

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 23rd July 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillor A White
Councillor W Cann
Councillor J Jecks
Councillor C Coombs

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

12/069 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Watkins and Guscott for personal reasons.

12/070 Election of an interim chairman.

Councillor A Sampson (Chairman) asked for volunteers to chair council for a period of time. Councillor Coombs, being willing to stand, was proposed as chairman by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor J. White (Vice Chairman). Council gratefully agreed and councillor Coombs accepted the chairmanship of council for the next three months, up to and including the meeting on October 22nd.

12/071 Declaration of interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

Councillor A White stated a disclosable financial interest in item 12/076g. No other councillor wished to declare an interest and no councillor needed to update his or her register of interests.

12/072 Minutes of the last meeting.

Accepting an alteration to the heading, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th June 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12/073 Clerk's Report

The clerk had no report to make.

12/074 Questions from parishioners

- a. There were no questions not addressed elsewhere in the agenda. However, several councillors wished council to note the excellent start that Mr. G Henry had made to the management of Ramsley Common.
- b. Councillor Cann informed council that WDBC had written to him offering to transfer the land that they hold on the Croft/Hillfield estates to South Tawton Parish Council. Council decided to await more details.
- c. Councillors raised questions about the repair of the depression in Shelly road at the rising left hand corner, and asked that county councillor J. McInnes be asked to intercede on behalf of the community.

12/075 Correspondence

- a. **Reply from Mr. R. Halliday concerning the return of a grant to the Football Club.**

The clerk informed council of the telephone conversation that he had had with Mr. Halliday in response to his letter. Mr. Halliday had stated that the £500 had probably been spent on the purchase of goal nets that he thought were still in the Recreation Ground store. However, he said that he was willing to try to find the necessary monies or at least part of it if pressed. After discussion, councillor Jecks proposed, seconded by councillor A White, that the clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Halliday again, asking him if he would kindly purchase a pair of good quality, steel junior goal posts for South Zeal Recreation Ground. All agreed.

- b. **Letter from Ms. J O'Connor asking for information about the modification of the Croft bus shelter. Report from councillor Cann on the final plans and cost of this modification.**

This letter was presented to council. Discussion centred around the considerable expense that councillor Cann explained any modification of the shelter would entail. Council were also very concerned at the possible safety and insurance issues that might arise if the shelter was modified under its direction. Bearing these matters in mind, council asked the clerk write to Ms. O'Conner stating that on consideration council had decided not to undertake any such modification and that the shelter would therefore have to remain as it was.

- c. **Notice from DNPA that Mr. Bill Hitchins and Mr. Maurice Retallick were re-elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority respectively**

Council noted this re-election.

- d. **Changes to the way in which policing services in our area are governed.**

Council noted this new arrangement.

- e. **Letter from County Solicitor concerning land at Greenhill Farm in the parish of Belstone and fields in the parishes of South Tawton and Sampford Courtney.**

The clerk was asked to file this information.

- f. **Letter from County Solicitor concerning land at Lettaford Farm in the parish of North Bovey and land in the parish of South Tawton.**

The clerk was asked to file this information.

12/076 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

- a. **The chairman's job description.**

The clerk had found several generic job descriptions, copies of one of which were circulated and discussed. It was agreed that this was a good foundation to an understanding of the role, but that the experiences of the several councillors who had or would undertake this role would be compounded to form a more holistic view over time.

