

# SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 7.30pm

Councillor M Watkins  
Councillor W Cann (Chairman)  
Councillor J Jecks  
Councillor B Woolland

Councillor C Critcher  
Councillor A Sampson  
Councillor J Christon  
Councillor C Coombs  
Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

**11/058 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A White (Chairman) and J White (Vice Chairman) for family reasons.

**11/059 Election of Chairman for this meeting.**

Proposed by councillor Woolland and seconded by councillor Sampson, councillor Cann was elected to chair this meeting.

**11/060 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.**

Councillors Sampson and Jecks updated their register of interest.

**11/061 Minutes of the last meeting.**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor Cann)

**11/062 Clerk's Report**

a. **Change of date of Eastern Links committee meeting.**

It was noted that the date of the next Eastern Links meeting had been changed from 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm. No venue had yet been announced.

b. **Report on Hillcrest car park.**

An email had been received from Ms Debbie Bird (West Devon Borough Council Housing and Community Delivery Manager) reporting that she had received information from West Devon Homes who stated that they may not be in a position to make improvement to the car park at present, but that they were happy to meet with members of the council on site to discuss the matters that had been raised about the state of the Hillcrest car park and the apparently abandoned car at its Eastern end. It was agreed that councillors Cann and Coombs would contact Mr Stuart Mann of West Devon Homes to agree a time and date.

c. **Report on P3 matters.**

The clerk reported that as instructed he had invited Mrs R Davies (DCC Parish Paths Partnership Liaison Officer) to the July meeting of the council. He then read an email reply from Mrs Davies stating that she was unable to attend the July meeting. Council decided to suggest other dates and times for a joint meeting.

d. **The Dog Warden Scheme.**

Council were pleased to hear that West Devon Borough Council had confirmed that this service would still be provided for the parish.

**11/063 Questions from parishioners**

There were no questions.

**11/064 Correspondence**

a. **700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of South Zeal Charter, a DVD from Mr P Kilgannon .**

Council thanked Mr Kilgannon for this disc, which it was planned would be passed between councillors.

b. **Date for next meeting of the Den Brook CLG.**

Council were concerned that two council members of this group might not be able to attend this meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Mr J Pillar, recently retired South Tawton Parish councillor and sometime representative on this group, had kindly volunteered to accompany councillor Coombs to this meeting if councillor Jecks was unable to attend. Mr M Horn, (Interim Community Relations Manager RES UK Development) had been contacted to ensure that Mr Pillar's attendance would be acceptable. It was agreed that Councillors Jecks and Coombs would liaise with Mr Pillar to confirm the arrangements. Council suggested some lines of approach that they wished to be emphasised at this meeting.

c. **Correspondence with Mr I Brooker concerning dogs and footpaths 1 and 7.**

Complaints had been received about dogs let loose in fields through which some of the parish footpaths pass, in at least one case exhibiting threatening behaviour. Advice had been sought on this matter and was read to council. The clerk was asked to address these matters in an article to the July edition of the Beacon and he read a draft to council, which was accepted.

d. **Invitation to a DNPA evening Parish Council Planning Workshop on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

Councillor Cann said that he would attend this meeting.

e. **West Devon Town and Parish Council Voice. Letter from Cllr. J. McInnes, Leader of WDBC Council.**

This letter was read to council. Council asked that the council representatives on the Eastern Link Committees take note of certain matters outlined in this letter.

