

MINUTES
of
SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting
Held on
Wednesday 2nd July 2025
at
Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall

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

County Cllr Carson
Luke Engel – Dartmoor Ranger

3 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs Sims, Mrs Burkill and Mrs Tyler

Minute Number		Action
92/25	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Julia Sanders raised a concern regarding missed rubbish collections from SHDC and asked if anyone else had experienced or reported similar issues? It was noted that nobody else was aware of any missed collections and Julia confirmed she had reported it to SHDC.</p> <p>Tim Clewer referred to a further incidence of the bridleway alongside the B3417 being blocked by vehicles whilst works were taking place. The Clerk confirmed that he had raised this DCC Highways although if the incident had been raised with him earlier then appropriate action could have been taken at the time.</p> <p>It was also noted that a day after new surfacing had been re-laid, damaged had been caused at the junction of Portworthy Lane with the B3417 Lee Moor Road as a result of a lorry driver incorrectly following his sat nav and needing to undertake a turning manoeuvre within the junction itself. It was asked if the PC could fund a sign at the junction informing lorry drivers of the existing weight restriction and how the use of Portworthy Lane is unsuitable for HGV's The Clerk agreed to raise this with DCC Highways.</p>	Clerk

	<p>Marica Lyndon of Tungsten West kindly provided a verbal report relating to Hemerdon Mine. Positive news included the presentation of a project commissioned by the EU relating to critical raw minerals (which includes Tungsten), with one of those projects listed being Hemerdon Mine. A feasibility report relating to the mine re-opening was due to be published shortly. A number of visits had recently been arranged to the mine, with further visits planned. This includes community visits which can accommodate up to 20 people at a time (which can include Cllrs).</p> <p>The next Local Liaison Group Meeting will take place on the 10th September. Cllr Spencer confirmed he would attend on behalf of the PC as Cllr Stone is away.</p>	
93/25	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations had been received by the Clerk.</p>	
94/25	<p>Police Report</p> <p>No report received.</p>	
95/25	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>County Cllr Carson provided the following update:</p> <p>LGR</p> <p>There was a LGR meeting on the 16th June with the 13 Parish Councils and the three County Council seats effected by the PCC bid. There was a further meeting for Parishes with the new leader of SHDC on 18th June at Follaton House, Totnes. We are waiting for DCC to short list their proposals on LGR, which are being led by the Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems Cllr Paul Arnott. It is expected that Devon's bid will be for either a Devon as a whole without Plymouth or two areas of Devon and Plymouth separate. There is currently no appetite in talking to Plymouth about joining forces due to their robust determination to remain as a unitary. Devon already operates the top tier services so the view would be business as usual with the added services SHDC provide.</p> <p>General Bickleigh and Wembury Division Items</p> <p>A visit to Hemerdon Mine to meet with Tungsten West and the DCC planner on 11th June to see how they were progressing with reopening the mine.</p> <p>Numerous reports of HGV Satnav misdirection in the lanes over the area leading to a request to our MP to lobby Parliament to make it a legal requirement for commercial drivers to use commercial Satnav software.</p> <p>Following considerable evidence gathering from multi agencies I have been able to put forward the B3417 to the HATOC meeting on 8th July with the recommendation to reduce the speed limit to 40mph. I have another visit to Hemerdon Mine arranged with Tungsten West on 22nd July courtesy of Marica Lyndon.</p>	

	<p>Local</p> <p>I am arranging a with DCC Education team to have a meeting with The Primary School to discuss how we can support the school going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Chater once again raised the concerns of the PC and parishioners regarding the condition of the road at the bottom of Lee Moor Hill on the B3417 and asked if this could once again be raised within DCC.</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Oram there was no District Cllr Report. Cllr Carson confirmed he had talked to Cllr Oram at a recent event at the Woolwell Centre where he confirmed he was fit and well although was not currently able to attend the PC meeting. It was suggested that the lack of District Cllr attendance at PC meetings should be raised with Cllr Dan Thomas the Leader of SHDC.</p>	
96/25	<p>DNPA Report</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon provided the following report:</p> <p>At DNP Annual Meeting on Friday 27th June Will Dracup was elected as our new Chairman, and Mark Renders was elected Deputy Chair of the Authority. At 33 Will is the youngest Chairman for many years (possibly ever)! He is a farmer near Widecombe and is also heavily involved with the Shallowford Trust, which has brought city-based children to Dartmoor for more than 50 years. Mark Renders is Deputy Leader of W. Devon Borough Council and runs Princetown Post Office and shop.</p> <p>The following Members were elected/appointed to the following roles:</p> <p>Caroline Mott – Chair, Development Management Guy Pannell – Deputy Chair, Development Management Sally Morgan – Chair, Audit and Governance Committee (and Standards Sub-Committee) Mary Seddon – Deputy Chair, Audit and Governance Committee Peter Smerdon – Chair, Planning and Sustainable Development Panel Peter Harper – Chair, Park Management Working Panel</p> <p>Members expressed their thanks to retiring Chair Pamela Woods for her work for the Authority and her support and help to the Chief Executive Kevin Bishop. The role of Chair is much more than chairing Authority meetings, Pamela has represented the Authority on National Parks England, Team Devon meetings and at UK meetings. She has always spoken up for Dartmoor and been prepared to put our case even if the Chairs of other National Parks were not always in agreement!</p>	Clerk
97/25	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June 2025</p> <p>All Cllrs agreed that they had received a draft copy of the minutes of the June PC meeting and that they were an accurate reflection of the minutes of that meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Proctor and seconded</p>	

98/25	by Cllr Mrs Boulting. Resolved by Cllrs to agree the draft minutes of the June PC meeting.	Chair
8/25(a)	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Highway Matters</p> <p>The Clerk provided Cllrs with a brief update in response to concerns raised by parishioners enquiring why relatively new sections of road (such as Lee Moor Road) were being surface-dressed. The reply received from DCC Highways was that it was best practice to surface-dress a road within 10 years of it being laid in order to extend its life expectancy.</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 that he had chased Peter Davies for a response in view of the works to install the bench commencing sometime during the week beginning the 16th June 2025 but to date had received no response.</p>	
8/25(d)	<p>Wotter Play Area Improvements Working Group</p> <p>The safety inspection of the new pieces of play equipment has now been undertaken by DTGS Ltd and no issues had been raised. It was also confirmed that the fencing (which had to be temporarily removed to allow access for these works to take place) had been re-instated. In addition, the location for the new sign informing access to the play was by-foot only had been agreed and an instruction for its installation passed to James Friend.</p> <p>It was highlighted by several Cllrs that the existing benches in the play area were in a bad state of repair and needed repair or replacement. The Clerk agreed to raise this with James Friend. It was also highlighted by Cllr Mrs Chater that a new sign was required informing people of the need to take their rubbish home with them. Once these works were complete, we could then arrange an opening event.</p>	
8/25(e)	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Spencer confirmed that a number of community meetings had taken place during the past month, with daytime and evening events held at both Lee Moor and Shaugh Prior Halls as well as the Moorland Hotel. Despite the events being well publicised, turn-out was very disappointing with only a total of 48 people fully engaged. Feedback from the sessions was currently being analysed with a view of including this in some datasets which could then be shared with the local community and PC. At this point Cllr Spencer wished to thank all those who had either attended the sessions and those who had helped facilitate them. A special thanks to Lee Moor and Shaugh Prior</p>	

	<p>Halls as well as the Moorland Hotel for providing their venues for these meetings at no cost.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Central Government have taken the decision to withdraw funding for NP's and therefore the NP Steering Group are currently considering alternative funding streams. Whilst this is seen as a set back, there is a strong determination in the group to proceed with the process. Cllr Spencer asked if all residents could respond to the NP questionnaire which had gone out on a variety of different platforms. This also includes responses from businesses in the parish. Further communication strategies to obtain feedback (such as coffee mornings) are currently being discussed. There was currently a backlog of documents to upload onto the NP area of the website.</p>	Cllr Spencer
33/25	<p>Local Government Reform (LGR)</p> <p>A template had now been prepared for those Cllrs who sit on the LGR working group to fill-in for any LGR-related meetings they attend. This will then ensure we have a complete record of all meetings and what was discussed etc. SHDC have now sent out questionnaires to residents and are now looking to try and catch-up with PCC. Detail on DCC's proposals is still awaited. A further meeting with Executive at SHDC has been arranged for the 23rd July.</p> <p>A meeting arranged by PCC took place on the 16th June which was attended by the Clerk. PCC are wanting to work with Parishes to determine how governance of such an arrangement would work if the 13 impacted parishes were to come under PCC? A further meeting with Clerks and Cllrs of the 13 parishes arranged by PCC to discuss governance has been arranged for the 8th July 2025 (with the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Burkill attending on behalf of the PC).</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed he had attended a meeting at Yealmpton Community Centre on the 16th June with representatives from the other 13 affected PC's along with County and District Cllrs from DCC and SHDC. The over-riding view of those PC's who attended the meeting was one of being against the proposals put forward by PCC although more information was needed on the alternatives from SHDC/DCC and how these changes will impact upon our parishioners as this still wasn't clear. A further meeting for the 13 parishes has been arranged at Yealmpton on the 22nd August 2025.</p> <p>It was noted that Wembury PC had sent out a questionnaire to all of their parishioners seeking their views on LGR and perhaps we could do the same? An email received from Rebecca Smith MP confirmed that she had received 625 responses on to her on-line consultation and that the response to date was that 2/3rd's opposed PCC's plans on LGR. It was suggested that it might be helpful if we could see the data for our Parish in relation to responses that the MP had received on her consultation? It was commented by several Cllrs that if services are going to be passed down to PC's, then further funding from the precept would be necessary to deliver such.</p>	
87/25	<p>Track to Dartmoor Cottages/Wotter Play Area</p>	

