

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 18th July 2011 at 7.30pm

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

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

11/069 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Watkins and Woolland for business reasons.

11/070 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.

11/071 Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th June 2011 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor A White)

11/072 Clerk's Report

a. **Request to pass on Mr Kilgannon's 700th Anniversary of South Zeal Charter DVD.**

The DVD was passed to councillor Critcher and an arrangement made for passing it to other councillors.

b. **Report from Mr Brooker (DNPA Ranger) on concerns about dogs let loose in fields with public footpaths.**

The clerk reported that Mr Brooker had visited Millfields and talked with parishioners using FP 1 on at least three occasions. He had made the law clear to those people with dogs and felt that the message was beginning to spread.

Result of ballot of parish members for membership of Dartmoor National Park Authority committee.

The clerk informed council that the elected members for West/Mid Devon were Mr Derek Webber and Mr. John Shears.

c. **Result of ballot of parish members for membership of Devon Association of Local Councils committee.**

The clerk read the results to council. Gay Hill (Chagford), Edward Sweet (Iddesleigh) and David Butland (Buckland Monachorum) had been elected.

d. **Chief Superintendent A. Clarke has accepted the invitation to address the September meeting of council.**

Council were informed of this.

11/073 Questions from parishioners

On behalf of Mr D Youle, Councillor Jecks asked a question about the missing finger post at Ford Cross.

The question was answered and recorded in agenda item 11/075(a).

Councillor Critcher voiced a concern about the lack of a maximum height sign for Dry Bridge at or close to Butts Corner. It was agreed that this should be passed to Mr Steve Dawe, DCC Highways Neighbourhood Team Officer.

11/074 Correspondence

a. **Invitation to consultative meetings from WDBC (Super Link Committee) and WD CVS.**

Councillor Critcher volunteered to attend the Super-Link meeting and was hopeful that councillor Woolland would join him. No councillor was available to attend the WD CVS meeting.

b. **Invitation to complete a questionnaire from Devon Heartlands.**

Council decided that they were unable to complete this questionnaire.

c. **Invitation to comment on a Consultative draft of DNPA Development Management and Delivery Development Plan Document.**

This document was passed to councillor Sampson.

d. **WDBC Core Strategy and Local Plan Review.**

This document was passed to councillor Sampson.

e. **Agenda of the Standards Committee on Tuesday 12th July.**

This document was presented to council.

f. **Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter.**

The newsletter was presented to council.

g. **Invitation to attend the Okehampton District Community Transport Group AGM on 26th July.**

This invitation was extended to council but unfortunately no councillor was available to attend.

h. **Report from the Dog Warden.**

MC's report was made available to councillors who welcomed it once more.

Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

- a. **Discussion of tasks for the parish lengthsman.**
The Chairman (councillor A White) reported on a meeting that he and the clerk had had recently with Mr. Steve Dawe, (DCC Highways Neighbourhood Team Officer). Noting the content of the list drawn up and that the next visit of the parish lengthsman was for two days, on August 12th and August 15th, council suggested items to be addressed by the Lengthsman. It was also reported that Mr. Dawe was providing a finger post to replace the missing one at Ford Cross but that it would need the lettering to be added. Mr. Dawe had also reported that no weed control would be provided for the villages from now on but that he would provide a list of suitable herbicides that may be used. The chairman also outlined the situation with regard to the provision of salt/grit for next Winter and stated that pressure was being placed on parishes to appoint a Snow Warden.
- b. **Discussion of the Head of Terms document and the distribution of funding to parishes from RES.**
The chairman (councillor A White), councillor Coombs and the clerk outlined the result of a meeting with some of the parish members of the Den Brook RES committee on 4th July. Since then another meeting had been arranged for the 18th July. Representations from councillors Cann and A White (Chairman) had lead to this meeting being postponed. Another meeting had now been scheduled for Tuesday July 26th at 7pm, at Spreyton village hall. After discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that council would be represented by councillors Jecks and Coombs at this meeting, that they would resist any proposal to use elements of compensation in any model of fund distribution and that they would insist that South Tawton Parish receiving a minimum of 20% of the available funds. It was also agreed that council's representatives had no devolved authority to agree an outcome at the next meeting of this ad hoc RES committee.
- c. **Request for a donation towards installation of a flood warning system and catchment area investigation by Mrs. J Smith, West Devon Borough Council Development and Flood Risk engineer.**
The clerk reported that Mrs. J Smith (WDBC Development and Flood Risk Engineer) would be leaving the Authority in August. Council asked that their thanks for all the work she had done on behalf of South Zeal be recorded and a signed card of thanks sent to her. However, it was also reported that Jackie was seeking funding of several thousand pounds to have an automatic warning system installed to complement the work that had already been done on individual property defense. The proposed system was explained to council. It would be a considerable incentive, the clerk suggested, to agencies minded to award this grant if council were able to contribute monies towards it. It was proposed by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and seconded by councillor Critcher that £500 be donated to this project. All agreed.
- d. **Update of register of interest with regard to the Victory Hall.**
Councillors who had not declared an interest in the management of the Victory Hall completed an Amendment to the Register of Interest form, which would be sent to the Borough Solicitor.
- e. **Report on Eastern Links Meeting.**
Councillor Critcher delivered an interesting summary of the recent Link meeting. He reported that Inspector Kennedy had outlined the £5,000,000 cut the police force faced over the next 4 years which would result in the loss of some 700 staff, the loss being partly offset by the use of traffic police in other roles. Response times would vary, he said, from 20 minutes to 2 days, according to priority. He reported the crime statistics and emphasized that our area was still one of the safest in which to live. Mr. Shears (Parish Member, DNPA committee) had wondered why a few parishes were rarely represented at these meetings and hoped that the development of the 'Super Link Committee' would attract more people. Councillor Critcher was thanked for his report.
- f. **Report of matters concerning the car park at Hillcrest, South Tawton.**
This matter was put forward to the council August meeting.
- g. **Acceptance of bid for purchase of a second-hand bus shelter from North Tawton Parish Council and matters arising.**
A letter had been received from North Tawton Parish Council agreeing to accept the sum of £400 for their offered bus shelter. Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Jecks, it was agreed that this amount be paid. Arrangements were made to transfer the shelter, site it and make good the footings in North Tawton.
- h. **Proposed visit of Mrs R Davies and Mr J Rowlands (DCC Parish Paths Partnership Liaison Officers).**
Council asked that these officers be invited to the August meeting of the council.
- i. **Review of councillors' cheque signature mandate.**
Those councillors present had completed their mandates.
- j. **Report from councillor Cann on the DNPA evening Parish Council Planning Workshop on Thursday 14th July.**
This matter was put forward to the council August meeting.
- k. **Discussion of Queens Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.**
This matter was discussed and several ideas considered. Council decided that they would mark the occasion in a suitable manner and would return to the details at a future meeting.

- l. **Reduction in service of DCC grass cutting.**
A letter had been received from DCC stating that the number of annual grass cuttings would be reduced to 4. An 'adaptable' programme would be devised to ensure that cuts were carried out at optimum times to maintain standards between cuts and ensure no compromise was caused to safety, for instance at junction visibility splays. The proposed cuts would occur in April (completed), June, late July/August and late September/October, in practice as late as possible to leave roads tidy for the Winter.
- l. **Discussion on Housing Needs, lead by Councillor Cann.**
Councillor Cann outlined the present position with regard to affordable housing, stating that the plans to provide four more houses in South Tawton were proceeding and that, in due course, it was expected a further six would be provided within South Zeal. He emphasized that these developments were 'infill'.
- m. **Decision on the Parish Plan area for review at the August council meeting.**
It was decided that Communication would be the focus of discussion under this heading at the August meeting of the council, lead by Dr Brotherton.

11/076

- Planning**
- a. **DNPA 0323/11 (Louise Smith 27th July 2011) Mrs H Poustie, South Tawton Primary School. Initial Consultation.** Internal reconfiguration of main school building.
Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Coombs it was agreed by all that this application be supported. The clerk was asked to write to the Authority to ask that the matter be determined under delegated powers as soon as is possible to allow the development to be completed in time for the start of the Autumn Term.
- b. **WDBC 01602/2011 (Louis Dulling. 7th July, 2011) Mr and Mrs Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Prior Approval.** Extension to agricultural building. Noted by council.
- c. **DNPA 0326/11 and DNPA 0327/11 (Jo Burgess, 29th July 2011) Mrs G Hazeldine, Moorside, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent.** Internal and external alterations including reconstruction of the front extension and new hip to rear roof at Moorside, South Zeal.
Proposed by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and seconded by councillor Jecks, it was agreed by all that this application be supported.
- d. **DNPA ENF/0235/09 (Brian Corcoran, 17th June 2011) Unauthorised subdivision of dwelling house to create two additional units of accommodation – Trafalgar Lodge, Sticklepath.**
Proposed by Councillor A White (Chairman) and seconded by councillor A Sampson the following recommendation was made. South Tawton Parish Council support the actions of the DNPA to bring about the lawful use of this property. Majority Decision.
- e. **WDBC 01582/2011 (Louis Dulling, 27th 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 or Change of use of existing agricultural hard standing to form a ménage for private use. (See minutes of June 6th, 2011)
South Tawton Parish Council are minded to support the above application in principle, but have strong concerns that the application does not affect the proposed application by the applicant to move FP52 public footpath which runs through the premises. This does not appear to be clear on the application.
- f. **Highways and Traffic Management. (JR/KS/P345) Proposed Public Path Diversion Order South Tawton Footpath No. 52.**

