

**MINUTES**  
**of**  
**THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS OF**  
**SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH**

**Held on**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**at**  
**Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall**

Present: Chairman Cllr Norman  
Cllr's Stone, Small, Taffurelli, McIver, Spiers, Wassell, Mrs  
Burkill and Mrs Tyler

District Cllr Hitchins  
County Cllr Hart

Apologies: None

6 members of the public

| Agenda item |  |  |
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| 1/16        | <b>Apologies</b><br><br>None received.   |  |
| 2/16        | <b>Minutes of Annual Assembly Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014</b><br><br>The minutes were agreed as being an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.   |  |
| 3/16        | <b>Matters Arising</b><br><br>None highlighted.  |  |
| 4/16        | <b>Report from Dartmoor National Park Representative</b><br><br>Cllr Hitchins gave the following report:-<br><br>Having experienced severe financial reductions over recent years the good news is that the budget is protected for the duration of this government at its' current level. This means that while savings |  |

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| 5/16 | <p>will be sought it does allow for a more structured medium term financial plan to be put in place.</p> <p>The authority has continued its' archaeological work with some success at White Horse Hill, Widdicombe-in-the-Moor and other sites throughout Dartmoor. Alongside this work the local history groups are continuing their good work.</p> <p>After the highly successful National Parks Conference held T Bovey Castle in the Autumn, Dartmoor was highlighted extensively in the media and has received several official visits subsequently. It is pleasing to note that the event made a profit – a first in my recollection. Locally the long running issue of Wisdome Bridge appears at last to be coming to a conclusion. DCC and Heritage England have agreed to start restoration shortly.</p> <p>Finally, broadband rollout is still causing problems in the area and work is still being done in conjunction with BT and Airband to find solutions.</p> <p><b>Report from the District Cllr</b></p> <p>Cllr Hitchins provided the following update:</p> <p>The programme of restructuring is now well on its' way to completion with most of the staff appointments now in place. The introduction of IT solutions has reached the Members who are now provided with iPad as part of the Council's move towards a paperless organisation. There are however a few technical difficulties which still await resolution.</p> <p>The first-year operation with a reduced number of Members does tend to create a more distinct division between Executive and the back bench which will tend to pose a challenge to the Leader and his team to bridge.</p> <p>With regards to the new staffing structure, the two strategic directors have settled into their roles quickly and are driving the T18 programme forward. The emphasis is to use customer services to filter the frequently asked questions and tasks while leaving the more expert officers available for the more complex duties. During the transition period there has, of necessity, been a reliance on temporary or agency staff and as a result continuity has been a slight problem.</p> <p>Each service has undergone examination to improve efficiency of delivery and the cumulative savings to date are close to prediction. Currently the creation of an arms-length local authority trading company is being investigated whereby the service delivery is undertaken by the company and its commissioned and monitored by Members. This will remove some of the trading barriers imposed upon Local Authorities and allow them to trade more widely and for profit.</p> <p>Devolution of provision of services is currently under consideration.</p> |  |
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| 6/16 | <p>Power and budgets are proposed to be transferred from central government down to Local Authorities and organisations such as the LEP and Commissioning Bodies. At the moment Devon and Somerset remain in support of the proposal and await the next stage of the process. There is also an expectation that an elected Mayor will be responsible to Whitehall.</p> <p>Finally, a review of Waste and Recycling is being implemented.</p> <p><b>Report from the County Cllr</b></p> <p>Cllr Hart confirmed that the 2% increase in Council Tax was required to help cover the cost of the minimum wage pay increases which will cost Devon £7.3m per year. The increase in Council Tax raised £6.6m so there is still a small shortfall.</p> <p>Some care homes have been closed within the County as they didn't meet the required standards whilst the Council has reduced its' expenditure by £34m and this year's budget is £200m less than it was in 2009.</p> <p>There has been much talk about academy schools but there is no real desire for such in Devon with 260 schools in total and most wanting to stay under Local Authority control.</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged with Harford to run through the broadband issues and a similar meeting will be arranged at Shaugh Prior.</p> <p>As mentioned in the District Cllr Report, Devolution remains on the agenda. Funding in support of such could be raised through increasing business rates but this would have to be agreed with various organisations and the LEP. It was the view of Cllr Hart that devolution could be a good thing as long as we get the benefits but we need some clear guidelines relating to such.</p> |  |
| 7/16 | <p><b>Parish Council Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Norman said that he was pleased that the Parish Council had delivered 3 defibrillators in each of the villages which were all now operational and that this should be reported in the parish magazine. We also need to highlight the various defib training sessions that are being held.</p> <p>We are also now about to order the play equipment for Wotter Play Area and that improvements at Lee Moor would follow. As a Parish we are extremely fortunate to receive funding from both the Tungsten Mine and the Solar Panels at Portworthy.</p> <p>Finally Cllr Norman thanked the Clerk for all his hard work in terms of keeping the Parish Council finances in place.</p>  |  |
| 8/16 | <p><b>Report of the Council Finances</b></p> <p>The Clerk read out the following report:-</p> <p>As a result of receiving substantial sums of funding through the year (£17k from the Portworthy Community Fund Agreement along with a further £6k from Wolf Minerals to support local initiatives), the finances of the Parish Council are currently looking very healthy with the end of year balance in the Treasurers Account</p>   |  |

