

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019 at 7.30 pm.

in the Church Room. Shebbear.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr R Clerk

Vice Chairman: Cllr N Whatley.

Councillors: M Pearce. Cllr J Stuppel. Cllr J Curtis. Cllr Styles-Power

Cllr J Franklin. Cllr Jax Curtis. Cllr J Quance. Cllr L Luxton.

D Cllr D Hurley. 6 Members of the Public. Clerk M Whatley.

Opening Remarks by the Chairman To the Clerk and Members of Shebbear Parish Council.

In the past twenty years it has been my pleasure to serve several stints as your Chairman. In May of this year we had only three elected members plus one nominated. The choice of chairman was therefore restricted. Now that most if not all of our current members have received some training this council has a larger pool of candidates from which to draw. I therefore give notice that I shall stand down as your chairman at the close of business at this evening's meeting. I will continue as parish councilor for the time being so there will be no immediate need for a by-election. The Clerk will inform members as to the procedure to electing a new Chair.

112. Apologies for Absence.

C Cllr Parsons (another engagement).

113. Public Participation Period of 15 minutes. For speakers registered in advance, with the Clerk.

None.

114. Declarations of any Councillors Interests in Items on the Agenda.

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial).

None.

(b) Registerable Interests.

None.

Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

None.

115. Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 8th 2019 having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Pearce, Seconded Cllr Whatley, approved by all that the Minutes be recorded as a true record.

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

Flood Warning Renewal Contract

Informed Timeview (Hydro-Logic) that Councillors didn't want to spend the money and had voted 5-4 against the motion to renew the Flood Warning Contract.

Car Parking at School Corner

Sent second stronger worded letter to Westward Housing Association informing them of the accident and asking if it would be possible to make space in front of the parked cars by cutting into the gardens, to allow up to an additional 1m or so, as the larger vehicles are parked jutting into the highways causing a hazardous obstruction on this dangerous corner. Received a response from Andrew McMurray. Westward has looked at providing parking for these bungalows before and it is something we are looking at again. The issues which we face are that the drainage on the road is poor and regularly floods with huge puddles. The speed of the vehicles sends a volume of water over the hedge and layby. Any increase in parking can exacerbate the area to puddling.

The highway itself is dangerous and the speed of vehicles going around the bend and past the school where other vehicles are parked is just as chaotic. We have asked our residents in the past to report this area to Highways and would appreciate any help from the Parish Council in also highlighting the issues faced by all that use this road.

Memorial Seating

Visited Steve Harris at the farm to ascertain where he was with the seating. He confirmed it would be finished in time for the Armistice Service, but he had done a certain amount of extra work to the ends of the seats, which had in the original design been left open. The seats were in their 'naked state' ready for the finishing process, but looked fabulous.

Ruxhill Flooding

Received email from Stephen Heywood reporting a blocked drain at Ruxhill, the same blocked drain that Devon Highways attempted to repair in the summer. He asked if it was possible the repair was carried out on a pipe that is not connected to this blocked drain as despite the repair, after rain water fills the gully, overflows and runs across the road into the council drain to the left of the front gate at Ruxhill. The drain cannot cope with the water which has led to the house being flooded on at least four occasions.

Sent this on Vicki Braddon at Highways who confirmed the Highway Officer has been out this week and was somewhat confused as this is not the location that was previously reported to them, which they have recently repaired. Will be arranging for a jetter to attend to try and clear the blockage and find the outfall if this doesn't resolve the problem will arrange for a repair.

Income & Expenditure Accounts

Prepared the 2nd qtr Income & Expenditure Accounts to 30th September for approval by the members this evening.

117. To Agree any items to be dealt with in Part 2, closed session, of the Meeting.

None.

118. Any urgent Agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.

(1) Dipper Mill Flood Alert.

Chairman read a letter from Chris Vicary saying how absurd the decision was to abolish the system after spending so much time and energy in getting the system to work perfectly. He asks the Councillors to reconsider dropping this valuable asset to the residents of the Village.

