

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 19th September 2011 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillor A White (Chairman)	Councillor C Critcher
	Councillor W Cann	Councillor A Sampson
	Councillor J Jecks	Councillor J Christon
	Councillor C Coombs	Councillor J White
	Councillor B Woolland	Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

In attendance: Police Inspector S. Kenneally, Mr. Tancock Snr, Mr. S Tancock, Ms. C Warren and Mr. R Arnheim.

11/089 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Sampson and Watkins for family reasons.

11/090 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

No councillor wished to declare an interest in an agenda item nor wished to update his or her Register of Interests.

11/091 Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th August 2011 were circulated and read. Councillor Cann asked that an additional matter be written into item 11/085c, to which council agreed. Confirmation of these minutes as a correct record was therefore postponed.

11/092 Clerk's Report

There were no reports.

11/093 Questions from parishioners

Councillor Coombs raised concerns about application DNPA 0297/10 for Meadowside, South Zeal. It was agreed that the plans be made available by the clerk to answer this matter.

11/094 Correspondence

- a. **Photographs from Jane Marchand (Senior Archaeologist, Dartmoor National Park Authority) of South Tawton Square 'chipped' trough.**

These were shown to council.

11/095 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

- a. **Discussion with Inspector S Kenneally.**

The Chairman (Councillor A White) welcomed to the meeting Inspector S. Kenneally who had kindly agreed to attend in place of Chief Superintendent A Clarke, who had presented his apologies. Inspector Kenneally began his address by reflecting on the future of the police force in West Devon over the next four years, during which savings of some £54 million pounds would have to be made. He stated that this would mean that some 550 back office staff and around 700 police officers would lose their jobs, reducing the overall strength of the force to that of 1983. He reflected on the affects this would have on the provision of a good police service in future. Noticeable changes already evident were an increase in the geographic area of responsibility for all ranks, the need to prioritize attendance at crime scenes and the requirement to develop a new and clear definition of the role that the police force should provide. He went on to report his concerns about future government funding but then emphasized that there was some good news! The services of Neighbourhood Beat Managers and PCSOs were to be retained at present and, whilst some areas had lost their response teams, both uniform and CID were now organized in strategically placed 'Hubs', located so that they could respond to any relevant event in the area within 20 minutes on a 24/7 basis. In conclusion he said that this demand-lead system would provide sound Neighbourhood policing, which was considered to be the 'bedrock' of the service.

Councillor A White (Chairman) thanked Inspector Kenneally for his remarks and invited questions. When asked about the timing of cuts, Inspector Kenneally said that they were to be 'front loaded', stating that, for instance, 460 jobs would be lost in the first 2½ years and the rest, up to about 700, in the remaining time. In answer to a question about the location of the present 'headquarters', it was stated that our force was managed by the beat team based in Okehampton and sits within Inspector Kenneally's area of responsibility in Torridge and West Devon. Inspector Kenneally took a moment to emphasize the importance of the Link Committee meetings and urged that they be supported. Questions about staffing lead to a discussion of the recent Job Evaluation exercise and its effects, such as the streamlining of the back office staff, which had lead to more police officers being freed for front line duties. In answer to questions about a newspaper article suggesting that "one in three crimes were not investigated", council were assured that whilst prioritization of time was given to those where there was a demonstrable chance of solution, this would never be applied to serious crimes, such as homicide and murder. There followed a lengthy discussion on traffic speeding. In response to the observation that within villages 30 mph was legal but dangerous and that a speed limit of 20mph would be more appropriate and safer, Inspector Kenneally stated that in his view public opinion was divided on a speed restriction of 20mph. However, he suggested that control methods, such as speed bumps and flashing 'warning' lights could be effective and agreed that such measures were particularly

- sensible when children were going to and from school. Finally it was pointed out that two 'black box' surveys had been carried out 'in the wrong place' which lead Inspector Kenneally to emphasize the need for reciprocal communication.
- b. **Discussion of the Highways and Transport document already circulated and related strategic matters.**
Following lengthy discussion on these matters it was agreed that council would revisit these issues at the next council meeting. This would allow time for further research.
 - c. **Completion of the cheque signature mandate form.**
The mandate was finalized.
 - d. **Invitation to respond to a National Highways and Transport survey.**
Councillor J White (Vice Chairman) kindly agreed to take this document and return it, printing a copy for future reference.
 - e. **Invitation to attend the annual conference of the Devon Association of Local Councils, cost of £15 per head.**
Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Jecks, council agreed that the clerk and councillor Coombs attend this meeting at a cost of £30.
 - f. **West Devon Town and Parish Council Voice. Report from recent Super Link Committee meeting.**
Council noted the importance of this document and the attached committee information and agreed to have a standing agenda item on Link Committee business at each meeting. The clerk was asked to provide a copy of 'West Devon Town and Parish Council Voice' for all councillors.
 - g. **Report on matters concerning the car park at Hillcrest, South Tawton. (Brought Forward).**
Councillors Coombs and Cann explained the present position and the meeting with Mr. S Mann, (West Devon Homes). At this meeting Mr. Mann had agreed to serve notice on the owner of the apparently abandoned vehicle on site and volunteered £1500 towards the improvement of the car park in the expectation that the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost. Councillor Coombs also mentioned a variety of problems that had come to council's notice with regard to residents in West Devon Homes accommodation on Hillfield, South Zeal but felt that she had made little progress. Having received no promised communication from Mr.Mann, councillor Coombs contacted Ms. J Dawson (West Devon Homes) and reported that this conversation had been somewhat more fruitful. Ms. Dawson had agreed that a system of strategically placed hedges would improve the situation and council asked that progress on these matters be reviewed at the next council meeting.
 - h. **Report from Councillor Critcher on progress concerning the bus shelter destined for Croft Gate.**
Councillor Critcher described the present arrangements and hoped that he would be able to report further progress at the next meeting.
 - i. **Invitation to StOC 20th Birthday party, Friday 30th September 2011 11am-2.30 pm at the Girl Guides Camp Site, Taw Bottom and discussion of works completed in the last year.**
This invitation was extended to all council members.
 - j. **Invitation to attend the West Devon Homes AGM, Thursday 22nd September 2011,7.00pm at WDBC offices.**
This invitation was extended to all council members.
 - k. **DCC Waste Core Strategy 'Call for Sites' for the future disposal of county waste.**
Council noted this document.
 - l. **Report on the progress of recent meetings to consider the future distribution of funds donated by RES.**
Councillors Jecks and Cann reported that the recent meeting of the Den Brook Wind Farm 'sub group' had ended in stalemate as no council had changed their position. It was agreed that council would wait to see if there were any fresh ideas from the other councils before deciding how to proceed.
 - m. **Discussion on Highways, Roads, Transport and Parking, lead by Councillors A White (Chairman), Critcher and J White (Vice Chairman).**
The Chairman (Councillor A White) spoke to a well-prepared joint paper on these Parish Plan matters. He reviewed transport both local and to Exeter, Newquay and Bude, concluding that the parish was better served than many in these difficult times. However, with more publicity, it was recommended that perhaps better use could be made of the Ring and Ride service and the local organisation would be contacted to discuss this. A link to Traveline would be placed on the council website and a note in the Beacon magazine. Turning to Parking issues it was recommended that there was a need to consult with West Devon Homes, West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council Highways about encouraging the use of the Recreation Ground car park, public parking associated with the affordable housing build in South Tawton, enhancement at Hillcrest and a range of possible improvements for Croft and Hillfields. Speeding issues through the villages and on the old A30 were mentioned and, once again, the problems associated with the Zeal Head crossroads. With regard to this it was suggested that the idea of a 'mini-roundabout' be explored. This excellent report ended with a wish that more public reports to "My Devon" be sent concerning potholes, hedges and verges.
 - n. **Decision on the Parish Plan area for review at the October council meeting.**

It was agreed that the next subject for review would be 'The Environment' lead by councillors J White (Vice Chairman) and Coombs.

