

MINUTES

of

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**Meeting****Held on****Wednesday 5th April 2023**

at

Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall

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

District Cllr Spencer
PC Martin Perry

3 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Hart, Cllr Smerdon, Cllr Mrs Tyler and Cllr Mrs Chater

Minute Number		Action
34/23	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Before the meeting started Cllr Wassell asked everyone to observe a minute's silence following the recent passing of former Cllr John Mclver as well as local resident Valerie Toms, both of whom provided significant input into the PC over many years.</p> <p>Representatives from TW gave a brief update on matters relating to Hemerdon Mine. As a result of the difficulties faced in terms of raising additional funding required (£60m) to complete the outstanding works without the various permits from the EA not yet being in place, the decision has been made to put the project on hold for 6 months. It was highlighted that unfortunately between 38 and 44 people could lose their jobs as a result of this decision. It was hoped that once all outstanding permits were in place, it would then be much easier to secure the necessary funding and that the project would commence again. TW also kindly provide the Clerk with a hard copy of the results from the dust stations installed for monitoring purposes.</p> <p>Mr Clewer asked if the PC had received any further feedback from the EA in respect of the consultation undertaken prior to Christmas for the permit application associated with Hemerdon Mine. The Clerk confirmed that the PC had not received any further correspondence</p>	

	<p>from the EA in respect of this matter. Having raised this matter with the EA, Mr Clewer confirmed that GDPR prevents the EA from stating who was on that circulation list for the consultation. Several Cllrs noted that there was little to be achieved in going over 'old ground' in respect of this matter and the most important issue was to ensure that the PC are now getting consulted by the EA in relation to the EA permit applications.</p> <p>In relation to the matters surrounding the B3417, Mr Clewer confirmed that he had raised this matter with Cllr Nicky Hopwood who took the matter to the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel but it was their view that this matter was not appropriate for discussion at the panel and instead Cllr Hopwood suggested to Mr Clewer that it should be raised with DCC through Cllr Spencer. Cllr Spencer agreed that he was happy to get involved but would appreciate a detailed summary from the Clerk on the background to the issue. It was also noted by Mr Clewer that getting hold of anyone from the PROW team at DCC was very difficult as he wanted to ascertain who thought the provision of relocating the bridleway next to the B3417 was safe?</p>	Clerk
35/23	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations received by the Clerk.</p>	
36/23	<p>Police Report</p> <p>In Sgt Canning's absence the Clerk read out the following report:</p> <p>Since March 1st, there have been 5 calls for service. 3 incidents recorded as having happened within the home address. 1 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (suspected to be domestic related) and 1 x Assault.</p> <p>As we approach the Bank Holidays, we are trying to target harden locations within the Parish that have previously been subject to UMEs (Unlicensed Music Events or, in old money, a Rave).</p> <p>As we know, Blackaton Cross has been subject to such activity as well as other sites around south Dartmoor. Could I request that if any residents see what they believe to be the beginnings of such an event, they report via 999 immediately.</p>	
37/23	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>In his absence the Clerk read out a report provided by Cllr Hart:</p> <p>As people may have read in the newspapers last week Devon County, Plymouth City, Torbay Councils working with the Devon 8 District Councils have been offered the opportunity to negotiate a devolution deal with Government to take responsibility for more of what we do for our residents. Nine Local authorities were shortlisted over 12 months ago. We are the only tier 2 bid that has been accepted. The other 8 had either proceeded at tier 3 level and agreed to run with an elected Mayor or are now still consulting their residents on the principle of having an elected Mayor. Ironically Cornwall have today decided to go for a Level 2 bid after the Mayoral concept has been rejected after consultation with their residents. We will get extra funding and are</p>	

