

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 April 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 1-4-12 Co-option of a new Councillor for the Village Ward

There had been four applicants for this vacancy, but two have dropped out, leaving Mrs Linda Austin and Mr John Rawlinson, both were present. The candidates were asked why they would like to be a Parish Councillor, and what they could bring to the role.

Mrs Austin explained that she runs The Packhorse has lived in the village for 6 years and would like to learn more about the village.

Mr Rawlinson has lived here for 13 years and takes part in many village activities; he has experience of committee work, is well informed about local matters, and can bring the skills acquired from working in a university setting.

A ballot resulted in John Rawlinson being invited to join the Parish Council. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

PC 2-4-12 Record of members present

Cllr Mark Copleston in the Chair; Cllrs Mandy Haley, Peter Kelly, Jane Maunder, John Summers, Donna Warne and Donald Wiseman.

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

PC 3-4-12 Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs John King, Cathie Pannell, Glyn Richards and Greg Wall.

PC 4-4-12 Declarations of interest (nature and extent) with regard to items on the agenda

Cllrs Jane Maunder and Donald Wiseman declared a prejudicial interest in item 20 the Young Community Champion Award, as each has a child who has been nominated.

Cllr Donna Warne declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 consideration of a payment of £20 for each business which supplied electricity for the Christmas lighting in 2011.

PC 5-4-12 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Nothing was raised.

PC 6-4-12 Police report (Crime and Disorder Reduction)

PC Hopper reported there were five crimes in the parish during March: criminal damage (to a wall); complaint - dogs (minor injury); common assault (minor dispute); common assault (domestic related); and theft of mobile phone.

PC Hopper advised that there have been a number of shed break-ins in the Totnes area. Also, vehicles should not park next to a dropped kerb – this is an offence.

PC 7-4-12 District / County Councillors and DNPA Parish Council representatives report

County Cllr Trevor Pennington reported that funds have been allocated for the footway/cycleway improvements in Exeter Road.

A new Town and Parish Fund of £1.10 per elector will be launched on 10 May at a South Hams super cluster meeting.

District Councillor Peter Smerdon has visited the anaerobic digester at Langage, although very little goes there from South Hams as waste is sorted by householders and composted. A decision will be made tomorrow by DCC on the application for Whitecleaves Quarry at Buckfastleigh, there is a great deal of opposition locally.

PC 8-4-12 Confirmation of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 March
The minutes were confirmed and signed.

PC 9-4-12 Report matters arising from the minutes – for information only
The clerk has an application form for a grant from Cllr Smerdon for Diamond Jubilee bookmarks (if approved).

PC 10-4-12 Report on the public meeting held on 18 April regarding car parking charges proposed by SHDC for the Station Yard car park; and actions to be taken
The Chairman reported that the public meeting was incredibly well attended, orderly and amiable – although there was a great deal of passion for this issue.

The Monitoring Officer at SHDC has since advised that her understanding of the minutes is that a decision has been deferred pending consultation, although Cllr Hawkins and the two SHDC officers at the meeting were presenting a *fait accompli*.

The Council agreed that clarification of the decision made by SHDC must be sought; the evidence base for proposing charges in South Brent and all related data will be requested; all Assessments are carried out in full; all free car parks across the district are reviewed and the evidence is forwarded to the Parish Council.

If there is to be a further meeting of representatives of SHDC, the Parish Council, Village Hall and businesses it was suggested that the meeting could be taped.

PC 11-4-12 Correspondence circulated to Councillors:
DCC Highways: Cycleway improvements are to be made in Exeter Road how can Brent Mill junction to Plymouth Road be included? It was agreed that a site meeting will be arranged with Mr Halliday.

PC 12-4-12 Report any issues with the pedestrian crossing point in Station Road which require attention
Cllr Glyn Richards had contacted the clerk to suggest that kerb markers outside the Anchor building should be re-instated; members of the Council also considered that a coloured surface would make it easier for pedestrians to know where to cross; DCC will be contacted regarding both matters.

