

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday June 14th 2011 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Clark.

Cllrs: H Davis. J Dungate. P Lomax. E Haste. R Gliddon. M Wells.

12 members of the public. Clerk. David Walker.

Before the official agenda business was commenced Chairman welcomed Mr Mike Wright to the Meeting. An illustrated talk was given by Mr Wright on the topic of wind turbines, relating mainly to noise emissions, but also their performance and suitability in general terms. Mr Wright addressed the Meeting as a local resident, using his professional knowledge of acoustics, which had included consultancy work at Fullabrook Down. His personal view is that wind turbines have their uses, but not close to where people live, and not until a more accurate, independent, analysis of noise emissions has been done, as the present data used by planning applicants is supplied by the turbine makers and has been shown to be inaccurate. Mr Wright concluded by taking questions and was thanked by Chairman on behalf of all present.

Agenda. 2011. Commenced at 8-05 pm.

52. Apologies for Absence.

D/Cllr John Lewis, apologised for missing his first meeting, due to an attack of food poisoning.
PCSO Baker, who reported, in her unavoidable absence, that there had been no crimes recorded, or message logs created, for Shebbear, over the last 30 days.

53. Public Participation Period.

Two speakers had made prior registrations to speak, Mr R McCurrach and Mr P Harris, both of whom voiced their opposition to the issuing of an Environmental Permit to West Country Concrete Ltd at Endford works.

54. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda/ Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

55. Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday May 10th 2011.

All in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

56. Clerks Report. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

Referring to the attempt made last month to arrange a site meeting at Berry Park corner, Chairman reported that it had come to light that a complaint had been made against the Devon Highways officer involved in the case, and it was therefore inappropriate at present to arrange a meeting while the complaint was being dealt with.

57. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Applications for the 3 Councillor vacancies to be filled by co-option.

Chairman proposed that this item be heard in closed session (Part 2 of the Meeting) for reasons of confidentiality. Seconded by Cllr Davis, with all in favour.

(2) Back Lane. The P3 Right of Way Officer had inspected Back Lane following concerns that the surface was unsafe for users, particularly those with disability scooters. The P3 Officer, Mr Freeman, was satisfied that there was ample hard surface for the footpath to be used safely by pedestrians, including the disabled, and that P3 funding could not be justified on this occasion. Access along the lane to dwellings by delivery vehicles was not P3 responsibility.

Cllr Lomax additionally reported that the P3 warden was taking steps to improve the drainage on Path 1 at Lovacott, and would be contacting the landowner accordingly.

- (3) West Country Concrete Ltd - Environmental Permit application. The application, which had been put out for public consultation, was discussed by Cllrs, who received 2 written objections in addition to the 2 heard earlier in the agenda at Item 53. Information put before Cllrs indicated that the current method in use at WCC of handling bulk cement, although attractive to the company in terms of cost and efficiency, was not able to prevent the escape of cement powder into the local environment, which was illustrated by photos taken on various occasions. Cllrs commented that the process was unsuitable in a village location, the permit issued to the previous company (SMC), who used the same process and generated identical complaints, must have been issued erroneously in the first place, and that there was no alternative than to ban it. There was evidence that there were no complaints until the premises were taken over by SMC. It was understood that the earlier owners, Endford Engineering, used bagged cement in their activities. No submissions in favour of the operation had been received by the Parish Council. Cllrs agreed unanimously in favour of recommending that TDC Environmental Protection Officer refuse the application to operate the concrete batching plant on the grounds that:
- The cement handling operation is unsuitable for the location where it is in use.
 - The record of the operator gives grave concern that the Terms of the Permit will not be adhered to.
- (4) Devon Home Choice. In the few days before the meeting Liz Steele at TDC contacted the Clerk to ask if anyone in the parish would be interested in a rental property at Ackland Close, which was being offered on the Devon Home Choice bidding system. If no one locally had made a bid within 5 days, the property would be offered across the County. To ensure that, in future, locally available properties get better publicity Cllrs suggested that the information be made available on the notice boards and the village website.
- (5) Engaging the young of the parish. Cllr Davis introduced the topic of trying to get the views of the young people of the parish included in the public arena, and asked that Cllrs give some thought as to how this could be done. There are at least two Devon councils that run youth councils. Suggestions made included the possibility of working with Holsworthy and Torrington Schools in their Citizenship Classes, and seeking the views of young peoples organisations such as the Young Farmers Clubs. The option to hold a periodic Youth Forum within a Parish Council meeting was also a possibility. Chairman asked members to give some thought to the matter for a future meeting.

