



Shute Parish Council

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The Councillors were summoned to attend the Annual Assembly of the Parish and meeting Shute Parish Council held at Whitford Hall on Thursday, April 20th 2017 starting at 7.30pm. The following matters were discussed.

Those present:- Cllr Bill Marshall, John Pearce, David Plowman, Peter Rugg (Chairman), Ella Sweetland, Rick Wood. Cllr Andrew Moulding DCC. Carol Miltenburg, Clerk and 2 members of the public – Mr & Mrs Parry.

Minutes

Annual Assembly of the Parish

1 Chairmans report from Cllr Peter Rugg

Welcome everyone who has come tonight.

This Parish would not function without the volunteers and I would like to thank them all in no particular order. Rick Wood, Andy Bowman and their road team with Richard Brain as our Road Warden for keeping the flooding under control and doing clearance of gullies and pothole filling. Richard has recently applied for and got a grant of £500 from DCC Community Enhancement Fund to obtain equipment for the team. We have Mervin Prideaux who looks after the war memorial for us and Tony Gosling who does the internal audit of our accounts. Our Councillors too are volunteers and they also put in many hours of unpaid work on behalf of the community in Shute and Whitford. The parish this year has worked on improving the Burial Ground by installing a non slip pathway in the grass and will work on further improvements to the ground over the coming year. We have also installed a hand rail at the war memorial to improve the safety of the narrow steps. A new noticeboard has been purchased and replace the one at the war memorial. The Council is in the process of purchasing the BT payphone box at Seaton Junction at the moment. This year the Council has purchased an amount of IT equipment with the help of a grant from the Transparency Fund for Smaller Authorities and now has its own laptop computer, digital projector and printer / scanner to help the council with it's work.

The parish has also started work on a car park feasibility study – lead by Cllr Plowman working with representatives from the School and Church to sort out once and for all if the parish requires a car park, if so how big and where it should be sited. Work has started on this and will continue over the coming months. The final document will be presented to the parish for discussion when finished. This is our last meeting with Cllr Andrew Moulding acting as our County Councillor as he will be standing down at the May election. I would like to thank him on behalf of the Parish Council for all the work he has undertaken on our behalf over the years and fighting for Shute Parish in the corridors of power – well at least County Hall. Almost certainly without him taking the then Chairman in his car past Lilylake it would not have been resurfaced. The use of his Locality Budget

has made a big difference to the school with the white board and outdoor space. Andrew, we will miss you and your advice.

2 County Councillors report from Cllr Andrew Moulding, DCC

I am pleased to present my annual report as County Councillor for the Axminster Division. This will be my last report as County Councillor for Shute & Whitford, as I am not standing for election in May, having served the parish for the past 8 years. I will still continue at East Devon, where I have been a District Councillor for 30 years. In my last year as a County Councillor, I have been privileged to be Chairman of Devon County Council. This is a delightful role as I attend civic events all over Devon, amounting to three or four engagements each week. This has included a number of royal visits, with more to come I believe.

New Electoral Arrangements

The County Council elections in May will be subject to the new electoral arrangements with Shute & Whitford being in a division of 21 rural parishes, stretching from Whimble in the west to Chardstock in the east.

County Council Budget

The Devon County Council Budget meeting took place recently, which I chaired and went on for about four hours! This was obviously a difficult budget for County. There is a reduction in core funding of £23m. The basic increase in Council Tax will remain at 2%, but there are new powers to increase the Social Care precept by 3%. Councils will lose part of their New Homes Bonus. Devon County Council will need to use part of its reserves to balance the budget. Savings of a further £37m will be required in 2018 / 2019. So DCC's Council Tax increase this year will be just under 5%. WE WILL ALL FEEL IT IN OUR POCKETS!

Axminster Hospital

Last year I reported that Axminster Hospital had lost its inpatient beds. We were all devastated by that decision. We now know that inpatient beds will be withdrawn from Seaton and Honiton - so the nearest hospital for the discharge of patients from Wonford will be Sidmouth. However, progress with the creation of a "hub" hospital at Axminster is making headway. I am pleased to report that I am a member of the Axe Valley Community Social Care Hub Steering Group which is challenging the data on which the decision has been made and which aims to support the provision of a range of health and social care services within Axminster Hospital.

Locality Budget / Parishes Together Fund

The Parishes Together Fund has assisted Shute & Whitford with maintenance of ditches, drainage and gulleys. I trust that Skanska, the new highways contractor, will perform satisfactorily to overcome a considerable range of highway problems in the parish

I am pleased that the Locality Budget has supported the creation of a "natural outdoor space" at Shute Primary School

I wish you all well as I vacate my position as your county councillor

3 District Councillors report. No report was received from Cllr Chubb.

4 Police report. No annual report was received but the Clerk advised there had been 3 crimes in Shute parish in March 2017.

Parish Council Meeting

1. Apologies for absence & Declarations of Interests. Apologies were received from Cllrs Magrane and Orsman. No declarations of interest were made.

2. The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of March 9th, 2017 were received and approved by the Council. Cllr Rugg signed the minutes.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes. Phone box update – the Council agreed that the contract to adopt the payphone box at Seaton Junction should be signed and returned to BT. Cllr

Marshall proposed, Cllr Plowman seconded. Clerk to contact BT concerning the box in Whitford (number 01297 552709) as BT have quoted the incorrect location in their recent e mail. Noticeboard update – Cllr Marshall and Orsman will be installing this shortly. There is no update on the Air Ambulance landing site.

4. Public Forum. Mr Parry commented on a cold call telephone interview he had received. It was noted that a complaint about bonfires at Seaton Junction has been made by residents to Environmental Health who contact the person involved and the fires have now stopped. Several complaints have been received from parents at Shute School concerning dog poo in the area of the Gatehouse. A poster has been put up on the noticeboard. Notice to be put on the news e mail. Environmental Health have confirmed that if they are given the names of those responsible they will take action. It was observed that the recycling lorries have left their side doors open which has resulted in litter being blown out. Cllr Wood picked up 16 papers and there were reports of peelings also being found. Clerk to contact EDDC.

5. Finance - Payments to be made – R Wareham £284.40 re burial ground maintenance; R Lawrence £168.00 re handrail at war memorial; Land Registry £14.00 re information; C Miltenburg £21.49 (ink cartridge). Payments received Kilmington PC £137.50 re Hitchcock Trust; Land Registry refund £7.00; EDDC precept & grant £2,426.50. Payments & receipts approved by the Council, proposed Cllr Wood seconded Cllr Plowman. The Clerk advised about the new pension regulations.

6. Burial Ground. The Clerk updated the Council on the grass cutting and the success of the mesh path. She confirmed that Mr Wareham will continue mowing for a further year.

7. Shute car park. Cllr Plowman updated the Council on the progress with the proposed car park. A meeting was held on March 15th and a number of potential sites have been identified. These have initially assessed for suitability which has reduced the number. Contact will be made shortly with the owners of some of the more promising sites to see if they could be acquired. The National Trust have sent a copy of their archaeological report on Shute Barton.

8. Correspondence received – this was noted.

9. Highway Matters. Road Team grant application the Clerk confirmed that the application has been approved by DCC Highways. The Council complimented Richard Brain the Road Warden for making the application.

10. Planning – updates. It was noted that there are new buildings on the DTC site at Taunton Cross. Clerk to contact EDDC enforcement

11. Any Other Business. It was felt that the Council should contact Lyme Bay Cider with an invitation to speak to the Council at a future date to advise about future plans as they are an important employer in the Parish.

Date, time & place of next Council meeting:- Thursday May 25th, Umborne Hall starting at 7.30pm including the Annual Meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm