

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 25th June 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillor A White
Councillor W Cann
Councillor J Jecks
Councillor M Watkins
Councillor I Guscott

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

12/058 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from councillor Woolland for personal reasons.

12/059 Election of chairman.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the chairmanship would 'rotate' between councillors on a monthly basis for the time being and council were pleased to appoint councillor Sampson as the chairman from the end of this meeting until the end of the next in July. Prompted by councillor Jecks, council agreed to research a parish chairman job description and bring a draft to the next meeting.

12/060 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

Councillor Cann asked to be excused making a decision on item 12/066(a) and Councillor A White declared an interest in item 12/065(g). The clerk drew the meeting's attention to the incipient changes to the Code of Conduct and arrangements for the new Register of Interest. It was proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Cann that the Draft Devon Code of Conduct be adopted pro tem. All agreed.

12/061 Minutes of the last meeting.

Accepting two minor alterations, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st May 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12/062 Clerk's Report

a. **Possible breach of planning passed to DNPA for advice.**

Having observed that it would seem that a small pond had been constructed in a field at Dishcombe House, it was reported that the advice of a DNPA Enforcement Officer had been sought. Council discussed the matter and agreed to monitor the situation.

12/063 Questions from parishioners

- a. Based on many comments from parishioners, councillors reported that feedback about the Jubilee celebrations had been very positive.
- b. Councillor Critcher reported that a question had been asked about the quality and amount of bunting used to decorate the village. Councillor Watkins agreed to discuss the matter with the Carnival Committee.

12/064 Correspondence

a. **Agenda of a meeting of the West Devon Borough Council Standards Committee.**

The clerk reported that nine councillors had been granted a disposition to allow them to speak and vote on matters relating the Victory Hall which might otherwise have forced them to withdraw. However, it was acknowledged that this arrangement would lapse on the 1st July but that future such arrangements would probably be at council's discretion.

12/065 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

a. **Tasks for the parish lengthsman.**

To council's satisfaction a recent successful visit of a lengthsman was described. It was hoped that the same person would be able to return in due course. Various tasks were added to the list.

b. **Quotation of £788 for the replacement of Ramsley interpretation board.**

It was thought that this expenditure could not be countenanced at this time. However, it was also suggested that DNPA might be able to help and it was noted that Miss J Rumble (DNPA Communities Officer) had offered funding for community projects under the heading "Celebrate you Community". The clerk was asked to forward this matter to her as a parish project.

c. **Report of progress concerning councillors' biennial Footpath and Bridleway inspection.**

The clerk reminded councillors of their duty to inspect and report on their designated paths. Two returns were gratefully received. Following discussion initiated by councillor Jecks, it was hoped that Mr. D Sampson would cut the path across Firestones common.

d. **Report from councillor Coombs of progress regarding West Devon Homes.**

Councillor Coombs reported that she thought West Devon Homes had probably carried out as much remedial work on the drainage of the car park as was within their financial capability.

e. **Report from councillor Cann on plans to modify the Croft bus shelter.**

Councillor Cann reported progress on this matter. It was estimated that the work might cost about £500 but a final quotation would be considered at the next council meeting.

f. **Reflection on the Jubilee celebrations.**

The Jubilee working group reported on the results of their final meeting to appraise all aspects of the event. It was felt that the event had been judged excellent. The clerk was asked to write thank-you letters to twelve individuals and committees who had helped substantially to make the project a success. A file was

presented to the clerk containing a summary of all the decision and recommendations made by the Working Party. The clerk wished to add a recommendation about the handling of petty cash and this was accepted.

- g. **Report from councillor Critcher following a recent Superlink committee meeting at which the joint council's TAPs bid was discussed. Recommendation that council accept the offered grant of £790.** Councillor Critcher gave his report on the most recent 'SuperLink' meeting. At this meeting he and our colleagues on Sticklepath parish council had jointly presented a bid for funding to control the growth of roadside weeds in the two parishes over this financial year and part of next. This bid had been successful. They were warmly thanked for this ground-breaking work. However, councillor Critcher reported that he had been concerned that a condition had been placed on this funding, requiring both councils to continue to provide this service in future years, possibly without any further funding from the SuperLink committee. Council were not impressed by this condition and it was reported that Sticklepath also had expressed grave concerns about this matter. The clerk referred to an email that had been sent to Councillor J. McInnes (County Councillor for Hatherleigh and Chagford Division) on the advice of councillor J White (as Interim Chairman) outlining this concern and further pointing out that, given the number of unknowns, the provision this year of this service could only be considered experimental. Councillors decided that they could not accept this stricture and asked that the clerk write to Mr. Sheard (Chief Executive, West Devon Borough Council) about these concerns. However, council voiced their strong support for this joint venture and trusted that the problems would be resolved. Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor J White (Vice Chairman) it was agreed by a majority that in principle council would accept the grant but await Mr. Sheard's reply to the letter. Councillor Cann mentioned that he had received comments from a number of parishioners complaining that they felt that they were paying twice for this service, once through their Council Tax and again through the parish precept.
- h. **Report from councillor Jecks and Coombs on matters concerning Den Brook Wind Farm.** Councillors Jecks and Coombs informed the meeting that RES had as yet made no application to vary the noise condition. RES had called for a Dr. Bass, a 'noise expert' to give advice. In response, the Community members of the committee had asked for another such expert, Mr. M. Stigwood, whose views could be considered more neutral, to do the same. No decision had yet been made as to when these two might give their views on these contentious matters. Council was asked if a contribution to Mr. Stigwood's fee and expenses might be made. It was agreed that in principle council might be able to give some financial support, but that the amount would be decided at a future meeting. It was noted that Bellenden had ceased to chair the Community Liaison Group meetings and that Mr. Bostock (Vice Chair, Zeal Monachorum Parish Council) had taken over.
- Request for a dog bin on the Tarka Trail and a second litter bin in South Tawton Square.** The clerk reported an email request from the South Tawton Square Enhancement Group asking council to provide an extra waste-paper bin and an extra dog bin, which would be sited on the Tarka Trail. After discussion it was reluctantly agreed by council that they felt unable to support this application on the grounds that councillors could not agree with the priority placed on this matter against other needs. All agreed.
- i. **In the light of South Zeal United decision not to use the Recreation Ground for future football matches, a request that a letter be sent asking that the grant of £500 for new goal posts be returned to council.** Council fully supported this view and asked the clerk to write to Mr. Halliday to ask for the return of these monies.

