

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 22nd February 2010 at 7.30pm

Councillor A White (Chairman)
Councillor W Cann
Councillor J White
Councillor C Curtis
Councillor Coombs

Councillor J Darch
Councillor B Woolland
Councillor J Pillar
Councillor R Souness
Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

10/011 Apologies for absence.

All councillors were present.

10/012 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

There were no declarations of interest and no councillor wished to update his or her register of interests.

10/013 Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2010 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10/014 Clerk's Report

a. **Street Lighting: Part-Night Lighting Policy.**

The clerk summarized the correspondence between himself and Mr M. D'Alesio (DCC Team Leader Street Lighting). Council agreed unanimously to observe Standing Order 36 and not revisit this matter for six months (July 19th 2010)

b. **Den Brook Wind Farm Community Liaison Group.**

The Chairman (Councillor A White) outlined the discussions that had been held at meetings with members of RES in January and presented the agenda and draft terms of reference for the Inaugural Meeting on 23rd March 2010. It had been agreed that the group would initially include two representatives from each of the five parish councils involved plus West Devon BC Ward Councillors and Devon County Council Division Councillors. It was proposed by councillor Darch and seconded by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) that the two representatives for South Tawton Parish Council would be councillors Coombs and Pillar and the clerk provided copies of the relevant documentation to them.

10/015 Questions from parishioners

There were no questions from parishioners.

10/016 Correspondence

a. **Devon Mobile Library Service questionnaire.**

Council advised the clerk on suitable responses to this survey.

b. **Invitation to meet police commander Sarah Sharpe, Superintendent David Hammond and others on Friday 12th March from 4pm to 7pm at Okehampton Police Station.**

This invitation was extended to councillors.

c. **Monthly newsletter from Insp. Hammond and invitation to Liaison Meeting on Thursday 4th March.**

Information from the newsletter was read to councillors and the invitation to the liaison meeting advertised.

d. **Rural Services Network Manifesto 2009/2010.**

This document was made available to councillors.

e. **Forthcoming Parliamentary Elections: New constituency boundaries.**

Councillors were reminded of this new structure.

f. **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Community Safety Event, Thursday 25th February 2010.**

This collection of leaflets was made available to council.

g. **West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau Home Visiting Service information leaflet.**

Information concerning the DAB's Home Visiting Service had been displayed on council notice board.

h. **Workshop to inform the Landscape Assessment of Dartmoor National Park. Tuesday 23rd February 2010.**

This workshop was brought to council's attention.

i. **Letter from Councillor J McInnes about Highways maintenance.**

Parts of this letter were read to council.

j. **DCC/WDBC Public Transport Survey.**

The clerk read the first paragraph of this letter to council, outlining the reasoning behind the request for parishioners to fill in and return the attached survey form. A survey published in June 2009 showed that only 43% of people in the Borough were happy with the local bus service, a figure which was the lowest in Devon and below national and regional averages. A notice drawing attention to this and notifying parishioners how to obtain the survey form had been sent to the Beacon for publication in March.

Letter from WDBC concerning Local Government Review and news about the council tax for 2010/11.

This information was brought to council's attention and councillor Cann explained some of the detail of West Devon Borough Council's budget for the next financial year.

10/017 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

a. **Invitation to nominate parishioners for the Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards.**

Council decided not to nominate anyone for this award this year.

- b. **Survey and insurance of council property. Confirmation of insurance of new bus shelter.**
Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) all agreed to the insurance of the new bus shelter for £36.69 up to June, 2010 and that it should be insured for 2011.
- c. **Survey of public benches belonging to the Parish Council. Would councillors kindly furnish information about the location of all council benches in the parish.**
Council kindly informed the clerk where council benches were situated in the parish. It was agreed by all that the clerk research the cost of adding them to the council's insurance policy.
- d. **Report from Mr N Butlin on the P3 Partnership Scheme. Report enclosed.**
Councillor A White (Chairman) welcomed Mr Butlin to the meeting. Addressing his report, which had been distributed to councillors, Mr Butlin emphasized the following points.
Footpath 38. That the clerk write to the owner of two fields which had been planted, obscuring the route of this path, asking the owner to re-establish the route to at least 1m wide.
Footpath 52. That DCC be asked to approach the new owners of Powlesland to come to an agreement about marking the path diversion through the farmyard.
Footpath 53. After discussion it was agreed that the clerk contact Mrs. Ros Davies (Parish Paths Partnership Liaison Officer) to ask that the work of clearing out this route be completed as agreed and that the cul de sac sign suggested by Jonathan Rowlands should not be erected. The proposed route linking the northern end of this path and the road bridge to the West needed to be clarified.
Footpath 60. Mr Butlin explained that he had submitted a bid for a grant to carry out work on the muddy area near the Taw Green end of the path.
Footpath 62. This was described by Mr Butlin as a success story. The path from the road to the A30 tunnel had been improved and the path under the dual carriageway was now dry. Although not a particularly pleasant experience, path was now easy to use.
The Chairman (Councillor A White) thanked Mr Butlin both for his time and for the work he and his team continued to undertake to keep the parish footpaths outside the National Park in good order.
- e. **Discussion with PC N Wilson concerning village parking.**
The Chairman (Councillor A White) thanked PC Wilson for her time and invited her to introduce the parish project on which she was currently working. PC Wilson described the parking and traffic problems that occurred at the beginning and end of the school day. She then discussed with council her plans to support the idea of a 'walking bus' in the mornings from either of the available car parks and said that she had arranged to discuss the matter further with the Head Teacher of South Tawton Primary School in the near future. Councillors welcomed her ideas and promised their support.
- f. **Request for financial help from South Zeal Brownies.**
The letter from the Brownies was read to council. Following discussion, it was proposed by councillor Souness and seconded by councillor Cann that a grant of £200 be made to that organization.
- g. **Request from the Parochial Church Council for an increase in the Churchyard maintenance grant.**
Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Coombs all agreed that the annual grant to the Parochial Church Council for the maintenance of the churchyard be increased next financial year to £800.
- h. **Discussion of council vacancy.**
The clerk distributed and explained the law and procedure for the election of a councillor to fill the casual vacancy left by the sad death of councillor Clifford White. After discussion it was proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and agreed by all that the approved notice of a council vacancy be displayed on the council notice boards for the required length of time from 23rd February 2010.
- i. **Report from Lead Persons on aspects of development of The Parish Plan.**