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|       | <p>being £34,451.00. However much of this additional funding received has been earmarked for improvements to both of our play areas (Wotter and Lee Moor) which are planned over the next 2 years. The associated cost of such improvements has also necessitated a bid for further grant funding from the National Lottery Awards for All and the Parish Council are awaiting feedback on their bid for £10k of funding.</p> <p>The purchase and installation of 3 defibrillators within each of the villages has resulted in a considerable increase in expenditure by the Parish Council over the past 12 months and it is acknowledged that this would not have been possible without the generosity of Wolf Minerals (who funded the defib at Lee Moor) and grant funding support from both our District and County Cllr's. Further grant funding as a result of the Transparency Code has allowed the Parish Council to update some of its' IT equipment.</p> <p>In view of the continued financial squeeze on the public purse it is likely that District and County Councils will continue to try and pass routine maintenance tasks onto Parish Councils in view of the substantial budget savings that they are expected to find year on year. This will result in our maintenance costs increasing if volunteers cannot be found to carry out some of these tasks.</p> <p>In order to be in a position to deliver our ambitious list of projects yet maintain grant support payments to local halls and churches, it was necessary to raise the precept for the current financial year by 2%. There will be further pressures on our annual budget next year if the Council Tax Support Grant does not get paid out to the Parish Councils.</p> <p>Overall the financial outlook for the Parish Council is still a challenging one and our success over the past 12 months in terms of securing various grant funding shows just how important it is to tap-in to these available funding streams without which large-scale projects such as the play area improvements would not be delivered.</p> |  |
| 9/16  | <p><b>Report from the I&amp;DALC</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that this matter had been addressed in detail at the last PC meeting and most of the focus surrounded the TAP Fund and the rules associated with such. It was highlighted that due to focussing on grant applications for the play area improvements that the PC did not support an application for grant funding from the TAP Fund for the previous financial year.</p>   |  |
| 10/16 | <p><b>Report from Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall Management Committee</b></p> <p>The Clerk read out the following report received from Elaine Smerdon:-</p> <p>First a big thank you to all who have joined the committee last year</p>  |  |

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|       | <p>and have stuck with it. It is really good to have such a good group to work with. This year our highlight has to be the Village Christmas Festivities which was a great success and much fun was had by all.</p> <p>A lot of work has been covered and thanks has to go to David for doing the survey and being so clear as to what we should be doing to keep everything stuck together. Also Peter Burkill and David Compton for the survey and plans for the outside, which haven't been progressed yet due to priorities on the up-keep of the structure of the building. Perhaps we can tackle outside next year?</p> <p>Thanks also go to Julie Owen and Paul Dalton for the admin assistance and to Flo who was been wonderful in clearing up after everyone without complaint! Sadly we will be losing our treasurer Fran Horton this year. Thank you Fran as it has not been the easiest of jobs but you are leaving us with the books in good order, with enough money in the coffers to do the much needed roof repairs. The interior painting has been done now along with the new notice board, installation of a defib and a new bench. Lots has been going on!</p> <p>We were lucky to get grants for Cllr Hart from his locality fund and Shaugh Prior Parish Council as well as free paint from Travis Perkins.</p> <p>We still have our regular bookings but could do with some more and am currently working on a grant application for background heating. I will continue to do this and will hopefully succeed in getting it installed before the next AGM. Whoever takes over the Chair from me I wish them the best of luck and will help out where I can.</p> |  |
| 11/16 | <p><b>Report from Lee Moor Public Hall Management Committee</b></p> <p>The Clerk read out the following report:-</p> <p>A number of volunteers were involved in the Hall submitting an Awards for All Grant from the National Lottery for the £10k amount. A further £3k is being sought from the Langage Fund. A number of events are planned over the next year to get more people back into the Hall including a May Ball on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016.</p> <p>A new dishwasher and glass washing machine have been purchased and it is hoped to renovate and tidy-up the back rooms. We are also keen to get wi-fi installed which could increase the number of bookings we get.</p> <p>Upkeep to the playing field has resulted in a considerable cost to the Hall (around £1000). Over the past year receipts have totalled almost £57k whilst expenditure was £41k. Finally Nina Squires was no longer on the Hall Committee.</p>   |  |
| 12/16 | <p><b>Report from Parish Tree Warden</b></p>  |  |

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| <p>13/16</p> | <p>Peter Davies didn't have too much to report. He mentioned that an issue had been reported on a roadside Sycamore in the Parish whilst a planning application that impacted upon TPO369 at the School House in Shaugh Prior had been submitted and was currently being considered</p> <p><b>Matters about which written notice has been given</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that none had been received.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed at 7.40pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date: .....</p> |  |
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