12/066

Planning

- a. **WDBC 02664/2012 (Laura Batham, 15th June 2012) A.R Hooper and Partners, Lower Sesslands, Spreyton, Crediton.** Reserved matters application for the erection of a detached agricultural workers dwelling and garage. Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor A White, it was agreed that council support this application. Majority decision.
- b. **DNPA 0280/12 (Jon Holmes, 19th June 2012) Mr. C.Chalcraft, Penshurst, South Zeal for Holland Park Barn. Full Planning Permission.** Temporary dwelling for agricultural worker. Proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Watkins, all agreed to support this application. It was noted that after three years Mr. Chalcraft might apply for a continuance of decision or apply to have the structure made permanent.
- c. **DNPA 0295/12 (Louise Smith, 27th June, 2012) Mr. A Davis, Beacon Cottage, Sticklepath. Full Planning Permission.** Replacement of domestic outbuilding as pump room. Proposed by councillor Watkins and seconded by councillor Jecks, all agreed to support this application.
- d. **WDBC 02708/2012 (Louis Dulling, 29th June 2012) Mr. R.Reddaway, Livaton Farm, Okehampton. Full Planning Permission.** Householder application for erection of conservatory. Proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Cann, all agreed to support this application.
- e. **Notice that under the Highways Act 1980, Section 119.** Devon County Council had submitted a Public Path Diversion and Definitive map and Statement Modification Order concerning Footpath No. 52, South Tawton, to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for Determination. Council noted this matter.

12/067 Determination

- a. **WDBC 02512/2012 (Louis Dulling. 4th May, 2012) Mr. and Mrs. Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Full Planning Permission.** Change of use of agricultural building to a dual use of agriculture and an indoor equestrian exercise area including alterations to building.
Granted. Conditions: Restricted to private use only for Powlesland Farm. In line with drawings submitted.
- b. **DNPA (Louise Smith. 22nd May, 2012) 1st South Zeal Scout Group, The Scout Hut, r/o The Maltsters, South Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Extension, new disabled access ramp, porch and covered veranda. Granted. Conditions: matching material.
- c. **DNPA 0249/12 (Jon Holmes, 1st June, 2012) Mrs V. Shaw, East Ash Manor, Whiddon Down. Listed Building Consent.** Internal alterations to bedroom.
Granted. Conditions: To begin within 3 years.
It was noted that the second application might be taken to committee.

12/068 Accounts

- a. **Consideration of accounts.**

Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor A White, all agreed that the these accounts be adopted.

11-May-12		Brought Forward			£ 14,529.45
11-May-12	Post Office Ltd.	EDF Energy (Jan - Mar)	£ 45.00	£ -	£ 14,484.45
21-May-12	Post Office Ltd.	EDF Energy (Jan - Mar)	£ 2.55	£ -	£ 14,481.90
21-May-12	Aon	Council insurance	£ 580.89	£ -	£ 13,901.01
21-May-12	Majestic	Wine for Jubilee	£ 352.08	£ -	£ 13,548.93
21-May-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. May 2012	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 13,463.93
23-May-12	NatWest Bank	Cash for Jubilee float	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 13,263.93
27-May-12	Winkleigh Cider Co.	Cider for Jubilee	£ 153.92	£ -	£ 13,110.01
29-May-12	ST and District Local Hist.Gp	Grant for new notice board	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 12,610.01
01-Jun-12	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. April	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 12,606.76
07-Jun-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Extra cut at Zeal Head	£ 10.00	£ -	£ 12,596.76
07-Jun-12	South Tawton PC council	Annual grant	£ 800.00	£ -	£ 11,796.76
12-Jun-12	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's wages Apr - Jun 2012	£ 464.30	£ -	£ 11,332.46
12-Jun-12	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Expenses Apr - Jun 2012	£ 42.13	£ -	£ 11,290.33
12-Jun-12	HMRC	Clerk's tax. Apr - Jun 2012	£ 77.80	£ -	£ 11,212.53
12-Jun-12	HMRC	VAT refund	£ -	£ 472.59	£ 11,685.12

- b. **Report on internal audit by councillors Critcher and J White (Vice Chairman)**

Councillors Critcher and J White (Vice Chairman) reported that the accounts and accounting system were in good order.

The chairman (councillor J White) closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.