

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Councillor C Critcher
Councillor A Sampson
Councillor J White

Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

- 11/099 **Apologies for absence.**
Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Watkins and Christon for personal reasons.
- 11/100 **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.
- 11/101 **Minutes of the last meeting.**
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th September 2011 were circulated and read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor A White)
- 11/102 **Clerk's Report**
- a. **Response to councillor Cann's advice at the September meeting of the council concerning minute 11/085(c).**
The additional sentence; "However, Mr. Howard was disabused of this by Mr. Rowlands who stated categorically that there was only one definitive route", which had been agreed with Councillor Cann, had been asserted in the August minutes. These minutes were retrospectively agreed by council and signed by the Chairman (Councillor A White)
- b. **Measures taken in response to councillor Coombs concerns on behalf of a parishioner about planning application DNPA 0297/10.**
It was reported that Mr Corcoram, DNPA Enforcement Officer, had made a site visit and reported that he had written to the builder to ask that the perceived deficiencies in the finish of the splay and access and the lack of planting be addressed. Councillors stated that they had seen improvements.
- c. **Resolution of problems concerning the water meter on the Recreation Ground pavilion and toilets supply.**
The clerk stated that South West Water had determined that the meter on the water main to the Recreation Ground pavilion and the toilet block had been damaged, probably by the extreme cold weather last Winter, and had not been registering water use since then. In consequence the estimated water consumption and the standing charges were inaccurate for this period. The meter is to be replaced as soon as possible and there would be no charge for water until this had been done. It was also likely that the 'credit' for invoices paid during this period will be refunded.
- 11/103 **Questions from parishioners**
- a. Mr Capper of Spiltar Farm would like the grit bin, which has been placed in an inconvenient place at the foot of his farm entrance, moved to the other side of the road. Councillor Sampson kindly agreed to expedite this.
- b. A letter was read to council, received from Laura Bazeley, Katie Jecks, Louise Granger (sic) and Beth Frangleton, which itemized the deficiencies of the bus shelter at Prospect and asked that improvement be made. Council agreed to take steps to improve the facility and instructed the clerk to reply to the letter, thanking the parishioners for their letter and outlining plans to improve the bus shelter.
- c. Questions concerning the bus shelter at Ford Cross lead councillor Cann to offer to paint out the graffiti and examine the possibility of improving the shelter at Prospect
- 11/104 **Correspondence**
- a. **Letter/Newsletter from Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and South Devon /Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership.**
These documents were made available to council.
- 11/105 **Agenda Items for discussion and resolution**
- a. **Discussion of tasks for the parish lengthsman. (November 14th and 15th 2011).**
Tasks for the lengthsman were listed, including the bus shelter at Prospect and loose kerb stones at the edge of the old A30 at the South end of footpath 5. The locations would be indicated on a Parish-On-Line map which would be sent to Mr. S. Dawe, (DCC Highways Neighbourhood Engineer).
- b. **Request for grant to support Okehampton District Community Transport Group. (£300 granted last year).**
Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) all agreed to grant £300 to Okehampton and District Community Transport Group.
- c. **Proposed grant towards StOC expenses. (£150 granted last year).**
Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Sampson all agreed to grant £150 to the Sticklepath and Okehampton Conservation Group.

- d. **Information concerning the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons on 4th June 2012. Discussion and decisions.**
Information from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee organizers was presented to council and discussed. Whilst there was a wealth of ideas, no decisions were made except to accept councillor Jecks's offer to incorporate a call for ideas in her next Beacon magazine editorial.
- e. **The Snow Warden scheme and related matters. Discussion and decisions.**
Council was reminded of the proposals included in this scheme and the arrangements that had so far been made, including a meeting at the Ockment Centre on Thursday 20th October 2011. Council were pleased to hear that Col A Clark had expressed an interest in attending this meeting. It was accepted that councillor Jecks would draft an article for the November edition of the Beacon seeking volunteers for the post of Snow Warden.
- f. **Report on recent RES (Den Brook Wind farm) meeting from councillors Jecks and Coombs.** Councillors Jecks and Coombs reported that the meeting had been successful, although the formula for the division of the RES annual grant had not be discussed. The main development had been the agreement that the Den Brook Community Council (DBCC) should be comprised of representatives from the 5 parishes only, without representation from West Devon Borough Council, Mid Devon District Council or Devon County Council. A draft to show the necessary changes to the legal agreement had been produced by a member of DBCC. This would be discussed at a DBCC meeting in the near future and then forwarded to RES for their lawyers to peruse. An offer of legal help from WDBC and MDBC to review the agreement for the DBCC was welcomed. It was drawn to the meeting's attention that RES has found the noise planning condition to be unworkable and that they had offered to fund a noise consultant, chosen by local residents, to help develop a workable solution.
- g. **Report from Councillor Cann about a site meeting at Powlesland Farm on an application to divert part of the route of footpath 52.**
Councillor Cann reported that the meeting had been attended by himself as representative of South Tawton Parish Council, DCC councillor Philip Sanders, Chairperson of the Public Rights of Way Committee (PRoW), DCC councillor James McInnes (Local Member), Mr. Mike Jenkins, DCC PRoW manager, Mr. Johnathan Rowlands, DCC PRoW, Area Warden, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Howard, the applicant, Dr. Peter Brotherton, Clerk to South Tawton Parish Council (Observer), and land owners who had recently owned the farm. Councillor Sanders had chaired this informal meeting and asked Mr Jenkins to outline various procedures and describe the series of tests that would be applied to the evidence and statements in order to determine an outcome of the application. The meeting then surveyed the definitive line and walked the present agreed diversion and the proposed future diversion. Having done that Mr Howard was invited to speak in favour of the diversion and councillor Cann against. After a brief period of private consultation between DCC members the meeting was informed by Mr Jenkins that the application would be allowed. He detailed the consequences of this and such procedures that might be followed. The meeting was informed that a letter stating the conclusion and reasons for reaching this decision would be sent to the members present, inviting their response. Council agreed to await the official letter before deciding on the next step.
- h. **Offer by Mr T Sanderson to provide the same grass cutting service for 2012/13 as for 2011/12 at the same cost of £300.**
Proposed by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and seconded by councillor Cann, Mr. Sanderson's offer was accepted by council. All agreed.
- i. **Letter from Miss M Wolton suggesting provision of an Information Board in the Rec. Ground car park or on Greenbank.**
The chairman (councillor A White) wished Miss Wolton to be thanked for her letter. After discussion it was agreed that more information was needed on the cost of a replacement board at Ramsley car park. The idea of a second visitor information board for the villages and parish was welcomed. Council considered that the best location for this would be the Recreation Ground car park. It was hoped that Miss Wolton would provide more information about the size, design and cost of this information board in due course.
- j. **Report from clerk and councillor Coombs on the joint DALC/CCD meeting attended on Saturday 8th October.**
The clerk and councillor Coombs related their experiences of this meeting and emphasized the information that they had gathered on the development of the General Power of Competence, Localism, Affordable Housing, Allotments and the future of the Standards Board, the Code of Conduct, External Audit and Electronic banking. It was also reported that DCC would provide £400,000 for the improvement and refurbishment of Village Halls and £1/head towards the costs of Localism. Both councillor Coombs and the clerk had been left in no doubt that the costs of devolved services to parish councils would probably only be full met by an increase in the precept. With regard to the list of services suggested for potential devolution by WDBC and DCC, Council decided to await further information.
- k. **Report from councillor J White (Vice Chairman) concerning a National Highways and Transport survey.**
Councillor J White (Vice Chairman) presented a copy of the responses that she had made on behalf of he council and was thanked by council for undertaking this task.
- l. **Report from councillor Critcher on progress concerning the bus shelter destined for Croft Gate.**
Councillor Critcher reported that there was no progress to report. It was mentioned that parishioners were anxious to see this project completed. Council therefore suggested that if no progress had been possible by the end of October then other arrangements should be considered.

- m. **Discussion of matters concerning the car park at Hillcrest and developments on Hillfield.**
It was reported that there seemed to have been no progress on any of the issues. It was agreed that councillor Cann would furnish councillor Coombs with the name of a senior West Devon Homes officer to approach.
- n. **Discussion on 'The Environment' lead by councillor Coombs.**
Councillor Coombs reported that dog fouling had been worse, perhaps now somewhat better. However, she felt that some problems might be difficult to solve, for instance infringement by dogs accompanying horse riders were hard to control. Both dog bins were being used, although at least one of them was being used as a litter bin as well. She felt that there was a need for both a dog bin in South Tawton 'square' and a rubbish bin in the Recreation Ground car park. The clerk was asked to research the cost of another dog bin and councillor Cann volunteered to try to source another litter bin from WDBC. Within her brief, councillor Coombs also reflected on the somewhat uninviting impression given by the weedy areas around the tennis courts and benches in the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that as the Recreation Ground was such an important village facility a note to support the Recreation Ground committee in its work to improve the Grounds and amenities would be helpful.
- o. **Decision on the Parish Plan area for review at the November council meeting.**
Having come to the end of yet another cycle through the Parish Plan issues, the Chairman (councillor A White) suggested that before another review was undertaken, the leader of each area of interest should write a summary of progress to date.
- p. **Presentation of the proposed timetable of council meetings for the calendar year 2012.**
The clerk presented the proposed timetable, a version of which was agreed by council and would be circulated as usual.
- q. **Councillors to propose items for the next Link Committee meeting.**
Council considered that the most important item for discussion centred around the proposed devolution of services from DCC and WDBC.