Chairman reported that C Cllr Parsons and D Cllr Hurley were both of the opinion that following the exceptionally heavy rainfall, the graphical system should remain with both flood alert systems in place, and had offered funds to cover the costs of the maintenance Contract for one year, respectively £300 and £229. Chairman proposed the Council accept these funds, Seconded Cllr Pearce, 7 in favour (Cllr Styles-Power, Cllr Whatley, Cllr Stupple, Cllr Joan Curtis, Cllr Jax Curtis. 3 abstentions (Cllr Franklin, Cllr Quance and Cllr Luxton).

(2) Christmas Tree.

Cllr Whatley raised the question of purchase/acquirement of a Christmas tree, last year this was acquired by Cllr Franklin. Cllr Luxton would see if she could secure one.

(3) Cllr Whatley reported that we had several boxes of Christmas tree decorations which were now surplus to

requirements as we had purchased new lights, and he suggested Councillors might like to donate these to Little Bears. Cllr Luxton asked if she could have some for the Village Hall, and it was agreed these be divided between Little Bears, Village Hall and SSSG.

(4) Public Toilets.

Cllr Luxton had made enquiries with Black Torrington. These are owned by TDC and maintained by Westward. Chairman had made further enquiries with TDC. The urban ones are cleaned and looked after by TDC employees. The rural ones such as Hartland are cleaned by local people who are engaged by TDC either on a payroll or on a freelance basis. They are given a list of duties they are expected to perform. The cost of servicing and maintaining a toilet including the day to day cleaning, consumables, water, effluent charges, insurance and so on is never less than £5,000 pa and more typically for a rural toilet approaching £10,000 pa. All toilets are subject to a ten year refresh when any damage is put right, overall redecoration, change of sanitary ware and currently that refresh averages out at £7,000 per site.

(5) Donation to the Royal Life Saving Society.

The Royal Life Saving Society relies on donations to help recover costs for resources. Lorraine Buttery is a volunteer so there is no charge for her services. Cllr Styles-Power proposed we consider a donation of £50.00. To be discussed at the next meeting.

119. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Any matters raised during the Public Participation period.

None.

120. District Councillor's Report.

Democracy Week

Torrige were having a Democracy Week and as part of that week on the 18th October were holding an event that involved local schools, officers and Councillors. Several local schools had expressed an interest in taking part. Unfortunately, and for a variety of reasons, only Bideford College took part. I was exceptionally pleased with the knowledge and reasoning powers of the 20 students who attended.

Skatepark

The wall for the skatepark has been rebuilt and very nice it is too. The gates have yet to be hung.

Dipper Mill Flood Watch

Last month the Dipper Mill flood watch system was debated as to whether the PC wanted to pay £530 to renew the maintenance contract for another year. By a slim margin of 5-4 it was decided not to. Having witnessed the exceptionally heavy rainfall recently and the flooding that occurred it was obvious by the images posted online that both systems have a place to play.

CC Barry Parsons and myself both believe the graphical system should remain, and, if this PC is agreeable we will pay the £530 for the contract for this year only. A lot of time and money and tweaking by Ron Lester went into this project and it would be a shame to lose that.

New Playing Field for Holsworthy

Ownership of the new playing field at Clifton Height Holsworthy has been transferred to the Council. The Council now plans to work in partnership with Holsworthy Youth Football Club, Holsworthy Town Council and other groups in developing exciting plans for the area. The playing field was created as part of the Redrow development of the old show ground and will provide a large additional area of public open space to be enjoyed by the community in addition to the well-used Stanhope Park. The new field is next to the new Sports Pavilion that was refurbished by Holsworthy Town Council and the Youth Football club in 2018.

Getting ready to vote

A general election is taking place across the country on Thursday 12 December, anyone aged 18 or over will be able to vote on the day, providing they are on the register of electors. Residents have until 5pm on Tuesday 26 November to register to vote. Residents only need to register to vote once but must update their details on the register if they change, this includes, when moving house or if their name changes, for example when getting married, <https://www.torrige.gov.uk/article/18285/Make-sure-youre-ready-for-the-2019-general-election>

North Devon rough sleepers initiative

A joint initiative to protect vulnerable homeless people in Torrige and North Devon during periods of

severe weather this winter has been made possible, thanks to funding from central government. Torridge and North Devon Council's successfully led a joint bid for almost £43,000 of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to provide a warm bed and refreshments to rough sleepers in bad weather. The Salvation Army's premises on Oakleigh Road, Barnstaple is open to any homeless person from the North Devon or Torridge districts when a yellow Met Office weather warning is in place. Doors will be open between 7pm and 10pm and the initiative will continue until 1st January 2020, supported by partner services.

