

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 January 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, South Brent. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2014.

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

Nothing was raised.

PC 1-1-14 Record of members present

Cllr Greg Wall in the Chair; Cllrs Mark Copleston, Peter Kelly, John King, Jane Maunder, Cathie Pannell, John Rawlinson, Glyn Richards, John Summers, and Donald Wiseman were present. Six members of the public were present and Julia Willoughby clerk to the Council was in attendance.

PC 2-1-14 Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs Linda Austin and Donna Warne.

PC 3-1-14 Declarations of interest (nature and extent) with regard to items on the agenda

None.

PC 4-1-14 Consider the granting of dispensations

No applications.

PC 5-1-14 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Nothing was raised.

PC 6-1-14 Police report (Crime and Disorder Reduction)

There has been no response to enquiries about the number of Officers covering seven parishes, so the clerk will make a Freedom of Information application.

The local Officers will be contacted to agree how often they might be able to attend Council meetings.

PC 7-1-14 Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 December

The minutes were confirmed and signed.

PC 8-1-14 Report matters arising from the minutes – for information only

None.

PC 9-1-14 District / County Councillors and DNPA Parish Council representatives report

Devon County Cllr Rosemary Rowe advised that the budget setting is underway; central Government funding is not yet known.

Cllr Glyn Richards asked Cllr Rowe to take up with Highways the advice that there is no need for a crossing in Exeter Road adjacent to the proposed development at Palstone Lane.

District Cllr Cathie Pannell reported that the SHDC portion of the Council Tax will increase by 1.9% from 1 April 2014.

The licencing application for the Carew Service Station has been allowed but will not be for 24 hours daily.

The exit from the Service Station is more dangerous now that the 'Stop' sign has been removed; the Highways Agency will be contacted.

District Cllr Peter Smerdon reported that SHDC may pay the new homes bonus to DNPA, discussions are ongoing.

The demolition of Dry Bridge over the A38 will take place this September; it will be re-built by March 2015.

Ella Briens, ranger with DNPA advised that she deals mostly with footpaths, bridleways and honeypot weekend sites. DNPA is keen to engage with communities, the Carnival Street Fair is a possibility. 'Ranger Ralph' is great value for children aged 5-12 years.

South Brent is hardly mentioned in the 'Enjoy Dartmoor' seasonal publication; Ella will pass this back.

Correspondence

(The Council agreed to bring this item forward.)

- (2) South Brent Action & Community Group: application for assistance with costs of The Toll House. Mr Hedges advised that DNPA has withdrawn grant funding and it is hoped that the toll sign can be refurbished. This iconic building is Grade II listed and any contribution from the Council towards the refurbishment of the sign or annual insurance costs would be most welcome.

The annual accounts for the Action Group will be available shortly; annual costs for the Toll House are about £500-600.

It is possible that the Toll House could be listed as a community asset.

Support for the Action Group to refurbish the toll sign will be considered at the February meeting when the annual accounts are available.

PC 10-1-14 Parish Council Committees and working groups:

Planning Committee: minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2013 were adopted.

The Planning Committee meeting held on 13 January recommends:

The Parish Council enters into a 10 year lease agreement for the whole of the Station Yard at £4,500 p.a. (termination is on 12 months' notice). The option to purchase the area should then be fully investigated; this may involve a package agreement with SHDC and the cumulative lease payments being deducted from the purchase price. This was proposed by Cllr John Rawlinson, seconded by Cllr Cathie Pannell and a recorded vote requested:

For the proposal: Cllrs Copleston, Kelly, King, Pannell, Rawlinson and Summers;
Against: Cllrs Maunder, Richards and Wiseman; the proposal was carried, SHDC will be advised.

Finance Committee meeting held on 18 November 2013 (minutes attached) recommendations:

- A. The Parish Council adopts the model 'Dignity at Work Policy'; proposed by Cllr Glyn Richards, seconded by Cllr Donald Wiseman and resolved by the Council.
- B. The Parish Basic Allowance is available to all eligible Councillors for 2014-15; proposed by Cllr Donald Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Mark Copleston and resolved by the Council.
- C. The clerk's salary will not change on 1.4.14; (when further information is received on an agreed national increase the clerk's salary will be reviewed); proposed by Cllr Cathie Pannell, seconded by Cllr Glyn Richards and resolved by the Council.

