

MINUTES
SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting

Held on

Wednesday, 5 March 2008

at

Lee Moor Hall Committee Room

Present: Cllrs. Mr. Vincent, Mr. Small, Mr. Norman, Mrs. Smerdon (Chairman), Mrs. Burkill, Ms Rayers and Mr. Stone
County Councillor John Hart (part-time)
5 members of the public (part-time)

OPEN FORUM

The Brake – Members of the public asked for an update. The Council had heard nothing further and the Clerk said she would visit the Planning Department at SHDC when she was at Follaton House the following day and ask about the current situation. It had been confirmed that the oak trees which had been felled were not subject to preservation orders. The Clerk was asked to request that an appropriate officer at SHDC review the situation to ensure that TPO's were on the appropriate trees.

The Chairman advised that Wotter Chapel had been sold but she did not know for what purpose or to whom.

POLICE BUSINESS

In Constable Yarnold's absence there was no report. However, the Chairman advised that there had been no crimes in the Parish during the preceding month.

DNPA BUSINESS

No meeting had been held since the last Parish Council Meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Rayers declared a personal interest in Lee Moor Hall, being a member of that Committee in her own right, and signed the Register.

12/08 Apologies

Cllrs. McIver, Winter, District Councillors Hitchins and Barnes and Constable Yarnold.

13/08 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record of proceedings.

14/08 Matters Arising

Permissive Path from Shaugh Bridge to Bickleigh Bridge - Nothing further.

Bench on Bowling Green at Shaugh – The Chairman had purchased a replacement bench. Mr. Palmer would be attaching the plaque and installing the bench.

Footpath at Trethewey Gardens – The Clerk was asked to request a visit from Tor Homes to look at the current situation whereby animals were getting on to the footpath through the broken fencing and making it slippery. Councillors also pointed out the difficulty of unloading cars away from houses which were inhabited by small children as parents were unable to leave them in either the car or house on their own.

Gordon May – Cllr. Rayers advised that unfortunately it appeared that damage had occurred to the bench, probably caused by people sitting on the back of it. The Clerk would ask Mr. Palmer to have a look at it.

Parish Maintenance – Following a recent inspection it had been noted that a board had not been installed on the bus shelter which had recently been repaired. Cllr. Norman had spoken to the Contractor and confirmed that this had now been fixed. He therefore took the payment cheque and would pass it to the Contractor the next day. The Clerk would forward the relevant paperwork to the insurance company.

Wotter Kick About Area – The Chairman would be spreading the grass seed with children from the School as soon as the weather was clement. She had been asked for a basketball net to be installed, similar to that in the Yelverton play area. The Clerk would have a look at the Yelverton play area when she was next passing.

Parish Cluster Meeting – The Chairman gave a report on proceedings. Wolf Minerals had addressed the meeting and a protocol for the passing of information on progress at Hemerdon Mine to the community had been agreed.

Path at Dartmoor Cottages, Wotter - The Chairman suggested that this be made a formal right of way.

Affordable Housing –Nothing further.

Speed Limits & Signs – Cllr. Hart said that the DoT would give a response in the next few days on the proposed speed limit from Beatland Corner to Yelverton and he hoped that signs would shortly be installed.

Highway Problems – No problems were reported at this meeting.

Composting - Cllr. Rayers and the Chairman would go and look at the scheme being run in Chagford.

Parish Plan – Several people had mentioned parking problems at Dartmoor Cottages during the recent open day. It was agreed that the Council would look at comments made at the completion of the process and instigate as many requirements as it was able. The Police Community Services Officer had expressed an interest in setting up a youth club in Lee Moor. The Chairman would ask P.C. Yarnold to contact her. The Clerk was asked to keep a record of what items had been paid for through the Parish Council account.

Footpath – Wotter “By-pass” – Nothing further.

Councillors’ Questionnaire – The Clerk would return completed forms. Cllr. Burkill was concerned that she was not aware of the company running the exercise and felt that it could merely be a tout for business

Clerk's Appraisal and Contract – To be arranged.

15/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Hart had been in discussion with those authorities responsible on the problem of large vehicles travelling down unsuitable roads and getting stuck. New direction signs would be installed at Lee Mill and the Deep Lane Junctions on the A38. He was pleased that now the relevant authorities were in discussion. The Chairman was concerned at the damage being done by these lorries and Cllr. Small asked that the registration numbers of lorries damaging hedge banks be reported. The Clerk was asked to request plans from Imerys on their future withdrawal proposals, as was handed out at the recent Liaison meeting.

Cllr. Hart said that the Boundary Committee had visited the area. They had made it very clear that they were only interested in a one tier local authority in Devon and the Districts would be absorbed in. He was querying the amount of money that this would cost. “Listening Events” were being held across Devon for the public to give their views.

The Chairman acknowledged receipt of the cheque from Cllr. Hart of £450 towards the Parish Plan expenses.

16/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of both District Councillors there was no report.