11/096

Planning

- a. **WDBC 01785/2011 (Laura Batham, 2nd September, 2011) Mr. J Deeley, Livaton Farm Barns. Removal of Condition.** Removal of condition 14 on planning Appeal decision for previous planning application 12824/2009/OKE, in order to allow residential use only and no business use element.
As minuted in 11/086(f) a decision on this recommendation was determined between this and the last council meeting. After further research, the following recommendation was proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and agreed by a majority of councillors.
South Tawton Parish Council are concerned that the application is a change in policy from what the development was granted for and feel that the live/work permission should be further investigated with a longer and more aggressive campaign to market these barns with the planning approval that exists and with which they would have been purchased.
Further, concerns still remain over the increase in traffic both on Livaton Lane which is the only road in and out for all traffic including that of a busy working farm, and on the road south to its junction with the Old A30 which has very poor visibility in either direction. With this in mind council feel that any application must be only for the 4 units and would object to any increase in the number of units being applied for within this historic farmstead either now or in the future. Council noted that several parishioners had expressed their concerns, reinforcing these points of view
- b. **DNPA 0450/11 (Jo Burgess, 2nd October 2011) Mr. G James. Zeal Head House, South Zeal. Outline Planning Permission.** Erection of dwelling and garage.
Proposed by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and seconded by councillor Critcher, all agreed that this application be not supported. Council was particularly concerned that the application stated that the garage should be considered additional to the proposed section 106 agreement which determines the overall footprint of the development to be no more than 80sq.m. Council were also alarmed by the proximity of the proposed access to the crossroads at Zeal Head, which is considered dangerous, a fact that is supported by comments made by 52 parishioners in the most recent South Tawton Parish Plan and through conversation with a representative of DCC Highways. Further, council felt that the position of the proposed access threatened a well-established oak tree in the Devon hedge and also commented on the difficulty, as they saw it, of seating a two storey house on this small site without compromising neighbours' rights.
- c. **WDBC 01870/2011 (Mrs. A Henderson Smith, 30th September 2011) Higher Collybeer, Spreyton. CLEUD.** Application seeking to confirm that planning permissions 11042/Oke and 11045/2007/Oke have been implemented.
Council considered that they could not determine when work on this application had begun, but agreed that it had been observed that the alterations to the access road had been undertaken.
- d. **DNPA 0461/11 (Jo Burgess, 7th October 2011) Mr. T Capps, Oxenham Manor, South Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Installation of 4kw of ground mounted solar panels on land adjacent to Oxenham Manor.
Proposed by councillor Woolland and seconded by councillor Critcher, all agreed that this application be supported.
- e. **DNPA 0339/11 (Jon Holmes, 28th September, 2011) Mr. R Arnheim, Windwhistle, Throwleigh Road. Full Planning Permission. Amended Plans.** Erection of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system.
Council welcomed the amended plans. Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Jecks, all agreed that this amended application be supported.

11/097

Determination

- f. **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.
Conditional Consent. Conditions: Restricted to private use only. No external lighting without permission, full reinstatement of hedgerow and supplementary planting, removal of soil from base of hedgerows with inter-planting and margin planting, schedule of all species and details of planting. All details shall be submitted to the Planning Authority for written approved (sic) within 8 weeks of the date of consent. Any trees, plants, grassed areas which within a period of 5 years from the date of planting die ...shall be replaced.
- g. **DNPA 0387/11 (Brian Corcoran, 29th August 2011) Mr. J Berry, Mulberry, Sticklepath. Full Planning Permission.** West room extension to dwelling at Mulberry, Sticklepath.
Granted. Conditions: Materials used for the external walls and roof to match existing.
- h. **DNPA 0385/11 (Brian Corcoran, 22nd August 2011) Mr K Redstone, Moorlands, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission.** Extension to form porch and cloakroom and erection of garage.
Granted. Conditions: Timber to be stained dark brown or black, sample to be sent. Slate roof, sample to be sent, vehicular access doors to be vertical timber board, garage hereby permitted for private vehicles and incidental domestic storage only, sample of surfacing material to be submitted. No development shall be commenced until a scheme to minimise flood damage be submitted.

11/098

Accounts

- a. **Consideration of accounts.**

Proposed by councillor Jecks, and seconded by councillor Coombs, the accounts were adopted.

b. 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. The clerk presented the Budget updated for the second quarter and highlighted several points.

30-Jul-11		Brought Forward			£ 10,482.33
01-Aug-11	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. August	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 10,479.08
04-Aug-11	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. July 2011	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 10,394.08
04-Aug-11	Mole Avon	Toilet consumables	£ 13.25	£ -	£ 10,380.83
04-Aug-11	Aldi Stores	Toilet consumables	£ 2.92	£ -	£ 10,377.91
08-Aug-11	Getspatial LLP	Parish on Line	£ 24.00	£ -	£ 10,353.91
06-Sep-11	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Expenses July - Sept 2011	£ 16.67	£ -	£ 10,337.24
06-Sep-11	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. August 2011	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 10,252.24
06-Sep-11	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. August	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 10,248.99
09-Sep-11	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's wages July - Sept 2011	£ 487.70	£ -	£ 9,761.29
09-Sep-11	Dr P.N.Brotherton. To HMRC	Clerk's tax.July - Sept 2011	£ 54.40	£ -	£ 9,706.89

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10.10pm