

# SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 17th December 2012 at 7.30pm

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

Councillor C Critcher  
Councillor A Sampson  
Councillor A White

Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

**In attendance.** Mrs C Newman, Mr. R. Halliday, Ms. A Rehaag, Col. A Clark

**12/124 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Jecks, Coombs and Woolland for personal or business reasons.

**12/125 Confirmation of the election of councillor Critcher to chair this meeting.**

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

**12/126 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.**

No councillor wished to declare an interest in an agenda item nor wished to update his or her Register of Interests.

**12/127 Minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**12/128 Clerk's Report**

a. **Further matters concerning Mr. W. J. G. Worthington.**

It was reported that Mr. Worthington thanked council for their support over a variety of matters.

b. **Report on the Lengthsmen's visit.**

Inspection of areas had shown that the two lengthsmen had done a most satisfactory job.

c. **Letter to Mr. Dunn.**

The clerk reported that a letter to Mr. Dunn had been sent.

**12/129 Questions from parishioners**

- a. Councillor A White raised a question on behalf of a parishioner in South Tawton about the ingress of water into his house from the Highway. The clerk was asked to contact Mr. S. Dawe (DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer) to ask for his advice. Councillors A White and A Sampson kindly agreed to suggest to the parishioner that he contact County Councillor J. McInnes about the matter.
- b. The chairman (Councillor Critcher) raised a question on behalf of several parishioners about village signage. It was agreed that the clerk and the chairman research the matter with DCC Highways and with Dartmoor National Park Authority and advise parishioners of their findings.
- c. The chairman also renewed the conversation about cars driving on Ramsley Common. Both he and councillor Cann thought that a large stone strategically placed would probably solve the problem. The clerk was asked to consult with DNPA about sourcing a suitable stone.

**12/130 Correspondence**

a. **DNPA request for council to complete a questionnaire on Enforcement procedures.**

The clerk introduced this document to council. It was agreed that councillors Critcher and A White would meet with the clerk to propose answers to the questions. The draft completed document would then be brought to the January council meeting for discussion.

b. **Notice of road closure Zeal Head to Sticklepath bridge for resurfacing works on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

Council were pleased to hear that this road would be repaired early next year.

**12/131 Agenda Items for discussion and resolution**

a. **Discussion with Mr. R. Halliday concerning the return of a grant for goal posts.**

The chairman, councillor C Critcher, welcomed Mr. Halliday to the meeting and précised the history of this matter. Mr. Halliday, having explained the history of the Football Club, its financial situation and the reason for the move of the club to Okehampton, explained that the grant monies had been spent on the purchase of goal netting which remained with South Zeal Recreation Ground. However, he emphasized that he wished to respond to council's concerns and criticism positively. He suggested that he could have a set of junior goal post made and presented to the Recreation Ground. Mr. Souness, the chair of the Recreation Ground Committee, had stated that this arrangement was acceptable to his committee and that the Recreation Ground would install them. Councillor Cann reminded council of the pivotal role that Mr. Halliday had played in the formation and organization of this club over the years. Councillor Cann then proposed, seconded by councillor A White and agreed by all that Mr. Halliday's proposals be accepted. There being no further questions, the chairman thanked Mr. Halliday for his time and help.

b. **Discussion with Col. A. Clark concerning a proposed update of the Joint Parishes Emergency Plan.**

Councillor Critcher (chairman) welcomed Col. Clerk to the meeting. Colonel Clark spent a few minutes reminding council of the membership, structure, remit and operation of 'Peppermint', the Joint Parishes Emergency Plan Management Committee. He discussing items pertinent to this review and promised to send an up to date copy of the Plan in return for a recently revised copy of the South Zeal Flood Defense

