

MINUTES

of

SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**Meeting****Held on****Wednesday 5th March 2025**

at

Lee Moor Public Hall

Present: Chairman Cllr Stone
Cllrs Spencer, Mrs Proctor, Mrs Francis-McLeod, Mrs Chater
and Mrs Burkill

County Cllr Hart

11 Members of the public

Apologies: District Cllr Oram, Cllrs Sims, Mrs Boulting and Mrs Tyler

Minute Number		Action
22/25	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>A number of residents from Lee Moor attended the meeting to express their concerns relating to the Permission in Principle planning application submitted for 6-9 dwellings on land adjacent to Lilymoor. Issues relating to the adequacy of the existing means of access to the site were raised by several residents as well as impacts on existing infrastructure (foul water connections), TPO's and overlooking/cramped form of development as well as a lack of bus services for residents. The Chair confirmed that the matter was on the agenda for discussion by Cllrs and that the PC had undertaken a site visit where similar concerns to those raised above by residents, had been identified by Cllrs.</p> <p>Tim Clewer asked if any response had been received to the email sent to DCC PROW regarding the works on the B3417 and how this had impacted upon the use of the existing bridleway. The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received yet and would chase DCC for a response. Mr Clewer also asked Cllr Hart why the speed limit of the B3417 Lee Moor Road could not be reduced to 40mph now prior to the electricity supply and new speed enforcement camera being installed by TW (as part of their S.106 obligations)? Cllr Hart confirmed that he would investigate this matter and get a response</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Hart</p>

23/25	<p>back to the Clerk. Mr Clewer also confirmed that due a general lack of progress on addressing the speeding issues on the B3417 that he had raised the matter with our local MP Rebecca Smith.</p> <p>Finally, Julia Sanders referred to an event she had recently attended regarding the re-opening of the front desk at Ivybridge Police Station (something welcomed by everyone).</p> <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations had been received by the Clerk.</p>	
24/25	<p>Police Report</p> <p>The Clerk read out a report provided by PC Dave Tungate which was as follows:</p> <p>09/02/25 – Report of off-road motorbikes around Wotter heading for the clay pits.</p> <p>14/02/25 – Report of a vehicle that had ended-up in a ditch. The elderly driver had misjudged the bend. No action taken. This incident was reported twice.</p>	
25/25	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>County Cllr Hart provided a brief update in relation to matters impacting upon the County. Council Tax is due to increase by 4.99% whilst a considerable amount of time has been taken-up in respect of the LGR proposals following the publication of the Government's White Paper on such. As Devon was not included in the first tranche, the County Council elections will go ahead in May. Devon are seeking a 4-5-1 option which combines West Devon with South Hams, Torbay and Teignbridge. Further discussions are due to take place in the next few weeks prior to the submission of draft proposals to Central Government on the 21st March 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill asked about the impact of the changes on DNPA? Cllr Hart wasn't able to confirm this at present although it was noted that there should be no impact on the National Parks.</p> <p>In Cllr Oram's absence there was no District Cllrs Report.</p>	
26/25	<p>DNPA Report</p> <p>In Cllr Smerdon's absence there was no DNPA Report.</p>	
27/25	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2025</p> <p>All Cllrs agreed that they had received a draft copy of the minutes of the February meeting and that they were an accurate reflection of the minutes of that meeting. Proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Mrs Proctor. Resolved by Cllrs to agree the draft minutes of the February PC meeting.</p>	

