

MINUTES

of

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting

Held on

Wednesday 6th March 2019

at

Lee Moor Public Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs Taffurelli and McIver
County Cllr Hart
PCSO Tamsyn Dingley

3 members of the public in attendance

Minute Number		Action
18/19	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>With David Cobbold in attendance, the Chairman agreed to bring forward agenda item 8/19(b) – Newnham Solar Fund. David gave a brief update on the Newnham Solar Fund. He wished to thank Cllr Spiers for all his hard work in setting-up the fund and welcomed Cllr Mrs Burkill who had attended the last meeting as a representative of the PC and following this, had agreed to join the Community Interest Company as a Director. A total of two applications had recently been approved by the board which included an application for new flooring at Shaugh Prior Hall and the application submitted by the PC for the new piece of play equipment at Lee Moor play area. Cllrs wished to thank the Newnham Solar Fund for approving the play area improvements application with up to £13k outlined for the improvements and that the PC would look to deliver the project as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Julia Sanders enquired about the damage to the gates next to the cattlegrids and how a number now required replacement. The Clerk mentioned that this had been reported to DCC Highways and that there was a planned programme of improvements/replacement during 2019/20.</p>	

19/19	<p>An enquiry was raised regarding the possibility of the booking calendar for Shaugh Prior Hall being included on the PC website? The Clerk confirmed that whilst a link could be provided to Shaugh Prior Hall's own website from the PC website, the PC website should not be used for handling private bookings relating to Shaugh Prior Hall.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that none had been received.</p>	
20/19	<p>Police Report</p> <p>In the absence of PCSO Tamsyn Dingley the Clerk read out the report kindly forwarded by Tamsyn prior to the meeting:</p> <p>There had been one reported crime during the month relating to criminal damage to the window of a Volvo excavator at Lee Moor Quarry. 50 litres of engine oil also leaked out. No witnesses/evidence and the crime was filed.</p> <p>Other incidents of note included a sheep being hit at Cadover and a report of 4 suspicious persons asking for help when their car broke down at Cadover. A unit attended this incident but the vehicle had gone once they had arrived.</p>	
21/19	<p>County and District Cllrs Report</p> <p>In the absence of County Cllr Hart there was no County Report.</p> <p>With regard to District Council matters, Cllr Hitchins mentioned that the recent Peer Review had completed and measures were in place to start improving those areas which required improvement. The SHDC budget has now been approved for the forthcoming financial year which equates to a £5 per year increase on a Band D property. The Rural Service Delivery Grant helped improve the budget situation and the District was working with West Devon to try and save £3.9m. In April there will be a review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Apprenticeship Scheme.</p> <p>It was noted by Cllr Hitchins that the highway works taking place in Bickleigh had caused all sorts of issues and it was hoped that they would be completed in the coming week. The new waste contract will be starting shortly which will involve improvements to the waste depot and vehicles. SHDC were looking to invest funding in areas such as car parks and a potential hotel in Kingsbridge (in order to generate revenue) and finally Cllr Hitchins mentioned that Bickleigh Neighbourhood Plan was adopted after a referendum. Reference was also made to a potential area of funding for play area improvements. Cllr Hitchins agreed to provide the contact details to the Clerk.</p>	Cllr Hitchins
22/19	<p>DNPA Report</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins mentioned that he had recently attending a dementia</p>	

	<p>training event at Buckfast Abbey which including training staff in the visitor centres on this medical condition.</p> <p>The extension to Postbridge Visitor Centre has now received planning permission and that the project would be 100% grant-funded. It was also mentioned that one of the visitor centres had recently won an award.</p> <p>Radio 4 were recently on Haytor highlighting the post-snow problems with litter and the issues of access being restricted by cars parking over the verges. The Rural Crime Partnership had been successful in preventing illegal raves taking place on Forestry Commission land. DNPA had managed to agree a balanced budget for 2019/20 and this was approved at a recent meeting. The Peatland Restoration Project is now being extended to both Exmoor and Bodmin following its' success on Dartmoor.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins said he was due to go to London shortly as part of the Glover Review and that Lord Gardner was due to come down to Dartmoor for the 10 Tors this year.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Tyler enquired about boulders placed at Cadover car park which is now preventing access into the main part of the car park. It was highlighted that this was to allow the new gravel surfacing in the car park to bed-down and that the works to the car park had been undertaken by the National Trust.</p>	
23/19	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2019</p> <p>It was agreed that the draft minutes circulated to Cllrs were an accurate record of the minutes of the February PC meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.</p>	
24/19	<p>Matters Arising</p>	
8/19(a)	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned that DCC Highways were going to look into the issue of the lack of white lining on local roads raised at the February PC meeting whilst the block gullies near Hartstone Farm have now been cleaned. Cllr Stone mentioned there was still one gully that needed cleaning and that he and Cllr Wassell were due to meeting Nick Colton in the next week. It was agreed that they would also highlight to Nick Colton a block storm drain in Wotter (this being raised by Cllr Mrs Tyler).</p> <p>The Clerk referred to an email received from Cornwood PC providing their support to the suggestion in lowering the speed limit to 40mph from Lee Moor through to Cornwood. The Clerk agreed to raise this issue with DCC Highways to establish what could be done although in view of the current funding restrictions it was unlikely that anything would come about from these discussions.</p> <p>Cllr Small reiterated the issue of the depressions in the road near Herreschoff Kilns. It was agreed that this would also have to be reported to DCC Highways by the Clerk.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wassell</p>

8/19(b)	<p>Cllr Mrs Burkill mentioned that the post office sign at Wotter needed taking down following its' relocation. Cllr Wassell agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Newnham Solar Fund</p> <p>This had been discussed during the Open Forum (Minute 18/19) so there was not much more to add.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill gave a brief update following the first meeting she attended of the Newnham Solar Fund. She noted that the new administrator was very efficient and was hopeful that things would now run much more smoothly. Cllr Mrs Burkill said all of the legal work relating to being a Director of the CIC had been checked and on that basis she would be happy to be the appointment PC representative on the CIC.</p> <p>It was noted that the usual maximum bid for funding from the Solar Fund was £5k. However, our bid for £13k was accepted on the basis that no grants had been approved for a 3 year period so bids up to £15k could be considered just for this year only. It was also noted that our bid of £13k would be reduced according to how much we receive from our bid made to Tesco through their Bags of Help Funding Scheme.</p> <p>It was also noted that there was a hardship fund which provided grants of up to £100 for people in need in the local area. Cllr Mrs Burkill suggested that it may be better to rename this the Individual Support Fund. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the press release relating to the approval of the grant for the play area improvements at Lee Moor.</p> <p>The lack of any financial statements is still a concern and this will be resolved at the next meeting of the CIC and should therefore be available for the April PC meeting. It was also noted that the funding application guidelines weren't that clear and needed some improvement in certain areas.</p>	Clerk
8/19(c)	<p>Broadband</p> <p>The Clerk said he had now heard back from Matt Barrow and that all outstanding queries should have now been answered apart from the issues relating to Moorland Hotel which is still on-going.</p> <p>He also mentioned that the Better Broadband Voucher Scheme which would allow those on the lowest broadband speeds to access funds to install an interim solution to get them some usable speeds, should be going live on the CDS website within the next 2 weeks. A link will be provided to this on our PC website.</p>	Clerk
8/19(d)	<p>Lee Moor Play Area Improvements</p> <p>Having received confirmation that our bid for up to £13k of funding from the Newnham Solar Fund had been successful it was agreed that the Clerk should instruct Rhino Play to go ahead with the project on the basis of the earlier estimation received. It was hoped that the works could be started and completed prior to the start of</p>	

8/19(f)	<p>the school summer holidays. With regard to the remaining works within the play area (safety surfacing under the existing swings etc) it was agreed that alternative funding solutions should be sought. The Clerk did mention we could possibly get a price from the same contractors which did some works to the safety surfacing at Wotter play area as it is likely that Rhino Play would pass these works onto a specialist contractor in any case. The Chairman mentioned he recently met a representative from SHDC who was carrying out a safety inspection of both Lee Moor and Wotter play areas and was disappointed to hear that several months ago she had been attacked by some youths whilst inspecting Lee Moor play area. The Clerk was not aware of this and wasn't sure if this had been reported to the Police (if not then it should have been). It was noted by the Chairman that the inspections had raised several safety issues at both of the play areas that need to be addressed. The Clerk agreed to look out for the reports and look into these matters.</p> <p>GDPR</p> <p>There was nothing further to add and the Clerk mentioned he was still waiting for a number of Cllrs to set-up their dedicated PC email addresses.</p>	
8/19(g)	<p>Shaugh Prior Community Fund</p> <p>The Clerk reported that no applications had been received during the past month.</p>	
8/19(h)	<p>Hemerdon Mine</p> <p>During the Open Forum David Cobbold gave a brief update on matters relating to the tungsten mine. At present the mine is still in the hands of the receivers although things are changing on a daily basis and that the Bond for the restoration works is still in place. There is currently a rolling contract in place which runs from week to week. It has been suggested that the former Technical Liaison Group be re-formed so that the PC's are kept informed on what was happening as things move forwards.</p>	
8/19(i)	<p>2019 Parish Council Elections</p> <p>The Clerk handed out hard copies of the Cllr Nomination Forms for the PC Elections and confirmed that he was due to receive hard copies of the complete nomination packs by the end of the week. Once received he agreed to drop these off to the Chairman who will then distribute to those Cllrs who are thinking of standing again. Completed nominations will need to be delivered to SHDC Offices from 10am on Friday 21st March until 4pm on the 3rd April 2019.</p>	Clerk/Cllr Wassell
25/19	<p>Planning</p>	