17/08 CORRESPONDENCE

Village Stores – Information on the setting up of such businesses was given to Cllr. Vincent.

Bunting – A Parish Clerk had advised that their Parish Council had been prohibited from erecting bunting. This Parish Council had not experienced any problems and thought any prohibition was somewhat over bureaucratic.

St. George's Day Celebrations – Suggestions were given to Cllr. Vincent.

Responding to Major Emergencies – The Clerk would ask the Community Safety and Emergency Planning Officer to attend the July meeting to explain what was involved in the preparation of emergency plans. She would also put this item on the Agenda for the next Cluster meeting and ascertain whether the local co-ordinator had to be a Parish Councillor or could be a member of the public.

The Clerk held the following if Councillors wished to read them:-

SHDC Minutes of Meetings

SHDC Executive Forward Plan

The Clerk

SHDC – Minutes of Development Control and Conservation User Group Mtg

Devon Rural Transport Partnership Newsletter

Devontalk

Clerks and Councils Direct

South Hams Magazine

The Local Channel

Post Office Closures

Progress Report from Chief Constable

18/08 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Website and Computer – The Clerk took photographs of the two new Councillors for them to be transferred to the website. Councillors were pleased with the way the website now looked. The Parish Plan information had been updated. Cllr. Rayers explained that the new system of updating was very time consuming.

Meeting with Imerys – Cllr. Small reported that 57 men would be losing their jobs at the end of April. 5 men would retain their jobs on site for security purposes. WBB would be taking over some of the Lee Moor area on 1 June when the road through from the top of Dragons Hill would be used instead of the entrance through Lee Moor village. The buildings at Lee Moor would be let. It had been suggested that the offices at the Old Chapel should be converted and let for residential accommodation. It had been confirmed that the scout hut was owned by Imerys but it was up to the Parish to decide what should be done with it. Cllr. Burkill suggested organising a heritage centre. The completion of the landscaping of the spoil heaps could take up to fifteen years. Cllr. Small confirmed that the company was aware of the use of the bridle and foot paths around the pits and would keep them in good order. It

was confirmed that the unadopted road at Saltram Terrace was owned by Imerys. The next public meeting was to be held on 27 May.

19/08 PLANNING

a. Decisions by District Council/DNP:

None.

b. Applications considered by Parish Council:

Erection of detached dwelling on land east of the New Bungalow at Wotter. The Parish council had responded that they had no objection but awaited comments from residents.

c. General

DNPA Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Councillors pointed out that very little of the Parish was within the National Park Cllr. Burkill would look at the document in detail but initially commented that it would have been better to use more simple language.

The Brake – The Clerk was asked to respond to recent letters of objection.

20/08 FINANCE

Audit Commission – The Clerk had confirmed with the Audit Commission that the appointment of the Auditor for the following five years was the usual procedure and costs to the Parish Council would remain on the same footing.

Lighting for Christmas Trees – It was confirmed that the lights were not put up on the tree in Wotter and that Cllr. Norman how held the lights. Lee Moor Hall had not requested a contribution from the Council for the wiring required to light the Christmas tree. Councillors agreed that St. Edward's church at Shaugh should receive the sum of £20 towards the costs of lighting of their tree.

Lee Moor Cemetery Maintenance – The circuit facilities officer had forwarded five quotations for the work for the forthcoming year. Councillors agreed to a grant of £400, being one-third of the total cost of maintenance for the forthcoming year.

Lee Moor Football team – The Clerk had not received a request for a grant by e-mail and the Chairman would ask for the paperwork to be put in the post.

Annual Return – The internal auditor had completed the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007. His only comment had been that the return for the year ending 31 March 2008 had to be completed by 31 July 2008. The Clerk explained to Councillors the completion of this document. It was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk who would forward it to District Audit.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Scheme co-ordinator had advised that they had not been asking for a grant but that the Parish Council set aside a budget if new co-ordinators approached the Council for signs etc. Cllr. Norman was a co-ordinator for farm watch and Mrs. Toms had put her name forward. The Clerk would put a notice on the notice boards asking for volunteers from the community to be co-ordinators.

It was agreed that the following cheques would be paid:-

Clerk's Salary (3 months)	
Clerk – annual expense settlement (home)	£550.00
Parish Plan Expenses (Spar)	£112.21
Western Web	£ 78.73
Internal Auditor	£ 75.00
Lee Moor Hall Hire	£ 30.00
St. Edward's Church (Christmas Lights)	£ 20.00
Lee Moor Methodist Church (grounds Maintenance)	£400.00

21/08 ITEMS TO WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Notice Boards – Cllr. Vincent would look for a suitable position to which to move the Wotter notice board. Councillors were asked to remove any out of date information when they put Parish Council notices on the boards.

Shaugh had suggested that a play park should be put in in their village. The Clerk would look into what was involved.

22/08 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 2 April 2008 at Shaugh Recreation Hall commencing at 7.15 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date: