

SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 19th November 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillor C Coombs
Councillor W Cann
Councillor J White
Councillor I Guscott
Councillor J Jecks

Councillor C Critcher
Councillor A Sampson
Councillor A White
Councillor M Watkins

Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

12/113 Apologies for absence.

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

12/114 Confirmation of the election of councillor Critcher as chairman.

It was confirmed by all councillors that councillor C Critcher would chair this meeting.

12/115 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

Councillor Critcher declared an interest in Items 12/120(c) and 12/120(m). Councillor Watkins added detail to his Register of Interest.

12/116 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd October 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12/117 Clerk's Report

a. **Shillet dredged out of Ramsley Stream.**

The clerk reported that the annual clearance of the shillet from Ramsley stream below the road bridge beside 1 Brook Cottages had been carried out by DCC Bridge Maintenance and thanked Mrs. V. White for allowing the stone to be placed in a field entrance.

b. **Matters concerning the appointment of a new P3 coordinator.**

Mr. A Stone had been given a copy of the parish map and various papers concerning the administration of the P3 scheme. Ms. Ros Davies (Parish Paths Partnership Liaison Officer) had been informed of Mr. Stone's appointment.

c. **Report on the alleged dumping of offensive material in a field North of South Tawton.**

It would seem that the dumping of this material had continued and council decided to monitor the situation.

12/118 Questions from parishioners

a. **Problem raised by Mr. Hawing concerning the state of the footpath opposite Olditch Farm.**

Councillor A White raised this matter. He said that he had replied to Mr. Hawing and the path had been cleared but asked that it still be given priority on the December parish Lengthman's list.

12/119 Correspondence

a. **Letter from Mel Stride MP about electronic banking.**

The clerk presented a letter to council from Brandon Lewis MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government) outlining the Government's progress on this matter.

b. **Letter of thanks from Citizens Advice Bureau for the grant of £300.**

This letter was read to council.

12/120 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution

a. **Proposal to apply a dispensation to allow councillors to set the precept for 2013/14.**

After the clerk explained the requirement for this dispensation, it was proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Coombs, that the chair (Councillor Critcher) and the clerk sign a document allowing a dispensation for all members of South Tawton Parish Council to debate and vote on the annual budget. This was agreed unanimously.

b. **Proposal to set the precept for 2013/14**

The clerk read the advice on the revised timetable from the National Association of Local Councils for setting the budget for the year 2013/14. It was agreed that the wording, "that the council is minded to" would preface the precept request to West Devon Borough Council in November/December and that the precept would be officially ratified at the January council meeting. Council then based their discussion on the document prepared by the clerk showing expenditure for the present year to 25th October 2012, forecast expenditure to the end of the financial year and a draft budget for 2013/14. Councillors made some changes to the cost centre allocations. Proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Cann, it was agreed by all that the precept should remain at £12,000 for the financial year 2013/14.

c. **Proposal to change Recreation Ground electricity supplier from EDF Energy.**

The electricity charges made by EDF Energy for the year and their rates charged under 'Fixed Daily Charge' and 'Unit Charge' were compared before and after the current increases. It was agreed by all that further research be done comparing the electricity charges of several other suppliers.

d. **Review of lengthsman tasks for December 3rd.**

Council made a few alterations and additions.

- e. **Acceptance of letters produced for the Parish Incomers' Pack.**
These 3 letters were presented to council. It was agreed that they could be incorporated into the Incomers' Pack.
- f. **Reply from Mr. W.J.G. Worthington concerning trimming the hedge beside Footpath No. 1 in Millfield.**
Council were very pleased to note that the problems with this hedge had been addressed. The clerk informed council that Mr. Worthington had reported that dogs/owners were still causing a nuisance in this field and also that parishioners on the Croft/Hillfield estate were breaking through his western hedge in Millfield, presumably in an attempt to make the journey into the village shorter.
- g. **Reply from Mr. R. Halliday concerning the return of a grant made to the Football Club.**
Mr. Halliday's reply was read to council.
- h. **Report from the Snow Warden and consideration of extra supplies of salt/grit for this year.**
The chairman (councillor Critcher) welcomed the Snow Warden, Mr. B. Jeffery, to the meeting and thanked him for his time. Council and Mr. Jeffery discussed the arrangements for last year and this coming Winter. It was agreed that Mr. Jeffery would provide the designated number of bags of salt/grit to a list of parishioners, either by delivery or by arranging that they pick them up from the central store, which at the moment was West Nymph Farm. Councillor A White agreed to confirm the list. It was also arranged that the store needed to be topped up with a further 40 bags. The clerk was asked to confer with Mr. S Dawe (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) to arrange the delivery of these extra bags to Barton Farm. Mr. Dawe had stated that it was not anticipated that any salt bins would need attention as last Winter had been so mild. However, he asked that he should be informed if this was not the case and that they could be topped up. There was some discussion on the use of a 'salt spinner' but Mr. Jeffery and council were unsure about personal insurance matters and the use of 'rebated fuel', matters which would need to be clarified. It was reported that a letter of thanks to Mr. Dunn for housing the store of salt bags and asking if he would be prepared to continue to hold them was in hand.
- i. **Report from Mr. S. Dawe (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) and discussions arising. Report from councillor Cann on Highways surgery meeting.**
Council were most pleased to note the considerable amount of work that had been done on various areas of the parish in the time between meetings. In particular they were grateful for the repair of the depression on Shelly hill and the numerous other areas of patching that had been completed. Council asked the clerk to email Mr. Dawe to thank him for this focus on parish matters. Councillor Cann reported on the Highways surgery meeting that he had attended at which he too had been able to praise Mr. Dawe for the repairs and improvements to the parish infrastructure whilst emphasizing that Mr. Dawe's task had been made no easier by strictures imposed by his line managers.
- j. **Proposal to purchase 25 plastic boxes for the Incomers' Pack**
Council agreed that the clerk might pay this proforma invoice for £85.50
- k. **Concerns about vehicles driving on Ramsley Common.**
Councillor Critcher (chairman) drew this matter to council's attention and suggested that the motivation might have been to get a better view of the Fireshow in Sticklepath. It was agreed that little could be done to prevent this sort of incursion but that the situation would be monitored..
- l. **Email in response to query about PCC water consumption.**
Council noted Mr. Lynn's reply to council's perception that the water charges reported by him seemed to be high as there were few water outlets in the church or yard. Council noted that these charges included water consumption by Church House as well. The clerk reported comments made by Mr. D. Youle stating that Church House paid half of the water invoice totals.
- m. **Request to help fund necessary repairs to the Willowbank installation in the Recreation Ground.**
The clerk explained the situation with regard to the willowbank installation in the Recreation Ground, installed eight years ago to prevent the erosion of the bank as the stream turned through a sharp angle at the top of the field. This benefitted both the Recreation Ground and those properties at the foot of the village which were prone to flooding. The installation was now in need of repair. Mrs. J. Smith (West Devon Borough Council Senior Engineer) in consultation with Mr. J. Hector of Willowbank, had suggested how this might be achieved using more rock armour, profile netting and willow. However, with all the facilities, flood advice and support that Mrs. Smith had provided over recent years, it was unlikely that she would be able to afford to fund the whole project. She had suggested an approach to the TAPs fund, but both she and Councillor J. McInnes had reservations about the success of this, given the guidance that such bids should be joint between two or more parishes. Further, no one wished to jeopardise the success of a further bid by South Tawton and Sticklepath parishes to purchase a salt spinner. In the circumstances, the clerk wondered if council would be prepared to help fund this repair from the Emergency Account, although he had to remind council that they had already agreed to the expenditure of £500 to support the installation of the automatic flood warning devices in Ramsley Stream. After discussion it was proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor J. White that council make a grant of £1000 from the Emergency Fund towards this project. All agreed.