- D. The Parish Council increases the cleaner's salary to £7.00 per hour from 1.4.14, in line with the National Living Wage; proposed by Cllr Donald Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Jane Maunder and resolved by the Council.
- S137/GPC and Local Projects budget lines are amalgamated and named Local Projects (GPC).
 - The Media budget line is increased as more newsletters are required.
 - The Community Benefit Fund is not included in the precept calculation; all proposed by Cllr Donald Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Jane Maunder and resolved by the Council.
- E. A budget of £41,652 less the support grant of £4,160 gives a precept request of £37,492 for 2014-15. (N.B. the support grant will not be available in 2015-16.) Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that the budget of £37,492 should have £4,500 added for the lease for the Station Yard making a total of £41,992 for 2014-15; this was seconded by Cllr Mark Copleston and resolved by the Parish Council.
- F. No changes are required to the complaints, grievance and discipline procedures; proposed by Cllr Glyn Richards, seconded by Cllr Mark Copleston and resolved by the Parish Council.

Proposed **development adjacent to Palstone Lane** report on stakeholder group meetings and the Development Brief.

Cllr Glyn Richards advised that the Development Brief was available on the table this evening. DCC Highways have advised that a crossing in Exeter Road is not justified. This development could bring 250 new residents to South Brent and this community will not accept that a crossing is not necessary (presumably the advice is issued on the existing number of residents). In addition, a contribution to the sports and recreation facilities in South Brent of an amount comparable to the SHDC policy should be made to South Brent Parish Council which owns these facilities in the village. DNPA will be advised that these matters are not negotiable as far as the Parish Council is concerned.

PC 11-1-14 Correspondence circulated to Councillors:

- 1) SHDC: Seasonal closure of under-utilised public toilets; noted, facilities in this parish are not listed. District Councillors Cathie Pannell and Peter Smerdon were given a vote of thanks for all their efforts on this matter.
- 2) South Brent Action & Community Group: application for assistance with costs of The Toll House. (See minute 9-1-14 above.)

PC 12-1-14 Planning:

- A. Decisions: none
- B. Application:
0679/13 Change of use of office (A1) to use as a dwelling (under Class M of the GPDO) at 15 Station Road, South Brent; the Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- C. Any amended applications; none received.

PC 13-1-14 Response from DCC Highways regarding possible safety measures for Exeter Road (near London Inn Mews and Corn Park)

The Chairman has heard from an officer at DCC that there is no justification for a crossing in Exeter Road. However a new traffic speed survey will be carried out and adjustments to school transport pick up/drop off points may help.

The Parish Council will request that in addition to a new speed survey, footfall is also surveyed. It should also be noted that the majority of children now travel to school in Ivybridge rather than Totnes.

Sarah Wollaston M.P. will be copied into this correspondence.

PC 14-1-14 Commemoration of World War I

The Chairman advised that Mr Elms has been working on a biography of each of those named on the World War I memorial.

The Parish Council agreed that it would be appropriate to mark the end of the First World War, rather than its beginning.

PC 15-1-14 Report on Christmas lights 2013

The lights were well received, especially the new tinsel; a vote of thanks was made to the Christmas lights working group.

Those who made donations to the Christmas lights will be listed in the next newsletter with the overall sum raised.

PC 16-1-14 Encourage nominations for the Community Champion Awards

There have been no nominations yet for either Community Champion Award. The two recipients will be able to nominate a village group of their choice to receive £50.

PC 17-1-14 Active Villages funding proposals

Ms Birch who is co-ordinating this project for South Brent, will be asked how the funding will be paid and by whom?

PC 18-1-14 Consider two applications to the Community Benefit Fund (small grants £100-250) available at the meeting

S Webber: grant request for world Scout event in Japan in 2015; the clerk will find out when the funding will be required.

A grant of £250 to A Matthews has already been agreed: Cllr Glyn Richards proposed that this grant should be held until it is known when the funding will be required (the Scout event in Japan is in 2015); this was seconded by Cllr Donald Wiseman.

S Doree: Cllr Peter Kelly proposed that a grant of £200 should be made for a trip to Tanzania. As it is not known when the visit will take place, the clerk will enquire and all three applications will be considered at the next meeting.

The Council agreed that a meeting should be held to review the Community Benefit Fund and possibly amend the guidelines; it was agreed this meeting will take place on 17 March 2014.

PC 19-1-14 A portable amplifier has not yet been purchased for the Parish Council (as recommended at the November meeting); is the purchase necessary?

Cllr Glyn Richards suggested this matter is deferred until June 2014 when the decision may be re-visited.

PC 20-1-14 Link Primary School governor report

This will be deferred to the next meeting for a report by Cllr Donna Warne.

