

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in South Brent Village Hall.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Nothing was raised by those present.

PC 1-2-12 Record of members present

Cllr Mark Copleston in the Chair; Cllrs Mandy Haley, Peter Kelly, John King, Cathie Pannell, Glyn Richards, John Summers, Greg Wall, Donna Warne and Donald Wiseman.

Seven members of the public were present and Julia Willoughby clerk to the Council was in attendance.

PC 2-2-12 Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs Laura Howe and Jane Maunder.

PC 3-2-12 Declarations of interest (nature and extent) with regard to items on the agenda

Cllr Greg Wall declared a prejudicial interest in correspondence (1) a grant application by SOUTHBRENTFOLK, as he is connected to the organisation.

Cllr Glyn Richards declared a personal interest in correspondence (1) as SOUTHBRENTFOLK hire the Old School Centre where he is the manager.

PC 4-2-12 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Mr Peter Moore wished to support the efforts of the Parish Council in trying to persuade SHDC not to impose car park charges in the Station Yard, as charges for the car park at Follaton House would produce a far greater income.

Ms E McKee for SOUTHBRENTFOLK stated that the summer folk festival would attract visitors to the village and help the village economy.

Mrs Wainwright advised that the SHDC decision to cut funding to Villages in Action has been made.

Sustainable South Brent is concerned for the socio-economic wellbeing of the village – and as a result a Wellbeing Group has already met. It is hoped that there will be links to all organisations in the village for a cohesive approach, and at this stage the Parish Council is being updated. SSB will continue to work alongside the Parish Council regarding car parking charges for the Station Yard.

PC 5-2-12 Police report (Crime and Disorder Reduction)

PC Hopper has reported there were ten crimes in the parish during January: criminal damage to vehicle; theft from vehicle (x3 fuel from horse carriers); taking vehicle without consent; theft (shoplifting); assault (x2 domestic related); criminal damage (play park equipment); theft from vehicle (catalytic converter).

The Police Officers will be advised that vehicles are continuing to park on the blind bend in Exeter Road near the London Inn development.

PC 6-2-12 District / County Councillors and DNPA Parish Council representatives report

District Councillor Cathie Pannell advised that Avondale House will possibly be redeveloped.

District Councillor Peter Smerdon reported that at the full Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February, SHDC agreed that a review of all non-fee paying car parks would be carried out. Drybridge over the A38 near Rattery will be replaced – thanks to Cllr Pennington for all his help.

County Cllr Trevor Pennington advised that the DCC budget has been set at £1.3 billion. The Audit Commission holds Devon as a first class case study in managing change.

Mr John Nutley – DNPA advised that the Authority is a consultee regarding the proposed incinerator at Buckfastleigh.

District Councillors Peter Smerdon and Trevor Pennington were asked why they voted in favour of introducing car parking charges in the Station Yard car park on 9 February – when they had been against this proposal, and that this is a very serious issue for local people.

Cllr Cathie Pannell stated that Villages in Action will face great difficulty since SHDC funding has been cut at such a late stage – at the same time as the car park charges were being discussed.

PC 7-2-12 Confirmation of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 January  
The minutes were confirmed and signed.

PC 8-2-12 Report matters arising from the minutes – for information only  
None.

PC 9-2-12 Correspondence circulated to Councillors:

- 1) SOUTHBRENTFOLK: start up grant application for £400 (*Cllr Greg Wall left the room whilst this item was discussed*). Ms McKee explained that fundraising events will take place ahead of the festival in July, with any profit being carried over to next year's event. Cllr John King proposed that a grant of £400 is made to SOUTHBRENTFOLK (this sum being transferred from the PBA budget line); this was seconded by Cllr John Summers and resolved by the Council.
- 2) P Wainwright (Sustainable South Brent): SHDC grant aid to Villages in Action has been cut; SSB is forming a community wellbeing group and will liaise with the clerk (see minute 4-2-12 above).
- 3) R Illman: quote for maintenance works to bus shelters; deferred to the Open Spaces Committee.
- 4) DCC Highways: the Station Road crossing point can be supported to £30,000 in this financial year; the notices have been posted and work will start on 5 March.
- 5) Mr G Jordan: query regarding traffic flow in Station Road with the works proposed. The crossing point will improve pedestrian safety and slow down traffic and has been an aspiration of the Council since the 2003 Parish Plan consultation.

PC 10-2-12 Update on the consultation regarding possible car parking charges for the Station Yard car park, and report on a meeting at SHDC on 24.1.12

Cllr Greg Wall reported that with Cllr Cathie Pannell and the clerk, he had attended a meeting with various SHDC Officers and Cllr Hawkins which was held due to the overwhelming local response to this issue.

A consultation will take place in the village in the spring, but this will be to determine how charges should be set. Many of the difficulties associated with this plan were covered at the meeting, although a possible lease was barely touched upon, as SHDC is now working on a district wide policy on devolved services/assets.

Cllr Pannell added that the consultation would not take the form of a public meeting, but an exhibition and questionnaire – and the Parish Council would have an input. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to SHDC setting out all the issues and difficulties with the proposed charges in Station Yard.

A more comprehensive survey of the use of the car park could be carried out; the Open Spaces Committee will discuss this.

PC 11-2-12 Progress with the pedestrian crossing point in Station Road.  
Work on the 'Jubilee Crossing' will start on 5 March.

PC 12-2-12 Planning matters:

0064/12 Erection of three sheds (two for the storage of gardening equipment and one for use as a shelter) and a greenhouse at allotment field, Vicarage Road, South Brent; this application was noted by the Council (no comment will be made as the Council is the applicant).

45/0261/12/F Extension to existing agricultural shed at West Moore Farm, Diptford, Totnes; (Cllr Cathie Pannell took no part in these discussions) the Council has no objection to this application.

PC 13-2-12 Consider whether the leave of absence granted to Cllr Laura Howe should continue

Cllr Howe has been in Cornwall for some months and has sent an email to the clerk advising that she has been meaning to write a letter of resignation, but had hoped to deliver it to the Council in person. As she will be in Cornwall for the summer at least, Cllr Howe's resignation was accepted by the Council, and the formal process of advertising the vacancy will begin.

PC 14-2-12 Parish Council Committees:

**Planning Committee** minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January (available at the meeting) were adopted.

**Open Spaces Committee** minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January are attached; recommendations:

- A) £10,400 is contributed by the Parish Council towards the new 'Jubilee Crossing' (£12,500 earmarked reserves less £2,100 design fees). DCC will contribute £30,000 to this project, and the Parish Council may be reimbursed for the cost of design fees.
- B) Further investigation into the costs including insurance, business rates and maintenance, and whether SHDC will consider a lease of the Station Yard to the Parish Council; agreed.
- C) The Parish Council could have works carried out on the oak tree near Clobells steps without registering the land. Mr Beasley at DNPA will be contacted for an up-to-date report on the health of the tree.
- D) Due to vandalism the play area is locked each evening and unlocked in the morning (see item 16 below).

**Strategy meeting** held on 30<sup>th</sup> January minutes are attached; recommendations:

- i) The Planning Committee should consist of at least 6 members, and no more than 11 members. The Chairman of the Planning Committee explained that it is not mandatory for Councillors to sit on this Committee, and a smaller number might mean that Councillors work could be distributed more equitably. A counter proposal that there should be at least 8 members of the Planning Committee was put by Cllr Cathie Pannell, seconded by Cllr Glyn Richards and carried. This substantive motion was then proposed by Cllr Donald Wiseman, seconded by Cllr John King and **resolved** by the Council.
- ii) An informal open day event could be held before 5<sup>th</sup> March regarding the new crossing point and car parking; these matters are included in the newsletter.

PC 15-2-12 Does the removal of the phone box in Exeter Road constitute a breach of the planning application for the new development?

DNPA has advised that this is not a planning issue; the matter is now closed.

PC 16-2-12 Consider the issue of vandalism in the play area at Sanderspool Cross: what measures could be taken to improve security, and should the toilet be refurbished?

SHDC can install a refurbished stainless steel wallgate (hot water, soap and hand dryer) at the play area for £1,270+VAT and the toilet can be steam cleaned. Cllr Peter Kelly proposed that this work is carried out with funding to come from earmarked reserves; this was seconded by Cllr Donald Wiseman and **resolved** by the Council.

SHDC can repair and reinforce the infant multi play equipment for £550+VAT. Cllr Donna Warne proposed that this work is carried out with funding to come from PBA (£520), seconded by Cllr Cathie Pannell and **resolved** by the Council.

Cllr Donna Warne reported that recently a house in Higher Green was fired at with a BB gun and there have been incidents in the area including slates being removed from the bus shelter, vandalism to play equipment etc. Local Police Officers will be advised of this anti social behaviour.

The Council has agreed that the play area should be locked at night; Cllr Cathie Pannell proposed that the hedge along the boundary of the play area with Exeter Road should be removed; this was seconded by Cllr Peter Kelly and **resolved** by the Council.

PC 17-2-12 Consider plans for the footway/cycleway in Exeter Road

The sections of footway/cycleway shown on the plan received are sensible; however, part of the National Cycle Route also in Exeter Road, between the Brent Mill junction and Plymouth Road junction has not been included with the proposed improvements. This relatively short section of highway is particularly dangerous when vehicles park in this part of Exeter Road and motorists are forced to drive in the marked cycle route.

Mr Halliday will be asked if improvements can be made in this area which is hazardous to all road users particularly since the cycle route was marked out on the highway (copied to Sustrans and County Cllr Stuart Hughes.)

PC 18-2-12 The SHDC Dog Warden has provided advice regarding owners who do not clear up after their dogs

The clerk has circulated an article which was to have appeared in the newsletter – but there was no space; the item will be posted on the website, the village notice board and a letter will be sent to the Primary School inviting their assistance in tackling this health and anti social behaviour issue.

PC 19-2-12 Report on a Devolved Services workshop held by SHDC on 31.1.12

Cllr Greg Wall advised that he and the clerk attended this workshop with representatives of Councils across the South Hams and West Devon. It investigated the possible delegation of functions and transfer of assets in general terms and the benefits (or otherwise) of delegation, contracts, top-up arrangements or influence on the district council.

A feedback form regarding the top three functions the parish council would like to start discussions on will be filled out at the next Council meeting.

PC 20-2-12 Progress with arrangements for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Mr Guy Pannell – Parish Tree Warden is considering the planting of a suitable tree and its location. The Chairman will meet with Revd Winnington-Ingram next month to discuss the Civic Service.

PC 21-2-12 Correspondence available on the table at the meeting (or by arrangement with the clerk):

- a) DCC: news from the Connecting Devon and Somerset broadband programme.
- b) PJD Construction: contractors will not park on the blind bend in Exeter Road, and the grass verges will be repaired.
- c) Community Council of Devon: guidance on reviewing Parish Plans.
- d) Domestic Violence & Abuse Service: information leaflet.
- e) Victim Support: letter of thanks for the grant of £25 from the Council.
- f) Highways Agency: works will continue on the A38, which will be closed overnight, and traffic diverted along the B3372. Cllr Cathie Pannell advised that the Carew Service Station is due to close for 4 weeks for improved access; the Highways Agency will be contacted for details.
- g) SHDC: rational behind naming of London Inn Mews.
- h) Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils: next meeting 24 July.
- i) South Brent Village Hall: increase in charges from 1 April.
- j) DNPA: information requested for the 'What's On' listing; this will be sent on to SOUTHBRENTFOLK.
- k) Senior Council for Devon newsletter.
- l) Dartmoor Hill Farm Project newsletter etc.

All noted by the Parish Council.

PC 22-2-12 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 2 May and Community Champion Awards

The newsletter has a further request for Community Champion nominations. Representatives of SHDC will be asked to address the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held at the Old School Centre.

PC 23-2-12 Report highway matters including outstanding issues, and street cleaning required

Cllr Greg Wall advised that matters are reported straight to DCC.

Totnes Road between the village and the Courtenay Park junction is continuously being flagged up due to the very poor surface.

Vehicles have been parked on the cobbles in Wellington Square; the clerk will advise all householders that this is not permitted.

Rubble and soil deposited opposite Brent Mill Farm during refurbishment works is believed to be on SHDC land.

PC 24-2-12 Finance:

St Petroc's PCC: invoice for grass cutting in 2011 £528; as previously agreed, this invoice will be paid.

Accounts for payment:

(Cheques signed 31.1.12)

DNPA: additional planning application fee (Allot. Field)	50.00
R Illman: paint bus shelter, fix lock on toilet door	110.00

South Brent Old School Community Centre: grant towards a new heating system	1000.00
---	---------

South Brent PCC: 50% grass cutting Patch, 1910 & Mill. Cem.	528.00
---	--------

SWW (Direct debit): charges for toilet at Sanderspool Cross	7.50
---	------

Entanet Int. Ltd (Direct debit): monthly broadband fee	19.78
--	-------

South West Grounds Maintenance: Feb. invoice	275.40
--	--------

South Brent Village Hall: room hire Jan.	9.38
--	------

SB Old School Community Centre Ltd: room hire 28.25, copying 13.04	41.29
--	-------

EDF Energy Ltd (Direct debit): electricity charges for toilet at S. Cross	37.93
---	-------

Public Works Loan Board: Mill. Cem. & Allot. Field	1856.94
--	---------

Payroll	1467.05
---------	---------

TOTAL	5403.27
-------	---------

The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed.

PC 25-2-12 Items for press release and/or the newsletter

At the appropriate time a press release about the casual vacancy will be issued.

PC 26-2-12 Items for the next agenda

A Signal Box working group report and Parish Basic Allowance will be included on the agenda for the March meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.