28/25	Matters Arising	
8/25(a)	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill confirmed that the large pothole/crater on the approach to Shaugh Bridge had now been filled. No other highway issues were raised.</p>	
8/25(b)	<p>Shaugh Prior Community Fund</p> <p>No applications for grant funding received this month.</p>	
8/25(c)	<p>Tribute to Cllr Norman</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed he had written to Peter Davies of the NT for an update but was yet to receive a response.</p>	
8/25(d)	<p>Wotter Play Area Improvements</p> <p>The PC had been successful in its funding application submitted to the National Lottery Awards for All for a grant of £20k which had now been received. A cheque for 50% of the total cost of the works is due to be raised tonight for Rhino Play SW and it is hoped that the works will commence on-site in early April and hopefully be completed before Easter.</p>	
8/25(e)	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Spencer confirmed that a grant payment of £4775.00 had now been received from Groundworks and that this had been paid into the PC bank account. A deadline of the 31st March 2025 for the expenditure of this funding will present some significant challenges (it was confirmed that funding cannot be rolled forward). It is not currently known if funding from Central Government will be made available next year. The Clerk reiterated the need for there to be a clear audit trail relating to payments of NP invoices in view of the cheques for such having to be raised by the PC (and will therefore be subject to the same internal and external audit procedures).</p> <p>A meeting of the Steering Group is planned on the 12th March where the ToR document will be reviewed. The NP process is now moving towards community engagement meetings/discussions and it is hoped that these will take place in mid/late April, with events held in both halls. There will also be leaflet drops to all properties in the Parish as well as further articles in the Parish Magazine. Further discussion is also due to take place in respect of the direction of travel relating to the NP webpage (whether there is a separate NP webpage or it is attached to the existing PC website). This is still to be determined.</p> <p>The process of the engagement of a Planning Consultant is now underway, with fee proposals currently awaited.</p> <p>The Clerk also re-stated the need for the PC to be copied into Minutes of NP Steering Group meetings.</p>	Cllr Spencer
8/25(f)	Emergency Plan	

29/25	<p>The Clerk confirmed that there was no further progress on the EP.</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>0438/25/PIP – Application for Permission in Principle for 6-9 dwellings - Land adjacent to Lilymoor, Lee Moor. Following the detailed discussion on this application held during the Open Forum and the site visit conducted by Cllrs, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Burkill and seconded by Cllr Mrs Chater that the PC object to the application and this was approved unanimously by Cllrs. Refusal reasons would refer to the concerns of the safety of the means of access, over-development of the site, impact upon existing TRO' and sewer infrastructure and sustainability of the site. The Clerk agreed to draft a response and forward to Cllrs for review before submitting to SHDC.</p> <p>0055/25 – Single storey rear extension, widening of existing garage and new hardstanding – Shaden House, Shaugh Prior. It was agreed by Cllrs that a site visit would be undertaken by the Chair and Vice-Chair and that they would feed back to the Clerk with their recommendation.</p>	Clerk
30/25	<p>Chairs Business</p> <p>The Chair mentioned that he had contacted TW regarding the considerable amounts of rubbish that the Parish Lengthsman is collecting regularly on land close to Hemerdon Mine and that TW have agreed to monitor the situation and that if there was no improvement that they should be funding John Widdicombe's time.</p>	
31/25	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <p>No meetings of Committees had taken place (apart from the meeting of the NP Steering Group mentioned above). The Clerk confirmed that a Part 2 was due to take place after the PC meeting as a result of feedback from the HR Sub Committee.</p>	
32/25	<p>Wotter Surgery Complaints/Issues</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Chater wished to bring to the attention of Cllrs several complaints raised on the local FB page by parishioners regarding Wotter Surgery and the Beacon Medical Group. As a result of the on-going problems, many patients were now looking to move to alternative GP Surgeries. Cllr Mrs Chater confirmed that she had raised the matter with Lauren (who deals with complaints on behalf of Beacon Medical) and that she could expect a reply within 30 days. It was suggested that perhaps this issue should be raised with our Local MP? Cllr Mrs Chater agreed to look into this.</p>	Cllr Mrs Chater
33/25	<p>Local Government Reform</p> <p>Following the publication of the White Paper by Central Government in December 2024 (which seeks for the removal of the existing 2-tier</p>	

34/25	<p>Local Authority arrangement that we currently have in preference of a new unitary authority), the Clerk gave some feedback on an initial fact-finding meeting held between himself and PCC. The Clerk confirmed that PCC were looking at an extension to their existing boundary which would include Shaugh Prior along with 12 other existing parishes. A further meeting with those affected parishes is due to take place on Weds 12th March at the Watermark in Ivybridge.</p> <p>SHDC are of the opinion that PCC's proposals are nothing more than a 'land-grab' in order to get to a population of over 300k and will be submitting an alternative proposal which combines SHDC with West Devon, Teignbridge and Torbay (part of a wider 4-5-1 option for Devon). The initial expressions from the Local Authorities need to be submitted to Central Government by 21st March 2025, with final business cases being submitted in November 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill wished to know what impact these changes would have on Dartmoor National Park? It was agreed that the Chair would raise this with PCC at the meeting taking place on the 12th March.</p>	Cllr Stone
35/25	<p>Vexatious Complaints Policy</p> <p>Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated a draft policy based upon a template provided by SLCC which details a policy for PC's to be able to deal with complaints considered to be vexatious. Proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Mrs Chater. Resolved by Cllrs to adopt the Vexatious Complaints Policy and this would be uploaded onto the PC website by the Clerk following the meeting.</p>	Clerk
36/25	<p>Review of PC Risk Assessment Management 25/26</p> <p>Following feedback received at the Feb PC meeting from Cllr Mrs Boulting regarding the need for a specific Risk Assessment relating to Cllr well-being, the Clerk confirmed that he had now updated the existing Risk Management document to reflect this change. Proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Mrs Proctor. Resolved by Cllrs to adopt the updated Risk Assessment Management document for 2025/26 which would then be uploaded onto the website by the Clerk.</p>	Clerk
36/25	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following-on from the discussion held at the Feb PC meeting regarding the Governments Consultation on strengthening standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England, the Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to SHDC who had suggested that we should send our own response to the consultation. Cllr Mrs Burkill completed the consultation questionnaire on behalf of the PC which was then circulated to Cllrs. • Email from Joe Harmer of PCC regarding LGR and requesting a meeting with the Clerk to discuss such proposals (commented on above under Minute 33/25). • Email letter from SHDC regarding Devolution and Local 	

	<p>Government Reorganisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email invitation from SHDC regarding an on-line briefing on the 12th March 2025 at 5pm relating to how the changes to the NPPF could impact upon the Joint Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Spencer had kindly agreed to attend on behalf of the PC. • Email from Devon and Cornwall Police relating to the launch for the re-opening of the front desk (Police Enquiry Office) at Ivybridge Police Station on the 20th February 2025. • Email from South Hams Community Action confirming that as a result of the removal of funding by DCC that the organisation will cease to continue from the 31st March 2025. • Devon Climate Change Emergency Newsletter for February 2025 (circulated to Cllrs) • Email newsletter from NALC • Email newsletter from SLCC • Email newsletter from DALC. 	Cllr Spencer
37/25	<p>Finance – Chairs Allowance 24/25</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 2nd March 2025 there was the sum of £27,077.78 in the Treasurers Account.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that a cheque for payment of the Chairs Allowance for 24/25 had been raised whilst the TSB ‘Know your Business’ process had now been completed, with all existing signatories and the Clerk now being primary points of contact.</p>	
38/25	<p>Payments and Receipts</p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments:</p> <p>£22.00 direct debit payment to EDF Energy (electricity for Wotter defib)</p> <p>£90.00 cheque to Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall (hall hire for PC meetings)</p> <p>£7.00 cheque to I&DALC (annual subscription)</p> <p>£108.00 cheque to DALC (payment for Cllr training course on Code of Conduct)</p> <p>£418.0 cheque to Keith Stone (Chair’s annual allowance 24/25)</p> <p>£32.00 cheque to HMRC (PAYE for Chairs allowance payment)</p> <p>£134.55 cheque to Scott Smy (reimbursement of mileage for 24/25)</p> <p>£158.40 cheque to J & MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman drainage works in Feb 25)</p> <p>£170.00 cheque to Lee Moor Public Hall (hall hire for PC meetings)</p> <p>Receipts</p> <p>£4,775.00 payment from Groundworks (grant payment for Neighbourhood Plan)</p> <p>£600.00 payment from SHDC (grant payment from Cllr Oram for Wotter Play Area Improvements)</p>	
39/25	<p>Works and Maintenance</p> <p>James Friend is continuing to work through the various maintenance</p>	

