

## **SOUTH BRENT PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7.30 p.m. at South Brent Village Hall.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Open Forum for discussion with members of the public (maximum 15 minutes)

Mr Doug King-Smith introduced himself to the Council as the owner of Hillyfield Plantation; he has been working with Moor Trees to plant a five acre wood, and has contacted DNPA regarding plans he hopes to bring forward for the former quarry site. Mr King-Smith has also met with members of Sustainable South Brent as he is keen to make his project zero carbon with the use of micro-hydro and a wind turbine.

Mr King-Smith was thanked for attending the meeting the Council will await a planning application.

### PC 1-2-11 Record of members present

Cllr Mark Copleston in the Chair; Cllrs Jill Elms, Mandy Haley, Susan Jozsa, Peter Kelly, Jane Maunder, Cathie Pannell, Glyn Richards, Greg Wall, Donna Warne and Donald Wiseman were present; Julia Willoughby clerk to the Council was in attendance. Four members of the public were present.

### PC 2-2-11 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr John Summers and District Councillor Colin Jones.

### PC 3-2-11 Declarations of interest (nature and extent) with regard to items on the agenda

Cllr Peter Kelly declared a prejudicial interest in item 21, payment details for the Adventure Trail at Palstone Park, as he is the Chairman of the Recreation Association.

Cllrs Mark Copleston, Susan Jozsa, Jane Maunder and Donald Wiseman declared a personal interest in the same item, as they are all members of the Recreation Association.

### PC 4-2-11 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Cllr Peter Kelly advised the Council that work on the Adventure Trail has begun; when the invoices are paid for the refurbishment of the Skate Park and the Adventure Trail and the VAT is reclaimed by the Parish Council, if the sum could be paid to the Recreation Association it would help to bridge the gaps in funding and mean that the projects could be completed.

Official opening ceremonies will be held in the Spring.

### PC 5-2-11 Police report (Crime & Disorder reduction)

PC Jacqui Hopper reported that in January there were five crimes of note: two incidents of theft of lead from a building, theft of gas canisters, burglary - dwelling, theft from a person (jewellery).

Metal thefts are on the increase (e.g. galvanised farm gates, lead flashing and catalytic converters from parked vehicles); everyone is asked to be vigilant and report immediately to the Police any suspicious vehicles or activity, or anything that 'feels wrong'. The two Officers were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

### PC 6-2-11 District / County Councillors and DNPA Parish Council representatives report

Cllr Cathie Pannell reported that SHDC has decided not to introduce car parking charges in the Station Yard car park in 2011-12. In addition the 'closed lid policy' for wheelie bins will be revisited; there will be funding for Villages in Action and the Devon Youth Games and an extra £10,000 will go to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

In February DCC advised SHDC that grass cutting of verges would be reduced from 6 cuts per year to 2 cuts (SHDC is the contractor for DCC in most of the South Hams). However, this information was too late to be included in the SHDC budget calculations, and as it would have meant the purchase of special equipment, SHDC will not be doing this. In South Brent the Parish Council coordinates all the grass cutting in the parish, including SHDC and DCC areas – there could be an impact on the level of reimbursement from SHDC, although that has been assured for 2011-12.

County Councillor Trevor Pennington stated that DCC is faced with £55 million in savings needed for the coming financial year. However, each Councillor has a Locality Budget of £15,000 and from April 2011 will also have a Capital Budget of £25,000 for each member. Cllr Pennington asked if the Council would support an application made to him by the Old School Centre (*Cllr Glyn Richards declared a prejudicial interest and left the room while this was discussed.*) There are plans to make alterations at the Old School Centre and the Parish Council would support an application to Cllr Pennington.

District Councillor Colin Jones has been in contact with the clerk to advise that there is £200 available for a project in South Brent, although an application needs to be made as soon as possible; the Council agreed to consider this matter later in the meeting.

PC 7-2-11 Confirmation of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January and the Parish Council Strategy meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January

A small amendment to minute 16-1-11 (24<sup>th</sup> January) was required, to read "help with three new salt/grit bins"; both sets of minutes were then confirmed and signed.

PC 8-2-11 Report matters arising from these minutes - for information only

The Chairman was sad to report that Mr Chris Palmer who was the webmaster for the Parish Council before becoming ill, has died.

PC 9-2-11 Correspondence circulated to Councillors:

- 1) Sustainable South Brent: request for a grant of £250 towards the cost of a shed at the South Brent Community School Garden Project, and confirmation that this was permitted development. The clerk advised the Council that in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, it could incur expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. £1739 has been spent from the S 137 budget line of £2,500.

Cllr Peter Kelly proposed that a grant of £250 is made towards the cost of a shed at the South Brent Community School Garden Project; this was seconded by Cllr Greg Wall and **resolved** by the Council.

