

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 24th September 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillor C Coombs
Councillor W Cann
Councillor M Watkins

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

12/091 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors J White, Jecks, Guscott and Woolland for personal reasons.

12/092 **Election or re-affirmation of the chairmanship.**

Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor A White, all agreed that councillor Coombs chair the meeting.

12/093 **Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.**

Councillors Cann, A. White and Sampson declared a financial interest in agenda item 12/098a.

12/094 **Minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th August 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record with a minor amendment and signed by the Chairman.

12/095 **Clerk's Report**

- a. The clerk reported that all registers of interest had now been returned and thanked councillor Jecks for offering to scan them.
- b. The letter of authority to allow the construction of hard standing at the Ford Cross West bound bus stop had been sent to Mr. I. Howard.
- c. The clerk was sorry to report that Mrs P. Matthews, clerk to Sticklepath Parish Council, had resigned. Therefore at the moment neither Sticklepath nor Belstone had a clerk.

12/096 **Questions from parishioners**

The clerk reported that he had received several questions from parishioners.

- a. Mr. McPhie and Mrs. Shaddick had asked why, after being asked to move cars for road cleaning, the service had not been provided. The clerk had contacted WDBC about this, but to date had not received a reply.
- b. Mr. McPhie had reported that moss on the pavement under trees on the left-hand turn after Croft Gate was making walking there slippery and dangerous. The clerk reported that he had contact Mr. S. Dawe (DCC Neighbourhood Highway Officer) about this who had replied that he would inspect this 'Category 1 Defect' as soon as possible.
- c. Mr. Dawe had also reported that the lengthsman scheme had now changed and that the original program, whereby council would have had a lengthsman from Okehampton on 15/11/12 for 3 days, council would now have two lengthsman from Newton Abbott for 1.5 days each on the 03/12/12. He thought it prudent for council to supply him with a list of works prior to this date.
- d. Mr. Hatch had observed that the Tarka Trail was becoming very overgrown. The clerk, on advice from Mr. I Brooker (DNPA Ranger), had contacted Mr. Rowlands, the Rights of Way Warden for the area, who had agreed to contact landowners to arrange for cutting.
- e. Regarding a question about boundary stones, Councillor A. White had determined in consultation with the landowner the site for the new stone at the parish boundary on the A3124 just South of the railway bridge.
- f. Councillor A. White referred to a question about the holly tree in the St. Mary's enclosure, It was proposed by councillor Cann, seconded by councillor Critcher and agreed by all that Mr.T. Sanderson be asked to trim it.
- g. Councillor A. White asked what might be done with regard to tubs of ice cream and some soft drink left over from the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that these be given to the Carnival Committee.
- h. Councillor Critcher asked a question concerning financial support for St. Andrew's Church. After discussion it was agreed that the role of council covered support for churchyard maintenance.

12/097 **Correspondence**

- a. The clerk read a letter from Mrs. J. McCaffery commenting on the Croft bus shelter. Councillor Cann, remarking that it was a good letter, thought that council needed time to reflect on this matter, especially as the letter had been presented to council too late for the subject to be placed on the agenda for this meeting. He also thought that it was an issue needing debate by the full council. Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor A White it was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the council meeting in October.
- b. The clerk presented the document 'West Devon BC and South Hams DC. Peer Challenge meeting on 10th and 12th October 2012 at Tavistock' to council.
- c. South Tawton Charities statement for year ending December 31st 2011 was presented to council.

12/098 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

- a. **Request for a grant from the Victory hall Committee.**
Councillors Cann, A White and Sampson left the meeting. Exercising the dispensation allowing councillors to decide such matters, it was proposed by councillor Watkins and seconded by councillor Coombs (chairman) and agreed by all that the Victory Hall Committee be given a grant of £1000 towards repairs and re-decoration of the building. Councillors Cann, A White and Sampson rejoined the meeting.
- b. **Consideration of a replacement for the post of South Tawton Parish Paths Partnership (P3) coordinator.**
Council suggest that an approach be made to Mr. A Stone or Mrs. S. Whitmarsh to see if they would be interested in assuming this role.
- c. **Reply from Mr. R. Halliday concerning the return of a Football Club grant.**
This response was read to council. Council asked that a further letter be sent to the Football Club.
- d. **Report on matters concerning Den Brook Wind Farm.**
Councillor Coombs (chairman) stated that there was nothing to report.
- e. **Reply to the letter concerning the state of the Recreation Ground.**
This response was read to council.
- f. **Report from councillor Watkins on financial support for the Carnival Committee to purchase more bunting.**
It appeared that the Carnival Committee considered that they had enough bunting.
- g. **Report on the progress of the biennial Footpath and Bridleway inspection by councillors.**
The clerk welcomed the promise of more reports.
- h. **Report on the production of a costed contents list for a New Parishioners' Welcome Pack.**
Council examined the Welcome Pack, its suggested contents and the costing. It was agreed that this was satisfactory. The clerk was thanked and given the freedom to produce four or five complete ones.
- i. **Discussion concerning a quotation to repair the Recreation Ground toilet block.**
The clerk thanked councillor A White for providing the job description. Following council's advice, the clerk had approached Mr. P. Allen and Mr. T. Sunderland. Both had expressed an interest, but Mr. Sunderland had withdrawn after a site visit. Council examined Mr. Allen's quotation but decided not to proceed with this matter for the moment.
- j. **Report from councillor Critcher concerning the Ramsley Orientation Board.**
Councillor Critcher reported that the board had been removed, leaving the posts and an explanatory note. In answer to a question, he described the graphics as sadly deteriorated. Council turned their attention to the trees that screened the view to which the Orientation Board referred. It was agreed that councillor A White would seek professional advice from Mr. K. Webber and Mr. I Brett about the management of the trees. On receipt of this advice it was agreed that the Mr. Fursdon's views would be sought.
- k. **Report on the request for an increase in the annual grant to South Tawton PCC.**
Council awaited a reply from the PCC to a recent letter asking for more financial detail.
- l. **Request from Ms. J. Smith (WDBC Senior Engineer) for the council to undertake a contract to install and maintain a flood warning system on Ramsley Stream below the road bridge in South Zeal.**
The chairman (councillor Coombs) welcomed Mrs. J. Smith to the meeting. Mrs. Smith explained the background to her work in the parish and her reasoning behind making this request. She was pleased to learn that council, having taken advice from the secretary of the Devon Association of Local Councils, would be able to reclaim the VAT on the expenditure incurred in installing this equipment. West Devon Borough Council, Mrs. Smith stated, would give a grant to cover all the installation costs and the maintenance costs for the first five years. It was emphasized that council would incur no cost as, after five years, the maintenance charges would be divided amongst the parishioners who were members of the Individual Property Scheme. It was proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Cann that council would undertake a contract with the company providing and installing the equipment, managed by Mrs. Smith, pay the invoices that were generated by this and reclaim the VAT on this expenditure. The necessary insurance would be a matter for council. All agreed.
- m. **Report from councillor Critcher on a recent SuperLink committee meeting, to include discussion on the delivery of the Joint parish weed suppression scheme, the Snow Warden scheme and the circulated WDBC document entitled 'The Localisation Strategy'.**
Councillor Critcher emphasized some points from the recent SuperLink meeting regarding the police report on theft from barns and the theft of car number plates. Both councillors Critcher and Cann commented on the seemingly poor uptake of the monies provided through the Town and Parish (Localism) Fund and speculated on this scheme's future. Councillor Cann, mentioning that the Dog Warden Partnership Scheme would probably survive the cuts, but at extra cost, gave an introduction to the Localisation (sic) Strategy document produced by West Devon Borough Council which explained the thinking behind possible devolution of services.
- n. **Draft council meetings calendar for 2012- 2013.**
It was agreed to adopt this calendar for next year.