PC 13-4-12 Erroneous Court proceedings against South Brent Parish Council
The Chairman reported that in 2010 someone fell over at the Recreation Field and legal proceedings were begun. All correspondence was addressed to the Parish Council, and

passed to the Recreation Association whose insurer's solicitors were dealing with the case. However, recently the clerk received a notice of execution of warrant in respect of court costs sent to the Parish Council when the defendant did not attend the hearing.

Although the required payment was made by Recreation Association insurers' solicitors, at present the Parish Council and the clerk's address are black listed.

At the last meeting the Council resolved that the appropriate steps are taken to ensure that both the Parish Council and the clerk's address are entirely expunged from the record of legal proceedings, and Mr Osborne of Windeatts has been instructed accordingly. The Council acknowledged that this has been an extremely stressful time for the clerk, and when it is appropriate advice will be taken regarding costs and/or damages.

PC 14-4-12 Can safety measures be introduced which make it safer for pedestrians to cross Exeter Road near Corn Park?

Since the new houses have been constructed on the London Inn site, visibility for those crossing Exeter Road has reduced; DCC Highways will be contacted to find out whether a pedestrian island can be provided near the garage where there is better visibility. Cllr Glyn Richards had made this suggestion and that of creating a new pedestrian route from Crowder Park to the centre of the village – this will be deferred to the Open Spaces Committee.

PC 15-4-12 Parish Council Committees:

Planning Committee minutes of the meeting held on 12th March (available at the meeting) were adopted.

Open Spaces Committee minutes of the meeting held on 19th March (circulated) were adopted.

PC 16-4-12 A payment of £20 was made to each business which supplied electricity for the Christmas lighting in 2010, should a similar contribution be made for 2011?

(Cllr Donna Warne left the room while this item was discussed.) Sections 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives councils the power to do anything that will benefit the community (or part of it) where there is not another specific power covering this action.

Cllr Peter Kelly proposed that £20 is paid to Moortek, the Butcher and Crumbs & Cuppa towards the supply of electricity for the Christmas lights; this was seconded by Cllr Jane Maunder and **resolved** by the Council.

PC 17-4-12 Update on changes made in the play area at Sanderspool Cross; should tissue be provided in the toilet?

Advice will be sought from SHDC on suitable single sheet tissue, rather than a roll.

PC 18-4-12 Progress with arrangements for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, consider the presentation of bookmarks (or similar) to children

The Chairman and Revd Winnington-Ingram have finalised the order of service for the Civic Service.

The clerk has information from three companies offering commemorative bookmarks, and H&S Hotfoil can supply 400 for £156 + postage (the cheapest quote); Cllr Donald Wiseman

proposed that these are ordered; this was seconded by Cllr Cathie Pannell and resolved by the Council. (Cllr Donna Warne left the meeting.)

PC 19-4-12 Correspondence available on the table at the meeting (or by arrangement with the clerk):

