

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 20th August 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillor C Coombs
Councillor W Cann
Councillor J Jecks
Councillor M Watkins
Councillor B Woolland

Councillor C Critcher
Councillor A Sampson
Councillor I Guscott
Councillor A White

Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

12/080 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from councillor Jane White (Vice Chairman) for personal reasons.

12/082 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

Councillor A White declared an interest in item 12/087d.

12/083 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd July 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12/074 Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that there had been no reply to a letter sent to Ms. J. O'Connor about the Croft bus shelter. The clerk confirmed that he had paid the Dog Warden Partnership scheme fee. It was also mentioned that there were two outstanding Registers of Interest that needed urgent attention and a number of other documents that needed completion by councillors. Council thanked councillor A White for putting six ROI on the council website. The clerk reported that Mr. M Jecks had with regret decided that he was unable to continue in the post of P3 co-ordinator for the parish. Councillors thanked Mr. Jecks for his help and referred discussion on how to proceed to the next meeting.

12/085 Questions from parishioners

There were no questions.

12/086 Correspondence

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

It was noted that the most recent letter from council on this matter would be a topic for discussion at the end of month meeting of South Zeal United Football Club committee and that a response could then be expected.

b. **Presentation to council of a copy of "South Zeal – A glimpse of the Village's Past", presented by Meg Walton on behalf of South Tawton and District Local History Group.**

This excellent booklet was presented to council.

c. **Letter from County Solicitor concerning land at Bude Farm in the parish of Sampford Courtney and land in the parish of South Tawton.**

The clerk was asked to file this information as usual.

12/087 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

a. **Proposal to adopt a Joint Committee constitution for Den Brook Wind Farm CL Group.**

It was reported that this document had not yet been completed. Councillor Coombs (Chairman) gave a report on the recent RES meeting, which had been acrimonious. Despite a detailed presentation by Dr. Bass on behalf of RES, no progress towards a solution of 'noise level problems' had been achieved. There followed a discussion on the role of the present Den Brook Community Liaison Group. There were strong feelings that it was not within the remit of this committee to debate such matters but equally sturdy views that South Tawton parish council should continue to be represented on this committee. Council reached no conclusion on these matters.

b. **Concerns about the state of the Recreation Ground.**

The chairman (Councillor C Coombs) described in some detail the poor state of various areas of the Recreation ground, which, she thought, gave a very poor first impression of the village. After discussion, during which a range of alternative actions were suggested, it was proposed by councillor Coombs (Chairman), that the clerk write to the Recreation Ground again to express these views.

c. **Request from STPCC for an increase in the annual grant for the maintenance of the churchyard.**

After discussion it was proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Watkins that the PCC be asked to furnish council with an itemised record of the expenditure of the maintenance of the churchyard over the last five years and a projection of the cost of so doing for next year. All agreed.

d. **Report on the progress of the weed suppression scheme.**

Councillor Critcher described the progress made to date. The clerk mentioned that he had received an invoice from Mr. T Sanderson for £395, being half of the monies received under the TAPs scheme. It was decided to delay payment of this invoice until the effect of the treatment had been seen and an opportunity provided for Sticklepath Parish Council to make their views known. The chairman (Councillor Coombs) thanked councillor Critcher for all the work he had done to bring this joint venture to a conclusion.

e. **Invitation to attend the DALC Annual conference on Saturday 6th October 2012.**

Council was asked if there were any councillors who wished to accompany the clerk to attend this event and councillor C Coombs (Chairman) volunteered to do so. It was proposed by councillor Critcher and seconded by councillor Jecks that councillor Coombs and the clerk attend this event at a cost of £40. All agreed.

f. **Suggested rotation of the chairmanship up until May, 2013.**

Council agreed that it would be sensible to construct a timetable so that all councillors who wished to chair the council could do so before the next AGM in May 2013. There followed a discussion, prompted by Councillor Cann, as to whether or not a chairman should be appointed before the start of each and every council meeting. The clerk stated that he would clarify this point.

g. **Update on the request for action to be taken with regard to the depression on Shelly Road hill.**

A response to concerns about this matter from county councillor J. McInnes was read to council.

h. **Report from councillor Watkins on a conversation with the Carnival Committee about village bunting.**

Councillor Watkins reported that he had had a conversation with the Carnival Committee about this matter. The Carnival Committee had suggested that reasonably robust bunting was expensive. After discussion it was agreed that the council would look with favour on a grant application from the Carnival Committee to purchase more bunting for village functions.

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

The clerk asked that councillors who had not submitted reports as yet survey their paths and bridleways.

j. **Proposed publication of a WDBC News Release alerting local people to proposed Community Charge benefit changes.**

This document was considered by council. It was agreed that it should be displayed and councillor A White was thanked for putting the information on the council website.

k. **Request for financial support from North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team.**

After discussion it was proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Cann, that a grant of £250 be made to this organisation. All agreed.

l. **Report from councillor Jecks and Coombs on matters concerning Den Brook Wind Farm.**

This matter had already been reported within item 12/087a.

m. **Draft suggested content list for New Parishioners' Pack.**

The clerk presented this draft list to council, which, with minor alterations, was accepted as a reasonable starting point. Councillor Jecks kindly volunteered to help with the folder format and design and the clerk was asked to produce a costed example pack for the next council meeting.

n. **Discussion on the maintenance of the Recreation Ground Toilet Block**

Questions were raised about the state of the toilet block. It was proposed by the chairman (councillor Coombs) that the present windows be replaced with 'perspex' and then covered by weld mesh in such a way that the windows could still be partly opened. Councillors Cann and A White kindly agreed to produce a job specification. A suggestion by the clerk that those parishioners who had volunteered to undertake 'handyman' tasks be approached to provide estimates was agreed.

o. **Vandalism of the Ramsley Orientation Board.**

It was regretted that the orientation board had been vandalised. Councillor Critcher's offer to remove the top part of the 'lectern' until a decision was made as to how to proceed was accepted with thanks.

p. **Request for a letter or authority to build a bus hard standing at Ford Cross by Mr. I. Howard.**

The clerk reminded the meeting that Mr. I Howard had kindly offered to improve the standing of the Westbound bus stop at Ford Cross. However, he had asked for a letter of authority from the council before he undertook this work. Councillor Cann stressed the need for Mr. Howard to consider safety issues when working close to the highway and advised council that the surface of the standing should match the step height requirements of the service bus. The clerk was asked to provide this document.

12/088

Planning

a. **DNPA 0414/12 (Jo Burgess, 17th August, 2012). Dr. D. Smith, Hillstead Farm, Sticklepath. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of machinery store and hardcore access yard.

In the discussion of this application council noted the concerns with regard to drainage matters and welcomed the advice provided by Mrs. J Smith (WDBC Senior Engineer).

Proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Guscott, council unanimously agreed not to support this application for two reasons. Firstly, on the grounds that there were no plans available to judge the efficacy of the proposed rainwater harvesting system designed to attenuate the flow of rainwater from the roof of the new building. Council were particularly concerned that any increase in the flow of water from the site towards the old A30 near Lyn Hayes would exacerbate an already known drainage and flooding problem in that area. Neither was there a clear description of other measures planned to prevent the overflow of water into Prospect Lane. It was also considered necessary that the performance of such attenuation systems be monitored over a period of time and that, if any part of these systems was found wanting, remedial action be taken. Secondly council considered it unacceptable that the increase in size and the change of orientation of the proposed new building made the structure much more visually intrusive.

b. **WDBC 02887/2012 (Laura Batham, 3rd August 2012) Mr. and Mrs, Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Prior Approval.** Erection of Agricultural Building.

Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Sampson, it was acknowledged that council had agreed to support this application.

- c. **WDBC 02946/2012 (Louis Dulling 24th August, 2012) Mr and Mrs P Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton, Full Planning Permission.** Change of use of land to equestrian including siting of circular horse-walker.

Proposed by councillor Woolland and seconded by councillor Sampson, council agreed to support this application.

12/089 Determination

- a. **WDBC 02708/2012 (Louis Dulling, 29th June 2012) Mr. R.Reddaway, Livaton Farm, Okehampton. Full Planning Permission.** Householder application for erection of conservatory.
Granted. Conditions: Carried out strictly in accordance with the numbered plans.
- b. **DNPA 0249/12 (Jon Holmes, 1st June 2012) Mrs V. Shaw, East Ash Manor, Whiddon Down. Listed Building Consent.** External and internal alterations to rear extension.
Refused. Reason: Intensified domesticated use of the former outbuilding that would have a detrimental impact on the significance of the Grad 11 listed building. Policies listed.
- c. **WDBC 02887/2012 (Laura Batham, 3rd August 2012) Powlesland Farm, Spreyton. Prior Approval.** Erection of Agricultural Building. Granted. Work to be completed within 5 years.
- d. **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.
Granted. Conditions: Too numerous to list. Please refer to original document.

12/090 Accounts

Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor A White, the accounts were adopted.

		Brought Forward			£ 13,062.52
30-Jul-12	WDBC	TAPs fund income	£ -	£ 790.00	£ 13,852.52
01-Aug-12	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. April	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 13,849.27
01-Aug-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. July 2012	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 13,764.27
01-Aug-12	WDBC	Dog Partnership Scheme	£ 370.00	£ -	£ 13,394.27
		Carried Forward			£ 13,394.27

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm.