

MINUTES

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting

Held on

Wednesday, 5 December 2007

at

Lee Moor Hall Committee Room

Present: Cllrs. Mr. Vincent, Ms Winter, Mr. Small, Mr. Norman (Chairman),
Mr. McIver, Mrs. Burkill and Mr. Stone
District Councillor Bill Hitchins (part-time)
Police Constable Yarnold (part-time)
4 Members of the public (part-time)

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman of Lee Moor Hall Committee said they had been asked to attend the meeting and had received a letter from the Parish Council, the wording of which the Clerk confirmed had been authorised by the Chairman before it had been sent. He had discussed the contents of the letter with his fellow Trustees and they felt that the situation over the Lee Moor play area was nothing to do with the Parish Council. The handing over from Imerys was going ahead through their Solicitors. He stated that he was fed up with all the back-lashing. Cllr. Small explained that he had approached the Chairman of the Hall Committee when the situation had come to his attention and had explained his views and why he thought the Parish Council should have been offered the land. Cllr. Hitchins pointed out that under the policy review being undertaken, and due to financial constraints within SHDC, it was highly likely that SHDC would pass the responsibility of play areas back to the owners of the land. Mr. Squires said this was not the information he had received from staff but the Clerk pointed out that policy decisions had not necessarily reached the staff. Cllr. Burkill asked the Committee what they envisaged the cost to them would be of running the play area. The Committee would look into this. Mrs. Hill asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to continue paying for the cutting of the grass. Councillors would discuss this further later in the meeting but asked Mrs. Hill to send a letter to the Clerk asking this question.

The Clerk would ascertain the cost of grass cutting and fence repair to the Parish Council.

Mrs. Hill asked why she had not received the promised letter from the Clerk who explained that matters had now moved on.

POLICE BUSINESS

Police Constable Yarnold advised that crimes in the Parish this year so far had been 38, with 6 crimes in November. During the year there had been 5 “no” crimes, i.e. where a lot of police time had been spent on an incident but where it had been decided no crime had been committed.

Constable Yarnold reported that a white Transit van had been seen acting suspiciously in the Parish.

He had received complaints about a lot of mud on the roads but it was agreed that some of this had been caused by large vehicles mounting verges when passing others and that it was after all a muddy time of year.

Cllr. Small raised the problem of hedge clippings being left in the road and Cllr. McIver asked if there was anything that could be done to encourage those walking along a dark road at night to wear reflective clothing.

DNPA BUSINESS

In the absence of the representative there was no report. The Clerk advised that there had been no meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

106/07 Apologies

Cllrs. Smerdon and Rayers, County Councillor Hart

107/07 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

108/07 Matters Arising

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

Bench on Bowling Green at Shaugh – The Chairman would be purchasing a replacement bench.

Lee Moor Cemetery – Nothing further.

Definitive Map – The Clerk had now received a copy of the map which was being held by the Chairman.

Hemerdon Mine – Cllrs. were concerned that the recent press announcement that the mine would be re-opening in two-three years would mean increased traffic problems. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a representative from Wolf to attend the Cluster meeting in January.

Gordon May – Cllr. Norman felt that this matter had dragged on long enough and that the Parish Council should organise the placing of the seat as soon as possible. Cllrs. were advised that the Parish Plan Committee were holding a general meeting soon and it was agreed that Cllr. Small would let the Clerk know when this was to be held and organise a small celebration for Mr. May on that day.

Parish Maintenance - The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter to the successful contractor asking him to carry out the work as soon as possible. The insurance company had confirmed that it was not necessary for the Parish Council to accept the lowest price tendered if the discrepancy between those prices was not great and that they had good reason to accept a slightly higher tender.

Wotter Kick About Area – Cllrs. and members of the public were concerned that it would appear that the grass seed had not been put down and it was now too late until the next growing season. Cllrs. agreed that this land belonged to the Cobbolds. The Clerk would contact DNPA about the boulders on this and the play area land.

Affordable Housing –Nothing further.

Post Office in Wotter - Nothing further.

Speed Limits & Signs – Nothing further.

Highway Problems – No problems had been reported.

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

Parish Plan – Cllrs. felt an excellent job was being done on formulating this. The Clerk confirmed that a grant of £2,475 had been received from the Community Council of Devon.

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

Clerk's Appraisal and Contract – Due to the Chairman’s recent operation this had not yet taken place.

Wotter – Tor Homes had responded that they had received no complaints from Tenants that the fencing to prevent animals wandering on to their gardens was damaged and asked for further clarification of the perceived problem.

109/07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In Cllr. Hart's absence at another meeting there was no report. However, Cllr. Hitchins covered several of the County points in his report.

110/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Hitchins reported that they expected the Rate Support Grant from Central Government to be announced the next day which was anticipated at 1% which was below inflation. The Council had overspent their budget on concessionary fares as this scheme had been so popular. A Job Evaluation process was underway. The recycling budget was overspent but it was hoped this could be pulled back by the end of the year. He felt the shared Chief Executive situation with West Devon Borough Council was working out well. Cllr. Hitchins explained that the two Councils were working on shared services and looking at partnerships to save tax payers' money. The Council was looking at its priorities and youth issues were moving up the agenda. He announced that he had just heard the Exeter had not achieved its unitary status.

Cllr. Hitchins explained that Wolf Minerals were proposing to re-open Hemerdon mine. Consents given in the 80's were still running but others had to be obtained from DCC and he thought that one of the Conditions would be that there would have to be a by-pass of Lougher Mill. He thought all this would take 4 or 5 years. Cllrs. were concerned at the potential tipping on Crownhill Down. Cllr. Small was disappointed that the Parish Council had not been advised of the emerging situation before it had been reported in the press. The Clerk was asked to contact Wolf Minerals and ask for a representative to attend the Cluster meeting in February.

Cllr. Hitchins reported that the new Chief Executive of the DNPA with his local government background was fitting in well. The DNPA Management Plan was being launched the following week.

The Dartmoor Trust had opened an archive at a location in Cornwood.

111/07 CORRESPONDENCE

Ivybridge Parish Councils' Cluster Meeting – Cllr. Norman agreed to represent the Parish Council at Ugborough Village Hall on Wednesday 12 December.

Friends of the Earth Initiative – Councillors felt that the community would be aware of the ways to have a greener Christmas without signing up to their pledge.

SWW Consultation – Cllr. Vincent would look at the Report and contact the Clerk if he felt any response was necessary.

Emergency Plans – The Clerk was asked to respond to SHDC advising that the Parish Council did not want to take this matter any further at this time.

SHDC Budget Meeting with Town & Parish Councils – The Chairman would attend on behalf of the Parish Council

Shaugh & District Commoners' Association – the Clerk would advise the Secretary that the Parish Council had requested the use of speed cameras on the Lee Moor to Shaugh road and Constable Yarnold would be instigating this when a camera was available. The Clerk would update the Association on the progressing of imposing a speed limit on the Beatland Corner to Yelverton road.

Devon Woodland Competition – Unfortunately it was considered that this Parish did not have an area of woodland large enough to qualify.

South West Water Scheme – SWW had advised that the water supply for the Sherford Development would be taken from an existing water main which is located close to the A38, rather than through the Parish of Shaugh. However, they were considering laying a pipeline from Roborough to Houndall Service Reservoir but this was only at the feasibility stage.

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

112/07 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Website and Computer – The Clerk was asked to confirm with Mr. Isaacs that the counter had been installed on the site. The new computer had been installed and Mr. Isaacs was currently looking at one or two teething problems. The Clerk commented on how much faster and more efficient the new system was.

Play Areas - See above.