- Plan, which would form an appendix to the Emergency Plan. Councillors Cann, J White, Sampson and Critcher agreed to join or remain on 'Peppermint'. The chairman thanked Col. Clark for his time and advice.
- c. **Discussion with Ms A. Rehaag (WDBC Strategy and Enabling Officer) concerning affordable housing development in the parish.**  
The chairman, councillor C. Critcher, welcomed Ms. Rehaag to the meeting and asked councillor Cann to introduce the discussion in his capacity as the voice of council on such matters. Councillor Cann rehearsed the history, progress and problems of council's bid to provide 9 affordable houses between two identified sites in the parish. Ms. Rehaag outlined the present position and agreed with council's strongly held view that the provision of at least the four houses at Cannonmead be expedited with all vigour. The chairman thanked Ms. Rehaag for her time and expertise.
- d. **West Devon Borough Council proposed arrangement concerning Localisation of Services.**  
The proposed arrangements to allow councils to consider whether or not they would wish to undertake devolved services were discussed. It was agreed by all that council would wait for the publication of the Information Packs on Key Services before making any decisions.
- e. **Discussion concerning the new bus timetable from Western Greyhound.**
- The clerk explained that several parish councils were most concerned that the bus service provided by this company had been changed and outlined the main alterations. The following topics formed the body of the ensuing conversation:
  - That the 0755 bus run by Western Greyhound which had provided travel from Exeter to Okehampton to arrive there by 0900 for people in Whiddon Down, South Tawton, Throwleigh, Sticklepath and Belstone now did not run along the Old A30 from Whiddon Down, but continued up the dual carriage-way to Okehampton. .
  - That there was now a four hour gap between the afternoon buses scheduled at 1220 and 1620 from Exeter to these communities which meant that now the 16.20 bus was overcrowded.
  - That, in response to the growing criticism of these changes, the parishes of South Tawton, Sticklepath, Belstone and Throwleigh had written to the Managing Director of Western Greyhound, Mr. M. Howarth and to Mr. J. Richardson Dawes (DCC Principal Transport Coordinating Officer) urging him to restore or re-route these services. Contact had also been made with the parishes of Drewsteignton, Chagford, Tedburn St. Mary and Cheriton Bishop.
  - That, as an interim measure, arrangements had been made with Mr. T. Hazel, owner of Carmel Coaches, to provide a service for parishioners wishing to arrive in Okehampton Town by 09.00. This would allow fee-paying passengers on 'school days' to board the bus that returned to Okehampton having delivered school children to South Tawton Primary School. After the initial pick-up point at the school, parishioners would be able to flag the bus down along the road from Zeal Head to Ford Cross, at Sticklepath and at Tongue End. Council wished the clerk to thank Mr. J. Richardson Dawes (DCC Principal Transport Coordinating Officer) for paying the Registration Fee to allow this service to be provided.  
It was agreed that council would monitor the situation but that at the moment no further action was considered necessary.
- f. **Further complaints about offensive materials being spread on a field North of South Tawton village.**  
Councillor J White (Vice chairman) stated that she had not as yet received the promised letter from a parishioner.
- g. **Proposal to employ a lengthsman, possible jointly with Chagford, by submitting a TAPs bid.**  
An email from Mrs. S. G. Hill (Chairman, Chagford Parish Council) was read to council. After discussion it was proposed by councillor J White and seconded by councillor Cann that council supported this bid. All agreed. When the chairman pointed out that there were two ways of organizing this matter, namely for council to either employ a lengthsman or to provide funding for extra DCC Highways Lengthsman's time, it was agreed that the latter was the more attractive. The clerk was asked to inform Chagford Parish Council of this thinking.
- h. **Report and matters arising from a recent visit by Mr. S. Dawe (DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer)**  
Mr. Dawe's visit to review the Lengthsman's work and to discuss the clearance of traps and gullies on Shelly Hill was discussed. It would seem from the more recent visit of the Highways Maintenance Team that the gully at the top of the road leading North down the hill from the Methodist Chapel had collapsed. It was asked that the clerk consult with Mr. Dawe about this. Mr. Dawe had also been asked if he could discover if DCC Highways would quote for the Willowbank project and ask if there would be a rebate if the parish took on all Lengthsman's tasks. Mr. Dawe had mentioned that he intended to resurface Shelly Hill in the new year.
- i. **Proposal to revise the Standing Orders for South Tawton Parish Council.**  
The clerk suggested that a full revision of Standing Orders be left until the end of 2013 when NALC would be producing their new model Standing Orders. In the meantime the clerk asked that SO 7(Code of Conduct)(c) be removed from the Standing Orders as it referred to documentation that was now superseded. Proposed by councillor Critcher (Chairman), this was agreed by all.

