

MINUTES
of
SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL
On-Line Zoom Meeting
Held on
Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Present: Chairman Cllr Wassell
Cllrs Friendship, Hitchins, Stone, Taffurelli, Pearce, Mrs Burkill,
and Mrs Tyler.

District Cllrs Spencer and Smerdon

Apologies: County Cllr Hart

4 members of the public in attendance (on-line)

Minute Number		Action
02/21	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair took the opportunity to remind everyone of the 5-minute rule when presenting during the Open Forum.</p> <p>Julia Sanders wished to pass on her thanks to Sgt Canning for all his recent help in tackling the issue of off-road bikers using the Moors. She also confirmed that the Commoner Association had spoken to Teresa Godfrey re Community Wind Turbines on Lee Moor (see Minute item 10/21 below) and confirmed that they fully supported the principle of the project.</p> <p>Ian and Amanda Stephens along with Lesley Nel raised issues with regard to the need for works to the track that leads to Dartmoor Cottages on behalf of the Residents Association. The Residents Association were looking to secure funding to carry out works to improve the surface of the track. It was agreed that the Residents Association would need to find out who owns the lane and seek their permission to undertake the works before going any further. The Newnham Solar Fund was identified as a possible source of grant funding to help pay for the works and Cllr Mrs Burkill kindly agreed to assist the Residents Association in respect of completing the necessary paperwork associated with such (the next meeting being on the 11th March 2021).</p>	

03/21	<p>With regard to the lease for the play area that exists between the Newnham Estate and the PC, the Clerk confirmed that this was only in relation to the play area and not the track leading to it. It was also suggested that perhaps a sign could be provided by the PC which highlights the fact that there was no vehicular access to the park along the track.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest</p>	
04/21	<p>Cllr Hitchins highlighted his on-going declaration regarding Minute 09/21 (Planning) and in particular any discussion on the Woolwell application. It was agreed that Cllr Hitchins would take no part in any discussion on this matter.</p> <p>Cllrs Wassell and Stone also declared a personal interest in relation to the grant request made by Dartmoor Speedwatch under the item on the agenda Shaugh Prior Community Fund (Minute 08/21c), as both Cllrs are members of the Dartmoor Speedwatch Organisation.</p> <p>Police Report</p>	
05/21	<p>The Clerk referred to the email update that he had received from Sgt Ryan Canning prior to the meeting and circulated to Cllrs. There had been some great results in respect of tackling off-road bikers using the Moors with several convictions in the process of taking place as well as handing out fixed-penalties for breaches of the Corona Virus Lockdown Rules. It was noted that in most cases the bikers were from Plymouth.</p> <p>Sgt Canning also made reference to an incident that was being investigated regarding the hunting of wild deer using dogs and that if anyone had any information regarding this case then they should contact him directly.</p> <p>Finally, the recent snowy weather had resulted in an increase in the number of visitors to the Moors and as a result a number of financial penalties for breaking Covid-19 lockdown rules, had been issued. Stay local means stay local!</p> <p>County and District Cllrs Report</p> <p>In Cllr Hart's absence, the Clerk read out a brief report. Following a spate of dog attacks on livestock, DCC are putting out a press release reminding people to keep their dogs on leads whilst on the Moors around livestock. DCC are now finishing the draft budget with news on the final settlement due to be received shortly after which the draft budget will be published. The number of people in Devon catching Covid-19 is now falling but there are still lots of people in hospital. If people get given the opportunity to have the vaccine then Cllr Hart's advice was to take it – please protect yourselves and your families. Cllr Hart also confirmed that was willing to provide a grant to Dartmoor Speedwatch for the fencing project they are looking to undertake.</p> <p>In relation to District Council matters, Cllr Spencer gave the following update:</p>	

	<p>Whilst many people are disappointed to be in a further lockdown, it was essential to protect frontline health services. The District Council has changed its IT system to process and pay Covid-19 grant applications more quickly. District Council meetings continue to be held on Zoom.</p> <p>There seems to be on-going issues with waste collections with large numbers of repeated missed collections (which seems to suggest a fundamental issue with the contractor). High-level meetings have taken place between SHDC and FCC (who are now into fines for missed collections). Hopefully this will now concentrate their minds on the task in hand! The new recycling scheme is being rolled-out from the 8th March but Shaugh Prior Parish is not in the first tranche.</p> <p>In relation to improvements to broadband speeds in the area, Barrie confirmed that he had finally got to speak to BT Openreach but the meeting wasn't particularly productive, with BT unwilling to discuss timetables in relation to roll-out. They did confirm that they are currently going through the process of validating survey data to see whether or not cables can run either under or overground. In view of the poor response received from BT and the lack of information, Cllr Spencer confirmed that he has now going to take this up with DCC.</p> <p>Cllrs Spencer and Hopwood (Bickleigh) continue to meet with Planners and Barwood in relation to the Woolwell planning application. Things have been very quiet of late and a further meeting is due to take place on the 16th Feb.</p> <p>SHDC recently met with Homes England with a view to recently to discuss the creation of a "place based strategic partnership". The meeting was held jointly with Plymouth City Council, as the discussion point relates to the delivery of the Joint Local Plan (JLP). It is testament to the strength of ambition, solid governance and political capital of the JLP that we have been successful in securing these meetings. It is early days, but the concept is for a pilot scheme in which the Government is able to secure ambitious growth targets aligned to our own. This would be in return for a programme of funding and interventions to unlock strategic sites within the JLP.</p> <p>The Council's COVID Compliance Officers have continued to be a re-assuring presence on our high streets. They're supporting businesses that are open, helping them to be COVID-secure and ensuring that those that have been required to shut have done so. Feedback from business owners and the public has been positive and we are looking forward to working to support the safe re-opening of our high streets when Government restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>SHDC have started recruiting staff for the elections scheduled to take place on May 2021. They are looking for Polling Clerks and Presiding Officers to work at polling centres across the District on 6 May. They also need Count Assistants at the count stations on 6, 7 and 10 May. At the moment, the plan is for these elections to go ahead while following strict COVID-safe guidelines.</p> <p>South Hams are debating progressing the £9 million Ivybridge Regeneration Project to the next stage - as residents are invited to sign up for project alerts. Over the last few years, South Hams District Council has considered proposals to bring more shoppers</p>	
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06/21	<p>to the market town of Ivybridge by developing the Leonards Road car park including a discount food store. The Council's Project Team have explored the possibilities and options available to them and have consulted the Town Council, local businesses and residents.</p> <p>DNPA Report</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon provided the following report:</p> <p>DNP CEO Dr Kevin Bishop and Chair Pamela Woods had a positive online meeting with Plymouth MP Luke Pollard(Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)</p> <p>Ministerial statement on the Landscapes Review (Glover) – delayed and now expected this month. We still think the Statement will signal an intent to establish a National Landscapes Service as a new statutory body – it seems that this will be the key component of the Government's response to the Landscapes Review. A full response/consultation paper is due later in 2021.</p> <p>National Park Grant for 2021/22 – no news other than indication that they are seeking to finalise in next few weeks (which would be helpful as new financial year is only 8 weeks away!)</p> <p>Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme – Defra officials are still working on the detail but due to 'launch' in April with two 'workstreams': first focused on environmental outcomes and preparing farmers for the new Environmental Land Management schemes; the second focused on access improvements. We are trying to ensure that the funding is flexible and that workstream B includes visitor management and not just creation of new access.</p> <p>The Environment Bill (which will establish the new Office for Environmental Protection and a requirement for statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategies) is delayed. It looks like Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) will be at a county level – we have been advancing the case for them to be at a National Park level (or guidance that the National Park should be a specific element within a LNRS).</p> <p>A specific request by National Parks England for additional resource to assist with visitor management during the 2021 season unfortunately hasn't been successful.</p> <p>In addition, Cllr Smerdon referred to 3 large planning applications that had recently been considered by the National Park Authority.</p>	
07/21	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday the 2nd December 2020</p> <p>All Cllrs at the meeting confirmed receipt of the minutes of the December meeting and it was proposed by Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Friendship that the draft minutes be accepted which was agreed by all.</p>	

	<p>remaining funding (with the Commoners Association filling in any gap in funding). In view of all the necessary paperwork having been submitted in support of the application (including bank statements), it was proposed by Cllr Taffurelli and seconded by Cllr Hitchins that the grant be approved and this was agreed by the remaining Cllrs.</p> <p>(d) Parish Council Vacancy</p> <p>The Clerk stated that he had spoken to SHDC and they had confirmed that no requests had been received to hold an election to fill the existing Cllr vacancy following the posting-up of the statutory notices. As a result, the PC were now able to fill the Cllr vacancy by co-option. It was proposed by Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Hitchins that the Clerk prepare an advertisement for the vacancy and that he would forward this to Cllrs for approval before putting this up on the PC notice boards and website/media channels.</p> <p>(e) Access Track to Wotter Play Area</p> <p>It was agreed that much of the discussion on this item had taken place during Open Forum. Cllr Mrs Tyler wished to thank Cllr Friendship for all his recent hard work in repairing the track. It was again highlighted that residents need to determine who owns the land/track and seek their permission before carrying out any works or securing funding for such.</p> <p>The possibility of the PC funding the erection of private road sign was also raised and agreed that this should be looked into once land ownership had been determined by the Residents Association.</p> <p>(f) Tree Planting Survey</p> <p>Cllr Pearce mentioned that she was intending to include an article on this subject in the Plym Links Magazine but at present it was not being produced. It was hoped that there should be something going out in the next few months. It was hoped that the survey would identify those persons/landowners in the Parish who would be willing to have additional trees planted on their land.</p> <p>09/21 Planning – Woolwell Planning Application</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the planning application submitted for the erection of a timber garden house/cabin at Hunters Moon (app no 0564/20) had been approved. However, an application submitted for an underground garage and home studio above at 2 Old White Thorn Cottage (app no 0554/20) has been recommended for refusal on issues relating to highway access (substandard visibility splays) and harmful visual impact upon the National Park.</p> <p>10/21 Wind Turbines on Lee Moor</p> <p>This item included on the agenda for Cllrs information and was in</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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11/21	<p>relation to a proposed community wind farm project being organised by South Dartmoor Community Energy. The project would involve the community building its' own wind turbine which would then allow the community to benefit from the scheme financially. The Clerk confirmed that Teresa Godfrey of SDCE would be attending the next PC to give a brief presentation/overview of the project. As well as Shaugh Prior, Cornwood and Sparkwell PC's have also been contacted. It was agreed by Cllrs that this would be a fitting project for the Climate Change Community Action Group to be involved with. The Clerk confirmed that he had supplied Teresa Godfrey with Sean Leake's contact details.</p> <p>Concerns over impacts upon archaeology on the Moors were dismissed as it was the intention to locate the turbine on land associated with the china clay operations (although there were currently no plans available to share). It was the general view of Cllrs that this was a project that the PC would want to be involved with due to the obvious benefits, particularly from a climate change perspective.</p> <p>Chairman's Business</p> <p>The Chairman wished to express his thanks to Cllrs and the Clerk for all their hard work over what has been a few challenging months for the PC. Hopefully things are now moving forward!</p> <p>The Chair confirmed he had taken delivery of the new salt spreader from Bickleigh PC and had already put it to good use during the recent spate of cold weather. Cllr Pearce recently raised the gritting of the service road through Wotter with DCC Highways after she had received some concerns from residents and asked if the Cahir could also look at treating this route when out with the spreader. It was also noted by the Clerk that we may require a further delivery of rock salt.</p>	Clerk
12/21	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the response he had received from Paul Oakley of Oakleys Coaches following the complaint letter that had been received from a local resident and read out at the previous PC meeting relating to noise and air quality issues.</p> <p>Whilst it was generally the view of Cllrs that Oakleys were doing all they could to try and minimise their impacts associated with starting up their coaches and buses in the mornings, it was suggested by Cllr Pearce that the PC contact SHDC Env Health to establish their views on the complaints that had been raised by the resident in question. It was also suggested that contact be made with other residents to see if they are also experiencing the same issues?</p> <p>In addition to the emails relating to updates on Covid-19 which had been sent to Cllrs during the past month, the Clerk referred to receipt of a letter from local resident Mr John Moffatt along with a cheque for the sum of £300 as a donation for the PC. The Chair</p>	Clerk

13/21	<p>and Cllrs wished to express their very sincere thanks to Mr Moffatt on his very generous donation and the Clerk agreed to write to Mr Moffatt on this basis. It was suggested by Cllr Mrs Burkill that perhaps this donation could be used to provide the bench and gate to the replacement bus shelter at Wotter?</p>	Clerk
	<p>Updated Financial Regulations</p> <p>During the 2019/20 Internal Audit, the auditor picked up on the fact that the PC's adopted Financial Regulations were based upon the 2016 version produced by NALC and not the 2019 version. Therefore prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated to Cllrs updated guidelines amended where necessary (with all amounts remaining as per the previous guidelines). It was proposed by Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Pearce that the updated Financial Regulations be adopted by the PC and this was agreed by all Cllrs.</p>	
14/21	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed on the 25th January 2021 there was the sum of £12,170.54 in the Treasurers Account. The Clerk mentioned that he was still to recover the grant payment of £1,738 from DCC for the donation towards the replacement bus shelter at Wotter.</p>	
	<p>Following Part 2 of the December 2020 PC meeting, the draft financial budget for 2021/22 was discussed by Cllrs. This resulted in the level of Precept for 2021/22 remaining the same as the previous year, that being £12,852.00. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Taffurelli and seconded by Cllr Hitchins that the Precept for 2021/22 be set at £12,852.00 and that was agreed by all Cllrs.</p>	
15/21	<p>Payments and Receipts</p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments: -</p> <p><u>Payments</u> £1,250.00 cheque to Mike McGrath (final payment for Wotter bus shelter works) £50.00 cheque to Bickleigh PC (purchase of grit spreader) £1,477.55 cheque to Western Power Distribution (electricity connection works for Wotter defib relocation) £14.39 cheque to Scott Smy (reimbursement for 1 month zoom) £100.00 cheque to Scott Smy (final clerks expenses payment) £378.00 cheque to HMRC (PAYE for December Clerks salary) £1,400.00 cheque to Eric Palmer (cleaning of bus shelters and play parks) £200.00 cheque to Dartmoor Speedwatch (grant payment for fencing works project)</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> £600.00 grant from DCC towards Wotter Defib relocation works £300.00 cheque from John Moffatt (donation to the PC) £400.00 cheque from Colin Taffurelli (collection/donation towards Wotter Defib relocation)</p>	

<p>16/21</p>	<p>Works and Maintenance – Wotter Bus Shelter Update</p> <p>Cllr Taffurelli confirmed that the works to be undertaken by Western Power Distribution to reconnect the power supply to the former BT box (to allow the defib to be relocated) would take place on the 8th February (having now been paid for).</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that he had received a further quotation for the electrical works associated with the relocation of the defib. Whilst this quotation was slightly less than the estimate received from a local electrician, it was proposed by Cllr Taffurelli and seconded by Cllr Mrs Tyler that it would be better to accept the slightly higher quotation in view of the fact that this person lived locally and was regularly on-hand to assist in any electrical emergency. This view was supported by Cllrs especially as due to the fundraising efforts of Cllr Taffurelli, there would be no need to spend any PC funds (public money) on these works. It was also highlighted that as we are now moving the defib at Wotter, there was no longer a need for a security light. However, there was still a need for such for the defib at Lee Moor Hall. The Clerk also agreed to chase-up the replacement keypad for the defib cabinet at Lee Moor. It was also agreed that a light should be provided in the BT box once the defib had been moved.</p> <p>Whilst the works to Wotter bus shelter had now been completed, there was still a need for a bench in the bus shelter and a gate on the outside to prevent livestock getting in the shelter. Cllr Friendship kindly agreed to fabricate a replacement gate. Cllr Taffurelli also confirmed that he was also happy to continue cleaning the bus shelters.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Friendship</p> <p>Cllr Taffurelli</p>
<p>17/21</p>	<p>Date of Next Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 starting at 7.30pm. This will again be an on-line meeting using Zoom. Dial-in details will be sent out prior to the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting closed at 9.20pm.</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p>	