DNPA Forum – Cllr. Norman had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. The DNPA were trying to help farming by pushing the red meat trade and tourism. Organising school trips into the countryside was becoming more difficult with the “red tape” now involved. The Ten Tors Challenge would be going ahead next year. Cllr. McIver noted that a recent Countryfile programme had been critical of the DNPA because of the spread of bracken. Cllr. Norman explained that this was because of the ESA Agreements which had removed many grazing animals from the moor.

113/07 PLANNING

a. Decisions by District Council/DNP:

Rockholme, Wotter – raising of roof ridge. Granted subject to discharge of conditions previously applied.

Rowangarth, Wotter – Extension to dwelling and erection of garage. Refused because the application would constitute a prominent and inappropriate form of development; the dormer window being over dominant; poor form of design.

Faunstone Barn, Shaugh Prior – Outdoor swimming pool – Refused due to change of use of farmland into residential curtilage constituting an undesirable extension into open countryside that would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area.

Field to rear of Blackalder Terrace, Lee Moor – Resubmission of erection of stable etc. – Granted subject to non-commercial use; clean and foul drainage to be kept separate; manure heaps to be sited where they would not cause pollution; the stable being removed and the land to be restored by 24 November 2017.

b. Applications considered by Parish Council:

Brixton Barton – Councillors had no objection to either the planning permission or the Listed Building Consent.

c. General

DCC Minerals Core Strategy – Cllr. Burkill would respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Vincent and Stone would attend the next DAPC training session on Planning. The Clerk would forward them details.

Cllr. Norman would attend the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Launch at Brimpts Farm Dartmeet on 12 December.

The Clerk was asked to obtain plans for the proposed shooting ground at Newnham Park.

114/07 FINANCE

Budget – The Clerk reiterated the comments made by Cllr. Hitchins that all district councils had tight budget requirements. Councillors were not aware of any special pressures on this Council for the forthcoming year and therefore it was proposed by Cllr. Small, seconded by Cllr. McIver and unanimously agreed that the precept should remain at £9000 for the financial year 2008/09.

Request for a Grant from Neighbourhood Watch – Councillors agreed to make a grant of £50 with the proviso that meetings are held in the individual parishes to encourage greater attendance and participation.

Parish Election 2007 – The Clerk advised that the cost to the Parish was £175.12 which would be payable in May 2008.

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

Clerk's Salary (3 Months)	
Stationery	£ 95.76
WesternWeb (computer & software)	£511.13
Postage	£ 50.00
DAPC (Planning Course)	£ 90.00
Lee Moor Hall Hire	£ 30.00
Grant to Neighbourhood Watch	£ 50.00
Society of Local Council Clerks Sub	£ 70.00
WesternWeb (software)*	£ 58.75

* Items would be set against the Parish Plan grant

115/07 ITEMS TO WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

It was felt that if some of the bank was removed at Trethewey Gardens this would provide more parking spaces closer to houses. The Clerk would contact Tor Homes to see if this was possible.

Cllr. Small had laid the wreath at the Remembrance Service on behalf of the Parish Council. He had been disappointed to note that the only other wreath was the one laid by the church.

Christmas Trees – the Clerk had confirmed that she had not received any estimates from Lee Moor Hall for installation of wiring so that the tree could be lit. However it was understood that the cabling had been installed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Committee to ascertain whether they wished us to put the lights up as usual. The Clerk was also asked to ask Mr. Palmer to sort out the lights as soon as possible. Cllr. Norman agreed to supply the trees. Shaugh church would be using their own tree but the Clerk was asked to confirm with Rev. Carlton whether he wished the Parish Council lights to be put on their tree. The Clerk was also asked to contact Mr. Dobbinson to see if a tree could be put in Wotter chapel grounds.

Cllr. Vincent agreed to place notices on the Wotter notice board and ensure that it was kept tidy.

The Clerk would forward a set of last year's Accounts to Cllr. Vincent.

116/07

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 6 February 2008 at Lee Moor Hall Committee Room commencing at 7.15 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date: