

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday June 8th 2010 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Johns. Cllrs: P Lomax. G Slade. H Davis. L Quance.
R Clark. R Gliddon. J Curtis. E Haste.
1 member of the public. PCSO M Baker. Clerk. David Walker.

Agenda. 2010. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

Chairman R Johns apologised for his absence at the last meeting and thanked members for his election as Chairman for a further year in office. His Declaration of Acceptance of Office has been signed.

52. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr J Dungate (working). D/Cllr Saywell.(Other commitments).

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

Cllr Clark reported that his Register of Interests has to be updated every 6 months in relation to his duties on the Standards Committee at TDC and he will review his parish council interests at the same time.

54. Minutes of the Meeting held on May 11th 2010.

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

7-36pm. PCSO Baker arrived and was invited by Chairman to speak to the meeting. Melissa outlined the Devon & Cornwall Police Reassurance campaign entitled "In our lifetimes....", which is intended to address the public perception that crime is on the increase, when, in fact, our area has the 4th lowest crime rate in England & Wales and the number of incidents of crime have reduced by nearly 18,000 in the last 17 years. Burglaries have reduced by 69% since 1997 and between 1995 and 2009 the number of vehicles broken in to has gone down by 67%. The Police are keen to ensure people know how relatively safe our area is, and the success their efforts are producing in reducing crime. However, over the last 30 days the following crimes were logged in Shebbear; 2 thefts of fuel from vehicles (Trading estate), 2 burglaries, and 1 criminal damage. In addition, over the same period 8 phone calls were received where a log was created involving, 2 crime related, 2 anti-social behaviour, 1re public safety, 2 nuisance calls, and 1 regarding administration. Local officers are continuing to give extra attention to the area following the recent instances of anti- social behaviour. The full report is on the village notice board. Chairman thanked Melissa, who left the meeting.

7-44pm Agenda resumed.

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

Clerk had contacted SWH regarding the provision of a grit bin for Ackland Close. It is assumed that Midas will not want this in place until all the properties are sold and the road adopted so this request is being treated as advance notice only.

The drainage situation opposite CS Garage is still being investigated by Gerry Darby, the Head of maintenance at the College, who is in touch with SWH about the issue.

There has been no progress re allotments, apart from Mr Douglas of 6 Ackland Close asking to be included on the list of applicants. At this stage it was previously agreed that individual land owners be approached.

Back Lane has been cleared of encroaching vegetation by Adrian Caudwell to a good standard.

Lengthsman Visit. Mrs Spicey of Tollgate Cottage, Battledown has asked that attention be given to the drains at the crossroads as regular flooding is occurring.

Concern was expressed that the repairs to 2 seats in the Square had still not been done, and the time of year when they were most likely to be used was beginning. Clerk to speak to Mr Dungate urgently.

56. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(a) Website. Cllr Lomax felt that the parish council should have its own website in order that Clerk and Councillors could input and control the information available on a daily basis, plus having a home page dedicated to the parish council. Cllr Clark had made enquiries at TDC, who have already provided the facilities for local councils to operate their own sites which 6 local councils already do. There is a dedicated person at TDC, Paul Hogg, who will advise and guide prospective website users through the setting up procedure and give training to persons who will use the site. The only cost will be an initial setup fee of £10 and TDC make all the arrangements. As this seemed eminently suitable for Shebbears' needs Chairman proposed, with all in favour, that Cllrs Lomax, Clark, and Davis, together with Clerk meet with Paul Hogg and decide a suitable layout and start up content for a Shebbear Parish Council web site which will allow for future enlargement as needs arise. Cllrs suggested that Paul Watts, who currently provides the parish council with web space on the village site, be invited to participate in the setting up procedure, if he wishes, with Mr Hogg, as it would be likely that the 2 sites could interlink to mutual benefit. Clerk said that he had already made sure that Mr Watts was aware of the situation and that the proposal was in no way a criticism of the excellent service that the village website is giving to Shebbear & Buckland Filleigh.

