new school building had gone well. It was to be let one afternoon per week for a family drop in session in consultation and partnership with the pre-school. The School were looking into entering a Federation with other schools which would change the way the school would be governed. There was to be a 6 week consultation period and a Meeting on 6 May. Mr Matthews and Mr Cooper advised that they would attend the Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

- **CPRE AGM-** Cllr Cooper and the Chairman had attended. Mr Robin Hogg was now the Chairman of Devon CPRE.

- **Police Meeting** – the Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended. The Police had reported that they would be thinly stretched.

- **I&DAPC Clerks Meeting-** the Clerk reported that there had been 4 responses out of 13 questionnaires sent out by Ivybridge Town Council regarding Devolved Services. The Parish Council had received £25 for submitting their response

114/10 SPORTS PAVILION:

A response from SHDC was still awaited.

115/10 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Cheque payments were authorised and signed in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Clerk, checked by and listed in Minute 116/10

116/10 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alliance & Leicester Current Account : Total balance at 1.04.10 **£56041.57**

The Gratuity Fund is held within the Current Account: **£16,396.07**

The balance includes receipt of a Hedge Cutting Bond of £3000 from Devon County Council

The following cheques were authorised totalling **£5,721.39**

CHEQUES DRAWN 8 APRIL 2010

| Chq No | PAYEE | DETAIL | AMOUNT | VAT |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 1119 | Village Hall | Hire NNPC Meeting 8 April | £20.00 | |
| 1120 | Village Hall | Hire NNPC Meeting 22 April | £20.00 | |
| 1121 | J Allen | Cleaning:Noss Voss&Popes Quay March 10 | £44.80 | |
| 1122 | R Wooderson | Cleaning:Newton Voss & steps March 10 | £79.00 | |
| 1123 | J Leonard | Boat Rack Construction : Noss Hard* | £1,720.00 | |
| 1124 | Ricoh UK Ltd | Photocopier Lease:29/4/10-28/7/10 | £145.31 | £21.64 |
| 1125 | Garden Services | Cutting and tidying Noss Hard* | £110.00 | |
| 1126 | GJ Selleck | Surfacing work Noss Hard* | £2,585.00 | £385.00 |
| 1127 | A Cooper | Travel expenses SDCLAG Meeting | £13.60 | |
| 1128 | Tilly Institute | Hire;Allotment Meeting 26 April** | £10.00 | |
| 1129 | S McDonough | Net salary March | £891.07 | |
| 1130 | Post Office Ltd | HM Revenue & Customs Clerks Tax & National Insurance End of year balance payment | £18.00 | |
| 1131 | RYHA | Supply:Slipway cleaning fluid | £29.61 | £4.41 |
| 1132 | Devon Playing Fields Assoc | Membership Fees 2010/11 | £35.00 | |
| Total | | | £5,721.39 | £411.05 |

* Open Spaces Act 1906 Section 10

** For consideration of obligations under Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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