11/106

Planning

- a. **Information about 'Material Considerations' to aid planning decision-making will be tabled.**
This information, about 'Material Planning Considerations', was distributed to councillors.
- b. **WDBC (Louis Dulling, 21st October, 2011) Mr C. Trippet, Holycombe Ford Cottage, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QX. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of 16 Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels.
Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Critcher, it was agreed that this application be supported with the proviso that consideration be given to judicious planting to form a screen that would reduce the visual impact of this installation. Majority decision.
- c. **DNPA 0504/11 (Louise Smith, 7th November, 2011) Mr and Mrs J Christian, Homefield Farm, South Zeal, Full Planning Permission.** Change of use of part of field to domestic use including the installation of ground mounted solar PV panels.
Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Jecks, all agreed that this application be supported. This advice would not be forwarded until a further 7 days had elapsed to allow parishioners time to comment if they so wished.

11/107

Determination

- a. **WDBC 01730/2011 (Mr L Dulling, 19th September 2011) Mr. and Mrs. P Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Retrospective Application.** Change of use of agricultural building to equestrian use.
Granted. Conditions: There shall be no visiting members of the public in association with the equestrian enterprise.
- b. **DNPA 0408/11 (James Aven, 6th September, 2011) Ms C Capper, Birchy View, Week Cross, South Zeal. Full Planning Permission.** Single storey rear extension.
Granted. Conditions: To use matching materials.
- c. **DNPA 0404/11 (Oliver Dorrell, 1st September, 2011). Mr. J Pillar, Beacon Lodge, South Zeal. Initial Consultation.** Installation of solar panels on rear roof.
Granted. Conditions; Precise details of the solar panels shall be submitted and approved.
- d. **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 with amended plans.
Granted. Conditions. Recommendations of the ecological survey to be followed. Nailed grey Welsh slate to be used. Rough cast lime mortar render to be used on front. No damage caused to ashlar front wall. No development until 1:5 x plans of new internal and external joinery submitted and agreed. Painted black cast iron gutters and down pipes. No work on drawing room until details of flagstone hearth plans for reinstatement approved....Archaeological watching brief to be carried out. Further details from the clerk if required.
- 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.
Granted. Conditions: None. (Start within 3 years.)
- f. **DNPA ENF/0235/09 (Brian Corcoran, 17th June 2011) Unauthorized subdivision of dwelling house to create two additional units of accommodation – Trafalgar Lodge, Sticklepath.**
Notice of an Appeal against the Enforcement Notice issued by DNPA. (ENF/0235/09) . Date and venue of enquiry to be notified.

11/108 Accounts.**a. Consideration of accounts.**

Proposed by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) and seconded by councillor A White (Chairman), the accounts were adopted.

09-Sep-11		Brought forward			£ 9,706.89
06-Sep-11	West Devon Borough C	Second half of Precept	£ -	£ 5,900.00	£ 15,606.89
16-Sep-11	Community Council of Devon	DALC conference	£ 30.00	£ -	£ 15,576.89
01-Oct-11	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. August	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 15,573.64
07-Oct-11	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. Sept. 2011	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 15,488.64
07-Oct-11	Mr T.Sanderson	Annual fee for grass cutting	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 15,188.64
07-Oct-11	West Devon Borough Cll.	Dog Warden Partnership	£ 370.00	£ -	£ 14,818.64

b. Initial suggestions concerning the precept and budget for 2012-2013.

Using the usual precept calculator, council discussed the present position and agreed to set the precept at the November meeting.

c. Proposed adoption of cheque mandate to allow payment of some invoices without individual resolution.

Proposed by councillor A White (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Critcher, this mandate was agreed by all.

d. Initial consultation on the introduction of a standardized grant application form.

This item was carried forward to the next meeting.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.50 pm