12/099 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. Update and progress report. Council was most grateful for the advice and information that Mrs. J Smith (WDBC Senior Engineer) was able to give on a range of matters pertaining to this application. In the light of this, and on consideration of new information that had been made available by DNPA officers, it was proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Watkins that the concerns expressed by council over the drainage issues had largely been dispelled. All agreed. However, council wished to emphasize that they still had grave concerns about the considerable visual impact, especially when viewed from certain parts of the parish, that the proposed new build would have.
- b. **DNPA 0370/12 (Jo Burgess, 14th September, 2012) Mr. S. Knox, Well Farm, Throwleigh. Outline Planning Permission.** Erection of agricultural building. This application was misdirected to Throwleigh PC but had now been considered by a quorate group of South Tawton councillors, who made the following recommendation: Although somewhat surprised by a number of the personal arguments presented by Norfolk Property Services, council felt that on balance these matters concerning the needs of the business and the range of possible solutions did need to be addressed. It was considered that the proposal may not be necessary for the functioning or improvement of the agricultural holding. There were also concerns that the access roads were unsuitable to accommodate an increase in traffic. Therefore, having consulted all the available relevant documents, council decided that this application would not be supported. Majority decision.
- d. **DNPA 0498/12 (Louse Smith, 5th October, 2012). Mr. C Blazye, Pumpy Cottage, South Zeal. Listed Building Consent.** Removal of existing bath/basin and creation of shower room. Proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Coombs (chairman), council agreed to support this application.
- e. **DNPA ENF0067/12 (Nick Savin, 7th September). Mr. M. J. Herrington, Oaktree Park, Sticklepath.** Removal of tractor shed/lean-to at Gentle Moor, near Week's Cross.
The clerk explained that this proposed enforcement had now been withdrawn.

12/100 Determination

- 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. Refused. Reasons: Detrimental impact.. on listed building. Policies listed.

12/101 Accounts

- a. Report from the Internal Finance Committee group on the quarterly audit.
Councillor Critcher reported that close examination of the records had not revealed any errors or problems. Proposed by councillor Watkins and seconded by councillor A White, the accounts were adopted.
The clerk asked that councillors consider the structure of next year's budget in preparation for an initial consideration of this at the October meeting of council.

The chairman (councillor Coombs) closed the meeting at 9.45 pm

01-Aug-12		Brought forward		£ -	£ 13,394.27
11-Aug-12	Post Office Ltd(Apr-Jul 2012)	EDF Energy	£ 21.88	£ -	£ 13,372.39
11-Aug-12	Post Office Ltd(Apr-Jul 2012)	SWW. Rec.Ground: Water.	£ 232.55	£ -	£ 13,139.84
15-Aug-12	Getmapping	Annual fee	£ 24.00	£ -	£ 13,115.84
01-Sep-12	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. Sept.	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 13,112.59
01-Sep-12	West Devon Borough Council	Second Half of Precept	£ -	£ 6,000.00	£ 19,112.59
20-Aug-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. August 2012	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 19,027.59
11-Sep-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Weed Spraying contract	£ 395.00	£ -	£ 18,632.59
11-Sep-12	Audit Commission	Annual fee	£ 192.00	£ -	£ 18,440.59
11-Sep-12	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's wages July-Sept 2012	£ 464.10	£ -	£ 17,976.49
11-Sep-12	Dr P.N.Brotherton	Clerk's expenses July-Sept 2012	£ 102.98	£ -	£ 17,873.51
11-Sep-12	HMRC	Clerk's tax. July-Sept 2012	£ 78.00	£ -	£ 17,795.51
11-Sep-12		Carried forward			£ 17,795.51