**11/065 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution**

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

- b. It was pointed out that the recent request for information concerning the timing of the Lengthman's visits had resulted in a list of dates for North Tawton. The clerk had responded to this and had now received a list of dates for this parish. Councillors were asked to bring concerns to the next meeting for the lengthsman to address in August.
- c. **Request from the APM concerning grass mowing.**  
The content of the Rev<sup>d</sup> J Smart's comments to the Annual Parish Meeting were relayed to council and a copy of a subsequent letter to Mr B. Pedrick (DCC Highways Engineer North) shown to council. Council decided to await a reply to this letter.
- d. **Annual payment of £800 to South Tawton Parochial Church Council.**  
Proposed by councillor Christon and seconded by councillor Jecks and agreed by all, council agreed that this sum be granted to the PCC and a cheque drawn to this amount was signed.
- e. **Discussion and decision on the purchase of a second hand bus shelter from North Tawton Town Council.**  
After council debated the pros and cons of the now correctly identified bus shelter being offered for sale it was proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Critcher and agreed by all that council would make an offer to purchase this shelter and have it placed at Croft Gate. It was suggested that the Chairman (Councillor A White) make an initial bid of £400 to North Tawton Town Council.
- f. **Renewal of contact to clean the Recreation Ground toilets.**  
It was proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Critcher that the contract for cleaning the Recreation Ground toilets for the year beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 be awarded to Mr T Sanderson at the same cost as last year and that he be thanked for looking after this important village facility for the past year. All agreed.
- g. **Decision to adopt a BT phone box.**  
Now that the offered box had been identified as that at Langdown Cross, it was agreed that council did not wish to consider 'adopting' this box.
- h. **Request from the Campaign to Protect Rural England to renew subscription (£29).**  
It was proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Critcher that membership of CPRE would be renewed this year. All agreed.
- i. **HMRC guidance relating to PAYE implications for parish clerks. An update.**  
Now that the procedure had become clear the clerk explained the minimal financial alterations that this would mean for the clerk and the council.
- j. **Acceptance of Mr M Jecks as the new organiser of the P3 Scheme on behalf of the council.**  
Council were most pleased to hear that Mr Jecks had kindly agreed to take on the role of Parish P3 co-ordinator.
- k. **Councillor training courses in June.**  
The clerk drew council's attention to New Councillor training courses, provided by DALC, and in particular to that being held in Bridestowe Village Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011 from 10 am to 4pm.
- l. **Adoption of the new Council Standing Orders.**  
Proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Watkins, all agreed that this new edition of Council Standing Orders be adopted.
- m. **Report from councillor Cann on a Dartmoor National Park Authority Forum meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.**  
Councillor Cann gave a résumé of this meeting. He mentioned that the Authority would have to make savings of £1,000,000 in the next 5 years, about 35% of their grant. Staffing had been reduced by 11 last year and may be by 11 again in this year, the Ranger service had been streamlined into one team and Members numbers reduced from 22 to 19. Councillor Cann went on to describe the Development Plan new draft policies, which will guide new development on Dartmoor and which will be available for public scrutiny through a mobile exhibition and information centre that would stopover in the Recreation Ground car park on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. He urged councillors to visit this and to note that Dartmoor National Park was celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- n. **Ballot of parish members for membership of Dartmoor National Park Authority.**  
Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Sampson, all agreed to complete the ballot in favour of Mr D Webber and Mr J Shears.
- o. **Ballot of candidates for election to the Devon Association of Local Councils County Committee.**  
Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Watkins, all agreed to complete the ballot in favour of Mr C Dumbleton and Mrs G. Hill.
- p. **Council discussion of Crime and Safety, lead by councillor Christon.**  
Councillor Christon distributed and spoke to a well researched and comprehensive survey of these matters. Councillors discussed the several recommendations made by councillor Christon and following his advice, agreed to invite Chief Superintendent A. Clarke to speak at the September meeting of the council. All thanked councillor Christon for his paper.
- q. **Decision of the Parish Plan area for review for the July meeting.**  
It was decided that Housing Needs would be the focus of discussion under this heading at the July meeting of the council, lead by Councillor Cann (Chairman)

- a. **WDBC 01517/2011 (Laura Batham, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011) A.R.Hooper and Partners, Lower Sessland, Spreyton. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of Agricultural Building. Proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Coombs, it was agreed by majority decision that council support this application.
- b. **WDBC 01582/2011 (Louis Dunning, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011) Mr and Mrs Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Full Planning Permission.** Change of use and works to existing hard standing to form equestrian exercise area. Council were concerned that as no indication of the position of the footpath was shown on the plans it was difficult to reach a conclusion. It was reported that the DCC Rights of Way Officer had been consulted on the matter and had stated that the application did not affect Footpath 52. However, it was decided that further checks would be carried out. To this end councillor Cann (Chairman) would consult with a officer and councillors Sampson and Woolland would carry out a site visit. A reserved decision, dependent on the aforementioned councillors reports, proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Coombs, was that council agreed to support this application.
- c. **DNPA 0152/11 (Jo Burgess, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011) Mr G Gore, Galerie Woods, South Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of a tool and plant store used for forestry management. On reference to DNPA Policy COR2(3a) it was proposed by councillor Darch and seconded by councillor Curtis and agreed by all that this application is not supported by council.
- j. **DNPA 0256/11 (Jon Holmes, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2011) Mrs C Barkwell, Mount Pleasant, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission.** Single storey replacement extension. The Chairman (Councillor Cann) described the site visit that he and councillor Sampson had made and reported that from the planning point of view there seemed to be no reason not to support the application. However, the clerk reported that he had had conversations with Mr James Aven (Planning Team Leader, DNPA) and with neighbours of the site, who had stated that the both the classification of the dwelling as C3 or C4 was still a matter of doubt as were the consequences of each classification. In the light of this it was proposed by councillor Cann (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Woolland and unanimously agreed that:

“Council find no reason under planning law and guidance not to support this application but has grave reservations about the legality of the process of determining the classification of the dwelling and the consequences of allotting either of the Use Classes. Council is strongly opposed to the outcome of any decision allowing more than 6 people to reside in this residence on the grounds that this would, for example, add to the noise on site and traffic congestion since there is little off-road parking. Council also considers that the carer who stays overnight should be treated as one of the residents.”

#### 11/067 Determination

- a. **DNPA 0152/11 (Jo Burgess, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011) Mr G Gore, Galerie Woods, South Tawton. Full Planning Permission. Erection of a tool and plant store used for forestry management.** Refused. Reasons: The proposed building, by reason of its scale, design, location and proposed use, constitutes an unjustified development in the open countryside that is detrimental to the character and appearance of this part of the Dartmoor National Park. Policies quoted.

#### 11/068 Accounts

- a. **Report from Internal finance group.** Councillor Christon and councillor Critcher reported that they had been satisfied with the state of the accounts and the procedures adopted for their management. The clerk thanked these councillors for their help and guidance.
- b. **Consideration of accounts.** Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor, Christon all agreed that the monthly accounts be adopted.

		Brought forward			£ 13039.68
08-Apr-11	Nat West Bank charges	Voucher STMNT fee	£ 3.25		£ 13036.43
11-May-11	Royal Steet Party	Cash collected. Sales and don.	£ -	£ 967.29	£ 14,003.72
12-May-11	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. April 2011	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 13,918.72
12-May-11	Cllr. A Sampson	Royal Wedding Street Party	£ 30.69	£ -	£ 13,888.03
12-May-11	Ink Print	Stationery	£ 21.75	£ -	£ 13,866.28
12-May-11	Cllr. A White	Royal Wedding Street Party	£ 154.56	£ -	£ 13,711.72
12-May-11	W.T.Endacott	Royal Wedding Street Party	£ 147.60	£ -	£ 13,564.12
18-May-11	W.H.Smith	Ringbinder and A4 Envelopes	£ -	£ -	£ 13,564.12
18-May-11	Mole Avon	Royal Wedding Street Party	£ 116.30	£ -	£ 13,447.82
18-May-11	The Kings Arms	Royal Wedding Street Party	£ 391.92	£ -	£ 13,055.90
18-May-11	Mrs J.White	Royal Wedding Street Party	£ 7.75	£ -	£ 13,048.15
18-May-11	DALC	Affiliation Fee	£ 235.68	£ -	£ 12,812.47
18-May-11	Devon Playing Fields Assoc.	Membership fees	£ 35.00	£ -	£ 12,777.47
22-May-11	Mr S. McCaffery	Replace for 1077 last year	£ -	£ -	£ 12,777.47
28-May-11	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's wages Apr-Jun 2011	£ 433.70	£ -	£ 12,343.77
28-May-11	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's tax Apr-Jun 2011	£ 108.40	£ -	£ 12,235.37
28-May-11	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Expenses Apr - June 2011	£ 101.29	£ -	£ 12,134.08

The Chairman (Councillor Cann) adjourned the meeting at 9.15pm.