- j. **Report from Councillor Coombs on matters concerning the Den Brook Wind Farm.**  
In councillor Coombs absence, councillors' attention was drawn to the draft Constitution of the Den Brook Community Council already sent to them and asked councillors to familiarize themselves with it in preparation for a debate on this topic at the January council meeting.
- k. **Request from Rev<sup>d</sup> J Smart concerning the management of St. Mary's Yard.**  
The Rev<sup>d</sup> J Smart had asked if council would be willing to let Mr. J. Millyard of Town Farm, next to St. Mary's Yard, help to maintain the Yard. This was agreed with the proviso that Mr. Millyard did not cut the grass.
- l. **Use of South Tawton Square notice boards.**  
Councillor Cann explained the history of the use of these boards. Following recent developments the clerk was asked to clarify this matter with Mr. Freeman
- m. **Part 2. Proposal that the press and public be excluded for the duration of this item.**  
Proposed by the chairman and agreed by all, the public were excluded for the duration of this item. Council were reminded that the following conversations were strictly confidential.
- i. **Discussion of proposed retirement plans for a South Tawton parishioner.**  
Discussed.
  - ii. **Discussion of a recent dog attack.**  
Discussed.

**12/132** Planning

- a. **DNPA 0249/12 (Jon Holmes, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2012) Mrs V. Shaw, East Ash Manor, Whiddon Down. Listed Building Consent.** Internal alterations to bedroom.  
**J9497/E/12/2181057 Appeal against refusal lodged.**  
Council noted this appeal.
- b. **DNPA 0641/12 (8<sup>th</sup> January 2013) Proposed: Certificate of Lawfulness of non-compliance with condition C of planning reference 03/26/0242/77) at The Moors House, South Zeal.**  
Council regretted that they could not provide any reliable information on this matter.

**12/133** Determination

- a. **Determination of Application No. 01446/2011.**
- b. **DNPA 0545/12 (Louise Smith, 23th November, 2012) Mr and Mrs C & J Seagon, Field adjacent to Greenlands, Whiddon Down) Full Panning Permission.** Erection of four polytunnels, water storage, pump house and associated works; conversion of barn to farm office, store and packing area.  
Granted. Conditions: Structures restricted to agricultural use, new hedge on SW and SE boundaries, hardening off area covered with woven polypropylene, examples of proposed finish to pump house submitted, submission of proposed surfacing of vehicle manoeuvring area.
- c. **Formal Notice of Confirmation of Public Path Diversion Order for ST Footpath No. 52.**  
Noted.

**12/134** Accounts

- a. **Acceptance of accounts to date.**  
Proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor J White, the accounts were adopted. All agreed.
- b. **Report from Internal Finance Group and examination of most recent finance documentation.**  
Councillors Critcher and J White stated that they were entirely satisfied with the management of council's financial matters by the Responsible Financial Officer. A copy of the current financial position was discussed by council.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

|           |                   |                               |         |     |             |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-----|-------------|
|           |                   | Brought Forward               |         |     | £ 14,864.70 |
| 01-Nov-12 | NatWest Bank      | Voucher STMNT Fee. Oct        | £ 3.25  | £ - | £ 14,861.45 |
| 07-Nov-12 | Mr T.Sanderson    | Toilet cleaning.October 2012  | £ 85.00 | £ - | £ 14,776.45 |
| 07-Nov-12 | Ink Print Ltd.    | Printing paper                | £ 19.99 | £ - | £ 14,756.46 |
| 01-Dec-12 | NatWest Bank      | Voucher STMNT Fee. Oct        | £ 3.25  | £ - | £ 14,753.21 |
| 03-Dec-12 | Mr T.Sanderson    | Toilet cleaning.November 2012 | £ 85.00 | £ - | £ 14,668.21 |
| 03-Dec-12 | Duraweld          | Boxes for Parish. Pack        | £ 85.50 | £ - | £ 14,582.71 |
| 00-Jan-00 | Dr P.N.Brotherton | Expenses Oct-Dec 2012         | £ 70.29 | £ - | £ 14,512.42 |
|           |                   | Carried Forward               |         |     |             |