

MINUTES
of
THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS OF
SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH

Held on
Wednesday 5th July 2017

at
Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall

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

District Cllr Hitchins

Apologies: Cllr Stone, County Cllr Hart

3 members of the public

Agenda item		
1/17	<p>Apologies</p> <p>None received.</p>	
2/17	<p>Minutes of Annual Assembly Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2016</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as being an accurate record proposed by Cllr Mclver, seconded by Cllr Mrs Burkill and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
3/17	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None highlighted.</p>	
4/17	<p>Report from Dartmoor National Park Representative</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins gave the following report:-</p> <p>The AGM was due to take place the coming Friday and 2 new SoS posts had been identified which would take office in August. There are issues with regard to the access road to the whisky distillery</p>	

	<p>site which need to be overcome, with DNP now owning the road and responsible for its on-going maintenance.</p> <p>DNPA are currently working with neighbouring authorities to help address staffing shortfall issues, namely with regards to Planning and Legal Departments. The Moor Otters Scheme is going well and it is hoped this will raise over £100k which will be re-invested back into the National Park. Bill also reported that Ian Mercer had sadly passed away and due to his substantial involvement within the National Park over the years it was hoped to dedicate his name to the library room at Princetown Visitor Centre. Finally he also reported issues relating to the future use of Dartmoor Prison.</p>	
5/17	<p>Report from the District Cllr</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins confirmed that he had taken a bit of a step back from District Council issues for personal reasons. The District Council had managed to produce a balanced budget following an initial budget shortfall of £800k. The District are currently looking at ways in which services to run to see if savings can be made. Reference was made to the possible merger of SHDC and WDBC and the savings this would deliver for both although it would result in a reduction in the number of Cllrs. The rate support grant will be further reduced next year making it more difficult to deliver a balanced budget and therefore an increase in Council Tax is likely.</p>	
6/17	<p>Report from the County Cllr</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Hart there was no report.</p>	
7/17	<p>Parish Council Report</p> <p>Having just been elected as Chairman, Cllr Wassell mentioned that he didn't have too much to report on apart from thanking the previous Chairman Cllr Norman for all his hard work and how he hoped to do as good a job that he did in the position of Chairman.</p> <p>Cllr Wassell said it was good to see that the works to Wotter Play Area had finally finished and that the next area of investment was the play area at Lee Moor. Hopefully we will be able to secure further external funding for these works.</p>	
8/17	<p>Report of the Council Finances</p> <p>The Clerk read out the following report:-</p> <p>The health of the Council's finances remain in a good shape with £23,402.82 in the Treasurers Account at the end of June 2017. This is despite having paid out over £26,000 for the Wotter Play Area Improvements. The last payment associated with such will be authorised during the monthly PC meeting that follows this Annual Assembly. It should be noted that the PC will be able to recover almost £5k in VAT from this project which will result in it being delivered roughly in accordance with our overall budget of £25k.</p>	

	<p>Managing to secure stone infill from Aggregate Industries for free and the haulage from JBH certainly helped to keep the costs down as did carrying out much of the groundworks ourselves.</p> <p>The delivery of the Wotter Play Area Improvement was helped through successfully securing a grant of £10k from the National Lottery Awards for All. Without such it is highly unlikely that the PC would have ever been in a position to proceed with this project and goes to show how important it is to bid for external funding when the opportunity allows. With Wotter Play Area now nearing completion we will now turn our focus to Lee Moor which we may be able to deliver with funding bids from Community Funds set-up in support of each of the solar arrays in the area although a further funding application from the National Lottery certainly remains a possibility.</p> <p>In view of the additional maintenance burdens being taken on by the PC (cost increases with grass cutting in the play areas) and the need to address highway signage in the Parish, it was necessary to increase the Precept by 5%. Hopefully residents can now see that the PC are delivering on projects/initiatives that have always been talked about but have never come to fruition due to funding issues.</p> <p>I would also like to go on record in thanking both County Cllr Hart and District Cllr Hitchins for the additional funding that they have provided through their Locality Budgets which has certainly helped us in bringing forward various works around the Parish. Hopefully they will be in a position to help us out again this year!</p> <p>Finally it was good to see that the Internal Audit raised no issues in terms of the accountancy of the PC's finances and am hopeful that the findings of the External Auditor will be the same.</p>	
9/17	<p>Report from the I&DALC</p> <p>Cllrs Small and Taffurelli continue to represent the Parish Council on this group with much of the discussion from Parishes based around the TAP Fund which it was felt was a bit of a 'double'edged sword' as it led to Parishes competing against one another for a the limited amount of funding available.</p> <p>The financial situation of the group remains healthy with a balance of £735. However it was suggested that the annual subscription fee of £4 was too low and it was therefore agreed to increase this to £6.</p> <p>Cllr Philip Dredge was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Ian Walsh as Vice-Chair.</p>	
10/17	<p>Report from Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall Management Committee</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the following report received from David</p>	

