

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, South Brent. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Ms P Wainwright had attended a recent SHDC meeting when the possible introduction of car park charges in free car parks (e.g. Station Yard) was discussed; Cllr Rufus Gilbert indicated that a cost neutral proposal might be considered.

Points to bear in mind: no charging has meant no revenue; maintenance costs over the last 3 years could be requested and rates payable.

PC 1-12-12 Record of members present

Cllr Mark Copleston in the Chair; Cllrs Linda Austin, Peter Kelly, John King, Jane Maunder, Cathie Pannell, John Rawlinson, Glyn Richards, Greg Wall, Donna Warne and Donald Wiseman.

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

PC 2-12-12 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr John Summers and District Councillor Peter Smerdon.

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

Cllr Peter Kelly declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 15 regarding the South Brent Community Energy Society share issue.

Cllr Glyn Richards declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 14 (and 21 (a)) regarding an application to the TAP Fund by the Old School Centre.

PC 4-12-12 To consider the granting of dispensations, including a dispensation for Cllr Linda Austin to both speak and vote on the budget and setting of the precept beginning with immediate effect and remaining in place until the next ordinary elections

This matter was agreed at the extraordinary meeting held on 19 November, before Cllr Austin was co-opted. Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that a dispensation for Cllr Linda Austin to both speak and vote on the budget and setting of the precept should begin with immediate effect and remain in place until the next ordinary elections; this was seconded by Cllr Greg Wall and resolved by The Council.

There were no other applications for dispensations.

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

Mr McNaughton offered to answer any questions regarding the South Brent Community Energy Society share issue.

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

PC Hopper's email states there were five crimes of note in the parish during November: common assault (road rage); robbery (business property); burglary (garden shed forced and tools stolen); burglary (house under renovation/ tools stolen); common assault.

PC 7-12-12 Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 and 26 November

Both sets of minutes were confirmed and signed.

PC 8-12-12 Report matters arising from the minutes – for information only

None raised.

PC 9-12-12 District / County Councillors and DNPA Parish Council representatives report  
County Councillor Trevor Pennington advised that DCC Highways have been working very hard following recent floods.

DCC has reduced office space by 35% saving £2.9million annually and will dispose of surplus property. Three new dementia care homes are to be constructed in 2013. DCC is expecting a cut of at least 7% in Government funding for 2013-14.

District Cllr Cathie Pannell reported that SHDC is waiting to hear the final figures from the Government for 2013-14. SHDC members recently voted in for a 1% rise in their allowance from 1 April (although Cllr Pannell was not in favour of this).

It was noted that the Council Tax base figures for 2013-14 are not yet known.

Update on the General Power of Competence and determination of eligibility (and consideration of the South Brent Community Energy Society share issue)

The Council agreed that this item could be brought forward.

The clerk explained that she has heard that she has passed the required module on the General Power of Competence and as all members of the Council were elected at the last election South Brent Parish Council is eligible to use this power. The General Power of Competence means that the Council has the power to do anything that individuals may generally be permitted to do.

Cllr Cathie Pannell proposed that since the Parish Council meets the criteria and is eligible to use the General Power of Competence at this time, it should do so; this was seconded by Cllr Glyn Richards and resolved by the Council.

*(Cllr Peter Kelly left the room.)*

The Council went on to consider the South Brent Community Energy Society share issue. It was noted that shares can be purchased between £200-20,000. Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that £1,000 allocated for the Parish Basic Allowance but not spent, should be moved to the Local Projects budget line for the South Brent Community Energy Society share issue; the cheque will be forwarded when the Council has received written confirmation that the clerk has passed the module. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathie Pannell and resolved by the Council.

Before he left the meeting County Councillor Trevor Pennington was advised that flooding in the lay-by in Station Approach is an ongoing problem and the road surface in Totnes Road continues to deteriorate.

PC 10-12-12 Parish Council Committees and working groups:

**Finance Committee** meeting held on 19 November recommendations:

- A. The total price for the Acer X1SFF Core i3 hard drive should be ascertained (and if possible transfer of software) for use by the clerk.
- B. Contact details for the Standards Board for England need to be removed from the complaints procedure; the grievance and discipline procedures require no changes.

C. A draft budget for 2013-14 was formulated with no change to the current precept of £40,835. The Council will be unable to make a decision on this until all the relevant factors are to hand and SHDC has advised on the amount of reimbursement for grounds maintenance.

D. The clerk has reached the salary ceiling and no salary increase is expected for 2013-14; the cleaner is paid at £6.40 per hour from 1.4.13.

E. The Parish Basic Allowance is available to all elected Councillors.

Cllr Donald Wiseman proposed recommendations A-E be accepted en bloc; this was seconded by Cllr Greg Wall and resolved by the Council. A further Finance Committee meeting will be held on 21 January when it is anticipated all the relevant information for reaching a final budget and precept request will be available.

**Media Committee** meeting held on 3 December recommendations:

i) The Freedom of Information Policy is amended to include the achievement of Quality Status and the Council's PO Box address.

ii) The Parish Council signs up to the Devon Community Directory website.

Cllr Donald Wiseman proposed that both recommendations be accepted; this was seconded by Cllr Greg Wall and resolved by the Council.

PC 11-12-12 Correspondence circulated to Councillors:

1) C Parsons, SHDC: council tax benefit is being replaced with a local Council Tax Support Scheme; this could have significant implications for the council tax base and Parish precepts – which will be requested by 1 February 2013. Noted.

2) P Wood: request for the remaining £25 towards plants for Wellington Square (cheque payable to Mr I N Fenwick). As the plants purchased cost £47.85 Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that Mr Fenwick is reimbursed with this amount; this was seconded by Cllr Peter Kelly and resolved by the Council.

PC 12-12-12 Consider a policy for applications for dispensations: Councillors apply to the proper officer for the dispensation of an interest prior to the relevant meeting

Cllr Glyn Richards advised that the National and Devon Association of Local Councils recommend that dispensations are considered before a meeting and proposed that Standing Orders require Councillors to apply to the proper officer for the dispensation of an interest prior to the relevant meeting; this was seconded by Cllr John King and resolved by the Council.

PC 13-12-12 Reports:

South Brent Primary School Link Governor: Cllr Donna Warne advised that Mrs Nicholls is still away; year 5 and 6 peer mediators in the play ground are working well; thanks are due to Mr Frank Noble and Mrs Helen Hall and the volunteers who help with the school garden.

Signal Box Working Group: Cllr Cathie Pannell reported that the group is in touch with Network Rail and recently it has been suggested that the building could be used as a rehearsal space for young people. A presentation on this proposal will be included on the next agenda.

PC 14-12-12 Consider an application to the TAP Fund by the Old School Community Centre (Cllr Glyn Richards left the room.)

The clerk advised that applications to the DCC and SHDC Town and Parish Fund must cover more than one parish and be made by a Parish Council.

Cllr John King proposed that this application for an automatic opening mechanism for the main door should be supported by the Parish Council; this was seconded by Cllr Greg Wall and resolved by the Council.

PC 15-12-12 Update on the General Power of Competence and determination of eligibility (and consideration of the South Brent Community Energy Society share issue)  
(See minute 9-12-12 above.)

PC 16-12-12 Youth Clubs – options available for 13-17 year olds  
Cllr Donna Warne asked if there were any ideas for this age group. There is a Wednesday night youth club at the Recreation Pavilion run by volunteers and the Conservative Club has introduced a quarterly disco; what is really needed are professional youth workers.

PC 17-12-12 Vandalism of the toilet in the play area and update on repairs  
The toilet has been locked since half term when the toilet pan was damaged by a firework; SHDC has advised the cost of replacement toilet pans and Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that a stainless steel pan is fitted at a cost of £767.38; this was seconded by Cllr Jane Maunder and resolved by the Council.

PC 18-12-12 Part night street lighting in the centre of the village – options for any changes  
Crime figures for the period 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2012 have been sent on by PC Hopper as the Council and Police must both support any request for changes to part-night lighting for a valid crime or safety related issue.  
PC Hopper will be asked for her views on this matter.

PC 19-12-12 Options for secure storage of Parish Council deeds and documents  
There has been no response from SHDC; Lee Mill will be contacted.

PC 20-12-12 Draft dates for all Parish Council meetings in 2013  
This was agreed by the Council; a Strategy meeting is not required on 21 January and will be replaced with a Finance Committee meeting.

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

- a) South Brent Old School Community Centre: TAP Fund application.
- b) South Brent & District Caring: letter of thanks for the re-directed TAP funding.
- c) Mr R Everett: draft proposed scheme for the A38 South Brent slip way exit.
- d) Devon & Cornwall Police: recorded crime 1.6.10 to 31.5.12 South Brent and Brent Moor.
- e) Devon Association of Local Councils: newsletter.
- f) DALC: newsletter part 2.
- g) Mrs M Haley: Christmas card.
- h) SHDC: street naming and numbering policy.
- i) DALC: 'Rising to the challenge' course for parish councillors.
- j) Preventing Crime in Rural Communities events in February.
- k) SHDC Connect magazine.

All noted by the Parish Council.

PC 22-12-12 Report highway matters and street cleaning required

Cllr Greg Wall advised that further flooding has resulted in mud and gravel being washed down Hillside from 'Snakey Lane'.

Cllr John King advised that the same homes at Aish have been flooded again by surface water.

PC 23-12-12 Finance:

Accounts for payment: (including honorarium for the cleaner)

SWW (Direct debit): charges for toilet at Sanderspool Cross	11.50
Entanet Int. Ltd (Direct debit): monthly broadband fee	19.78
South Brent Village Hall: room hire	10.00
South Brent Old School Community Centre Ltd: room hire 11.00, Laminating etc 1.96	12.96
Ricoh Capital Ltd(Direct debit): photocopier lease	56.75
Veaseys Printers: 1450 newsletters	158.41
DALC: General Power of Competence briefing	24.00
The Society of Local Council Clerks: subscription 2013	145.00
Torbay Display: Christmas lighting 2012	2100.00
Payroll	2219.18
South Brent Community Energy Society: share issue	1000.00

The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed. The cheque for Torbay Display will not be sent until two Christmas trees are fully lit and in working order, or a reduction in the cost will be sought.

PC 24-12-12 Items for press release and/or the newsletter

A press release will be prepared on the co-option of our new Parish Councillor Cllr Linda Austin.

PC 25-12-12 Items for the next agenda

Items raised during the meeting will be included on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.