	<p>Cllr Spencer confirmed that he had investigated areas where potential funding could be secured for maintenance of the track but most scenarios involved the frontagers/users of the track contributing towards future upkeep costs. In most cases funding could only be provided to a group (which wouldn't be an issue in this case as there was an existing residents group established and in-place). Ownership of the road would have to be established and whilst many believed that this would be the Newnham Estate, it as noted that it could also be Common Land.</p> <p>The Clerk agreed to determine what free legal advice could be obtained and report back at the September PC meeting.</p>	Clerk
99/25	<p>Planning</p> <p>The Clerk referred to receipt of the following planning application:</p> <p>App No 0204/25 – Demolition of rear lean to and replacement with larger extension at Spring Cottage, Shaugh Prior, Plymouth.</p> <p>Cllrs Stone, Mrs Chater and Boulting agreed to undertake a site visit if it was deemed one was necessary. Resolved that the Clerk send the application drawings to the Cllrs to determine if a site visit was necessary.</p>	Clerk
100/25	<p>Chairs Business</p> <p>The Chair read out his report he had prepared for the Annual Assembly Meeting which took place during the previous month.</p>	
101/25	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <p>The DNPA Forum meeting due to take place on the 3rd July 2025 had been cancelled due to the lack of attendees. The next meeting of the forum is planned to take place on the 13th November 2025. Instead, a briefing note was prepared which was circulated to the Cllrs by the Clerk.</p> <p>It was also highlighted by the Clerk that the next Hemerdon Mine Liaison Meeting was due to take place on the 10th September.</p>	
102/25	<p>Allotment Provision in the Parish</p> <p>As a result of this being a topic raised on several occasions during the NP consultation events, Cllr Spencer asked if there was any suitable area(s) in the parish where allotments could be provided? It was noted that Tungsten West were talking about the provision of such some time back but discussions hadn't moved any further forward. It was suggested that Cllr Spencer speak to Marica Lyndon at TW. It was agreed that the best way to take forward the identification of land for the purposes of allotments would be through the NP. Tim Clewer kindly agreed to take note and include within the NP discussions. It was agreed that the inclusion of an article in the Parish Magazine seeing if there was any suitable land available for such, might be helpful. Cllr Mrs Proctor agreed to take this forward.</p>	<p>Cllr Spencer</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Proctor</p>

103/25	Parish Cllr Email Addresses <p>The Clerk asked if any of the Cllrs were experiencing any issues with their new dedicated PC email addresses? It was noted that several Cllrs had problems receiving emails. It was agreed that the Clerk would make contact with all Cllrs to understand what their issues are and if necessary, seek the help/guidance of Barry Issacs at WesternWeb Ltd. Whilst on IT issues the Clerk referred to the need for a new PC Laptop for the new Clerk once they are appointed. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain some information on this and report back at the September PC meeting.</p>	Clerk
104/25	Correspondence <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various emails received from SHDC and PCC regarding LGR (which were all circulated to Cllrs). • Email from David Boocock of Dartmoor NPA regarding the 'Digital Voice' switchover and how there could be issues with Ofcom Signal Checker in terms of its accuracy, particularly on Dartmoor. • Email from Emma Jones of the National Trust regarding proposals for tree planting around the area of Spanish Lake near Trowlesworthy Warren. Having circulated the details to Cllrs it was confirmed that there was support for such a project which not only helps address climate change but also increase biodiversity. • Devon Climate Change Emergency Newsletter for July 2025 (circulated to Cllrs) • Email newsletter from NALC • Email newsletter from SLCC • Email newsletter from DALC. 	Clerk
105/25	Finance <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 1st July 2025 there was the sum of £15,833.45 in the Treasurers Account.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that all paperwork had been sent to PKF Littlejohn regarding the Annual Return and that the External Auditors Report was now awaited.</p>	
106/25	Payments and Receipts <p>It was agreed to make the following payments:</p> <p>£56.56 direct debit payment to EDF Energy (electricity for Wotter defib)</p> <p>£52.80 cheque to J & MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman drainage works in June)</p> <p>£785.52 cheque to Scott Smy (3 months Clerks wages April - June)</p> <p>£523.20 cheque to HMRC (PAYE for 3 months Clerks wages)</p> <p>£100.00 cheque to RA Landscaping (landscaping maintenance works outside Merlin, Shaugh Prior).</p>	

107/25	<p>£29.99 cheque to Scott Smy (reimbursement for purchase of anti-virus for PC) £114.00 cheque to DTGS Ltd (safety inspection for new play equipment installed at Wotter)</p> <p>Receipts None</p> <p>Works and Maintenance</p> <p>Several Cllrs raised concerns regarding the condition of the benches and picnic tables in both the Lee Moor and Wotter play areas. This was noted by the Clerk who confirmed that several invoices were expected during August and that the situation should be reviewed (in terms of potential expenditure) after the September PC meeting. It was suggested that there may be potential to secure funding from the Newnham Solar Fund for replacements?</p>	Clerk
108/25	<p>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.54pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p>	