Responses to the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan questionnaire.

After the responses from councillors who had filled in the circulated questionnaire had been read to council, the clerk was asked to send the document to the DNPA.

- n. **Consideration of documents on the 'Community Right to Bid' from WDBC.**
Council decided that they did not wish to consider this matter at the moment.
- o. **Briefing from councillor Cann concerning Affordable Housing.**
Councillor Cann outlined the work that he had undertaken in an attempt to clarify some apparently conflicting views on this provision and hoped that they could be resolved to provide several houses at Cannonmead in South Tawton.

12/121 Planning

- a. **DNPA 0545/12 (Louise Smith, 23rd November, 2012) Mr and Mrs C & J Seagon, Field adjacent to Greenlands, Whiddon Down) Full Planning Permission.** Erection of four polytunnels, water storage, pump house and associated works; change of use of barn to farm office, store and packing area. Council welcomed the further information that had been provided. Proposed by councillor Coombs and seconded by councillor Cann, all agreed that council support this application.
- b. **DNPA 0577/12 (Oliver Dorrell, 3rd December 2012) Mr. N Atkinson, West Wyke Cottage, South Tawton. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of interpretation board in car park at Recreation Ground, South Zeal. Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Critcher, all agreed that council support this application.
- c. **WDBC 03204/2012 (Mr. Louis Dulling, 30th November, 2012) Mr. R Parr Coursebeer House, Whiddon Down, Okehampton. Lawful Development Certificate for occupation of dwelling in excess of 10 years without complying with the agricultural occupancy condition.**
Proposed by councillor Sampson and seconded by councillor Watkins, all agreed that council did not support this application but did support all efforts that West Devon planning authority could make to counter it. It was also felt that it would be helpful in the future for South Tawton Parish Council to record and revisit such applications in order to anticipate the re-occurrence of such matters.

12/122 Determination

- a. **DNPA 0498/12 (Louise Smith, 5th October, 2012). Mr. C Blazye, Pumpy Cottage, South Zeal. Listed Building Consent.** Removal of existing bath/basin and creation of shower room. Granted. Conditions: Section drawings ... of proposed new internal door ... to be submitted.

12/123 Accounts

- a. **Acceptance of accounts to date.**
Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Cann, the accounts were adopted. All agreed.
- b. **Proposal to transfer £500 from the Current account to the Emergency account.**
In the light of minute 12/120(m) this proposal was cancelled.

22-Oct-12		Brought Forward		£ -	£ 15,655.13
22-Oct-12	Oke.Comm. Transport Gp.	Grant	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 15,355.13
22-Oct-12	Citizens Advice Bureau	Grant	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 15,055.13
22-Oct-12	Mr. T.Sanderson	Work in St. Mary's Yard	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 15,005.13
22-Oct-12	Devon Association of LC	DALC AGM and Conference	£ 40.00	£ -	£ 14,965.13
01-Oct-12	NatWest Bank	Voucher STMNT Fee. Oct	£ 3.25	£ -	£ 14,961.88
24-Oct-12	PostOfficeLtd (May-Oct 2012)	EDF Energy	£ 36.35	£ -	£ 14,925.53
26-Oct-12	Post Office Ltd (Apr-Jul 2012)	SWW. Rec.Ground: Water.	£ 60.83	£ -	£ 14,864.70
25-Oct-12		Carried Forward		£ -	£ 14,864.70

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.