

LYDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Nicholls Hall on Tuesday 16th September 2008

97-2008 Present:

Ms L Ellicott (Chairman): Ms J Gannon (Vice-Chairman); Mrs L Cole: Mrs S Holland:
Ms C Moriarty: Mr I Hammerton: Mrs A Martin (Clerk)

Parishioners and others in attendance: More than ten Parishioners were in attendance.

98-2008 Apologies for Absence:

Mrs K Boyd, Cllr A Hosking and Cllr I McPhie were accepted. Members were informed that Cllr Hosking had recently undergone a major operation and good wishes were extended to him for his recovery.

99-2008 Declaration of Interests:

There were none.

100-2008 Parishioners and Visitors Time:

100.1 South West Water has recently raised the possibility of building a replacement Sewage Treatment Works, and its representatives have consulted landowners of sites under consideration. A number of Parishioners had questions and observations to make, and a lively discussion ensued. As nobody present could claim to have any expertise in the construction and operation of a modern Sewage Treatment Works, a list of questions was compiled and these will be put to South West Water. A public event will be organised at which the professional engineers from SWW, who do have the knowledge and experience, will be able to inform the whole community regarding the Company's proposals. The questions raised by parishioners at the meeting which the Parish Council will ask SWW to address are:

Why does the existing Sewage Treatment Works need to move at all, and is it not possible to upgrade the existing works?

What are the technical requirements of any proposed new location?

What do the modern works sites look like, and what traffic movements do they generate?

What are likely to be the next steps in the process? Will SWW use compulsory purchase orders to force unwilling landowners to sell to them?

The majority of Parishioners left the meeting at the end of this item, with only two remaining.

100.2 There was a question regarding byelaws governing the size and frequency of domestic bonfires. This Parishioner stated that he had suffered significant adverse financial consequences in attempting to carry on the operation of his business, having had to refund and compensate customers as a result of frequent bonfires lit in an adjoining garden. He reported that the smoke was sufficiently intrusive that on one occasion the RSPCA had been called by a concerned visitor worried about its effect on the livestock. Humans affected were

forced to wash their hair and clothing as a result of the smoke. Councillors felt it was unfortunate that this behavior was happening as the village has such a good green collection service in which the green waste is not only removed from households, but is also then composted by West Devon. The Clerk was requested to check the byelaws relating to domestic bonfires with West Devon Borough Council. Councillors hoped that this would be speedily resolved in the interests of all the parties involved.

This parishioner left the meeting at the end of this item.

100.3 Mr John Pettit RIBA, Project Manager, gave an update on progress at the Ancient Spring. Groundworks have been completed by the professional contractor, and local children have now planted three hundred bulbs as part of their ongoing wildlife project. The proposed seating and the information board have been ordered, and the new compost heap has been constructed. Mr Pettit was asked for his recommendation as to a suitable date for the formal opening and suggested March when the daffodils should be out. Native English Bluebells had also been planted but these will not be at their best in the first season after planting.

Mr Pettit left the meeting.

100.4 Complaints have been received from three separate parishioners about the new windows opposite to the Croft. The Clerk will check with the DNPA planning office whether planning permission should have been sought for these.

101-2008 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd July 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

102-2008 Matters Arising:

102.1 Winter Opening of the Toilets: The Clerk will confirm to WDBC the Council's decision to allow them to close the toilets this winter.

102.2 Highways, Parking and Traffic Issues: The Chairman reported that a number of Parishioners had expressed concern that double white lines have disappeared from the A386 at Vale Down on what is considered to be an extremely dangerous section of the road. The Clerk will contact the Highways Department as a matter of urgency.

Ms Moriarty asked about the visit of the lengthsman and was told that he did indeed visit the village in July. The culvert under the school has not been cleared, but is very difficult to see for anybody unfamiliar with it. Mrs Martyn has kindly offered to cut back the grass to make it more visible, and when this has been done the Clerk will contact the Highways Department again to request that it is cleared.