(b) Support for young parishioners. Cllr Clark had been thinking about the possibilities of the parish council assisting local young persons to take advantage of opportunities given to them to improve their life skills or advancement when finance within their families was limited. Enquiries had already established that it would be illegal for the parish council to grant taxpayers money to an individual but it may be possible to support a charitable organisation that is already dedicated to this type of cause. Cllr Clark would like to have the councillors support for the idea.

This provoked a considerable debate which, while agreeing that the suggestion was a very worthy one, also revealed a number of drawbacks that would have to be addressed. Cllr Slade wondered how the right applicant would be chosen. Cllr Quance thought, although a worthy cause, it was not parish council business. Chairman urged Cllrs to give the matter further thought and moved to the next item.

(c) Cllr Clark was hoping to brief the meeting on the DCC initiative to reduce friction in the planning process where the Gypsy and Traveller fraternity are concerned. He was unable to comment further as the initiative had not yet been completed.

(d) The Village Hall & Playing Field Committee are stepping up their efforts to stop dog mess being deposited in areas where children play. This will mean a total ban on dogs in the hall and playing field area. The Committee ask that notices to this effect can include the phrase " By Order of the Parish Council". Councillors all agreed that as the areas involved were owned by the Hall and PF Committee, the parish council had no jurisdiction and therefore the wording would be inappropriate. Clerk will reply accordingly.

57. District Councillors Report.

Andrew had given his apologies so there was no report at this meeting.

58. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

1/0405/2010/FUL. Summerhouse and shed. Ambren House. Shebbear. No Objections.

1/0455/2010/FUL. Double garage. Ladford Mill. Shebbear. No Objections.

1/0434/2010/FUL. (Recently received and allowed by Chairman). New milking parlour and bulk milk tank. Moortown. Shebbear. For Mr C Andrew. No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted.

Received by Cllrs.

(c) Application Withdrawn.

Received by Cllrs.

(d) Any relevant adjacent applications.

None

59. Finance.

(1) Accounts for payment, prop Cllr Davis, sec Cllr Curtis and all in favour that items (a) and (b) be paid.

The invoiced amount for Standing Orders recently received is £25.00

(2) Clerks hours. Cllr Davis told the meeting that, when in conversation with Clerk recently, he had learnt that the amount of time Clerk spent on parish council business exceeded the 5 hours per week that the Clerk was paid for and felt that the matter should be looked in to. Clerk told the councillors that this was correct and that he was quite happy to work in excess of the contracted hours for the benefit of the parish, although the increased workload over the last 3 years was rather more than was anticipated, largely due to bringing the council procedures up to date and dealing with the administrative, legal and financial requirements generated elsewhere. Councillors agreed that they were satisfied with Clerks performance and appreciated the extra time given to the parish but reminded themselves that Clerk was an employee of the council and must be treated in accordance with recognised employment protocol. One point made being that if the total hours spent on the job by Clerk was compared to the current hourly rate of £8.34 per hour it would appear in fact Clerk was receiving less than the minimum wage which was illegal. In order that Cllrs could make a proper assessment of the situation Clerk was asked to keep a record of time spent on parish business to bring to the July meeting.

Bank Balances

Received by Cllrs. Current a/c - £3,856.35 Reserve a/c £20,011.71. (Includes P3 balance of £1718.36 and pledged grant to Village Hall for improvements of £10,000).

60. Correspondence.

Items (1) to (10) inclusive received by Cllrs.

Circulation Folder

Received by Cllrs with late arrivals of Village Green magazine and the Minutes of the March meeting of the Holsworthy Area Advisory Group.

61. Items for the Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday July 13th 2010, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

Cllr Lomax said that while walking Back Lane and the Church Farm path (FP3) recently he had seen dog mess left by the paths even though it had been put into bags and urged dog owners to take it home or put it into a bin.

There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-31 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....