11/17	<p>Compton:</p> <p>1) The Hall and the Committee are all another year older and we find the building in good order.</p> <p>2) Change of Committee members: Fran left us and we were joined by Ana as our Treasurer, an excellent choice Paul drove off into the East, and is very much missed whilst Kath is now retiring and her Silver Threads role could well be filled by David A. Heather is retiring to try and gain some time back in her life—many thanks for fantastic efforts over the years. Elaine and Julie have kept us straight with excellent minute keeping, but now Julie is stepping down from that role, many thanks for much scribbling and then typing and distribution. Alan wishes to step down as 100 club organiser and will leave a legacy of over 100 members!</p> <p>3) Hall Developments: The Parish Council continue to support the Hall in a very pro-active way, with not only some direct funding, but also through distribution of equipment and knowledge of funding opportunities. District and County Councillors have also played a significant role in funding our refurbishment projects. My thanks in a big way to Bill Hitchins and John Hart. With the aid of fund matching, a grant from Devon National Park Authority allowed us to redevelop the Bar and Disabled toilets area. The Kitchen has started its makeover and has a full set of new cutlery and crockery.</p> <p>Peter Burkill has taken on the task of seeking grants for further developments and has made great strides and some of this work has led to the Apple Day festival to be held in October. This is a truly all-inclusive action day for all sections of the community (School, National Trust, Apple Experts, Local Offers of Help).</p> <p>4) Events Held: We have been fortunate to have had 2 fantastic village events – Queen’s Birthday and A Very Festive Christmas. Regular coffee mornings and a very well attended MacMillan Coffee Morning.</p> <p>Final Comments: A big thank you to Jane Blonden for providing us and the deer with very welcoming floral arrangements. To Flo and Sally for being the ever suffering cleaners. To all the committee members and special mention to David (and Kay the apprentice) for all the building works. And speedy get well wishes to Andy Le G and also to Alan.</p> <p>Report from Lee Moor Public Hall Management Committee</p> <p>Marilyn Small read out the following report:-</p> <p>It has been another very busy year at the Hall. The catering team continue to provide 3 course lunches on a monthly basis as well as to those who wish food when making a booking. The Hall opens on a Wednesday night for locals and food is available there as a take-away. Regular users of the Hall are the Dancing Club, Badminton,</p>	
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WI, Shaugh Players Christmas Panto and Shaugh School Production.

The Committee has organised fund raising events which include monthly bingo, skittles, quiz and curry nights, a May Ball and Lunch with Ann Widdecombe. There are also the community events including Christmas lights switch-on, Fun Day, Halloween Disco, Imerys meet your mates and the Christmas Parish lunch for the over-65's.

We have funded/delivered the following:

- Upgrade of the stage sound and lighting
- New stage star cloth
- Renewed stage pulley system
- New Fryer
- New meat slicer
- New dishwasher
- New television and aerial allowing the Hall to be open for large sporting events
- New digital television displays for advertising
- New fridge

The Hall also owns the playing fields where Roborough Football Club play their home matches. The field is a constant expense to the Hall and this year we also had to have some trees cut down on the hedge whilst the tractor is vintage and breaks down quite often. For the coming season Devonport FC will play their home matches on the field and will also help with the grass cutting so hopefully we can look at some new machinery.

Our total expenditure last year was £73,481. Our last audited accounts at the 30th September 2016 showed a bank balance of £43,884 with £1,170 still to clear. We try to keep around this sum which equates to 2 years running costs.

Our planned projects, subject to raising some grant funding, in the next year are:

- There is a fault in the Hall lights and these will be replaced with LED lights
- To move the existing container and to add an additional container to allow for the storage of chairs, tables etc which are currently in back rooms
- To upgrade the 3 smaller back rooms to make additional letting rooms and to make a disabled access from these rooms and the stage out to the road near the Old Scout Hut.

Finally we would like to thank all our funders, which includes the Parish Council, for their support which enables the Committee to upgrade and run the Hall.

12/17	<p>Report from Parish Tree Warden</p> <p>Peter Davies reported that there were 2 issues that he was involved with during the year. The first involved an application for works to a TPO'ed tree, which were considered by Peter and to which no objections were raised by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The second relates to the creation of the new community orchard at Shaugh Prior Hall which involves the planting of 5 different varieties of apple tree. Planting is due to take place in October 2017 and will form a key part of the Shaugh Prior Apple Festival. Peter said it was great to get children from the primary school involved in this.</p>	
13/17	<p>Matters about which written notice has been given</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>	