- a) South Brent Old School Community Centre: letter of thanks for the grant of £1,000 from the Council.
- b) Totnes Town Council: invitation to Diamond Jubilee Service on 3 June at 6.30 p.m.; the Chairman took this.
- c) R Everett: proposals for improvements to the A38 Carew slipway exit; this will be sent to the Highways Agency.
- d) Sustainable South Brent: letter sent to SHDC concerning car parking charges, requesting a full public consultation and a review of all free car parks.
- e) J Maunder: points raised by parishioners about the new crossing point and other matters; these will be passed to the Open Spaces Committee.
- f) SHDC: response to queries from the Council about a meeting of representatives of SHDC, Parish Council and Village Hall.
- g) SHDC: infrastructure planning.
- h) DNPA: Staffing changes effective from 1 April.
- i) Chair of Governors, South Brent Primary School: the Jubilee Crossing will be safer for all pedestrians; Link Councillor report attached; how can the school help deter irresponsible dog owners who do not clear up. A poster competition will be suggested.
- j) J Hopper: response to Council queries.
- k) Totnes on the Move: Roadshow 28 April 10-3, Methodist Hall.
- l) DCC Highways: road closure 20-24.5.12 between The Oak and 9 Station Road.
- m) South Hams Town & Parish Voice update – Super cluster 10 May, Rattery; the clerk is able to attend..
- n) Totnes and Dartmouth Ring & Ride: AGM 24 April 7 p.m. at Follaton House.
- o) Southbrentfolk: letter of thanks for the grant of £400 from the Council.
- p) DCC Highways: a seat may be located at the entrance to Corn Park, Exeter Road, South Brent.
- q) South Brent Old School Community Centre: the Chair will be away on 2 May and the grant will not be spent until September 2012, so a presentation could be made at the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting.
- r) S Jozsa: the new pavement outside the Post Office is marvellous.
- s) B Beasley, DNPA: would prefer the oak tree at Clobells steps to be pollarded (are there legal implications if the Council applies for these works?) Devon Assoc. of Local Councils will be contacted.
- t) South Hams CVS: Voluntary Vine newsletter.

All noted by the Parish Council.

PC 20-4-12 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 2 May and Community Champion Awards

Chairmen of Council Committees were reminded that a report on the years' activities is requested for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Community Champion Awards were on the agenda for the last Planning Committee meeting, but the adult Award went to a casting vote, and the Young Champion Award also resulted in a tie, so this decision has been brought back to the full Council.

Nominees for the Community Champion Award: Sue Burgess – SB Caring; Lyn Dent – Community Library; Robert Illman – Dartmoor Rescue Group; Ross Kennerley – Sustainable South Brent; Steve Squire – Judo Club; Janine Tinkler – Brownies; Jess Towl & Sam Taylor – Youth Club; Jane Wellens – Breakfast café & Villages in Action. The Award will go to Sue Burgess.

(Cllrs Jane Maunder and Donald Wiseman left the room while this item was considered.)

Nominees for the Young Community Champion Award: Alistair Alexander – sports volunteering; Anna Gower – under 8s football; Lauren Williams – Brownies & Rainbows; Sarah Wiseman – Guides. The Award will go to Anna Gower.

PC 21-4-12 Report highway matters including outstanding issues, and street cleaning required

Cllr Greg Wall advised that matters are reported straight to DCC, including loose paving slabs.

PC 22-4-12 Finance:

Personal Basic Allowance for Councillors 2012-13 (£107.50 less tax) will be paid, unless the clerk is notified otherwise; no elected members of the Council will take up this allowance for 2012-13.

A revised Clerk's Manual is available at £30; Cllr Peter Kelly proposed that this publication is purchased; this was seconded by Cllr Donald Wiseman and resolved by the Council.

Accounts for payment:

SWW (Direct debit): charges for toilet at Sanderspool Cross	11.50	
Entanet Int. Ltd (Direct debit): monthly broadband fee	19.78	
South West Grounds Maintenance: Apr. invoice	306.00	
Devon Assoc. of Local Councils (ded. from precept): subscription 2012-13	570.66	
EDF Energy (Direct debit): electricity costs play area	37.40	
Paul Soper Roofing: repairs to bus shelter roof	150.00	
Broker Network Ltd: insurance renewal 2012-13	1163.81	
Payroll	1497.14	
	TOTAL	3756.29

Receipt:

Western Power: wayleave	25.20
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The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed.

PC 23-4-12 Items for press release and/or the newsletter

A press release will be submitted for our new Councillor, and the next newsletter is due in June.

PC 24-4-12 Items for the next agenda

The Council agreed that planning application for a solar farm at Marley Thatch Farm will be included on the agenda for the May Parish Council meeting, due to the financial implications; a representative of the company will be invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.14 p.m.

DRAFT