- b. **The new Code of Conduct and Register of Interests.**
Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Critcher, the new modified Code of Conduct was adopted by council. Council discussed the new arrangements and several councillors handed in their completed Register of Interests. It was emphasized that by law these forms had to be filled in, returned to the clerk and sent to the West Devon Borough Council Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the adoption of the Code of Conduct. The offer by councillor Jecks to scan the completed hard copies of the Register and forward both the original, signed version and a .pdf electronic version to the clerk, with a copy of the electronic version to councillor A White, which would be placed on the council web site, was accepted with thanks.
- c. **Alterations to Standing Orders.**
It was agreed that various alterations consequent upon the adoption of the new Code of Conduct would be brought to the August meeting of council.
- d. **Dispensation for councillors to vote on matters concerning the Victory Hall.**
The clerk issued the application forms for the Dispensation concerning Victory Hall matters, which councillors completed and returned to the clerk.
- e. **Report from councillor Watkins on a conversation with the Carnival Committee about village bunting.**
As councillor Watkins was not able to attend this meeting, this matter was deferred to the August council meeting.
- f. **Report of progress concerning councillors' biennial Footpath and Bridleway inspection.**
The clerk collected another report with thanks.
- g. **Report on the progress of the weed suppression scheme.**
Councillor A White withdrew from the meeting. The final drafts of the proposed contract and job description were considered and approved by council. Councillor Critcher quoted a recent email from councillor R. Sampson (WDBC), suggesting that the dead weeds, after chemical treatment, should be swept up and disposed of. This was rejected as being outside the remit of the present scheme. The clerk informed the meeting that no further applications had been received by either council to deliver this service and it was therefore proposed by councillor J White (Vice chairman) and seconded by councillor Critcher that Mr. T. Sanderson's bid be accepted. The chairman, councillor A Sampson, signed three copies of the contract on behalf of South Tawton parish council and arrangements were made for these contracts to be signed by the chair of Sticklepath parish council and by Mr. Sanderson. Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Sampson (Chairman) and agreed by all, councillor Critcher was given the authority to present the contract to Mr. Sanderson and that, if no further matters arose in consultation with Sticklepath Parish Council, start the contract forthwith. Councillor A White returned to the meeting.
- h. **Report from councillor Jecks and Coombs on matters concerning Den Brook Wind Farm.**
Councillors Jecks and Coombs said that there was nothing new to report.
- i. **Verification of councillors contact details.**
A copy of this document was examined and corrected where necessary by all councillors present.
- j. **Request for financial support from North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team.**
Council discussed this request. It was agreed by all that a grant request form be sent to the applicants.
- k. **Consultation concerning the proposal to remove the statutory rule requiring cheques and other orders for the payment of money by parish councils to be signed by two councillors.**
The clerk outlined the importance of this long-awaited change to the legislation. Council unanimously agreed to support the clerk's wish to see this legislation enacted.
- l. **The annual payment for the Dog Warden/Parish partnership scheme and the future of this service.**
Councillors felt strongly that they would wish to see this service continued, even if it meant some increase in cost in the future.

12/077 Planning

- a. **WDBC 020874/2012 (Mr. Louis Dulling, 10th August, 2012) Mr. P Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Listed Building Consent.** Retrospective application for retention of replacement roof covering replacing corrugated iron.
Proposed by councillor Sampson (Chairman) and seconded by councillor Coombs, it was agreed that this application would not be supported. Majority decision.

12/078 Determination

- a. **DNPA 0295/12 (Louise Smith, 27th June, 2012) Mr. A Davis, Beacon Cottage, Sticklepath. Full Planning Permission.** Replacement of domestic outbuilding as pump room.
Granted. Conditions: Materials to match those of existing dwelling.
- b. **Appeal ref: APP/Q1 153/A/12/2168556. Livaton Farm Barns, Livaton, South Tawton, Okehampton.** Appeal against refusal of 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.
Appeal allowed with conditions.

- c. **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.
Granted. Conditions: Occupied only by persons working in agriculture or forestry and dependents. Dwelling to be permanently removed on or before 12th July 2015.

12/079 Accounts

a.

Hoare Account	£ 3619.33	Investment £2234.35 (June 2012)
Emergency Account	£ 5636.82	
Current Account	£13062.52	

15-Jun-12		Brought Forward	£ -	£ -	£ 11,685.12
15-Jun-12	Sainsbury	Queen's Jubilee. Misc.	£ 180.18	£ -	£ 11,504.94
20-Jun-12	W.T Endacott Ltd	Queen's Jubilee. Misc.	£ 224.10	£ -	£ 11,280.84
20-Jun-12	Kings Arms, South Zeal	Queen's Jubilee. Misc.	£ 496.80	£ -	£ 10,784.04
21-Jun-12	Nat West Bank	Queen's Jubilee.Cash Collect.	£ -	£ 2,439.53	£ 13,223.57
23-Jun-12	Mole Avon Trading Ltd.	Queen's Jubilee. Misc.	£ 72.80	£ -	£ 13,150.77
01-Jul-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. June 2012	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 13,065.77
01-Jul-12	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. April	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 13,062.52
01-Jul-12		Carried Forward			£ 13,062.52

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

The chairman, councillor A Sampson, closed the meeting at 8.45 pm