When the severe weather provision service has finished, another initiative, called Safe Sleep, will kick in. Last year, Safe Sleep helped 111 people, at least 36 of whom are now in secure accommodation. This time around, Safe Sleep - also based at the Salvation Army centre in Barnstaple - will open its doors every day between 2 January and 31 March 2020.

Remembrance Service

Another good turnout by villagers for the annual Remembrance Service. The benches placed around the Memorial are certainly a fitting tribute to those that fell, certainly a good investment by the PC.

Highways Conference at Merton Last month.

I wasn't able to discuss the problems at New Inn whereby the wall of one of the buildings is being damaged by large vehicle as they navigate the corner, I'll have to go via other routes.

Chairman thanked Cllr Hurley for his comprehensive report.

Cllr Quance raised the question as to why Cllr Hurley had not mentioned the big issue, the court's finding in favour of Kivells re the effluent treatment at the new market. Cllr Hurley responded that there had been a part 2 meeting the day before the council meeting and he was not free to discuss any of it. Cllr Quance commented that the damages could be £1.1m and somebody at TDC had really cocked up

121. Planning.

- (1) New meeting applications.
None.
- (2) Applications Granted.
None.
- (3) Applications Refused
None.
- (4) Any relevant adjacent applications.
None.

122. Finance.

- (1) Approval of 2nd Qtr Income & Expenditure to 30/09/19.
Proposed Cllr Stuppel, Seconded Cllr Curtis, approved by all.
- (2) Approval of Items for Payment.
 - (a) Cllr Pearce Travel Allowance to meeting Barnstaple - £19.35.
 - (b) TDC – Clerk's Parish Salary Recharge 1st April – 30th Sept 2019 - £2,000.01.
 - (c) Muriel Johns Flowers for Memorial - £5.00.
Proposed Cllr Joan Curtis, Seconded Cllr Stuppel, approved by all that items (a), (b) and (c) be paid.

Bank Balances.

Current Account: £12,209.48

Reserve Account: £19,783.76

Clerk gave a brief breakdown of monies ring-fenced and our liabilities.

123. Correspondence.

- (a) Dipper Flood Alert – Chris Vicary.)
- (b) Ruxhill Flooding – Blocked Drain.) See Clerk's Report.
- (c) ACV007 The Devils Stone Inn, Shebbear.

The 5 year listing for this asset will terminate on 11th November 2019 and on this date it will be removed from the Council's public listing. As such it will no longer be classed as an "Asset of Community Value". Cllr Franklin asked if this could be re-listed. Clerk to make enquiries.

(d) Westward Housing –Parking
(See Clerk’s Report).

(e) Catherine Richards – Torrington 100 Project.

A new pilot project in the Torrington area called Torrington 100, which involves G.P’s in Torridge, Torridge Volunteer Service, the Community Health Forum and The Plough Arts Centre. The aim of the project is to look at the extent to which improving the integration of primary care, local health and social care services and community groups can help make life better for people in Great Torrington and the surrounding villages. Cathy Richards asks if she might come and introduce the pilot project to Shebbear Parish Council with a 10 minute presentation.

Clerk to contact Cathy to arrange this for the New Year.

(f) Live West own and rent the social housing stock at Ackland Close in Shebbear. They have a 2-bed, first floor flat coming up soon. If interested, please contact Tilly De-Bargeton, Letting Adviser, 01872 267834

Circulation File.

Council Planning Lists, Devon Climate Emergency (Tom Dixon). Devon Home Choice. Dogs Trust, Recycle Devon Thank You Awards. DCC Highways Newsletter. Parish Paths Newsletter. Annual Rough Sleeper Estimate. Letter C G Vicary re Dipper Mill Flood Alert.

124. Agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday December 10th 2019 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

There being no other business, Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

Signed

Dated