	Parish Plan areas	Parish Plan Lead person
B	Communication	Peter Brotherton
C	Crime and Safety	Ray Souness
D	Housing Needs	Julian Pillar
E	Planning	Julian Pillar
F	Transport and parking	Andy White
G	Highways and roads	Bill Cann
H	The environment	Carol Coombs
K	Shopping	Jane White
L	Social Activities	John Darch
M	Services and Facilities	Bryan Woolland

As the owner of the land that had been the recent focus of attention for the nine affordable houses had declined to offer the site for sale, council discussed a range of other options. In conclusion, discussion lead to the decision that the lead person, councillor Pillar, pursue the option to build a number of houses at Site One in South Tawton and also be given a free hand to explore the possibility of using other sites, both already identified and new, for either the whole build or part of it. All agreed.

10/018

Planning

- a. **DNPA 0015/10 (Christopher Hart, 12th February 2010). Reddaways Removals Ltd., Hillways, South Zeal, Full Planning Permission.** Extension (368sqm) to existing storage building including additional parking and yard area. (Interim agreement, to be retrospectively confirmed, after notice displayed for 4 days)
It was noted that no comments had been received and that therefore council's recommendation had been sent.
- b. **WDBC 13593/2009, (Claire Reed, No return date given). North Wyke Research, North Wyke, Sampford Courtney, Full.** Construction of Field Drains Pipes, Ditches, Hardstanding and Farm Tracks, Fencing and Associated Works for "Farm Platform" Scheme.
Proposed by councillor Souness and seconded by councillor Pillar ,all agreed that this application be supported by council.
- c. **DNPA 0029/10 (Louise Smith, 23rd February 2010). Mr C Harvey, Middle Gooseford Cottage, Whiddon Down.** Extension to existing agricultural barn to form tractor shed (24sqm)
Proposed by councillor Woolland and seconded by councillor Cann, all agreed that this application be supported by council.
- d. **DNPA 0055/10 (Jon Holmes, 15th March 2010) Mr k Bradford, 48 Dartmoor View, Whiddon Down. Full Planning Permission.** Construction of three unit stable block to include vehicle access and hardstanding.
NOTE: Previous application has been withdrawn.
Proposed by councillor A White, all agreed that this application be supported by council.

10/019

Determination

- a. **DNPA 0567/09 (James Aven, 4th January 2010). Mrs M Hall, Moorside, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission.** Extension to outdoor menage.
Granted. Conditions: Submit details of landscaping and planting scheme. Planting within 12 months of commencement of development, maintained for 5 years. No floodlighting or other external lighting of the sand school.
- b. **WDBC 12824/2009/OKE (Jonathan Dymond, 15th June 2009) Livaton Farm, South Tawton.** Conversion of barns to 4 residential 'live-work' units including new open linhay style garage building.
DOE Appeal Ref: APP/A1153/A/09/2112993/NFW. Appellant's Name; Mr S Ellam
Letter from WDBC apologizing for not informing council of the appeal date.

10/020

Accounts

09-Jan-10		Carried Forward		£ -	£ 11,713.79
18-Jan-10	Devon County Council	Grant from Cllr. McInnes for shelter	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 12,213.79
26-Jan-10	Mr J Pillar	Towards construction of Bus Shelter	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 11,713.79
13-Feb-10	Ink Print.	Stationery	£ 15.00	£ -	£ 11,698.79
13-Feb-10	South West Water	Water for toilet block	£ 50.94	£ -	£ 11,647.85
13-Feb-10	Phil Squires. Jan. 09	Cleaning toilet block	£ 80.50	£ -	£ 11,567.35
13-Feb-10	Allianz Insurance plc	Extra for bus shelter insurance	£ 36.69	£ -	£ 11,530.66

- a. **Consideration of accounts.**
Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Curtis, all agreed that the monthly accounts be adopted.
- b. Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor J White (Vice Chairman), all agreed the clerk's authority to the annual transfer of £500 from the current to the Emergency account and to the payment of the budgeted grants to the Recreation Ground Association and to the Victory Hall Committee. The clerk asked that these cheques be presented as soon as practicable.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.45 pm.