	<p>looking to take over responsibilities currently held by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). We will be negotiating with Government on a wide range of responsibilities that we feel we can do better locally, things like responsibility for skills and training, more support for social housing and possibly some bus transport. However, we must have the funding to make this work. That will also be a major part of our negotiation over the next few months.</p> <p>Also, the Chancellor named 3 Devon MPs in his speech 2 weeks ago when announcing extra money for Highways (£200m). I must thank the Devon MPs for doing this as I on behalf of DCC have been lobbying them on this issue for some months. This works out as £9.4million for Devon, 25% more than any other authority in England. Unfortunately, this also shows that Devon has far more roads than any other authority in England. This money will help repair some of them but will not solve all of our road problems.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for all their hard work over the last 4 years. Many of you have been councillors a lot longer. My special thanks to anyone not standing again in May. I thank you for your support over the years. I know I have not attended many meetings over this last 4 years but Covid and other pressures have rather disorganised my time in Exeter.</p> <p>Cllr Spencer provided the following report from the District Council:</p> <p>Woolwell to the George (WTTG) Road Scheme Phase 1 of the Woolwell to the George (WTTG) roadworks commenced on Monday, 13 February. All in all it has worked well. There is still some ongoing work but delays have been minimal.</p> <p>Barwood Development – expansion of Woolwell Discussions continue regarding the development of 2,000 houses on the edge of the existing Woolwell settlement. 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. Time scales are not yet known. It is now most likely that the Development Management Committee at SHDC will consider this application in September 2023. We are pushing for this to be held in Woolwell.</p> <p>I gave my briefing on the proposed development on Monday, 20th March at the Roborough Recreation Hall starting at 7pm. The attendance was limited but I think that those who attended found something to help them. There were quite a number of questions asked and I was able to answer most. Answers to those where I have had to seek clarification will be fed back through my Facebook page.</p> <p>Planning Enforcement I have one new planning enforcement in the area. The complainant has written to Sir Gary Streeter who, in turn, spoke with SHDC who in turn spoke with me. There should have been a visit by now but I do not have the up-to-date details.</p> <p>Voters ID Just a reminder that from 4th May 2023, voters in England will need to</p>	
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	<p>show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections (including the forthcoming elections).</p> <p>South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership I attended the quarterly meeting of the CSP on 22nd March. This is an organisation that aims to make our communities safer places to live, work and enjoy by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. The group works with agencies across East and Mid Devon, Exeter, North Devon & Torridge, South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge.</p> <p>Subjects included a police update, discussions around vaping in schools, addressing misogynistic behaviour in schools, working with young people to address harmful sexual behaviours much more. It was interesting to learn that the new Chief Constable has made his priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access and visibility, including attending parish council meetings again, more visibility on the streets, reopening some front desks • Looking after people • Getting their standards up to speed <p>This includes tackling ASBs, getting into schools to try to educate children. Crime stats are down, sometimes by significant amounts.</p> <p>https://saferdevon.co.uk/south-devon-dartmoor-csp/</p> <p>Please try to spare a moment to take a look at what's available.</p> <p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund SHDC have been successful in securing funding from this new fund. The amount secured is £1,062,000. This fund is being used to support the UK Governments wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering more jobs, boost pay, improve living standards by growing the private sector especially in places which are lagging behind. It seeks to restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging and empower local leaders and communities. I have been asked to lead on keeping tabs on the projects. The work will really gain momentum after May.</p> <p>Active Devon/Fusion Outreach I have reported previously that there was a taster session of seated exercises in Cornwood recently to which SP residents were invited. Around 15+people attended and it was deemed to be a success. The next question is what next? I am still trying to get the answer to this question but I am determined that facilities should be brought out to the more rural areas of the District. This has been one of my themes over the past 12/18months and one that I will continue to concentrate on.</p> <p>Tamar Valley AONB I have been appointed to the Executive Board of the TVAONB. I have my first meeting there tomorrow. I will report back on any matters that impact on Shaugh Prior PC's area.</p>	
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38/23	<p>Elections – 04 May 2023</p> <p>As you all know the elections are on the 4th May. There is a contested position here. I may not be your Councillor at the next meeting. Should that be the situation I would like to thank you all for your support over the past four years. I have enjoyed working with the Council and with the good folk in Cornwood and Luton. Can I wish you all the very best for the next four years.</p> <p>My future is in your hands. Please bear in mind that you can vote for the candidate who knocks on your door once in every four years asking for your vote or you can vote for the candidate who has been available to you every day over the past four years and who has a track record of doing their best for the community every day. This election is not about national politics as many would have you believe it is about who represents you locally on the ground, daily.</p> <p>DPNA Report</p> <p>In his absence the Clerk read out a report forwarded by Cllr Smerdon:</p> <p>Princetown Visitor Centre</p> <p>Following intensive pressure from our local MPs meeting with the Environment Secretary regarding the financial pressure all National Parks find themselves under in the current financial climate, an agreement has been secured whereby all National Parks will receive a one-off grant of £400,000 for this financial year. Whilst very welcome it is important to note that this is only a stop-gap measure.</p> <p>One immediate welcome benefit will be that the Princetown Visitor Centre will remain open for all this year. The Authority remains in discussion with the Duchy of Cornwall as to how best to manage the Centre in the future, as it is housed in the old Duchy Hotel in Princetown which requires substantial long-term maintenance.</p> <p>Renewal of Agri-Environment Schemes</p> <p>There has been much concern amongst Dartmoor Commoners and others over Natural Englands proposals around renewal of grazing agreements on the commons, particularly where this also involves SSSIs. In order to secure new agreements graziers have been asked to substantially reduce livestock numbers, particularly overwintering sheep, with obvious implications for the viability of their businesses. Whilst not directly involved in these renewals, DNP has been contacted by concerned commoners and following various discussions with interested parties is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calling for a 12 month extension to current Higher Level Stewardship agreements; • proposing an independent review of the situation regarding agri-environment agreements, future of farming, food and fibre production and delivery of public benefits to inform an agreed action plan • convening a meeting on 4 April 2023 of all key stakeholders to seek clarity on the current situation; and, • will work with local MPs to seek their support. <p>MPs Sir Geoffrey Cox,(Tavistock) Sir Gary Streeter (West Devon) and Anthony Mangnall (Totnes), whose constituencies all include large parts of Dartmoor are also calling for an independent inquiry into management of the Commons on Dartmoor, and for a 12 month</p>	
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	<p>extension of all current agri-environment schemes. DNP Officers will present a report on these issues to the Authority meeting scheduled for 14 April 2023. This is a public meeting and people can register to speak.</p> <p>Appeal re Back-pack Camping DNP have yet to hear if they will be granted leave to appeal in the wild camping judgement. There is no timeline for a decision by the Court of Appeal. As soon as we hear anything we will notify interested parties. If we do get permission to appeal then the next step will be a report to Authority seeking authority to proceed with the appeal (subject to legal advice). On a separate but related matter, the crowdfunding initiative has now raised over £40,000 which we understand means a total (with gift aid) of just over £50,000. The donations have come from 1,425 individuals. Finally, we are still working on the permissive agreement for backpack camping. We met with Dartmoor Commons Owners' Association earlier this week and the latest (and hopefully final version) is with our lawyers. The aim is that the agreements will commence at the beginning of April 2023.</p> <p>Rangers Following the conclusion of the Business Review there has been a slight change to the structure of the Ranger team, Simon Lee is Head Ranger and Ella Briens has been appointed Deputy Head Ranger and will assist with the day-to-day management of the team. Ella will also retain a small sector. Rob Steemson's role has changed and Rob will now be a Sector Ranger. Importantly Rob will no longer be the Emergency Officer contact for the Authority. Simon will be the new Emergency Officer contact with Ella as Deputy Emergency officer. The new emergency contact number is: 07745 734647.</p> <p>Brentor Church Car Park At the Authority meeting in early March, Members took the decision to devolve the running of the car park at Brentor Church from DNP to Brentor Parochial Church Council. This will allow the PCC to run and maintain the carpark and toilets. They plan to introduce charges for parking, the revenue raised being used for the upkeep of the toilets and surrounding area.</p>	
39/23	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023</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 March PC meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hitchins and seconded by Cllr Stone.</p>	
40/23	<p>Matters Arising</p>	
8/23(a)	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned he had exchanged correspondence with DCC Highways relating to the works associated with the Stage 4 RSA on the B3417. Richard Kingsley-Smith of DCC confirmed that he had now completed the 'Engineers Response' and was looking to secure sign-</p>	

8/23(b)	<p>off before getting the works priced-up. It was also noted that repairs had now been carried out to Bowling Green Lane but there were still concerns regarding the large potholes that still exist and how the new surface of the lane feels 'spongy'. These concerns over the structural foundation of the road have been raised with the DCC Asset Team.</p> <p>Shaugh Prior Community Fund</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that no grant applications had been received. Cllr Mrs Burkill highlighted that there was now a sum of £15k in the Newnham Solar Fund which organisations could bid for. One such project suggested for potential funding was the Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site at Lee Moor.</p>	
8/23(c)	<p>Renewable Energy Projects/Schemes</p> <p>It was noted that there was no further feedback on this item. Some discussion then took place between Cllrs regarding the status of this meeting and it was agreed that feedback from those attending future meetings (if there were no Parish Cllrs in attendance) would be helpful.</p>	
8/23(d)	<p>Tribute to Cllr Norman</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that some progress had been made and needed to liaise with Cllr Stone. It was agreed the most appropriate location for the bench would be at Halfway House on route to the beacon (subject to securing permission from the NT as landowner).</p>	
8/23(e)	<p>Shaugh Prior Community Climate Change Emergency Group</p> <p>The Chair allowed SO's to be temporarily lifted in order to allow Mr Clewer to provide an update on the last meeting that took place which it was confirmed was not a meeting of the SPCCCEG but a meeting of individuals interested in exploring sustainable energy projects within the Parish.</p>	
8/23(f)	<p>Parish Cllr Vacancies and 2023 Elections</p> <p>Several hours prior to the meeting the Clerk confirmed that he had received an email from SHDC confirming that the Parish Council election would be uncontested and that all Cllrs seeking re-election had duly been re-elected. With two Cllrs not standing, this meant we had two vacancies which could be filled by co-option. It was also noted that Cllrs could request a copy of the Electoral Register at the current time.</p> <p>It was agreed by Cllrs that notices advertising the two vacant positions should be prepared by the Clerk following the May AGM (as Cllrs cannot take office until the 9th May 2023 at the earliest). Acceptance of Office Forms and Registers of Interest would have to be provided by all elected Cllrs.</p>	Clerk

8/23(g)	<p>Parish Emergency Plan</p> <p>It was agreed by Cllrs that this item would be left in abeyance until after the PC Elections in May.</p>	
41/23	<p>Planning – Response to EA Permit Application</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded to Cllrs a briefing note received from the EA in relation to the permit application submitted for the mineral processing plant at Hemerdon Mine. It was highlighted that over 50 responses had been received following the consultation period and as well as reviewing these comments, officers were currently reviewing technical information submitted by the applicant. Once a conclusion has been reached, a draft Decision Document will be produced and if the EA are minded to issue the permit, further consultation will be undertaken in order to give the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Decision Notice.</p> <p>The Clerk also confirmed he had provided a response to App 4029/22/FUL (farmworker accommodation at Higher Bughill Bungalow). The response was one of no objections but a condition restricting occupation to Bone Fide farmworkers as discussed and agreed by Cllrs.</p>	
43/23	<p>Chairman’s Business</p> <p>As he was not seeking re-election, the Chair wished to thank everyone for their support over the many years he has been a Cllr on the PC and more recently as Chairman. He also wished to express his sincere thanks to Cllr Hitchins who was also looking to stand-down as a Cllr and these sentiments were echoed by all current serving Cllrs.</p>	
44/23	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <p>In the absence of any meetings, there were no reports this month.</p>	
45/23	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from PKF Littlejohn detailing requirements (and paperwork/forms) for this year’s AGAR, the deadline for which is Monday 3rd July 2023. • Email from DALC re nomination of Parish Members to DNPA. Cllr Sims asked if the Clerk could forward this to him for review. • Email from DCC regarding F7 Fare Car (a public transport service operated by private hire cars). • Email from DALC including latest newsletter • Email from DALC highlighting this year’s subscription fees. • Email newsletter from NALC • Email newsletter from SLCC • Allianz Insurance Safety Inspection Report for Lee Moor Play Area. 	Clerk

46/23	<p>Review of Standing Orders</p> <p>Following our Internal Audit, our auditor has picked up that our SO's are quite out of date and not based upon the framework SO's produced by NALC. The Clerk has therefore sought to update our SO's so they are based upon the framework model SO's and agreed to circulate them to Cllrs prior to the May AGM for adoption at that meeting.</p>	Clerk
47/23	<p>Review of Internal Audit Observations</p> <p>As stated in the Minute above, an initial response has been received from our Internal Auditor. This has resulted in the need to update our SO's (see above), amend contract amounts in our Financial Regulations (adopted under Minute 29/23 at the March PC meeting) and ensure all payments address VAT (it was noted that there was one payment in the cashbook made to the Clerk on the 6th April 2022 for expenses which could have included for VAT which has since been addressed). It was also noted that the monthly direct debit payment made to EDF for electricity for Wotter defib is likely to have recoverable VAT. This was also noted by the Clerk.</p>	Clerk
48/23	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 2nd April 2023 there was the sum of £9,386.20 in the Treasurers Account.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that there had been no update on the bank mandate from TSB and this was still being chased by the Chair. Some discussion then took place between Cllrs enquiring whether or not the PC should seek to move to another bank. Cllrs Francis-McLeod and Sims agreed to look into options regarding such</p> <p>Finally, as part of the Annual Audit the PC has a duty to review and (if necessary) update its Asset Register. The Clerk forwarded the updated Asset Register to Cllrs prior to the meeting which had increased from the previous year due to the inclusion of the new speed activated warning sign in Shaugh village. It was proposed by Cllr Hitchins and seconded by Cllr Stone that the updated Asset Register be accepted and this was agreed by all Cllrs.</p>	Cllrs Mrs Francis-McLeod and Sims
49/23	<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) £18.00 cheque to DALC (Cllr Sims attendance at Being a Good Cllr Course) £18.00 cheque to DALC (Cllr Mrs Francis McLeod attendance at Being a Good Cllr Course) £79.20 cheque to J & MJ Widdicombe (Parish Length drainage works) £937.40 cheque to Scott Smy (3 months Clerks wages) £234.40 cheque to HMRC (PAYE for 3 months Clerks wages)</p>	

<p>50/23</p>	<p>£1662.00 cheque to Peter Tanner Eng Ltd (repairs to swings at Wotter Play Area) £228.78 cheque to DALC (Annual subscription 2023/24)</p> <p>Receipts None</p> <p>Works and Maintenance</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that following a recent email exchange with Cllrs that he had instructed Rob Carter Gardens Services to commence works to replace the rotten timber edgings around the safety surfacing under both sets of swings at Wotter Play Area. However, prior to Rob starting these works it will be necessary for the tiles to be put back in place. It was suggested that the Clerk would investigate the possibility of getting a working party together for these works. It was also noted that the swings were still pad-locked and the Clerk agreed to look into this prior to the next PC meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>51/23</p>	<p>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council will be the Annual General Meeting which will take place on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting closed at 9.00pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Clerk</p>