

**MINUTES**

of

**SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting**

**Held on**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

at

**Lee Moor Public Hall**

Present: Chairman Cllr Stone  
Cllrs Sims, Spencer, Mrs Boulting, Mrs Proctor, Mrs Burkill and Mrs Tyler

District Cllr Oram

2 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllr John Hart, Cllr Smerdon, Sgt Ryan Canning, Cllr Mrs Francis McLeod, Cllr Chater and Monica Lyndon (TW)

Minute Number		Action
149/23	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>Lee Moor resident Mr Small wished to raise 3 issues. The first was his understanding that there should be a restrictive covenant in place for the bungalows at Trethewey Gardens, preventing them from being sold so that they remain available for rent for persons over 50 years of age who have lived in the Parish for a number of years. It was confirmed by the Clerk that this had already been investigated and that there is no such restrictive covenant in place.</p> <p>Secondly, he wished to raise concerns regarding the condition of the existing notice board at Lee Moor. Whilst it was highlighted that the PC had been using the existing notice board outside Lee Moor Hall, the Chair agreed to take a look at the existing PC notice board to determine if it could be repaired.</p> <p>Finally, the condition of the surface of the B3417 at Herreschoff Kilns was raised. The Clerk confirmed that this matter had already been raised with DCC Highways on a number of occasions and that they were aware of this issue.</p> <p>Mr Clewer asked if it would be possible to have some rock salt dropped off for the houses in Portworthy? The Chair confirmed that he would do so with the assistance of the Road Warden over the coming week.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>

150/23	<p>It was highlighted that during recent works to clear the drains that an amount of debris/rubbish had been collected by Mr Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman). Mr Clewer wished to make it clear that this was not rubbish generated by the residents of Portworthy but was more a result of the motorcyclists using the road and felt that this was not clear in some recent comments uploaded onto the local Facebook page. This was noted by Cllrs.</p> <p>Some brief discussion took place with regards to the PC having it's own Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Spencer confirmed that he would be happy to lead on it from a PC perspective with assistance from Mr Clewer. Cllr Oram also offered his assistance on this matter.</p> <p>Mr Clewer also wished to highlight a potential concern regarding Hemerdon Mine and with there currently being no activity on-site, sought clarification that no dynamite etc (used for blasting) was stored on-site. It was confirmed that all blasting had been undertaken by an external company bought in for that purpose and as such none was left on-site.</p> <p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>As he is the applicant, Cllr Sims wished to raise a personal interest in relation to the planning application for The White House (Planning) and duly signed the register and agreed to take no part in any discussion on that matter.</p>	
151/23	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>In his absence, the Clerk read out a report received from Sgt Ryan Canning:</p> <p>Calls for service in November numbered 2 and both about the same issue, an abandoned Mercedes at Lee Moor. It appears that the vehicle was stolen from a Plymouth address and left on bricks at Lee Moor. We informed the registered keeper who stated it now belonged to the insurance company who were showing little interest in recovering the vehicle, so we had to recovered for having no tax.</p> <p>Livestock strikes are firmly on our radar and speaking to the Rural Affairs Team, its not just a localised issue. I have dedicated some time for the team to visit Lee Moor and Cadover with speed detection equipment.</p> <p>It was agreed by many that the new monthly pop-up police event at the Moorland Hotel in Wotter was a very good idea and Cllrs hoped that it would continue.</p>	
152/23	<p><b>County and District Councillor Reports</b></p> <p>In Cllr Hart's absence there was no County Cllr Report. However, Cllr Oram forwarded a County Council Report he had received which headlined the following:</p> <p><b>Government gives green light to finalising a Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal</b> – The Government has confirmed plans to finalise a Devolution Deal with Devon and Torbay. It means that subject to</p>	