	<p>Following a site visit it was agreed that there were no objections from the PC to the householder planning application for a proposed single storey extension at 11 Whitehill Gardens, Lee Moor (app no 4112/18/HHO).</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned that as of the 1st April 2019 there will be a change to the consultation process for planning applications submitted to SDHC and West Devon. From this date hard copies of plans will no longer be sent out to Parish Clerks and instead plans will have to be downloaded from the SHDC/WDBC websites. However, plans for major developments will still be sent out as existing.</p> <p>A list of outstanding planning enforcement cases was received by way of an email from SHDC.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins asked if the PC had heard anything further regarding the determination of the planning application for the erection of 4 dwellings on land at Lee Moor? The Clerk confirmed that the PC had raised no in-principle objections to the scheme subject to various conditions being imposed including one relating to improving the existing access.</p> <p>Finally, the Clerk mentioned that he had not been able to provide any further clarification to Mr Ian Coad regarding Oversound House and that any record of a response from the PC on the application should be held by DNPA.</p>	
26/19	<p>Chairman's Business</p> <p>The Chair had nothing to raise.</p>	
27/19	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <p>Cllr Stone gave a brief update on the Imerys Community Liaison Meeting he had recently attended. Sibilco are currently in the process of submitting a planning application to reduce the height of the tip whilst an in-depth discussion took place on the issue of wildfires on the Moor and how the Commoners could assist in fighting such fires (it was noted that farmers on quads/ATV's would be more effective). There were general concerns over the lack of water available to fight such fires and how the mining companies could assist with this due to all the water they have stored.</p>	
28/19	<p>Grant Payment for Bracken Treatment</p> <p>Cllr Stone asked for this item to be included on the Agenda. Following the successful spraying treatment of bracken alongside the main roads through the Parish and following the Shaugh Commoners AGM, the question was asked whether or not a larger area of moorland could be treated. It was mentioned that as well as providing improved grazing for livestock, there were health benefits with treating bracken as it has carcinogenic properties. Cllr Stone mentioned that a helicopter would be required due to</p>	

29/19	<p>the scale of the areas involved and the costs would be in the region of £100-£135 per acre. It was suggested that Imerys/Sibilco might be able to assist financially as it would also be beneficial to their operations whilst the Commoners could also submit a funding bid to the Newnham Solar Fund. Cllr Hitchins referred to a similar exercise having been undertaken on other areas of Dartmoor recently and agreed to look into potential funding streams.</p> <p>Trethewey Garden Charges</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Tyler mentioned that some residents are having to pay a service charge for roads and parking areas whilst some are not and was not sure why this was happening? It was noted that this was an issue for the Housing Association and therefore any enquiries relating to service charges should be directed to them.</p>	Cllr Hitchins
30/19	<p>Implementation of HR Policies</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill mentioned that her recent involvement with the Newnham Solar Fund CIC highlighted the fact that we don't have various policies in place such as Disciplinary Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy or Equal Opportunities Policy (we do have a Data Protection Policy). It was agreed by all Cllrs that we should have these in place and the Clerk agreed to circulate them prior to the May AGM where they would normally be adopted.</p>	Clerk
31/19	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>During the past month, the following correspondence has been received by the Clerk: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from DALC (monthly newsletter) • Email from SLCC (news bulletin) 	
32/19	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed on the 25th February 2019 there was the sum of £17,262.10 in the Treasurers Account.</p>	
33/19	<p>Payments and Receipts</p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments: -</p> <p><u>Payments</u> £68.00 cheque to Scott Smy (final mileage expenses payment) £150.00 cheque to Lee Moor Hall (hall hire Oct-March)</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> None</p>	
34/19	<p>Works and Maintenance</p> <p>The Chair referred to a broken fence post in the top corner of</p>	

<p>35/19</p>	<p>Wotter play area which needed attention. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Palmer to look into this. It was also agreed that the Clerk should ask Mr Palmer to provide a price for the re-painting of both sets of swings at Lee Moor play area.</p> <p>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the May PC Meeting (AGM) would take place on the 8th May 2019.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
--------------	--	--------------