

BISHOPS TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25 April 2013 at Bishops Tawton Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs J Taylor (Chairman), Ms S Barber, K Barron, C Bell, J Lewis and C Verney.

In attendance: Cllrs R Edgell (DCC), G Lane (NDC), D Luggar (NDC), PCSO Paul Grantham. 15 members of the public, Parish Clerk.

155. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Hambly and Ms S McKernan,

156. Police Report

PCSO Paul Grantham introduced himself to the meeting, having taken over from PCSO Hannah Denton.

During the past two months 2 crimes had been recorded in the parish: 1 drink driving offence on the A377, and 1 incident on of fighting.

Vehicle crime continued to be a problem in the Whiddon Valley area. Everyone were urged to lock valuables out of sight when leaving their vehicle.

The police had launched an initiative to combat doorstep crime. Stickers were available requesting no cold callers. He was willing to call on anyone requiring a visit.

157. Questions from the Public/Reports

None.

158. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 28 March 2013.

Cllr Bell reported that he had not received his copy of the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

159. Matters Arising from meeting held on 28 March 2013

None.

160. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in agenda item 175.1

161. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Luggar reported that the Gardening and Landscaping contract for North Devon and Torridge had been awarded to ISS Facility Services Landscaping.

The council website had been upgraded to make it more accessible.

Cllr Lane reported on the council's expenses, noting that salaries were a substantial percentage of the total costs. He offered to obtain copies of a recent presentation for parish councillors.

The Planning Department was a substantial cost to the council. The council was looking to increase fees to help balance the cost of running the department.

162. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported on the work of the County Council over the previous four years, and its objectives to make the council more efficient.

163. Planning

1. Applications

55541 Erection of conservatory at 3 Park Villas, Bishops Tawton

It was resolved to recommend approval.

55587 Variation of Condition 3 (materials & design) and Condition 4 (obscure glazing) attached to planning permission 52792 for extension to dwelling at Easter Cottage, 4 Easter Street, Bishops Tawton.

It was resolved not to make a recommendation, and to leave the planning officer to make the appropriate decision,

It was agreed to enquire the reason that obscure glass was a condition of the application receiving planning approval.

2. Decisions

- 54920 Conversion of store to ancillary living accommodation at Greendale Farm Pill Lane Barnstaple
- 54921 Listed building application for conversion of store to ancillary living accommodation at Greendale Farm Pill Lane Barnstaple
- 55147 Listed building application creation of new window openings at Easter Mill Easter Street Bishops Tawton Barnstaple
- 55187 Erection of garage with playroom at Daisy Cottage Sentry Lane Bishops Tawton Barnstaple
- 55341 Change of use of building from commercial storage to agricultural at Halmpstone Manor, Bishops Tawton

3.

164. Open Day

It was reported that the Open Day had been a great success, with a large number of parishioners attending. This had resulted in it remaining open until 7:00pm instead of the planned 4:00pm. Very useful comments had been received from those attending. It was agreed to form a sub-committee, consisting Cllrs Taylor, Lewis, Barron and Ms Barber, to consider the comments made by parishioners. It was agreed that the sub committee should meet on Tuesday 30 April.

165. Vacancy on the Parish Council

It was noted that there was still one vacancy on the parish council.

166. Outside Bodies

It was agreed that it would be helpful to have representatives on other village bodies, including school governors.
It was agreed to enquire into the position regarding a parish councilor becoming a school governor.
It was agreed to elect members to various committees at the next meeting.

167. Sub Committees

Already covered in previous item.

168. Local Plan

It was reported that maps displaying the proposals for Bishops Tawton under the Torridge and North Devon Local Plan were exhibited at the recent Open Day. Proposals for the Local Plan were also explained to parishioners attending.

169. Flooding

It was reported that the draft DCC flood report covering the whole county had been published. It was noted that the report was still to be finalised, and that it had been produced before the parish council's report had been produced.
Cllr Taylor gave a brief outline of the parish council report which identified what the council considered to be the main problem areas, and suggestions to remedy the problems. Copies of the report would be made available for parishioners to send to their insurance companies, if required.
It was reported that, despite assurances from North Devon Council, the parish council was not being consulted over planning applications in other parishes which lay within the catchment area of the Venn Stream. Any development, however small, would have a cumulative effect on the stream, which would add to the problems in the village. It was agreed to contact Kate Little at NDC for assurances that Bishops Tawton would be consulted in the future.

170. Footpath 13

It was reported that in the past it was possible to walk along the footpath all the way from Rock Park to Bishops Tawton, exiting either in the village or next to the Methodist chapel. The path was now impassible at the railway line, where a fence had been constructed under the bridge.

It was the parish council's intention to re-establish the entire length of the footpath. At the last review of the Definitive Map there had not been enough forms completed by parishioners, and others, who had walked the entire length.

It was agreed to invite a representative from Railtrack to meet councillors to discuss the problem caused by the fence under the bridge. Cllr Lewis to arrange.

171. Active Devon

Cllr Ms Barber reported that Active Devon were funding Yoga classes that were being held on Tuesday mornings.

172. A377 road

It was noted that Cllr Lewis was not required to declare an interest in the item.

A letter, and photographs, had been received from a parishioner concerned over the danger posed by cars parked on the A377.

The letter and photographs supported the parish council's call for yellow lines to be installed before a serious accident occurred.

It was reported that the police did not consider yellow lines would make the road safer, as it would possibly increase the speed of traffic, despite being within a 30mph limit..

173. Payments:

1. J & J Bins – emptying dog bins	£ 52.00
2. North Devon Homes – licence for bus shelter	£ 20.50
3. Mr C Bell – Open Day expenses	£140.80
4. Mr J Lewis – Open Day expenses	£ 64.35

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

175. Correspondence

Cllr Taylor declared an interest and left the meeting while item 175.1 was discussed.

1. No response had been received from North Devon Council following the letter sent after the last meeting. It was noted that 21 days had not lapsed since sending the letter.
2. Paul Stewart (DCC) had clarified two issues raised at the last meeting relating to Accident investigation Criteria and TRO costs for the proposed yellow lines on the A377.

176. Items to placed on the agenda of the next meeting

None.

Apologies for not being able to attend the next meeting were received from Cllrs Ms Barber and Ms McKernan

177. Date of next meeting: Thursday 23 May 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:05pm