- 2) Devon & Cornwall Police Authority: the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will abolish Police Authorities and introduce Police Crime Commissioners in 2012; the Council is asked to make representations to MPs. This is not a democratic process and

has cost implications so cannot be the right solution; this view will be communicated to the Government Committee.

- 3) Devon Association of Local Councils: nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 29.6.11 are invited. Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that the Chairman should be nominated; this was seconded by Cllr Peter Kelly and agreed by the Council.

PC 10-2-11 Planning matters:

(Chairmanship of the meeting was passed to Cllr Susan Jozsa, Chairwoman of the Planning Committee.)

- A) 0048/11 Conversion of existing barn into two affordable dwellings at Barn 'B', Marley Grange, Stidston, South Brent; the Parish Council **recommends refusal** of this application.

The barn is not worthy of preservation; the proposal is for two unjustified separate units of accommodation in the countryside and DNPA has indicated that 25% below market value does not meet the affordability criteria.

- B) A dropped kerb is needed in Plymouth Road; the owner was contacted some months ago to request that a dropped kerb is installed across the whole width of the driveway at Chapel House; the highways authority will be advised.

PC 11-2-11 Possible lease of the Station Yard car park

SHDC has decided that there will be no charges imposed for use of the car park in the coming year, but the Council agreed that it is worth pursuing the question of the disposal of this SHDC asset and establishing which part of the Station Yard area might be available.

PC 12-2-11 Progress with a revised design for the proposed pedestrian crossing in Station Road; DCC has offered to prepare the survey and design for around £3,000

An alternative quotation has been sought for the survey and design work for a new pedestrian crossing; however, the total would be £4945 + VAT, which is considerably more than the 'around £3,000' offer from DCC Highways.

Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that the survey and design work is given to DCC, and that an initial payment of £1,500 is offered; this was seconded by Cllr Peter Kelly and **resolved** by the Council.

PC 13-2-11 Rattery Sawmill can provide a 4' bench seat for £65.59 + VAT (for Corn Park)

Cllr Donald Wiseman proposed that the bench should be purchased; this was seconded by Cllr Jill Elms and **resolved** by the Council. (Mr King-Smith left the meeting.)

PC 14-2-11 SHDC has requested that grass verges in Courtenay Park are included in the grass cutting co-ordinated by the Parish Council

The verges have been added to the grass cut by the Parish Council contractor, for an extra £10 per month. SHDC will be contacted to establish whether they will reimburse this cost, as the land is in the ownership of Westcountry Housing Association.

PC 15-2-11 South Brent Action & Community Group is happy for the Council to make the bell at the Toll House easier to ring

Cllr Peter Kelly offered to deal with this matter.

PC 16-2-11 Correspondence available on the table at the meeting (or by arrangement with the clerk):

- a) SHDC: inspection and insurance of the play area will cost £100 for 2011-12 (no increase).

- b) DCC: the employers' contribution to the local government pension scheme will be 17.4% for 2011-12.
- c) DNPA: repairs to Diamond Lane (Bridleway No. 18) will be carried out during February.
- d) DCC: changes to the mobile library service from January 2011.
- e) DNPA: the Ranger for this area is Ella Briens 07711 104 546.
- f) National Association of Local Councils: consultation on the public forest estate – this is no longer going ahead.
- g) Mrs M Shepherd – Chair, Village Hall Committee: the list of Parish Council Chairmen will be put up in the side hall soon.
- h) DCC Highways: two access protection markers are to be provided in Plymouth Road.
- i) SHDC: responses to the draft South Hams Local Allocation Policy, now adopted with one change.
- j) NALC: consultation on the community right to buy assets.
- k) NALC: consultation on a community right to challenge (to run services).
- l) DCC: workshops will take place late in March on 'a sustainable transport solution for Totnes and its hinterland'.
- m) Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service invites views on the draft corporate plan 2011-14.
- n) DCC: a new 'Social Care for Adults' booklet is available, including information on personal budgets.
- o) Mrs H Nicholls – Headteacher, South Brent Primary School: thanking the Council for the meeting with the Open Spaces Committee regarding the aspirations of the School Travel Plan.
- p) SHDC: changes to Housing Benefit (from April 2011).
- q) Devon Association of Local Councils: 'Making it work locally' event 15.3.11.
- r) Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.
- s) Newsletter from the Senior Council for Devon.
- t) Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils: report on the budget meeting held on 13.1.11 at Follaton House.
- u) DALC: Two papers on the Big Society illustrating Devon case studies (including the Old School Centre).
- v) SHDC: forward plan and minutes of the Executive.

All noted by the Parish Council.

PC 17-2-11 Review Parish Council representation to organisations outside the Parish e.g the Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils

Cllr Glyn Richards asked that this matter be included on the agenda, since a recent workshop meeting in Ivybridge showed that South Brent had little in common with other parishes represented; it was agreed that this would be discussed at the Parish Council Strategy meeting in 2012.

