

# **MINUTES**

## **SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting**

**Held on**

**Wednesday, 4 July 2007**

**at**

**Shaugh Recreation Hall**

Present: Cllrs. Norman, Howells, Small, Ms. Rayers (Part-time), Mrs. Burkill, and Mrs. Smerdon (Chairman)  
District Councillor Nicky Barnes (Part-time)  
Police Constable Yarnold (Part-time)  
7 Members of the public (part-time)

### OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Angela Lester, who had lived in Lee Moor for over two years, was concerned at the general poor perspective of the area with regard to overgrown trees and bracken, vandalised signs, corrugated iron and wire left on the moorland, and asked what the Parish Council could do to improve its appearance. In defence, Cllr. Small pointed out that road maintenance had been carried out and the Parish Council had instigated the removal of some dangerous and unsightly sheds. Some issues were in the hands of Imerys as they owned the land concerned and Mrs. Lester would approach them direct, although there was a problem with ascertaining who owned certain tracts of land. The Clerk would also contact them, pointing out the Health and Safety aspects of some of these issues. The Parish Lengthsman would be advised of issues with which he could deal. Mrs. Lester also felt the bottle bank outside the village hall was not in the right place, or perhaps could be screened. Cllr. Barnes felt that recycling points should be conspicuous to ensure the maximum use of them. Cllr. Small pointed out that the Parish Council had no control over the land owned by the village hall but Cllr. Rayers would raise this at the next hall Committee meeting. She felt that it was up to the community to instigate a "face lift" and raise funds. Councillors agreed that the "car park" opposite the hall would be too expensive to surface.

The prospective new owners of the White Thorn, Shaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Will Lord introduced themselves. They had run the very successful Lopes Arms in Roborough for the preceding 12 years and were looking for a new challenge and a pleasant environment in which to bring up their young children. They were aware that the Inn had had several landlords over recent years and asked for guidance from the Parish Council on what requirements the local residents had for their local pub, as they wished to bring the business back to what it had been, for the benefit of all concerned. Councillors made several suggestions which Mr. and Mrs. Lord took on board.

Cllr. Hart would be asked about the rumour that Hemerdon Mine was being opened up again.

### POLICE BUSINESS

Six offences had been reported in the month, with three being thefts from motor vehicles at both Shaugh Bridge and Cadover.

Constable Yarnold had been in the Parish with the mobile speed camera on two occasions and had issued several warnings.

Constable Yarnold reminded those present that even the most minor of accidents which involved damage to persons or property should be reported and failure to do so could incur both a hefty fine and points on your licence.

The police would like to make use of the parish magazine and the Chairman reiterated the need to send articles to the Editor before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of publication.

### DNPA BUSINESS

The DAPC had advised that Cllrs. Tom Archer and Maurice Retallick had been nominated to represent the Teignbridge and South Hams area on the DNPA. The Clerk pointed that the both these Councillors had already spent several years as Members of the DNPA.

In the absence of either of the Parish Council representatives, the Clerk advised that at the AGM held the previous week, Mr. Nigel Hoskin had again been voted in as Chairman and Miss Helen Jenny had been appointed the Vice-Chairman of the Authority.

Three days of interviews and assessment for the post of Chief Executive, following Dr. Nick Atkinson's decision to retire, had taken place and it was expected that the name of his replacement would be announced soon.

Some Councillors felt that as the Clerk was a Member of the DNPA in her role as a West Devon Borough Councillor, she could report in the absence of the official Parish Representative. However, she felt this would not be appropriate as a regular occurrence.

### 58/07 Apologies

County Councillor John Hart (due to attendance at the Local Government Conference)  
Councillor John McIver  
Councillor Jenny Winter (due to the recent birth of her baby)

59/07 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

60/07 Matters Arising

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

**Definitive Map** - Nothing further.

**Sustainability** - The suggestions circulated by Cllr. Winter would be discussed at the next meeting when she could be present.

**Gordon May** - The plaque had been ordered and would be passed to Mr. Palmer to fix to the garden seat.

**Parish Maintenance** - Nothing to report.

**Wotter Kick About Area** – Councillors noted that top soil had been delivered to site but not spread and with current weather conditions was being washed away. They were concerned that the heaps of earth were tempting to the biking fraternity. The Clerk would contact Imerys to explain the problem. DNPA were looking to see what moorland mix grass seed was available.

**Affordable Housing** - The Clerk had been in contact with the Housing Department at SHDC who would forward any statistics they had on housing need in the Parish but suggested that the Parish Council would be best advised to organise a Housing Needs Survey for the Parish, in conjunction with the Rural Housing Enabler.

**Post Office in Wotter** - Nothing further.

**Speed Limits & Signs** – Nothing further.

**Highway Problems** - Cllr. Small reported that despite recent repair the potholes at the lower end of the Loughter Mill road had been washed out due to recent heavy rainfall. The Clerk would advise the City of Plymouth. Cllr. Norman asked for DNPA/DCC Highways to remove the boulder on the Beatland Cross to Cadover Bridge Road. The Chairman reported that after considerable discussion on who was responsible, the large number of tyres had been removed from Leighbeer.

**Parish Plan** - The Chairman had organised for a speaker from the Community Council to address those interested on 27 July at Lee Moor Hall. Councillors agreed to pay the £20 hire charge for the hall. The Chairman reiterated that this should be a community project and only instigated by the Parish Council. DNPA had advised that approximately £250 would be available from them towards the costs. The Clerk would ask for this meeting to be included on the website.

**Footpath – Wotter “By-pass”** – DCC had advised that they were unable to fund this as they currently had £200,000,000 of road works outstanding. Councillors agreed that it would not be practical, because of the condition of one part, which would be very expensive to put into a condition to be used, to put the footpath along the old railway track. The Chairman suggested, and Councillors agreed, that an estimate for the cost should be obtained from both DCC and Cormac. The Chairman had arranged a meeting with Cllr. Hart to walk the proposed path and look at the issues.

**Imerys Liaison Meeting** - Cllr. Small advised that the next meeting would be held on 6 September and a public meeting had been organised for 20 September.

**NALC Conference** - The prices quoted did not include accommodation and Councillors agreed with Cllr. Howells that the cost exceeded the benefit of attending. However, the Clerk would contact the Clerks of our Cluster Parishes to see if Cllr. Howells could attend on behalf of all three Parishes, with the Parishes sharing the expense.

**Clerk's Appraisal and Contract** - The Chairman and Clerk had arranged a meeting later in the month.

**Exeter City Council Unitary Bid** - SHDC had forwarded a copy of their letter sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the contents of which were along the same lines as the one sent by the Parish Council.

**School Governors** - A letter from the Chairman of the Governors had been received. At the last meeting of the governors, the issues surrounding the question of a report from their meetings for the Parish Council was discussed. They felt that there was no need for a Report to be sent to the Parish Council as the Minutes are already in the public domain in that they are displayed on the school notice board. Their meetings were also open to the public, apart from Part II issues and members of the Parish Council were most welcome to attend. The letter pointed out that two community governors (whether Parish Councillors or not) could be appointed to the Board to represent the interests of the community. However, in the interest of good will the Governors had agreed that a summary of the activities of the school and its governance could be sent to the Parish Council twice yearly. Councillors agreed that this was acceptable and the Clerk would reply that the Chairman's comments were noted and Councillors look forward to receiving the reports.

#### 61/07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In Cllr. Hart's absence there was no report.

#### 62/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Barnes explained that their new part-time (shared with West Devon Borough Council) Chief Executive was settling in well.

Councillors were extremely concerned at the budgetary implications of the new Concessionary Fare scheme for the next financial year, unless Central Government provided sufficient funding. If this was not forthcoming, then the burden would fall on the Council Tax payer. Cllr. Barnes explained to Cllr. Burkill that it was not possible to utilise the bus service to and from certain supermarkets.

Unfortunately the waste budget was already overspent for the year due to issues around re-organisation and mechanical problems with collection vehicles.

#### 63/07 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The vacancy had been advertised and, if no election was called within the allotted period, Councillors would co-opt at the next meeting in September from those expressing an interest in joining the Council. Cllr. Rayers would put a notice on her community e-mail system.

#### 64/07 CORRESPONDENCE

**Giant Camps** - Details of the proposal by Tone Leisure who ran the leisure centres in the District would be put notice boards. They were planning to provide full holiday day care for children aged from 4 -14 years at their centres in SH during the summer holidays from 8.30a.m. to 6p.m.

**Ivybridge Youth Venue** - their summer activities programme had been put on notice boards.

**Teignbridge Play Centre** - No-one was available to attend the Seminar on 18 July. The Clerk would forward details to Cllr. Rayers.

**Devon and Cornwall Constabulary** - Inspector Phil Chivers had now been appointed as the Sector Inspector for South Hams West on the retirement of Inspector Roger Williams.

**DAPC County Committee** - Those elected successfully for the South Hams included Cllr. Carol Beeson from Ivybridge.

**DPFA AGM** - No-one was available to attend the AGM on 12 July in Winkleigh.

**Local Councils' Association** - The Chairman would respond to their questionnaire on how Parish Councillors coped with their work as Councillors.

**Nuclear Power UK Consultation** - Cllr. Howells would respond on behalf of the Parish Council with ideas and comments for the nuclear power survey.

**SH Community Land Trusts** - The Chairman took the correspondence and would report back to the Council if the suggestions were of interest.

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

SHDC Minutes of Meetings  
SHDC Executive Forward Plan  
South Hams Magazine  
DCC Minerals Update  
DAPC Newsletter  
SH Society Bulletin  
South Devon & Dartmoor community Safety Action Plan 2007/08  
Festival Lighting

#### 65/07 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Website and Computer** – Cllr. Burkill said that Mr. Balkwill's Shaugh.net website had a lot of interesting material about the Parish and asked those present to forward any historical details to Mr. Balkwill and also let him know if they could identify those in the photographs. The Clerk would ask Barry Isaacs to establish a link to the part of the Parish's website which gave details of the village of Shaugh.

**Seminar on Composting** - the Chairman had attended and had come back enthused with good ideas. SHDC would give £1,000 towards the setting up of a composting scheme for the Parish as they were trying to keep as much waste as possible out of landfill. The Chairman would visit the Chagford scheme but Councillors felt it would be difficult to set up a community scheme in a Parish like Shaugh. The scheme in Totnes was considered to be a good model. Cllr. Burkill felt that the scheme they run in Germany, whereby one large bin was divided into sections for different types of waste, would work well in such a Parish as Shaugh.

**Play Areas** - Cllr. Small reported that the fencing around the Lee Moor play area had been broken. The Clerk would contact Imerys to see if they could carry out some repairs.

#### 66/07 PLANNING

a. Decisions by District Council/DNP:

Shaugh Prior Primary School - Replacement of windows - granted.

Lower Hill Barn, Shaugh - Permission to convert part of the property had been refused as it was considered inappropriate in a barn setting.

b. Applications considered by Parish Council:

Councillors agreed site visits to Inwood, Shaugh and Faunstone Cottage on 10 July.

c. General

Development at Hartstone - As Cllr. Norman had heard nothing from SHDC he contacted them himself. Unfortunately the Planning Department denied all

knowledge of receiving a call. With Cllr. Norman's help they had identified the site and on the return of the Enforcement Officer the following week, would pay a visit. They would also look at the situation at Vincent's Farm.

The "Planning in your Parish" seminars were being concluded with a wash-up session at the DNPA Offices on 10 July. No Councillors were available to attend.

SHDC Core Strategy - Cllr. Burkill would formulate a response prior to the deadline for comments on 27 July.

DNPA Management Plan - Cllr. Howells would formulate a response prior to the deadline of 6 August.

67/07 FINANCE

**Audit 2005/06** - The Annual Return had now been returned by District Audit. They had no comments to make. The Clerk would display the appropriate notice to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

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

Clerk - Stamps	£50.00
Chairman - Travel Expenses	£48.80
Chairman - Seminar Attendance	£10.00

68/07 ITEMS TO WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

69/07 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5 September 2007 at Shaugh Recreation Hall commencing at 7.15 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....

Chairman

Date: .....