

MINUTES

of

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**Meeting****Held on****Wednesday 1st February 2023**

at

Lee Moor Public Hall

Present: Chairman Cllr Wassell
Cllrs Stone, Mrs Proctor, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Burkill, and Mrs Francis-McLeod

District Cllrs Spencer and Smerdon

5 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Hart, Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Sims, Cllr Smerdon

Minute Number		Action
02/23	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Representatives from TW gave an update on matters relating to Hemerdon Mine. It was highlighted that earthworks were currently taking place on-site and plant commissioning was planned for late Sept/Oct. As a result of the previous operator of the mine leaving some concentrate material behind, TW took the decision to run this through the plant and therefore will be running for a 4-week period whilst this material is processed (with an application for such having been submitted to SHDC).</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill highlighted concerns of the PC in relation to the recent EA permit application and how it was essential that dust and noise monitors needed to be provided well before the commencement of operations so a baseline position can be determined. Likewise noise assessments which should focus on noise also travelling towards the villages in our Parish and not just to the south of the mine. Of particular importance is the area around Portworthy. These comments were taken on-board by TW.</p> <p>Karen Dent a Sports and Community Development Officer from Fusion Leisure introduced herself to the meeting. She wanted to make the PC aware of community-based exercise projects she can help to deliver through local groups/organisations and in particular chair-based exercise and functional training events. Cllr Mrs Tyler confirmed</p>	

03/23	<p>that some funding had recently been secured through Pam Barrett at Be Buckfastleigh and this funding could be used to help run such events. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Tyler would contact Karen Dent directly on this matter.</p> <p>Julia Sanders wished to thank the Chair for erecting the new speed activated 20mph sign provided through the Vision Zero funding. She also confirmed that a large pothole at Beatland Cross had been reported to DCC Highways.</p>	Cllr Mrs Tyler
04/23	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins wished to declare his on-going personal interest in relation to any discussion on the Woolwell Planning Application.</p> <p>Police Report</p> <p>In the absence of Sgt Canning there was no report. However, one item which had been highlighted to the Clerk in recent correspondence received related to the theft of copper from high-voltage power cables. A number of instances of such had been recorded around our area and the public were asked to be vigilant and share any footage they may have (dash cam etc) if they happen to come across such incidents. This has also resulted in customers losing electricity for up to 6 hours at a time.</p>	
05/23	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>Although unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Hart provided the following report:</p> <p>Nothing really to report other than we are finalising the County Budget. The Draft budget is now being looked at by the Scrutiny committees. The Government provisional settlement gives an extra 9.6% to County Councils calculated on the expectation that we raise Council Tax by 4.99% (2.99% for general expenses and 2% for adult care). Devon are looking to increase expenditure by 10.5%. We are increasing spending across the County services but particularly in Children's and Adult services, although we will be increasing spending on the road network. We do not have enough to repair the damage done over this winter so I have been lobbying all Devon MPs to support the need for an extra allocation of funds for Potholes etc from the Treasury. The Budget is only a few weeks way. Four years ago we had such a fund, it was allocated on length of highway in each authority. That was why Devon got £25million whereas the next largest sum of money went to Yorkshire who got about £20million.</p> <p>Cllr Spencer provided the following report from a District Council perspective:</p> <p>Waste Collection Arrangements</p> <p>Waste collections still seem to be going well and whilst the deadline has passed, you can still apply for the garden waste collection service (although you may experience a slight delay from the 6th March start date). It should also be noted that burying garden waste in bin bags</p>	

	<p>under non-recyclable waste will not be tolerated and extra roadside checks will be undertaken.</p> <p>2023 Elections This is confirmation that I intend to stand for election to the South Hams District Council for the Bickleigh & Cornwood Ward. The date for the election is 04 May 2023.</p> <p>Pre-election period (Purdah) There is a period prior to the 04 May 2023 elections where there are specific restrictions on communications and activity in place. This is popularly known as Purdah and it starts on 27 March 2023. During the period between 27 March and 04 May the District Council and Councillors must comply with restrictions outlined in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986. The Code of Practice recommends that authorities should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute.</p> <p>Sustainable Community Locality Fund I know that you are aware that I receive the sum of £2,000 per annum to spend on local projects that are within my Ward. There is a small amount of funding still available for those projects which you might have and have yet to tell me about. Please email or ring me for more details. Since there will be no further chance to access these funds after 27 March 2023, I put out a FB message to all the local groups I could find. I had a lot of interesting responses including ideas about stopping flooding and potholes. All of these are, unfortunately, are outside of my remit and not really what the fund is intended to be used for. Those requests for SP include: Funding for research into how the villages of SP, Lee Moor & Wotter could be made more sustainable. This might include the improvement of bus services, introduction of bus shuttles and investigation into reducing dependence on car travel. The same person suggested a community shop as a focal point. I like this idea but it has far reaching implications and the PC may wish to be involved. My funding is unlikely to go far into the research costs but might be a help. I am awaiting more details. Any project that deals with climate change might be eligible for additional funding from my 'Green' fund. A second request came from SPPC for funding towards the renovation of Wotter Play Park. I have offered £1,000 towards this. I am awaiting feedback to progress further.</p> <p>Woolwell to the George (WTTG) Road Scheme PCC have reported that Phase 1 of the Woolwell to the George (WTTG) roadworks will commence on Monday 13th February. This will entail site clearance work including removal of trees and vegetation. This is expected to take up to 5 weeks. Road signage has now been installed and this indicates that the works will take 8 weeks. The work also includes the demolition of three houses in Tavistock Road which are owned by PCC.</p>	
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	<p>More information is on my FB page including a link to the PCC website</p> <p>Barwood Development – expansion of Woolwell Discussions continue regarding the development of 2,000 houses on the edge of the existing Woolwell settlement but in the Bickleigh & Cornwood Ward. A long-awaited viability report was received before Christmas and is now being independently assessed. Once this has happened there will be some further consultation. Timescales are not yet known. Cllr Nicky Hopwood and myself continue to hold regular meetings with the planners with the next hopefully being in February.</p> <p>Hemerdon Mine There has been a large number of exchanges of emails regarding the licence changes that are proposed at the Hemerdon Mine. One of the biggest issues seems to be around the consultation notices for the changes and who received notification from EA. I certainly did not nor did a number of others, as far as I can understand. The consultation period was extended as you all know until 31 January 2023, but only after some heated pressure being put on the EA including by me. I have asked EA who was notified and they said that their distribution list was based on the Liaison Group list. I have additionally asked them to name the contacts on that list for SP. I have yet to receive that information. I will continue to put pressure on them until something is forthcoming. At least this might help for future dialogue.</p> <p>Voters ID From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local elections • Police and Crime Commissioner elections • UK parliamentary by-elections <p>From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. The intention is to prevent fraud at the polling stations where currently there is no need to present identification. This means that anyone can turn up, say who they are and not need to prove anything. It is not thought that the practice of fraudulent voting is widespread but clarity is best. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.</p> <p>Find out more about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day.</p> <p>Voter ID Electoral Commission</p> <p>Sustainable South Hams I attended a presentation given by Sustainable South Hams on Wednesday last week. This related to the Plymouth & SW Devon Planning Statement which was adopted by SHDC in November 2022. This is a non-statutory policy that has been adopted not a legal requirement. Essentially, it covers all new planning applications effective from 01 December 2022. The document sets out SHDC requirements regarding such things as onsite renewable energy, energy</p>	
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06/23	<p>storage, water heating systems, demolitions and rebuilds. I have not really taken it fully on board and continue to ask questions to clarify things in my own mind. I have passed copies of the slides on to the Climate Change Group for their perusal and sent a copy to the Clerk for distribution as required.</p> <p>DPNA Report</p> <p>In his absence, the Clerk read out a report provided by Cllr Smerdon which primarily related to the recent High Court Judgement and how, as a result of recent judgement, persons wishing to backpack camp on the commons of Dartmoor would have to seek the permission of the landowner. Following the High Court judgement in the case of Darwall vs DNPA Members have agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek permission to appeal the High Court judgement; - Endorse the new permissive system, agreed in principle with the Dartmoor Commons Owners Association; - Investigate which areas of common land owned by the Authority could be opened up to backpack camping; - Pause work on the byelaw review so the implications of the High Court judgement can be fully considered. 	
07/23	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022</p> <p>All Cllrs agreed that they had received a draft copy of the minutes and all were in agreement that they were an accurate reflection of the minutes of the December PC meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Burkill and seconded by Cllr Mrs Proctor.</p>	
08/23 (a)	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Highway Matters</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that he had received an email from DCC Highways confirming that Brag Lane would be added to the list of lanes to be 'ploughed' which should help highway surface water getting to the highway gullies (instead of such water flowing down into the village and flooding properties).</p> <p>With regard to the closure of Purps Lane, temporary works are planned this week which will allow the lane to be reopened so that access can be provided to existing residential properties. DCC are also currently looking into the programming of the permanent works required to address the problem.</p> <p>With regards to the potholes at Portworthy, after having been reported to DCC confirmation has now been received confirming that the potholes have been repaired.</p> <p>In relation to the on-going concerns regarding speeding on the B3417, the Clerk mentioned that he had emailed DCC Highways and they have since confirmed that the package of signing and lining works planned does not include reducing the speed limit of the road to 40 mph. Whilst Cllrs agreed it was best to wait until the final drawings are available before commenting in detail (the plans may change due to</p>	

	<p>RSA input), it was agreed that the Clerk would contact DCC confirming the PC's view that the speed limit needs to be reduced and should be considered as part of these works.</p> <p>(b) Shaugh Prior Community Fund</p> <p>No applications received. It was noted that events are likely to take place this year (which will require grant funding) as part of the Kings Coronation. It was noted that some events have already been listed in the parish magazine.</p> <p>(c) Renewable Energy Projects/Schemes</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting regarding renewable energy projects had taken place on the 31st January 2023. Cllr Mrs Tyler confirmed her attendance along with around 20 other people. Concerns were raised at the meeting regarding the possibility of a large energy company coming into the Parish and implementing a scheme of wind turbines with no community involvement. It was highlighted during that meeting that a one item Neighbourhood Plan was required. The Clerk confirmed that before the PC or any other organisation could take a NP forwards, there would need to be engagement with the local community (as the process necessitates evidence of public involvement and consultation throughout). It was noted that a further meeting was planned on the 16th February 2023. Cllrs were in agreement that the PC was not, in any way, endorsing these meetings and at present attendance by Cllrs is on the basis of maintaining a watching brief.</p> <p>(d) Tribute to Cllr Norman</p> <p>Cllr Wassell confirmed that Cllr Stone now had a suitable piece of granite but there was no further update.</p> <p>(e) Shaugh Prior Community Climate Change Emergency Group</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of the SPCCCEG held on the 25th January 2023. A number of issues were discussed at the meeting including local bus services, Sustainable South Hams, green drinks and the tree planting scheme. With regards to the latter it was noted that this had been a great success, with the majority of the new trees having now been planted. Lidia Pearce confirmed that she would look to produce a press release in due course.</p> <p>(f) Parish Cllr Vacancies</p> <p>Following the recent advertisement of the vacant Cllr position, the Clerk confirmed that one application had been received thus far prior to the deadline on the 4th February 2023. Following the deadline, it was agreed that each of the applications would be reviewed by the HR Sub Committee against the selection criteria previously agreed.</p>	Clerk
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(g)	<p>The Clerk mentioned that the elections taking place in May 2023 include Parish Cllr seats as well as County and District Cllrs. Therefore all Cllrs wishing to stand (including newly appointed Cllrs) will need to submit their applications to SHDC. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate, to Cllrs, a recent email he had received from the Elections Office setting-out the process and expected timeline.</p>	Clerk
	<p>Parish Emergency Plan</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that changes had been made to the on-line version of the EP and that he would set-up a meeting to discuss in the next month.</p>	Clerk
09/23	<p>Planning – Response to EA Permit Application</p>	
	<p>A planning application for works to improve the surface of the lane on land to the west of Staddon, Shaugh Prior (app no 0477/22) has been approved.</p> <p>The Clerk and Cllrs wished to express their thanks to Cllr Sims for all his hard work in respect of the preparation of the written response (sent on behalf of the PC) to the EA in relation to the permit application relating to the Mine Waste Facility and Process Plant at Hemerdon Mine. A response from the EA to the points raised was currently awaited. Various concerns were raised relating to LFN and Air Quality.</p>	
10/23	<p>Chairman’s Business</p> <p>The Chair said it was great to see new Cllrs on the PC and wanted to make everyone aware of the fact that he would not be seeking re-election at the May PC Elections. It was noted that as the May PC meeting would take place on the day before the election on the 4th May, it will be necessary to hold the AGM a week later than usual on the 10th May.</p>	
11/23	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <p>Cllrs Stone and Mrs Tyler gave feedback on the Sibilco and Imerys joint Local Liaison Meeting held on the 10th January 2023. This was the first such meeting held following Covid and was well-received by those who attended it. It was mentioned that all of the businesses associated with the china clay operations are going well very and continue to be very busy. Imerys confirmed that they were happy to attend a future PC to give Cllrs an update on existing and future operations which could include a site visit.</p>	
12/23	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from SHDC providing information on the May Elections • Email from Lidia Pearce including the minutes of the last meeting of the SPCCCEG 	

13/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from DALC including latest newsletter • Email invitation to the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership Forum meeting on the 22nd March 2023 • Email newsletter from NALC • Email newsletter from SLCC • Email regarding the use of Lee Moor Football Pitch. <p>Finance – Bank Mandate</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 2nd January 2023 there was the sum of £12,954.45 in the Treasurers Account.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that he had once again chased the bank mandate from TSB and was hoping that it would now be sent to the Clerk direct having visited the TSB branch in Tavistock.</p>	
14/23	<p>Payments and Receipts</p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments:</p> <p>£13.00 direct debit payment to EDF Energy (electricity for Wotter defib)</p> <p>£40.70 cheque to Scott Smy (reimbursement of office expenses)</p> <p>£118.80 cheque to J & MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman)</p> <p>£21.00 cheque to Shaugh Prior Rec Hall (reimbursement for purchase of Xmas tree)</p> <p>£180.00 cheque to Shaugh Prior Rec Hall (annual charge for hall hire 22/23)</p> <p>£100.00 cheque to Scott Smy (final clerks annual expenses payment 22/23)</p> <p>Receipts None</p>	
15/23	<p>Works and Maintenance</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that he had received a quotation from Peter Tanner Engineering for the repairs to the swing supports at Wotter Play Area. Whilst the suggested estimate of £1200-£1500 was more than first thought, the Clerk confirmed that Cllr Spencer had kindly agreed to provide £1000 towards the works from his Locality Budget. On this basis the remainder of the works could be funded from the PC reserves and this would ensure that the swings could continue to be used for a few more years whilst the PC look to secure further grant funding for a total replacement (which the Clerk confirmed would be in the region of £13-£14k). It was agreed by Cllrs that the Clerk instruct Peter Tanner to proceed with the works as necessary. The Clerk also mentioned that local parishioner Lesley Nel had offered her assistance to the PC at the point when we start looking to secure grant funding for a total replacement of the existing swings. This offer of assistance was very much welcomed by the PC.</p> <p>Following the most recent check undertaken by Cllr Mrs Burkill, it was revealed that there was an issue with the use of the defib at Lee Moor</p>	Clerk

16/23	<p>Hall. The Clerk confirmed that the defib had been sent back to the manufacturers for assessment and in the meantime a loan-unit had been provided. It was hoped that if a replacement defib was required then this would be covered by the warranty.</p> <p>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at Lee Moor Public Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.00pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p>	
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