58. District Councillors Report.

District Cllr Lewis was unable to give his report due to illness.

59. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

(1) 1/0428/2011/FUL. Construction of outdoor shelter and learning area for Little Bears Nursery at Shebbear Community School. No Objections.

(2) 1/0492/2011/AGR. Storage building for hay, straw & fodder at North Hay Farm. (Recently received and heard at Chairmans discretion.) No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted.

1/0223/2011/FUL. New dwelling. Adjacent to Fairview. Hay Hill. Shebbear.

(c) Applications Withdrawn.

1/0260/2011/FUL. Proposed wind turbine at Gidcott Farm. Thornbury.

1/0270/2011/FUL. Installation of single 55kw wind turbine at Henscott. Bradford.

(d) Relevant adjacent applications. None

60. Finance.

- PAYE payments. At the time of drawing up the agenda it had been apparent that payments to HMRC would need a variation of cheque issuing procedure, but that matter had since been resolved.
- Bank signatories. Clerk reported that there was still one proof of identity check to be carried out by a Cllr at the bank, before the overall mandate could be completed and handed in.
- Prop Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Wells with all in favour, that cheques be drawn for payment of agenda items 60(c) (1) and (2).

Bank Balances to May 27th, received by Cllrs. Current a/c - £5735.14 Reserve a/c £12,520.33 (Includes P3 reserve balance of £1634.36)

61. Correspondence.

(1) P3. As Shebbear Parish Council has a credit balance for P3 funds, no grant will be forthcoming for this financial year.

(2) Mr & Mrs Pearce. The Linhay. Ruxhill. Further letters had been sent to SW Water and Devon Highways relating to the hedgebank erosion at Berry Park corner, by Mr and Mrs Pearce, who requested that the Parish Council endorse and support the contents. After hearing the letters, Cllrs agreed that there was a perceived future risk of damage to the water pipework in the field next to the corner, how imminent or likely was open to question, but a letter to SW Water asking them to look again at the situation was agreed to be appropriate.

(3) Mr S Harrup. Road repairs at Berry Park Corner. Before the meeting Mr Harrup had distributed copies of his letter to all Cllrs. Cllrs had also received a briefing note compiled by Chairman and Clerk, which summed up matters to the present date. All Cllrs confirmed that they had read the letter and the briefing note. All were in agreement that the issues had been clearly addressed, and dealt with, at previous meetings. All were in agreement also, that the briefing note, if put into letter form, would be a suitable reply to Mr Harrups letter.

Correspondence items (4) to (8) inclusive, plus the monthly Circulation Folder, received by Cllrs.

Gritting/Snow Warden. An email, received shortly before the meeting, from C/Cllr Barry Parsons, was heard briefly by Cllrs. Barry is keen to proceed with purchasing the towable gritters and for snow wardens to be recruited, and requests responses from Councils. The details placed in Circulation folder ahead of a decision at the July meeting.

62. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda to be held on Tuesday July 12th 2011, and any other matters at the Chairmans discretion.

Cllr Davis had learnt that DCC were to reduce funding for street cleaning, which may be a matter for debate when more details are known.

Clerk had suggested that the parish council photocopier, which is never used, might be considered for disposal.

9-45pm. At this point members of the public were requested to leave the Meeting, prior to the commencement of Part 2, closed session, while applications for the 3 vacant Councillor seats were considered in private for reasons of confidentiality.

57 (1).

Clerk reported that there had been 3 applications received:

Mr Tony Carr. 9 Aish Park. Shebbear.

Mrs J Curtis. Tis fair. Barn Close. Shebbear.

Mr J Stupple. Tis Fair. Barn Close. Shebbear.

Chairman advised that, as there were 3 applications for 3 vacancies, it only remained to decide on the suitability of each candidate. Taken in alphabetical order, the application from Mr Carr was heard by Cllrs, who unanimously voted that he be invited to fill one of the vacancies.

Mrs Curtis and Mr Stupple, had been members of Shebbear Parish Council until the May election, and had intended to stand for election, but due to circumstances beyond their control, missed the deadline for the submission of their nomination papers. Accordingly they were both already well known to Cllrs.

Mrs J Curtis. Unanimous agreement that she be invited to fill one of the vacancies.

Mr J Stupple. Unanimous agreement that he be invited to fill one of the vacancies.

Clerk to contact the applicants to inform them of the agreed decisions, and to invite them to the July Meeting to take their seats.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 10 pm.