

# SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 at 7.30pm

Councillor A White (Chairman)  
Councillor W Cann  
Councillor J Pillar  
Councillor B Woolland

Councillor J Darch  
Councillor A Sampson  
Councillor J White

Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

In attendance: Mr N Butlin and Mrs S Miller.

**11/011 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Souness, Curtis and Coombs for family reasons.

**11/012 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.**

Councillor A White (Chairman) and Councillor Woolland declared an interest in item 11/017(i). Councillors Cann declared an interest in item 11/018(c). No councillor wished to update his or her Register of Interests.

**11/013 Minutes of the last meeting.**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**11/014 Clerk's Report**

a. **Part-Night lighting.**

The clerk read an email from Mr D'Alesio in which he professed himself disappointed that council had not fully accepted the policy proposals.

b. **Repairs to the Recreation Ground toilet block.**

The chairman (Councillor A White) reported on the work he had undertaken to repair one of the Wallgate units in the Recreation Ground toilets. Council thanked him for his time and expertise.

**11/015 Questions from parishioners**

a. **Concerning anti-social behaviour at Hillfield and the Croft.**

An email on behalf of several residents living at Hillfield and the Croft, drawing council's attention to alleged misbehaviour by young people on the estate was read to council. A note from the police in response to these observations was also read. Council expressed surprise that the police had not noted the most recent event. It was recommended that West Devon Homes be contacted to suggest that they leaflet all their tenants concerning these matters. It was also agreed that the best way forward was to advise these residents to report every event to both West Devon Homes and the police and to keep a log of such events with the relevant police incident number appended.

**11/016 Correspondence**

a. **Statutory Election Timetable for 2011.**

These sheets, produced by West Devon Borough Council Returning Officer, were given to councillors.

b. **DALC Training and Events Calendar for 2011.**

Council's attention was drawn to this calendar.

c. **DNPA "Delivering for Dartmoor 2011." Document.**

The clerk presented this document to council.

d. **Nominations to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Parties.**

Nominations were sought for this occasion, mindful that those nominated might not be able to attend as representatives of the council since the event was after council elections. Councillor Sampson was nominated by council.

e. **Letter from Devon and Cornwall Police Authority concerning the proposed abolition of Police Authorities.**

Council's attention was drawn to this letter and the salient points made by the Chairman of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Mr M Bull, against the proposal to abolish Police Authorities and replace them with Crime Commissioners were discussed by council. Council expressed their concern at the apparent loss of the democratic voice such changes would imply and it was decided that council's observations be passed to Mr Bull.

**11/017 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution**

a. **Discuss tasks for parish lengthsman.**

No new tasks were added to the list. Council were concerned at the lack of response from South West Highways North to a succession of emails.

b. **Report from Mr N. Butlin on Parish Paths Partnership.**

The chairman welcomed Mr. Butlin to the meeting. Mr. Butlin gave his annual report to council on the Parish Paths Partnership. He had, he said become somewhat disenchanted by the lack of progress that this group had been able to make, particularly with regard to three of the six paths which in consequence had failed to meet P3 criteria. In particular he was concerned by the seemingly insoluble problems associated with footpaths 38, 40 and 52 and that, whilst some help had recently been forthcoming from Devon County Council, he had begun to despair of ever being able to solve the problems associated with these so-called rights of way. Mr Butlin felt that much of these problems could be attributed to the intransigence of land

owners and felt that dealing with such matters could not be undertaken by his team. Council asked that the clerk write to Mrs Ros Davies (DCC P3 coordinator) about these matters. However, in conclusion, Mr Butlin expressed pleasure over the work done on footpath 62 under the dual carriageway and also reported that, whilst wet in places, footpath 60 had passed inspection.

Mr Butlin regretted that this might be his last report to council as, having completed a five year stint coordinating the parish's part in this partnership, he had decided that it was time for him to retire. However, council were most relieved to hear that he was willing to stay in post, at least for a while, whilst council attempted to solve the problems. The chairman on behalf of the council thanked Mr Butlin for his time and energies and presented him with a small gift to mark the gratitude of council and the community for his time and expertise.

- c. **Request from the Clerk to purchase a new edition of Standing Orders at a cost of £25.**  
Proposed by councillor Darch and seconded by councillor A White (Chairman) all agreed that the clerk may purchase the new guidance on council Standing Orders.
- d. **Changes to the bus service on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2011.**  
The clerk reported that the present South Zeal and South Tawton bus service would change on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. As a result of the new contract cycle, initiated by DCC's need to make savings, the present service provided by Country Bus would cease, to be replaced by a single daily service into Okehampton and back, provided by Dart Line. The service to Okehampton would arrive in South Zeal at 10.15am and the return bus back to South Zeal and South Tawton would leave Okehampton at 12.45pm. The route would be the same as now. Council regretted the loss of the other bus services and asked that the Managing Director of Country Bus be thanked for the service that her company had provided in recent times.
- e. **Vandalism of the new bus shelter.**  
Council were annoyed and saddened to hear that the new bus shelter at Ford Cross had been vandalised but thanked the chairman (Councillor A White) for undertaking the some of the repairs. So far the drainpipes had been replaced but the graffiti still needed to be removed. Councillor Sampson volunteered to source a solvent to address this matter and the clerk was asked to write a passage for the April edition of the Beacon asking for information and pointing out that vandalism was paid for from the precept monies raised from our community. It was agreed that the council would seek to prosecute anyone found to have vandalised community assets.
- f. **Report on progress of the planning for the Parish Day Royal Wedding event .**  
The chairman stated that a Street Party would be held at the foot of the village between 3.30pm and 6.30pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April and that plans for the event were well in hand.
- g. **Letter of thanks from the Church House Management Committee.**  
Council noted this letter.
- h. **Proposed election articles for the Beacon.**  
Copies of this first article were presented to council who were pleased to endorse that it should be offered to the Beacon for publication.
- i. **Request from Mr T Sanderson for an increase in grass cutting fees for 2011.**  
Councillor A White (Chairman) left the room and Councillor J White (Vice Chairman) took the chair. Council discussed Mr Sanderson's submission and, proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Pillar, all agreed to raise the fee for cutting the grass in St Mary's yard to £165 per year and for cutting, picking up and bagging for collection the grass on Greenbank to £215 per annum, giving a total annual fee of £380, based on 12 cuts per year. The chairman (Councillor A White) rejoined the meeting and took the chair.
- j. Report from Lead Persons on aspects of development of The Parish Plan.

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

There were no new reports to record.

However, Councillor Cann asked for the opportunity to inform council of the recent budget set by West Devon Borough Council, the highlights of which were that there would be no increase in the Community Charge, that there would be financial support for cases of domestic violence and abuse and that no front-line service would be cut. The reduction of 16 managers between South Hams and West Devon to 9 would save some £400,000 and that the building of 150 houses would raise a further £150,000. There would be a contingency budget of £23,000 and a reserve of £800,000.

**11/018** Planning

- a. **WDBC 01175/2011 (Anna Henderson Smith, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011) Mr. J. McDiarmid, WoodHouse, South Tawton. Listed Building Consent.** Replacement floor, Sub-floor ducts, alterations to windows and additional door.  
Council decision taken between meetings. Council supported this application.
- b. **DNPA 0044/11 (Jo Burgess, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011) Mr A Clark, Land adj. to Meadowside, Zeal Head, South Zeal. Approval of Details.** New dwelling and curtilage with vehicle access including the addition of garage and re(c)ycling store (amendment to previously approved 0297/08) (incorrect descriptor)

The clerk presented the history of the 8 previous occasions on which this development had come before council. After discussion, it was proposed by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and seconded by councillor A White (Chairman) that the garage, porch and other structures which had once more been added to the proposed build should not be allowed on the grounds that to do so contravened the original objective of presenting this house as an affordable home, under the conditions and notice relating to a deed concerning Affordable Housing Status that had been presented to council previously. Council were clear that they wished to see this classification retained. Council agreed this motion unanimously.

- c. **DNPA 0057/11 (Jo Burgess, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011) South Zeal Recreation Ground Association. Full Planning Permission.** A small low level skate park to extend the age range of play equipment in a community recreation ground.  
Following a discussion about the nearby sewerage pipe, the exact location of which was somewhat uncertain, councillor Cann undertook to talk with contact in West Devon Borough Council about this. Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Pillar, all agreed that council support this application and thanked Mrs S Miller for her work managing this worthwhile community facility.

**11/019** Determination

- a. **DNPA 0071/10 Appeal at Galerie Woods, South Tawton.** Public enquiry at 10am on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Whiddon Down Village Hall.  
Appeal Decisions: The appeal by the appellant was dismissed with partial costs awarded against him.
- b. **DNPA TPO 27/12/4/181 (Brian Beasley, January 3<sup>rd</sup>) Tree Preservation Order: Town Barton, South Tawton. Mrs S. Freeman.** Request to carry out works on trees protected by a TPO.  
Granted.
- c. **DNPA (Lynn Amos, 19<sup>th</sup> January) Mr H McPhillips, The Rising Sun Inn, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission, Householder.** Calor gas tank.  
Granted.

**11/020** Accounts

- a. **Consideration of accounts.**  
Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Woolland, all agreed that the monthly accounts be adopted.

15-Dec-10		Brought Forward			£ 9,858.91
10-Jan-11	Mr T Sanderson. December	Cleaning toilet block.	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 9,773.91
01-Jan-11	NatWest Bank. December	Voucher STMNT Fee. January 11	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 9,770.66
17-Jan-11	Victory Hall	Annual charge for hiring Com.Rm	£ 40.00	£ -	£ 9,730.66
17-Jan-11	Post Office Ltd	EDF Energy. Oct - Jan 11.	£ 50.89	£ -	£ 9,679.77
31-Jan-11	Post Office Ltd	SWW 15 Oct 10 - 21 Jan 11.	£ 138.00	£ -	£ 9,541.77
31-Jan-11	Mr S McCaffery	Repair of toilet door.	£ 407.73	£ -	£ 9,134.04
31-Jan-11	Mr T Sanderson. November	Cleaning toilet block.	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 9,049.04
01-Feb-11	NatWest Bank. December	Voucher STMNT Fee. February11	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 9,045.79
05-Feb-11	West Devon Borough Coun.	Royal Street Party	£ 21.00	£ -	£ 9,024.79
09-Feb-11	Wallgate	Repair to toilet hand washers	£ 87.01	£ -	£ 8,937.78

The Chairman (Councillor A White) adjourned the meeting at 9.22 pm.