

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 17th January 2011 at 7.30pm

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

Councillor J Darch
Councillor A Sampson
Councillor C Coombs
Councillor B Woolland
Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

In attendance. Mrs. V Mills.

11/001 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from councillor Souness for family reasons.

11/002 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of the Register of Interests.

No councillor wished to declare an interest in any agenda item and no councillor wished to update his or her Register of Interests.

11/003 Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th December 2010 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/004 Clerk's Report

a. **Progress report on flood defence matters.**

On behalf of the South Tawton Flood Defence Group the clerk reported that thanks once more were due to Mrs J Smith (West Devon Borough Council Development and Flood Risk Engineer) for her continuing energetic support of this community. 16 properties at the foot of the village which could be affected by flooding from Ramsley Stream and other sources are to be equipped with professional flood boards and, in some cases, generators and pumps, supplied and fitted free of any charge to parishioners. In March South Zeal will take part in a county-wide project called; "Watermark" to rehearse the use of this equipment.

11/005 Questions from parishioners

a. **Questions by letter from anonymous parishioner concerning damage to the green on Hillfield estate.**

Council discussed the letter and referred to a set of photographs of the damage to the green, caused mainly by vehicles being parked on the edge of the area of driven across it. Various schemes were advocated to remedy or alleviate the problems. The Clerk was asked to seek further advice from councillor J. McInnes on the availability of funding and to write to West Devon Borough Council to reinforce the parishioner's views.

b. **Questions by letter from anonymous parishioners on parish housing matters.**

Council were reminded that they had discussed this matter recently and been informed that the position was legal. However, further advice had been sought from the Senior Housing Advisor (Okehampton) for West Devon Borough Council and, again, from Hastoe Housing Association Ltd. and council were left in no doubt whatsoever that, whilst regrettable, the situation was legal. It was hoped that forthcoming Government legislation would address these matters.

In response to these two letters council wished it to be known that the receipt of anonymous information made council's responsibility for dealing with such matters much more difficult. It was pointed out that if parishioners wished their correspondence to be kept confidential then marking communication as such would mean that councillors would be bound by that instruction. If necessary, any discussion in meetings on confidential matters would be taken under Part Two regulations which dictate that members of the public may be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

11/006 Correspondence

a. **Notice of consultation on recommended changes to the WDBC Core Strategy.**

Council noted this information.

b. **Request for information from Dartmoor "What's On" listing for April – December 2011.**

Copies of the response sheet were passed to councillors.

c. **Briefing document from Local Government Association on the Localism Bill.**

The clerk read a summary of some of the contents of this proposed legislation.

d. **Request from a parishioner concerning dog fouling and the provision of an extra dog bin.**

Council again noted these problems. After discussion it was decided not to pursue the idea of obtaining another dog-bin at the moment.

e. **Letter from councillor J McInnes and matters arising.**

Council wished to thank councillor McInnes for this grant and hoped that further help would be forthcoming.

f. **Letter inviting council to nominate parishioners for the annual West Devon Mayoral Awards.**

Council regretted that they were not able to nominate a parishioner for this award this year.

11/007 Agenda items for discussion and resolution

a. **Discussion of tasks for parish lengthsman.**

Some further work was added to the list.

b. **Discussion of a suggestion that a village event be held to mark the Royal Wedding in April 2011.**

The chairman (councillor A White) thanked Mrs. Mills for attending the meeting and invited her to described her ideas to mark the Royal Wedding on Friday April 29th 2011. After discussion it was agreed by all that the most suitable event would be based on a Street Tea Party in the late afternoon. A working group was chosen to organize the venture.

- c. **Invitation by The Royal British Legion to hold a Great Poppy Party Weekend in June 2011.**
The invitation to hold a fund raising event on behalf of the British Legion in June was discussed. In the light of the decision to hold a Street Party in April to mark the Royal Wedding all agreed that council would return to this British Legion matter at the council meeting in March.
- d. **Report from councillor Pillar concerning North East Dartmoor Community Land Trust.**
It was reported that this organisation would probably be of marginal use in the provision of affordable housing in the parish.
- e. **The future distribution of salt bags.**
Council noted that many of the grit and salt bags distributed free to the parish had been stolen from the side of the road. Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and agreed by all, it was decided that in future arrangements would be made for deliveries of salt bags to be either held centrally and then distributed in good time to parishioners in key areas for use on their roads or distributed directly to such parishioners.
- f. **Discussion and decisions on the parish response to the DCC part-night lighting scheme.**
Council examined the maps showing the location of all the public lights in the parish and acknowledged the advice from the 9 parishioners who had volunteered their thoughts on the matter. However, council was swayed by an increasing concern for safety and especially noted the report of an increase in theft from farms recently, bearing in mind that there were three working farms within South Zeal village. It was also considered that the population, being elderly, felt that street lighting gave a greater sense of security. There was a strongly held view that it would seem that less pressure was being placed on towns, cities and major road junction for lights to be extinguished under this scheme and council wondered if the rural communities were being unfairly targeted by these proposals. However, it was thought that the lighting on the old A30 should be reduced.
It was therefore proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Woolland that every other light on the old A30 should be turned off between 00.30 and 5.30am but that the rest of the lights throughout the parish remain controlled as they are at present. The motion was carried by a majority decision. The clerk was asked to enumerate which lights on the old A30 that would be turned off under this scheme.
- g. **Request from DNPA for council's advice on the shape of future DNPA service provision.**
Councillor Cann kindly outlined his views on the matter. It was agreed that council would be satisfied with the recommendations made by Dartmoor National Park Authority.
- h. **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

No further reports were forthcoming.

11/008

Planning

- a. **DNPA TPO 27/12/4/181 (Brian Beasley, January 3rd) Tree Preservation Order: Town Barton, South Tawton. Mrs S. Freeman.** Request to carry out works on trees protected by a TPO.
Proposed by councillor Darch and seconded by councillor J White (Vice Chairman), council decided that they were content to leave the matter in the hands of Dartmoor National Park Authority.
- b. **DNPA (Lynn Amos, 19th January) Mr H McPhillips, The Rising Sun Inn, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission, Householder.** Calor gas tank.
Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman), all agreed that this application be supported.

11/009

Determination

There were no determinations this month.

11/010

Accounts

- a. **Consideration of accounts.**

Proposed by councillor Pillar and seconded by councillor Curtis, all agreed that the monthly accounts be adopted.

20-Nov-10		Brought forward		£ -	£ 11,221.99
05-Dec-10	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's wages Oct - Dec 2010	£ 542.00	£ -	£ 10,676.74
05-Dec-10	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Expenses Oct - Dec 2010	£ 17.83	£ -	£ 10,658.91
13-Dec-10	Transfer	Current to Emergency annual	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 10,158.91
14-Dec-10	Grant to Ring and Ride	Annual grant	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 9,858.91
14-Dec-10	!st South Zeal Scout Gp.	Grant	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 9,358.91
15-Dec-10	Councillor J McInnes	Grant	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 9,858.91

The Chairman (Councillor A White) adjourned the meeting at 9.05pm.