102.3 Parish Plan update – The returned questionnaires have been sent to Devon County Council for analysis, and it is expected that they will finish this task around the end of the month. The return rate was around 50%.

102.4 Progress re: Ancient Spring – Dealt with in Visitors Time

102.5 Progress re: Emergency Plan – Due to a computer glitch an e-mail was sent but not received by the editor of the Parish Magazine, so the item will now go into the October magazine. The Clerk reported that she had received a request from the police for the name and contact details of Lydford's Emergency officer, and she had supplied Mr Hammerton's details as a temporary measure.

102.6 Beating of the Bounds – The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Church and Commoners and both have verbally replied that they are happy for the Parish Council to organise the event. The old boundary stone which was found in a garden at Vale Down is to be resited soon now that Bridestowe Parish Council have agreed to the proposed site, and so will be in place in good time for the event. The Church will be holding their Rogation Sunday on 17th May, and the Chairman proposed that the Beating of the Bounds should be scheduled for Saturday 16th May. The Clerk will check the date with various organizations including the Army Range officer, our Dartmoor Ranger, the Dartmoor Rescue Group and the proposed leaders of the walk. The Council will approach Mr Howard Barkell, Mr Ian Hardy and Mr Paul Brooks regarding leading the walk. It is hoped that all three might be able to assist, which will help to share the responsibility.

103-2008 Receive Reports from Councillors on respective outside bodies:

103.1 DNPA Consultative Forum No meeting.

103.2 Police Authority No meeting, though there will be a public meeting on October 1st.

103.3 Southern Parishes Link Committee Mrs Boyd attended the meeting on 31st July, which was mainly concerned with the Boundary Committee Review of Devon. The closing date for submissions is 26th September, and individuals as well as organizations are invited to make a submission. The Parish Council submission was sent in July. The next meeting of the Southern Parishes Link Committee is on Thursday.

103.4 Nicholls Hall Committee The Kiddies' tables and chairs have arrived. The Sports Field recently held a very successful Bistro Nite in aid of their funds. Dates coming up in the near future are the Villages in Action event on 26th September and Bistro Nites on 3rd and 31st October.

Mr Hammerton had been asked by a Parishioner to raise the issue of the Nicholls Hall entry on the Devon Village Halls website, which only lists the Art Club as a regular activity at the Hall and leaves out all the others. A printout of the entry was passed to Mrs Holland to pass on to the Hall Committee.

103.5 WDBC No report this month.

104-2008 Finance:

104.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, gave a report detailing the following points:

i) The following pre-authorized cheques were paid in August: Clerk salary and expenses £215.88, HMRC £53.85, T Liversidge (grass cutting) £17, C J Pengelly (Spring groundworks contractor) £4379.81, H V Horticulture Ltd (for Spring) £193.25.

ii) The Precept request form for 2009/10 has been received. The deadline for its return is 26th December 2008.

104.2 The following balances were reported:

Current account – £825.63

Deposit account - £4163.90

Parish Plan - £1204.23

Ancient Spring - £4469.61

The following cheques were authorised from the general budget: Clerk salary & expenses £240.41: HMRC (via Post Office Ltd) £54.32: T Liversidge (grass) £17.00; Mainly Stationery £17.03. Provisions held as shown on the sheet circulated to members and attached to the master set of minutes.

105-2008 Correspondence

105.1 Correspondence requiring action or decision:

1. Request from University of London to publish the Lydford Book of Memories for not-for-profit academic study only. Information had been received from David Evans (who was the Clerk at the time) that the conditions of the grant by which the Lydford Book of Memories was compiled were specific in their insistence that the information was freely available in the public domain, and so it was RESOLVED that the permission be granted.
2. Correspondence regarding the community shop: plans to try to establish a community shop as originally envisaged had been postponed in the light of information, as yet unsubstantiated, that a commercial venture already existing in the village may seek to establish a village shop. Meanwhile the first Saturday Market at the Nicholls Hall had been run very successfully, and thanks to donations of cakes and the free use of the hall a working fund of £70 was raised. The Council sought reassurance that this was still intended as a not-for-profit community venture, and the Clerk was instructed to seek clarification on this.
3. An invitation had been received from the DNPA for two representatives to attend a Planning Conference in October. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mr Hammerton would attend this meeting.
4. The Council was informed of possible changes to the way that members of the English National Park and Broads Authority are chosen, and invited to make opinions known to DAPC. Both options were considered to be equally acceptable to the Council.

105.2 Correspondence for Information Only

1. Information from Land Registry about registering Title
2. From WDBD re: Strategic Housing Land Availability
- 3 Map showing new site for the reclaimed boundary stone from DNPA Archaeologist
- 4 Letter from Police Supt Sharpe regarding crime figures and the need for vigilance in rural areas, especially with regard to oil tanks.
- 5 Information about removal of payphones – Lydford boxes are note affected
- 6 Information regarding Commons Registration at Yellowmead Farm, Sheepstor
- 7 Agenda for meeting of Dartmoor Access Forum on 2nd September
- 8 WDBC Local Development Framework Update
- 9 Devon Talk magazine
- 10 Devon Sustainable Community Strategy
- 11 Programme of free Training events from SWAN
12. Bundle of correspondence re: Boundary Committee Review of Devon
13. DAPC Annual Report 2007/08
14. DNPA Agenda and Reports for Planning Meeting on 5th September
15. Village Green magazine
16. Letter from Tavistock Town Council regarding proposed new Community Board centred on the town.
17. Ranger service stakeholder survey from DNPA
18. Letter from DCC re Parish and Town Council Update meetings to be held in South, East and North Devon but none in West Devon. The Clerk has already queried this but is not hopeful of the omission being rectified.

106-2008 Planning Applications

- 106.1 Decisions Received** i) Application 0443/08 at **Widgerys** has been granted permission.

ii) Application 0340/08 at **The Paddock** has been refused permission.

106.2 An application for the demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two-storey dwelling at Olde Stone, Lydford (0577/08 and 0578/08)

A number of photographs accompanied this application, but although many porches were included in this portfolio none were of the two storey design of that in the proposal.

Councillors felt that this dominated the front façade of the proposed building, and was out of keeping with the style of properties in the village. It was RESOLVED that the following response should be made:

The Parish Council OBJECTS on the grounds of design as it relates to the porch.

The Council has already resolved that it has NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE to the replacement of the existing bungalow with a traditional two storey property (.

107-2008 Items raised at the previous meeting for inclusion on this agenda:

107.1 : Opening Ceremony at the Ancient Spring: dealt with in visitors time.

107.2: Quality Council Status: this was postponed until the next meeting as earlier business had taken up so much time and the item did not require immediate attention.

107.3 Community Land Trust: Ms Gannon had investigated as requested. If a Trust was formed it would have to build affordable housing and would rely on people within the Parish being willing to run the Trust. Other examples that she had found in Devon are in larger settlements. Ms Gannon will continue her endeavours to find out more.

Meanwhile the Council has been approached by a private landowner who wishes to develop a mixture of affordable housing and private housing within the village. The Parish Council is also aware of a different site which was put forward for affordable housing previously. We are aware that the DNPA are due to be preparing their Strategic Housing Land Assessment within the next few months and the West Devon are intending to prepare a new Housing Needs Survey for the area, and will await the publication of these. All interested parties may then be made aware of them.

108-2008 Items raised for inclusion on the next Agenda

108.1 Christmas Tree Festival

108.2 Proposed Sewage Treatment Works

109-2008 To agree the date of the next meeting:

The date of **Tuesday 14th October** was agreed commencing at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.45 pm.

Annie Martin
Clerk to the Parish Council

19th September 2008

Signed as a true and accurate record..... (Chairman)

Date.....

There will be a
Public Exhibition
by **South West Water**
regarding the
**Proposed New Sewage
Treatment Works**
which will be held in
the Nicholls Hall
on **Tuesday 7th October**
from **3pm to 7pm**