Using the plans, photographs and maps of the route of South Tawton Footpath 52 and noting a report from councillor Cann, it was proposed by councillor Christon, seconded by councillor Critcher and agreed by all that this application be not supported by council. Council was surprised that no reason had been given to explain and support the proposed diversion of this section of South Tawton Footpath No. 52 and particular disappointed that it would appear that the present definitive line of part of the path, that denoted 'B' on the relevant Statement Modification Order 2011, had already been blocked by the construction of a series of paddocks to the north-east of the farm buildings before the determination of this application. It was further noted that the original line of the footpath through the farmyard had also been blocked and it was presumed that no action had been taken to remedy this breach. In the expectation that the applicant must have had knowledge of both the existence of this public right of way and of its route when the property was purchased and taking into account the points above, council unanimously agreed that there was no reason why the present and historic line of this footpath be altered. Council also stated that there was at least one gate on the footpath, outside this area, that would need modification to allow access when the gate was closed. Council prides itself that it has always replied to all 'planning' applications within the agreed and stated time limit and voiced annoyance that in this case it was thought by the applicant that council was late in returning its recommendation when no such date could be found on the documentation.

Council ask that the original line of this footpath be preserved and steps taken to re-instate those parts that at the moment are impassable.

- j. **DNPA (Jon Holmes, 2nd August, 2011) Mr. R Arnheim, Windwhistle, Throwleigh Road. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system.
Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Critcher, it was agreed by all that whilst council supported the principle of such sustainable development, this application would not be supported in its present form. Council felt that the installation would be very intrusive and prominent and were especially concerned about its proposed height. It was hoped that a less intrusive design could be offered.

11/077 Determination

- a. **WDBC 01517/2011 (Laura Batham, 6th July 2011) A.R.Hooper and Partners, Lower Sessland, Spreyton. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of Agricultural Building.
Granted. Conditions: in the event that the agricultural use of the building ceases the building shall be removed within 6 months of the cessation of agricultural use.
- b. **DNPA 0184/11 (Jon Holmes, May 16th, 2011) Mr C Chalcraft, Penshurst, Ramsley, South Zeal for Land at Holland Park Farm, South Tawton Full Planning Permission.** Erection of livestock building (223sqm) and polytunnel (164sqm). Further amended plans received 6th May 2011.
Granted. Conditions: Roof in grey coloured material, sample to be provided, use restricted to agricultural purposes.
- c. **WDBC 01440/2011 (Louis Dulling, 7th June 2011) C Baulch, Great Cocktree Farm, North Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Proposed livestock and straw building. (Building Number 1)
Granted. Conditions: To be removed if no longer required for purposes of agriculture.
- d. **WDBC 01441/2011 (Louis Dulling, 7th June 2011) C Baulch, Great Cocktree Farm, North Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Proposed livestock and straw building. (Building Number 2)
Granted. Conditions: To be removed if no longer required for purposes of agriculture.
- e. **WDBC 01436/2011 (Anna Henderson Smith, Mr J McDiarmid, Wood House, South Tawton. Listed Building.** Works to roof, including replacement lantern and positioning of air conditioning units.

		Brought forward		£ -	£ 12,134.08
03-May-11	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. April	£ 3.25		£ 12,130.83
01-Jun-11	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. May	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 12,127.58
02-Jun-11	Mr. T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. May 2011	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 12,042.58
02-Jun-11	South Tawton PC council	Annual grant	£ 800.00	£ -	£ 11,242.58
01-Jul-11	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. June	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 11,239.33

- Granted. Conditions: Precise locations of the units to be submitted.
- f. **DNPA 0200/11 (Brian Corcoran, May 19th 2011) Mr R Halliwell, 5 Greenbank, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of timber shed on allotment garden.
Granted. Conditions: Timber dark brown or black and used thereafter. Sample to be supplied.
- g. **WDBC 01401/2011 (Laura Batham, 22 April, 2011) Mr. C Baulch, Great Cocktree Farm, North Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of single 55Kw wind turbine, 32.8M to hub, 34.2m to blade tip.
Granted. Conditions: If turbine becomes inoperative, structure to be removed. Colour to be matt non-reflective light grey.

11/078 Accounts

- a. **Consideration of accounts.**
Proposed by councillor Christon and seconded by councillor Sampson, the accounts were adopted.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.50 pm.