	<p>negotiations, Devon and Torbay will be given a wide-ranging package of powers and funding transferred from Whitehall to local government.</p> <p><b>New funding for road will help tackle repair backlog</b> – DCC has welcomed the Government’s announcement of an £8.3 billion investment in road maintenance over the next 11 years, with Devon receiving an extra £6.66 million this financial year to address the backlog of potholes. It will be followed by the same amount next year.</p> <p><b>New plans announced to develop Family Hubs</b> – Children in Devon will see a new model of support services in line with national Government guidance. First introduced in the 1990’s, Children Centres have supported thousands of youngsters and DCC now want to transition from Children’s Centres to Family Hubs. This work is likely to take 12 months, with a view to developing county-wide Family Hubs programme to begin in 2025.</p> <p><b>New Strategy launched to help us adapt to climate change</b> – The Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Adaption Strategy has been published and will help ensure that the region can make the changes needed to cope with the worst effects of climate change.</p> <p><b>Childcare shortage – support is available to help you start a new rewarding career</b> – Government grants are available to help people cover the costs of starting up as a childminder and are worth either £600 or £1200. Further information can be found on the Governments Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Scheme on-line.</p> <p><b>New drive to create bespoke community libraries</b> – DCC are launching a major drive to establish a wide network of community libraries in Devon’s rural areas as an alternative to the current mobile library service. By working with local organisations and community groups, we can create a bespoke service for communities that want one, linking them with the library service which can provide more access to stock and other services.</p> <p>Cllr Oram provided the following report in relation to District Council matters:</p> <p><b>Our Council Plan</b> – Many thanks for the feedback on our Council Plan. Your feedback will be used to help us deliver what is important to you. A total of 1,200 residents responded to the consultation which has now closed.</p> <p><b>Help with the Cost of Living</b> – The Household support Fund is there to support those who need help with food, energy, fuel, water and other household bills and essentials. You can apply on-line on the SHDC website.</p> <p><b>Warm Spaces</b> – The Warm Spaces page on the SHDC website provides information about the warm spaces we know about in the South Hams. Please check the specific venue for opening times and details.</p> <p><b>Help with Energy Costs</b> – You could save between £220 and £400 a</p>	
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153/23	<p>year on energy bills with support if you are in a lower income household. We are helping households across the District improve energy efficiency of their homes and encourage you to check whether you are eligible for an upgrade to your current heating systems and insulation. Further information can be found on the SHDC website.</p> <p><b>Waste and recycling service</b> – The changes to our waste service went live in November and this means everyone is now on the same service, using kerbside collection boxes, sacks and food caddies. If you're unsure as to what waste goes where, then information is readily available on the SHDC website under Waste and Recycling. You may also have a change to your collection day. Again, this information is available on the website by searching your postcode.</p> <p>It was highlighted by Cllr Mrs Tyler that Dartmoor Cottages are still on recycling bags and no reasons were given why the new containers could not be used.</p> <p><b>Waste Roadshows</b> – A number of waste roadshows are planned during December which are primarily focused around the south and east of the District (Kingsbridge, Dartmouth, Totnes and Stoke Gabriel).</p> <p><b>Helping communities deliver more homes</b> – As part of our drive to deliver more affordable homes, we are investing £100,000 to help local communities and landowners deliver more houses in areas which need them.</p> <p><b>DNPA Report</b></p> <p>In his absence the Clerk read out some of the headlines from the report provided by Cllr Smerdon:</p> <p><b>Changes of DNP Planning Team</b> – DNP are pleased to announce a new structure for our planning service to better support changing circumstances and help meet future requirements. From the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024 Dean Kinsella will take up the role of Director of Spatial Planning.</p> <p><b>Christmas comes to the National Park Visitor Centres</b> – The visitor centres at Haytor, Princetown and Postbridge will be open on the lead-up to Christmas for the purchase of various gifts (many of which are sustainable). In addition, a festive panto will also be taking place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Yarner Woodland Centre.</p> <p><b>Formal Response to Independent Review of Protected Site Management</b> – The Authority has submitted a formal response to the independent review of protected site management on Dartmoor, announced by Defra. In its' response DNPA sets out a case for a 'reset moment' and a chance to examine current processes, look at where improvements can be made and how any changes can be done collectively. The review is due to report back to Government in December, with their recommendations published at a future date.</p>	
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154/23	<p>Paved surface at Dartmoor stone row uncovered by archaeologists – A quartz surface, possibly laid deliberately to enhance the setting of a double stone row has been uncovered during excavations at Piles Hill. The surprising find was made by DNP Archaeologists during a week-long dig aimed at answering some questions posed by the enigmatic document.</p> <p><b>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023</b></p> <p>All Cllrs agreed that they had received a draft copy of the minutes of the November meeting and resolved that they were an accurate reflection of the minutes of that meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Proctor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Burkill.</p>	
155/23	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>	
8/23(a)	<p><b>Highway Matters – Livestock Fatalities</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the livestock fatality meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November was well attended, with representatives from DCC Highways and the Police as well as a number of local farmers (18 people in total). The issues were discussed at length and it was agreed that DCC would look at the potential of providing some poles on the Beatland Cross to Cadover Bridge road which would then allow our existing 40mph speed activated signs to be moved around to include this location (as well as the existing location at Wotter). There were concerns that the existing problems could get worse in the future with traffic levels due to increase as a result of highway works on the A386 and the Woolwell development.</p> <p>It was also agreed to look into the possibility of providing more of the temporary signs that had been installed by Dartmoor Speedwatch during the past few years which had helped to reduce animal fatalities during the spring and summer months. However, the lack of support from some of the local farmers in attendance at the meeting to help produce those signs, was very disappointing. It was agreed that a further meeting should be held at the end of January 2024 although it was now for the Commoners Association to move matters forward (with assistance from the PC where necessary) rather than the PC. It was noted that the next meeting of the Commoners was due to take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.</p>	
8/23(b)	<p>Cllr Sims confirmed that he had now received the solar power conversion kit for the speed activated 20mph sign in Shaugh village and would look to install the equipment shortly.</p> <p><b>Shaugh Prior Community Fund</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that no applications for funding had been received.</p>	Cllr Sims
8/23(d)	<p><b>Tribute to Cllr Norman</b></p>	



157/23	<p>between 4pm and 7pm. Several Cllrs had already asked to attend the training event and the Clerk agreed to recirculate to all Cllrs.</p> <p><b>Chairman's Business</b></p> <p>There was no business from the Chair.</p>	
158/23	<p><b>Reports from Committees</b></p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill attended the latest DNPA Forum meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. She mentioned that the decision to allow wild camping on Dartmoor was now in the process of going to the Supreme Court. There was also much discussion regarding the review of the use of Dartmoor (which could lead to less livestock grazing on the moor). There was also a presentation on the Dartmoor Curlew Project.</p>	
159/23	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email from Mervyn Newman regarding the Tamar Valley Invasive Species Survey. It was noted that we do have some locations where we have issues with Japanese Knotweed.</li> <li>• Devon Climate Change Emergency Newsletter for December 2023 (circulated to Cllrs)</li> <li>• Email from South Hams AONB confirming a name change to National Landscapes.</li> <li>• Email from Paul Vann thanking the PC for the £200 grant payment made for grass cutting at St Edwards Church.</li> <li>• E-Bulletin from DALC.</li> <li>• Email newsletter from NALC</li> <li>• Email newsletter from SLCC</li> </ul>	
160/23	<p><b>Parish Council Budget 2024-25</b></p> <p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a draft budget for the following financial year. It was confirmed that many of the budget amounts were based upon figures from the previous year. Following some discussion by Cllrs it was agreed to make the following changes to the draft budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce grant payments for Churchyard Maintenance from £200 to £0 in view of the legal uncertainties regarding such.</li> <li>• Allocate £1000 to Wotter Play Area Improvements.</li> <li>• Allocate £1400 for the Shaugh Prior Community Fund.</li> <li>• It was agreed to keep the Chairs Allowance payment the same at £450 but there should be an associated activity record.</li> <li>• There needed to be a reminder sent to the Community Climate Change and Biodiversity Group that a sum of £500 had been allocated for such projects in the Parish which had not been spent and remained available.</li> </ul>	

161/23	<p>On the basis of a draft annual budget of £16,407 for 2024/25, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Boulting and seconded by Cllr Sims to agree to a recommended 10% increase on last years precept, resulting in a precept of £15,142.00 for 2024/25. This would leave a shortfall of £1,265 which Cllrs agreed could be absorbed from existing PC funds. Resolved by Cllrs to accept the budget outlined for 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p>The Clerk agreed to complete the precept request form from SHDC on the basis of this information.</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there was the sum of £15,452.75 in the Treasurers Account.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that the Clerk along with Cllrs Mrs Proctor, Mrs Francis-McLeod and Sims had visited TSB Bank at Tavistock and that TSB now had all of the information needed for the revised bank mandate.</p>	Clerk
162/23	<p><b>Payments and Receipts</b></p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments:</p> <p>£17.00 direct debit payment to EDF Energy (electricity for Wotter defib)  £250.80 cheque to J &amp; MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman works)  £10.04 cheque to Scott Smy (reimbursement of refreshments for Livestock Fatalities meeting)  £156.12 cheque to NALC for Social Media Training Course  £18.00 cheque to DALC for Cllr Training Course  £41.20 cheque to Scott Smy (Reimbursement for office sundries)  £79.20 cheque to J &amp; MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman works)  £1139.20 cheque to Scott Smy (3 months Clerks wages inc back-pay)  £284.60 cheque to HMRC (PAYE for 3 months Clerks wages)  £360.00 cheque to Keith Stone (Chairs annual allowance 23/24)  £90.00 cheque to HMRC (PAYE for Chairs allowance payment)</p> <p>Receipts  £300.00 cheque towards Wotter Defib cabinet restoration works.</p>	
163/23	<p><b>Works and Maintenance</b></p> <p>Cllr Mrs Francis-McLeod confirmed that several responses had already been received in respect to the consultation process relating to improvements at Wotter Play Area. It was agreed that these would be forwarded to the Clerk once the consultation finishes at the end of December.</p> <p>The PC Tree Warden has confirmed that there are several trees on the area of PC-owned land outside the property Merlin in Shaugh Prior which need to be removed due to them having ash die-back. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek estimates from tree surgeons for the</p>	Cllr Mrs Francis-McLeod



164/23	<p>undertaking of these works. This would be reported back at the Feb PC meeting. I was also noted that this area could do with a general tidy-up at the same time.</p> <p><b>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Lee Moor Public Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting closed at 9.15pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date: .....</p>	Clerk
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