

**DRAFT** minutes of the meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held at 7:30 p.m.  
on Tuesday 11 April 2017 in Blackawton Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Rake (Chairman), Mallyon, Lewis-Davis, and Wills

**In attendance:** Cllr Hicks (South Hams District Council), Cllr Hawkins (Devon County Council) and A Thom (Clerk)

**One member of the public and two Devon County Cllr candidates:** Josh Gardner and Julian Brazil (entered during Item 6.2)

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### **Open Forum**

#### **a) Dangerous road between Halwell and Totnes Cross**

A member of the public discussed their concerns about the hazardous condition of the section of road between Halwell and Totnes Cross. They reported seeing a motor cyclist go into one of the holes in the road and come off his bike. On this occasion the cyclist apparently did not sustain injury. However this incident illustrates the risk caused by the very poor state of the road.

The Clerk reported contact with DCC since the March 2017 meeting. Repairs will be carried out in the 2017/18 financial year however no date has been given and DCC refused to erect the dangerous road sign requested by BPC. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to DCC requesting urgent repairs and that prominent signage be placed to warn drivers of the hazard caused by the increasingly large holes in the road.

#### **b) Quarry Road Wall**

Concerns were raised about the poor state of this wall which is at risk of completely collapsing into the road. The Clerk reported that this has been discussed with DCC and reported to SHDC as the responsible Authority. It was agreed the Clerk will chase with SHDC and write to the landowner.

### **1/17 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Coe, Joyce and Perry.

### **2/17 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

### **3/17 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Approval of the minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2017 was deferred.

### **4/17 Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Hawkins explained that because of the new electoral ward boundaries this will be his last meeting at BPC. He thanked the Parish Councillors for their support over many years.

Cllr Hawkins reported DCC's support for the petition for fairer funding for schools. It is a response to poor and inequitable funding of local schools by central Government [<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/182705>]. DCC's new Highways contractor commenced at the start of April 2017. Nearly £2 million pounds of Highways contract savings have been reinvested in a rural roads fund.

### **5/17 Report from District Councillor**

Cllr Hicks reported that he will be resigning from the SHDC Executive Committee at its forthcoming Annual Meeting, but will be serving the remainder of his term. He passed on the Council's formal response to planning questions asked by Stoke Fleming Parish Councillors.

The Joint Local Plan is nearly finished. Two weeks remain of the Regulation 19 consultation which closes on 26 April 2017. The Plan will then be referred to the Inspectorate for examination. It is expected to go live March 2018.

Cllr Hicks reported that he has confirmed that South West Water does not require the

Town Farm S106 contribution. The new Plan contains a requirement for 30% affordable housing which will be robustly enforced. As it stands the planning Officers do not feel there are grounds to refuse the application to revise the Town Farm S106 agreement by removing the SWW contribution as requested. Cllr Rake will forward his email correspondence with SHDC to Cllr Hicks.

The SHDC Consultation on its draft Events Policy closes 30 April 2017.

## **6/17 Planning Issues**

### **6/17.1 SHDC Planning Approvals/Refusals**

The following decisions were noted.

- 3955/16/PDM Watson Barn Park Lane Blackawton Totnes Devon TQ9 7AA. Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse and associated works. Prior Approval Not required.
- 1876/16/VAR Unit 1 Shepleigh Cottage Millcombe Farm To Bowbridge Cross Blackawton Devon TQ9 7AH. Variation of condition 3 of planning consent 06/0713/08/F to permit use of unit 1 Shepleigh Cottage to be ancillary to unit 2 Shepleigh Cottage instead of Shepleigh Cottage. Conditional Approval.

### **6/17.2 Review of New Applications**

The following application was considered.

- **0767/17/FUL Field At Sx 793 508, Woodford, Blackawton, Totnes, TQ9 7AB. Construction of an agricultural/equestrian building.**

It was agreed that a site visit would be useful and that BPC's decision would be deferred, to the meeting on 9 May 2017 if possible. The Clerk will try to arrange a site visit for Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 6:00 pm.

### **6/17.3 Joint Local Plan Consultation**

The Regulation 19 consultation closes 26 April 2017. Allocation of housing in Blackawton and its reasoning was discussed. It was agreed that BPC will not comment on the Plan.

### **6/17.4 Town Farm Development**

Cllr Hicks was asked to source the S.106 document for BPC to review regarding business units to be run by BPC.

## **7/17 Finance**

### **7/17.1 Update on Current Financial Position**

The Report which showed a provisional carry forward of £38,596.98, a balance of 37,244.82 after the payments below, and a balance of unearmarked reserves of £799.84 was approved.

The purpose of £350 received from DCC will be checked.

### **7/17.2 BPC Insurance 2017/18**

It was resolved to choose a three year agreement with Hiscox Insurance sourced via brokers Came and Company. The cost is comparable to the current policy (£275 annually including the 5% three year agreement discount) with a superior level of cover.

### **7/17.3 Payments Made, Due and Received**

The following payments were approved:

- Devon Association of Local Councils subscription £167.06
- Exjet Services drain clearance £408.00
- South Hams District Council payroll service £120
- Clerk March 2017 Salary & Pension £346.10 & HMRC PAYE £7.20
- Sid Rowdon all over cut of churchyard and cut of cemetery 22/3/17 £186

- ICCM annual membership £90.00

The annual direct debit payment to the Information Commissioner for registration £35 was noted.

The payment to D Hallett for lengthsmen services for Blackawton, Dittisham and Cornworthy 10/3/16-31/3/17 £744.00 was supported.

The Clerk overtime invoice £91.14 was approved - for payment in May.

**8/17 Reopening the public footpath route connecting East and West Hartley**

The DCC Footpath Warden has asked BPC's view on whether there is a benefit to re-opening this route. The Footpath Wardens' view that it does not warrant the cost and effort to reopen the right of way was agreed with by BPC.

**9/17 Air Ambulance night landing sites in Blackawton**

At its AGM on 27 April 2017 the Playing Fields Management Committee will make a final decision about whether to approve use the community wormcharming field for a night landing site.

**10/17 Arrangements to remove or empty the Cemetery bin**

There are no current arrangements for emptying of the bin. Cllr Hicks will liaise with SHDC to see if it will empty it. Cllrs will review the condition of the bin to consider refurbishment or replacement.

**11/17 Website link request**

No decision was made regarding the request to add jobsearch engine [neuvoo.co.uk](http://neuvoo.co.uk) to Parish website.

**12/17 Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

- South Devon and Torbay Community Grants Fund. South Devon & Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group, community-led schemes to improve health and wellbeing.  
Available information will be posted on the BPC facebook page.
- Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP, UK Parliament Week 13 – 19 November

**13/17 Reports from Parish Councillors and Wardens**

Cllr Rake discussed the recent Planning Forum with a senior SHDC Planning Officer. The Officer's view that it is the substance, not the number, of objections which carries weight was discussed. This might lead to a decision to obtain professional advice to write a response which would then be signed by like-minded responders.

Cllrs Rake and Lewis-Davis will be responsible for the PC's next Whist and Euchre rota.

**14/17 Annual Parish Meeting**

The APM is scheduled for 23 May 2017.

Devon Air Ambulance will discuss the proposed Blackawton night landing site.

Speakers will be followed by a celebration to thank Blackawton's volunteers.

**15/17 Future Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the next monthly meeting of the Parish Council which are scheduled to start at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 9 May 2017 were confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20:43.

*Annette Thom*  
*Parish Clerk*

*Minutes are available on the Blackawton noticeboard and on  
[www.blackawtoncommunity.com](http://www.blackawtoncommunity.com)*