PC 21-1-14 Community swimming pool update

The Council agreed that this matter should be deferred to the Open Spaces Committee.

PC 22-1-14 Correspondence available on the table at the meeting (or by arrangement with the clerk):

- a) SHDC: Christmas card.
- b) Chair of Village Hall Committee: Letter of thanks for the Community Benefit Grant of £700; and email from the Treasurer.
- c) A Nicholls: Thanks for the Community Benefit Grant of Grant of £1,000 to the Recreation Association; when they are able to proceed arrangements will be made for the Council to be the accountable body. An item will be included on the next agenda to consider whether grant applications for the Recreation Association could be made by the Parish Council.
- d) D King-Smith: acknowledgement that a grant would not be made from the Community Benefit Fund.
- e) P Reay: Thanks for Community Benefit Grant of £100 to Brent Birders.
- f) I Rooke: Thanks for Community Benefit Grant of £100.
- g) Devon Pensions: from 1.4.14 the employer contribution rate of 20.5% of pay will be applicable for the clerk's pension.
- h) DCC: consultation on public transport and concessionary bus travel (from April 2014) is at <http://new.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget>
- i) SHDC: AONB news.
- j) Western Power Distribution: stakeholder workshops taking place in February.
- k) SHDC Dog Warden: Fixed penalty notices can be issued for dog fouling if the owner's identity is known and the fouling was witnessed. The area near the school is being patrolled, she is unsure about spray paint.
- l) Highways Agency: Improvements at the Carew were funded by Shell to improve safety for motorists. A 'Stop' sign at the exit will be requested (rather than 'Give Way').
- m) DCC: engagement events – accommodation strategy for older people.
- n) Devon Countryside Access Forum: new members are sought.
- o) Devon Campaign to Protect Rural England: Best Kept Village Competition 2014.
- p) Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.
- q) Brent Island Trust: letter of thanks for the Community Benefit Grant of £1,000.
- r) Devon Association of Local Councils: January newsletter.
- s) DALC: nominations of Chairmen of Councils for Buckingham Palace Garden Parties; the Council agreed that Cllr Greg Wall should be nominated.
- t) Devon Senior Voice magazine.
- u) SHDC: Housing Surgery 12 March for Parish Council.
- v) DALC: membership of 'Healthwatch' Devon and magazine.
- w) Mr K Smith: there are illegal posters on telegraph poles in the village including one on the Housing Need Survey from the Parish Council. Clarification of this question will be published in the next newsletter; essentially the landowner must give permission for temporary posters, and telegraph poles etc. on the footway are on land owned by DCC Highways, who do not give permission for posters.

All noted by the Parish Council.

PC 23-1-14 Report highway matters and street cleaning required

The Chairman advised that potholes are being reported, as is the flooding in Station Approach.

The trap door at The Oak is broken, Cllr Jane Maunder will ask the owners what is happening.

The Parish Council understands that there is a delay with improvements to the Jubilee Crossing due to continuing discussion with DNPA regarding the different surface to be provided.

The Council will request that the bollards are installed as soon as possible, as vehicles are often parked on the granite setts.

PC 24-1-14 Finance:

Accounts for payment - including contributions towards electricity used for Christmas lights: the three traders providing electricity have all chosen not to receive a refund as their contribution towards the lights. The Parish Council is very grateful.

<u>Community Benefit Fund -Application for £100 to £250</u>	
A Matthews: towards a Scout event in Japan in 2015 (cheque held pending information on dates of payments) (Running total 2013-14	250 5,600)
South Brent & District Caring: annual grant (first of three)	750.00
SWW (Direct debit): charges for toilet at Sanderspool Cross	7.00
Entanet Int. Ltd (Direct debit): monthly broadband fee	19.78
South Brent Village Hall: room hire Dec.	10.00
South West Grounds Maintenance: Jan. invoice	306.00
South Brent Old School Community Centre Ltd: room hire 19.75, photocopying (HNS) 6.48	26.23
R Illman: install bench (Hillside), picnic table & fence repair	170.00
R Fivash: delivery of newsletter (39) and Housing N. Survey	150.00
DALC: 'Local Councils Explained' book	54.99
G Wall: reimbursement postage for Housing N. Survey	100.00
Smith of Derby Ltd: annual clock maintenance	224.40
Payroll	1488.15
TOTAL	3556.55

The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed.

PC 25-1-14 Items for press release and/or the newsletter

The lease of the Station Yard park will be included in the newsletter.

PC 26-1-14 Items for the next agenda

Nothing further.

The meeting closed.