

MINUTES

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting

Held on

Wednesday, 2 April 2008

at

Shaugh Recreational Hall

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

OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Vincent was congratulated on the recent birth of his son.

Mrs. Toms pointed out that the notice board at Wotter had been left unlocked and was in a poor state of repair. The Clerk was asked to look at the cost of purchasing a new board which should have Perspex windows. Cllr. Vincent was continuing to look for a suitable relocation site for the board following the sale of the Chapel.

Mr. Finemore had inspected the trees at the end of St. Aubyn Terrace on which it was proposed that a TPO be attached. The owner of an adjacent garage was concerned that one of the trees needed attention and might damage his property. Councillors confirmed that a TPO on a tree did not mean that it could not be lopped but this had to be carried out with permission from SHDC.

Rosemary Schiffner from the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Totnes addressed the meeting. She explained that each Bureau was a charity in its own right but affiliated to the national body. Their remit was to give people advice on their options and rights totally independently in a non-judgemental way. All information was given in the strictest of confidence. They had held outreach sessions in some towns but these had not proved very popular. There was a requirement for home visits but these were very expensive for the Bureaux. If several people raise the same issue then they will pass that issue on to central government via the central network and central government in turn use the Bureaux for fact finding. Mrs. Schiffner gave examples of various types of questions they were asked. Volunteers were trained to, in some cases, find out what the underlying problems were of people visiting them. It was acknowledged that rural areas on the edge of districts suffered a higher level of deprivation than towns. Intensive training took six months and volunteers receive travelling expenses.

Although the Bureaux did bring an income to the Districts through grant funding, they did need to raise money themselves. Cllr. Hitchins explained that all District Councils were constrained by lack of finance. However, he felt SHDC's relationship with the CAB was now good and offered accommodation at Woolwell for an outreach visit. The Chairman confirmed that the nearest office to the Parish was in Ivybridge. Mrs. Schiffner explained that they could forward information "kiosks" to the centre.

POLICE BUSINESS

In Constable Yarnold's absence there was no report. However, the Chairman advised that he had attended a Moor Watch meeting where many representatives from a variety of organisations discussed how to combat problems incurred on the moor. The Community Support Officer had put out a request for assistance to run a youth club in the Parish. Cllrs. Stone said a lorry had recently become stuck on Bickleigh Bridge which had caused considerable disruption. Cllr. Hitchins said another had been stuck at Leighbeer. Problems had been experienced at Langage recently where travellers had set up camp.

DNPA BUSINESS

Nothing to report .

Declarations of Interest

None.

22/08 Apologies

District Councillor Barnes and Constable Yarnold.

23/08 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record of proceedings. However, Cllr. Burkill felt the comments on the questionnaire had been misunderstood and what she was actually concerned about was Parish Councillors filling in a questionnaire without knowing the reason for it. Cllr. Rayers pointed out that she had forgotten to include Cllr. Winter's apologies.

24/08 Matters Arising

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

Bench on Bowling Green at Shaugh – The bench had now been replaced at considerable cost to the Parish following the vandalism of the previous bench.

Gordon May – Mr. Palmer had looked at the damage to the bench in the play area at Lee Moor which was considerable and Councillors felt it was not robust enough. Cllr. Hitchins suggested the Parish Council look at the bench at Woolwell which had been made out of recyclable materials which although probably initially more expensive, would be relatively maintenance free in the future. The Chairman would do so and the Clerk would discuss the matter with John Parkinson at SHDC.

Parish Maintenance – Paperwork for the insurance claim on the bus shelter had been forwarded to the insurance company.

Wotter Kick About Area – The Clerk would look into the purchase of a basketball net. Cllr. Vincent was concerned at the fouling of the area by dogs. The Clerk would look into the purchase of suitable bins and notices although the main cost would be in the emptying of the bins on a regular basis. Councillors noted that dogs were banned from children’s play areas. Cllr. Hitchins would ask the dog warden to visit at appropriate times. The Chairman asked for “no smoking” signs to be put upon the bus shelters.

Path at Dartmoor Cottages, Wotter – Councillors agreed that it was for the owners of the properties to ascertain who the land was owned by.

Affordable Housing –Nothing further.

Speed Limits & Signs – Councillors reported that signs had been erected on the Beatland Corner to Plympton part of the road but not towards Cadover Bridge. Cllr. Hart thought that this would mean that the DoT had given their authority for the speed limit to be installed all the way through to Yelverton.

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.

Electricity Supply to Lee Moor Hall – Cllr. Rayers explained that the Hall had not requested a grant from the Parish Council as the work carried out was in dispute.

Parish Plan – Responses from the community had been put on the website. Cllr. Burkill suggested Councillors read the article on Parish Plans in the current edition of the Village Green as it showed how to bring out a sense of place for the communities. The Clerk would produce copies for the Committee.

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

Clerk's Appraisal and Contract – To be arranged.

Use of Scout Hut at Lee Moor – the suggestion had been made that this should be used as a heritage centre for the china clay industry. Cllr. Burkill suggested that this could be based on that started several years ago in a small way by the Tamar Valley Group for their mining heritage. The Clerk was asked to discuss the possibility with Imerys and to ascertain their proposals for the building.

25/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Hart handed the Parish Council a cheque in the sum of £450 towards the costs of the Parish Plan exercise and the Clerk was asked to send a formal letter of thanks.

Signage on the A38 was ongoing although money was now available. However, he was having difficulty in getting a response from the City of Plymouth on their part of the road network.

Cllr. Small confirmed to Cllr. Hart that work had been carried out at Lee Moor Cemetery to make access by hearses possible.

Cllr. Hart raised the issue of the Boundary Committee's review and said that one of the ideas put forward by the County Council was for Parish Councils to form larger groups to serve their areas.

Cllr. Hart would discuss the problems of lorries being directed down unsuitable roads by their SatNav equipment and causing disruption with John Halliday from DCC the following day.

Cllr. Hart would investigate the current situation whereby the Lengthsman could only take instructions from DCC rather than from Parish Councillors on what work needed to be carried out in the Parish. Parish Councillors were concerned that the previous system had worked much more efficiently than the current one.

26/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Hitchins explained that Councillors were going on a tour of employment sites to discuss issues relating to immigrant workers.

The new waste collection service had been commenced and SHDC hoped it would be more profitable. A 100% recycling service was not sustainable. They were working to get a tetrapack recycling service in Totnes. The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Lucas at SHDC to ask if one could be installed in the Parish, as the nearest one was at Yelverton.

Cllr. Hitchins explained the current consultation by the Boundary Committee on the proposals for unitary status of Devon. However, each district was getting a different viewpoint and the situation changed daily. All Districts had to put forward proposals by 11 April. SHDC's current position was that they really did not want to see any change. All Councils were concerned at the possible cost of looking at reorganisation and wondered whether the benefits would be worth it.

27/08 CORRESPONDENCE

AONB Management Plan Workshops – No-one wished to attend the workshops being held to discuss various aspects within the County.

Temporary Road Closure – DCC had notified the closure of the Brownie Cross to Collard Lane road from 24 April to the anticipated end date of 30 April 2008.

Devon Concessionary Bus Travel Partnership – The Clerk would copy information to Councillors.

Calor Village of the Year Competition – Councillors felt that the requirements for this competition were not appropriate for this Parish.

DAPC Questionnaire – the Clerk and Councillors completed details.

Local Council Review – The nature of the request for contributions was not clear and the Clerk would ascertain the definition of expense allowances. Councillors did not wish to increase the cost of the Parish Council to the Parish.

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

Devontalk

Clerks and Councils Direct

South Hams Magazine

DNPA Management Plan

Town and Parish Standards

High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown

Dartmoor Biodiversity Newsletter

Devon Rural Transport Partnership Newsletter

Plantscape

Clerks and Councils Direct

28/08 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Website and Computer – Nothing to report.

Imerys Meeting – The Clerk would ask Imerys to ensure that a résumé of the meeting was put in the Parish Magazine to keep the local community informed of their plans for Lee Moor and to ask for ideas from them. The Parish Council would also put Minutes on the web site and notice boards and the Clerk would circulate copies to Councillors. The Clerk would also ask the Editor to include the information from Wolf Minerals in the next edition of the magazine.

Ivybridge and District Association of Parish Councils – Cllr. Small had attended a recent meeting. He explained that the role of traffic wardens was changing and they would no longer come under the police remit from June 2008. Training was currently being carried out Fines were being altered. Some councillors felt that payment on exiting the car park would solve many of these problems but the Clerk pointed out that installation of such equipment in small car parks was not cost effective. Seven Councils were represented at the meeting and it

had been agreed that there was little point in changing the membership of the association whilst the Boundary Committee were carrying out their consultation. The current level of their funds was adequate.

19/08 PLANNING

a. Decisions by District Council/DNP:

The Brake, Wotter – The application had been withdrawn but the view was that another would soon be submitted.

b. Applications considered by Parish Council:

Fernhill Farm – Erection of stabling – Councillors would make an appointment to view the site.

c. General

29/08 FINANCE

Lee Moor Cemetery Maintenance – a letter of thanks had been received for the grant.

Ivybridge Tots to Teens – DCC had requested a pledge of a grant towards the publication of activities for people from 0 to 19 years in the County. Councillors felt that the support of such a publication was not the best choice for their funding as it would not solely support the residents of this Parish.

Lee Moor Football team – The Clerk apologised for mislaying their request for a grant earlier in the year. Councillors were impressed with the results of hard work put in by the three teams and wished their congratulations to be put to the organisers. Councillors recommended a grant of £150 towards their equipment, equivalent to £50 per team.

Section 137 – The Clerk advised that the amount the Parish Council could spend per person for the financial year 08/09 was £5.86 but that this Parish Council rarely came near this figure

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

DAPC Subs etc.	£198.00
Devon Playing Fields Association Subs	£ 15.00
Community Council of Devon Subs	£ 30.00
Dave Smith Illustration (Parish Plan)	£ 60.00
Lee Moor Public Hall (Parish Plan)	£ 45.00
Lee Moor Public Hall (Parish Plan)	£342.43
Western Web Limited	£ 75.00

30/08

ITEMS TO WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Childrens' Play Park at Shaugh – The Chairman explained that the land for the village hall and that adjacent had been given to community by the Maristow Estate. She would look at the deeds of the property to confirm the actual agreement. Councillors were concerned at the current terrain but agreed this would not be prohibitive. It was felt that there would be added complications if the play equipment was sited at the primary school.

Emergency Plans – Peter Dale from SHDC had agreed to attend the July meeting to discuss the organisation of a plan for this Parish. Cllrs. Stone and Vincent took copies of plans submitted by two other parishes within South Hams to glean some ideas on what should be included.

31/08

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 7 May 2008 at Shaugh Recreation Hall commencing at 7.15 p.m. This would be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. Prior to the commencement of the AGM the Parish Annual Assembly would be held.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date: