

MINUTES

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting

Held on

Wednesday, 7 November 2007

at

Lee Moor Hall Committee Room

Present: Cllrs. Ms. Rayers, Mr. Vincent (Part-time), Ms Winter, Mr. Small, Mr. Norman, Mr. McIver and Mrs. Smerdon (Chairman)
County Councillor John Hart (part-time)
District Councillor Nicky Barns (part-time)
Police Constable Yarnold (part-time)
5 Members of the public (part-time)

OPEN FORUM

The Clerk had discussed the situation whereby Imerys had suggested handing over the play area land in Lee Moor to the Village Hall Trustees with the DCC Solicitor. She read out the e-mailed reply which confirmed it would be more appropriate for the Parish Council to acquire the land from Imerys if possible which would ensure that the PC can control the use and have rights to maintain the equipment. Several Councillors were concerned at the future upkeep of the area; Cllr. McIver felt that if the Village Hall did eventually own the land then they should maintain the area. Cllr. Winter pointed out that the Parish Council could always raise money through the Precept which was a channel not open to village hall committees. Cllr. Barnes was concerned that with budget constraints it was probable that in the near future SHDC would not be having their current involvement with the play area which would involve the owner in considerable costs for insurance, risk assessment, maintenance of equipment etc. Mrs. Hill confirmed that she spoke on behalf of the Hall Committee, as the Clerk felt that she was not up to date with their current discussions with Imerys. Parish Councillors confirmed that the most important matter was to ensure that the play area was kept for the community in perpetuity.

Both Cllr. Rayers (as she sat on the Hall Trustees in her own right) and the Chairman (because the wife of the Chairman of the Hall Committee was in her employ) declared an interest. It was agreed that as discussions would include a Contract, the deliberations of the Parish Council should take place in Part II.

POLICE BUSINESS

Police Constable Yarnold was pleased to report that there had only been two crimes reported during the month of October. He was concerned that there were still problems with foreign drivers relying on their SatNavs which took them down inappropriate roads which sometimes the lorries could not negotiate at all. The Parish Magazine was now publishing a "Copper's Corner" item. He agreed for the same information to be published on the Parish Council website. Constable Yarnold confirmed that the barrier opposite the damaged bus shelter had been inspected by DCC Highways and would be repaired. He was carrying out a refresher course on cycling. Cllr. McIver expressed his concern at the amount of vandalism and under-age drinking in the Parish. Constable Yarnold would keep an eye on the situation.

DNPA BUSINESS

In the absence of a representative, the Clerk explained that DCC Highways Engineers were not always able to visit every application site because of financial constraints and lack of staff and as the DNPA made decisions on comments from their consultees, this could be a serious problem. Cllr. Hart would speak to the Highways' Department and ask them to ensure that each site was visited.

94/07 Apologies

Cllr. Burkill, District Councillor Hitchins

95/07 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Cllr. Rayers asked for the second sentence under *Website & Computer* to read "It was agreed that the events should be checked before they were forwarded to Mr. Isaacs". This was unanimously agreed.

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

The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the Minutes to Bardon Aggregates each month.

96/07 Matters Arising

Permissive Path from Shaugh Bridge to Bickleigh Bridge - DCC had confirmed that they were in negotiation with Maristow Estate over the terms of the permissive path agreement to re-instate the access between Woolwell, the National Trust land and Bickleigh bridge. As all necessary funding was available, works could be carried out as soon as the Agreement is signed. Once this section is sorted out the path on to Shaugh Bridge would be a priority. The Clerk was asked to keep the pressure up.

Bench on Bowling Green at Shaugh - Constable Yarnold had agreed that the destruction of this bench was an act of vandalism and would give the Report a crime number. The Clerk reported that to her surprise it appeared that the benches in the ownership of the Parish Council were not insured. She would look into the matter. It was proposed by Cllr. Small, seconded by Cllr. Norman and unanimously agreed that in the circumstances the Parish Council should pay for the replacement of the bench. Mr. Palmer held the plaque.

Lee Moor Cemetery - See Under DCC report

Definitive Map - DCC had advised the Clerk that the review of this map was still some years off but would send a copy of the current map if they had one. Cllrs reported that a local farmer had been fencing some of the area around the footpaths and the DNPA Ranger had been asked to ascertain if the paths were on the map. The Chairman and Mr. Finemore had taken the tree guards down in the school copse which had been planted by the children of the Parish in memory of the Queen's Jubilee in 2003, and cleared away the ivy. The Clerk was asked to suggest to the DNPA that a TPO was placed on the copse as trees surrounding it had been taken down by a local farmer.

Hemerdon Mine - Cllr. Small reported that there seemed to be activity as bore holes had recently been taken.

Gordon May - The Chairman had given the plaque and bench to Mr. Palmer for it to be put up in the play area. She suggested a small presentation to Mr. May in December but the Clerk pointed out that the weather may not be suitable.

Land Adjacent to St. Aubyn Terrace, Lee Moor - SHDC considered that the trees adjacent to this land did not warrant having a Tree Preservation Order imposed. It was agreed that the trees did have some amenity value but they were in very poor condition.

Parish Maintenance - See Part II.

Wotter Kick About Area - The Chairman would check to see if the boulders had been moved.

Affordable Housing - Councillors accepted that Shaugh had a large number of larger houses whereby Lee Moor and Wotter had a lot of smaller houses which, however, were not considered to be affordable to local people. The Chairman had received an approach from Tamar Housing which she had passed on.

Shaugh Bridge - Illegal Camping - The National Trust Warden had moved the offenders on and cleared up after them. They did try to be vigilant and prevent this happening. The DNPA Rangers would also keep an eye on the situation.

Post Office in Wotter - Nothing further.

Speed Limits & Signs - The scheme had been amended following objections from certain parishes and is currently with the Government Office for the SW for

consultation. DCC anticipated introducing the scheme before the end of the financial year. The footpath sign to Cadover Bridge had been replaced.

Highway Problems - DCC Highways had confirmed that they only allow mirrors to assist owners coming out of private driveways on the highway in very exceptional circumstances and they do not give permission for them.

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

Parish Plan - The Chairman confirmed that Mrs. Small had agreed to be Chairman. Letters requesting information had been sent out. The DNPA had agreed to fund the sum of £250 which would be paid on completion of the project.

Rural Housing Trust - The Clerk was asked to obtain a set of the Minutes of the meeting which Princess Anne had attended.

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

Clerk's Appraisal and Contract - Now that pay scales for Clerks with effect from 1 April 2007 the Chairman and Clerk would arrange a meeting.

Wotter - Maintenance of gates and fencing at Trethewey Gardens Wotter. SHDC did not own this property and the Clerk would contact Tor Homes.

97/07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Hart said that he had chaired a meeting earlier that evening with the two clay companies and community representatives, on the way forward. WBB were taking over some of the Imerys works and Imerys were organising reinstatement of other parts over the next ten years. Staff would be employed to maintain the site. Cllr. Hart had been impressed with the standard of reinstatement works carried out in Cornwall. Part of the Lee Moor pit would become a mica dam. Mr. Stone asked if the path around this would be fenced to prevent access by grazing stock. Cllr. Small did not know whether they would graze the land with their own stock or would rent the land to local farmers.

DCC were also starting the budget process. Costs had risen by more than their budget would allow and therefore it was going to be very tight as their proportion of the Council Tax rise had to be kept well below 5%.

Cllr. Hart was concerned at the effect on the whole of the County if Exeter was given unitary status and a lot of lobbying of ministers had taken place. From May 2008 the police will no longer be responsible for civil parking. Most traffic wardens have taken on the role of PSO's. Parking offences would become a civil not criminal matter. DCC were hoping that all districts would agree to a joint system.

DCC were looking at turning the footpath between Wotter and Lee Moor into a bridleway.

Some works had been carried out at Lee Moor cemetery to make the path passable. However, discussions were ongoing between Rev. Carlton and Mr. Dobbison on who was actually responsible. Cllr. McIver would check what the current situation was. The Clerk would write a letter of thanks if works had been carried out.

98/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Barnes reported that SHDC was going through the budget process and reminded Councillors that an increase in Council Tax was capped at 5%. Because of the cost of increased government bureaucracy it was inevitable that cuts would have to be made to meet the budget requirements. SHDC were looking at shared services on a number of issues with both West Devon Borough Council and Teignbridge District Council. Expenditure on waste was over budget and they were trying to claw back the additional costs by reorganising the rounds. She confirmed that they would not be collecting plastics for recycling because the weight/volume ratio made it very expensive. She assured Cllr. Rayers that at the present time the Council has no plans to charge for refuse collection. She felt the way forward was to use community recycling bins.

99/07 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk had received notification of interest from both Mr. Pope of Hartstone House and Mr. Keith Stone of Hartstone Farm in Shaugh and both attended the meeting. However, Mr. Pope felt that as he was away much of the time, Mr. Stone would be a more appropriate person to fill the role of Councillor.

Mr. Stone explained his reasons for wishing to become a Parish Councillor and it was unanimously agreed that he should be co-opted. The Clerk handed him a copy of the Code of Conduct and the Register of Interests form for completion by the next Parish Council meeting when he would sign his Declaration.

100/07 CORRESPONDENCE

SHDC Chairman's Visit - Councillors felt a visit was not appropriate at the current time.

Dog Fouling - Some very explicit posters had been put on the notice boards and dog owners who fail to clean up after their dog were being targeted in a joint initiative between the police and SHDC and PCO's were able to issue £50 fixed penalty Notices to those over the age of ten who fail to clear up after their dog. The Clerk would ascertain if this only applied to areas within a 30mph limit.

DNPA Community Forum - The next meeting would take place on 23 November at 2.00 p.m. at the DNPA offices. Cllr. Norman would attend. No matters for inclusion on the Agenda were raised.

Review of Polling Districts and Places 2007 - SHDC had pointed out that the venue at the Methodist Church Schoolroom in Wotter was no longer available. SHDC had been unable to find suitable alternative accommodation. Councillors thought that if it would not be possible to share with either Shaugh or Lee Moor, then a mobile polling station was the only option.

Detox for Devon - This campaign was to raise awareness of the potential risks of excessive drinking, particularly amongst young people. They intended to organise a number of social events to take place on 2 January 2008 without the consumption of alcohol and money saved would be donated to their Charity. Councillors did not wish to participate.

Dartmoor "What's On" Supplement 2008 - The Clerk would ask for the Lee Moor Horticultural Show which was to be held on Sunday 3 August, and which included classes for Arts, Crafts and Cookery, to be included.

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

SHDC Minutes of Meetings
SHDC Executive Forward Plan
South Hams Magazine
DAPC Newsletter
LCR Journal
Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund information
Voluntary Vine
SH CVS

101/07 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Website and Computer – The Clerk had obtained three quotations for a new computer. Although the one from WesternWeb was slightly higher than the other two, that from WesternWeb included installation and transfer of data from the old computer. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from WesternWeb in the sum of £335 plus VAT, following confirmation that this had a duo processor. The Clerk was asked to contact all local organisations, with addresses being supplied by Cllr. Rayers, for them to advise of their regular dates of meetings. She would also ask Barry Isaacs to install whatever was necessary to register the number of hits on the Parish website.

Play Areas - See above.

Imerys Liaison Meetings – See above.

102/07 PLANNING

a. Decisions by District Council/DNP:

Rockholme, Wotter - The Appeal for outline permission to construct a dwelling for an elderly relative from Higher Collard Farm had been dismissed.

Field to East of Lee Moor Village - Erection of stables - granted subject to not being for commercial use; clean surface water being kept separate from foul drainage; manure heaps being sited where they would not cause pollution; prior to use, the existing corrugated iron stables must be taken down and the materials removed from site.

Dunstone Farm Barns - Amended details of fencing etc. - approved.

b. Applications considered by Parish Council:

Faunstone Barn, Shaugh - Outdoor Swimming Pool - No objections.

Rockholme, Wotter - Raising of roof ridge by 150mm and use of concrete tiles - No objections.

c. General

Nothing to report.

103/07 FINANCE

Accounts for 2006/07 - Copies were distributed to Councillors and unanimously accepted. The originals were signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Inter-Parish Quiz - Councillors unanimously agreed to make a contribution of £20 and to pay for the hire of the hall and light refreshments for the round to be held in this parish.

SH CAB - Councillors agreed to make the same level of grant as the previous year.

Parish Remuneration Panel - This would be meeting on 28 November 2007 to discuss allowances effective from 1 April 2008.

Budget - The Clerk asked Councillors to put forward ideas for her to compile the budget for the next financial year. She would draw up a draft budget with the standard items being increased in line with the RPI.

Remembrance Day - Cllr. Small agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

Attendance at CCD Meeting	£ 25.00
Shaugh Hall Hire (6 meetings)	£ 112.00
Clerk Conference Expenses	£ 25.00
British Legion (Remembrance Wreath)	£ 30.00
Mainly Stationery	£ 39.04

Konica (copy charges)	£ 8.84
Lee Moor Hall hire (2 meetings)	£ 60.00
Parish Quiz Administration	£ 20.00
Mr. Palmer (Maintenance)	£787.50
CAB Grant	£ 20.00

104/07 ITEMS TO WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

105/07 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5 December 2007 at Lee Moor Hall Committee Room commencing at 7.15 p.m.

Meeting closed at 10.25p.m., Standing Orders having been lifted at 10.00 p.m.

Signed:..... Date:

Chairman

DRAFT