PC 18-2-11 Parish Council Committees:

Recommendations of the of the Open Spaces Committee meetings held on 17.1.11 (minutes attached):

- i) A firm price is obtained for the survey and design work for the proposed pedestrian crossing in Station Road and a deposit of a maximum of 50% is considered; agreed.
- ii) In 2012 when the 6 year lease is due to be renewed for the Allotment Field, the pedestrian access will be included in the 25 year lease; agreed.

iii) During 2011-12 the bus shelter opposite Noland Park should be refurbished if possible; agreed.

PC 19-2-11 Report on the 'Snow' Working Group meeting held on 16.2.11

Cllr Greg Wall explained that those who attended were either keen to have the roads cleared by DCC, or to simply make the pavements safer to walk on in freezing conditions.

Discussions included the availability of salt to spread ourselves (could be stored in sheds etc as salt/grit has been taken from the DCC bins); deliveries need to reach the village shops and Harbournford needs a grit bin at least.

Cllr Wall has contacted DCC and established that salt could be delivered to a central location in the village, this would ensure that it is the correct quality but the Parish Council would have to pay for the salt. It then needs to be decided how many salt spreaders might be required for the village. Cllr Pennington offered funding (available from April) from the Capital Fund; he has also offered to fund new salt/grit bins from his Locality Fund. This will be investigated.

PC 20-2-11 Recent works in Railway Wood/Cutting

Cllr Peter Kelly advised that recently tree works were carried out and wood was taken, when a Sustainable South Brent activity day took place at Railway Wood. SSB will be contacted to request that the Council is advised when works are due to take place, as on a previous occasion people taking wood were reported to the Police.

PC 21-2-11 Report on progress with the Adventure trail at Palstone Park, and payment details

*(Cllr Peter Kelly left the room whilst this matter was discussed.)* Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that in principle VAT reclaimed for works at Palstone Park should be passed to the Recreation Association, this was seconded by Cllr Cathie Pannell and **agreed** by the Council.

Payment for the Adventure Trail may need to be made before the next Council meeting; Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that subject to the funds being available the contractor should be paid straight away, this was seconded by Cllr Cathie Pannell and **resolved** by the Council.

PC 22-2-11 Report on loose cable/ damaged guttering in Station Road

The clerk advised that recently the owner of 8 Station Road had reported that a loose cable was knocking against the property; the parish handyman was able to secure the cable temporarily and Torbay Display has been contacted as the cable was part of the Christmas lighting. Nothing has been heard from Torbay Display so the Council will arrange for the cable to be removed 'without prejudice' by Simon Fox. It is possible that guttering at 7 Station Road has also been damaged by Torbay Display.

PC 23-2-11 Report highway matters and street cleaning required.

Cllr Greg Wall has reported many potholes to DCC.

Totnes Road narrows will need to be resurfaced, so a prompt response to the request for a feasibility study into the narrow footway in Totnes Road, brought forward by the Primary School Travel Plan, could solve the traffic management issues at the same time – DCC will be contacted. (Cllr Pennington left the meeting.)

PC 24-2-11 Finance

1. Accounts for payment:

South Brent Village Hall: legacy from Mr S Mercer (cheque signed on 14.2.11)	1,000.00
SWW (Direct debit): charges for toilet at Sanderspool Cross	7.00

South West Grounds Maintenance: February invoice	270.00
Entanet Int. Ltd (Direct debit): monthly broadband fee	16.64
South Brent Village Hall: room hire	9.38
SB Old School Centre: room hire 28.15, copying 1.24	29.39
Public Works Loan Board: loan repayments	1,903.06
M Copleston: reimbursement of 3 x £20 for electricity supplied for Christmas lights	60.00
SPX Refrigeration: litter collection machine for Rec. 945.00	
R M Services: supply & install litter picking machine cage	900.00
South Brent Recreation Association: skateboarding starter kits, hall rental, printing and refreshments for competitions	419.70
Payroll	1335.43
TOTAL	6895.60
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Bartons Solicitors: legacy from Mr S Mercer	1,000.00
Entanet Int. Ltd (Direct debit): refund of charge for BT engineer	170.38
Collection boxes & raffle: Christmas lights	93.36
Groundwork (Community Spaces): Sustainability grant	2,264.70

The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed. The clerk was commended for obtaining a refund from Entanet (above).

The Council agreed that £200 available from Cllr Jones Locality Fund should go to the School Garden.

2. Update on the cleaner's contract; the clerk advised that in order to issue a contract and job description various policies need to be in place and ones most suited to local council work will be sought for approval by the Council before the election.

PC 25-2-11 Items for press release and/or the newsletter

The election timetable will be included in the March newsletter.

PC 26-2-11 Items for the next agenda

Communicating information on crime, dog control and fouling will be included on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.