

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 7:30 pm in Blackawton Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Rake (Chairman), Cllr Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Mallyon, Coe, Perry, Wills and Lewis-Davis

In attendance: Cllr Hicks (South Hams District Council) and A Thom (Clerk)
Four members of the public were present

Apologies: Cllr Hawkins (Devon County Council)

Open Forum

a) A member of the public questioned the planned maintenance of the Blackawton playground and its funding - which were reported in the December 2016 Blackawton Beacon. Cllrs explained that the Playing Fields Committee has been advised that major maintenance including steam cleaning is required. Grant funds will be sought. The PC has agreed it will make a grant to support this community resource.

b) A member of the public raised a problem with noise from the Village Hall the preceding Sunday. An apology was made and it was noted that if users can keep the doors closed noise is contained.

d) A member of the public reported on the progress made in cleaning up the Blackawton phone box. They questioned progress made in adopting the box and raised the issue of fund raising. Cllr Lewis-Davis reported that the request has been made to adopt the box, however the processing of the application is out of BPC's control and slowed by the large number of applications being processed by BT. It was agreed that community fund raising would be pursued.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Devon County Cllr Hawkins.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2016 were approved.

4. Report from South Hams District Councillor

Cllr Hicks reported that the Local Plan should be ready for formal public consultation at the end of February 2017. SHDC is evaluating whether to form a Local Authority Company.

5. Report from Devon County Councillor

Deferred in the absence of Cllr Hawkins.

6. Planning Issues

6.1. SHDC Planning Approvals/Refusals

To note the decisions as follows:

- 3457/16/COL Oldstone Farm Solar Park, Blackawton, Totnes, TQ9 7DG. Circular 14/90 application to erect a short overhead line. Approval.
- The Normandy Arms, Chapel Street, Blackawton, Devon, TQ9 7BN - 3952/16/NMM. Application for non-material amendment for proposed alterations including two new sun tunnels to 1st Floor, changes to a single ground floor window and blocking up a single window to allow more usable space and two

new roof lights. This is following grant of planning permission 0814/16/FUL. Conditional Approval.

6.2. Review of New Applications

To comment, with recommendations as necessary, to South Hams on the following applications:

- 3442/16/FUL Land at **Greenslade** Road, Blackawton, Totnes, TQ9 7BP. Application for erection of four dwellings.

This application was discussed at length. Cllr Rake reported on the site-visit by BPC. Issues raised in the discussion included:

- public comments objecting to the proposal,
- increased traffic on Greenslade Road and at the Chapel Street junction with Main Street (to which DCC Highways has objected historically),
- negative visual impact, effect on the character of the landscape, and effect on the setting of a Conservation Area - increased by extensive glazing and large buildings
- that the proposed buildings do not fit into the Village
- SHDC Officer's comment that there is insufficient information about how drainage will be managed
- SHDC Conservation Officer's report

BPC agreed that the proposed new footpath link on the southern edge of the site would be of benefit to the community and supports its construction.

BPC supports this small scale of development [four new dwellings].

It was unanimously resolved that BPC would respond communicating BPC's concerns about the negative visual impact of the current proposal, supporting the concerns raised by SHDC's Conservation Officer in his assessment of the proposal and the concerns raised by the SHDC Officer about lack of information about drainage management, and raising the issue of increased traffic at the Normandy Arms intersection. The response will note BPC's support of this scale of development and the proposed new footpath link.

- 3955/16/PDM Watson Barn, Park Lane, Blackawton, Totnes, TQ9 7AA. Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse and associated works.

It is understood that land on which this building is located is rented for stock (sheep) to graze on it and that the building which is the subject of this application has been used separately by the owner of the land as a workshop. This pattern of use has been established for a long period of time - greater than twenty years. It was also noted that a tractor had been stored in the building at one time. This information will be communicated for SHDC to incorporate into its due diligence.

- Tangerine Tree, 50 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SQ. Application for variation to the premises licence. Closes 1 February 2017.

No comment.

6.3. Consultations

South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils' Joint Homeless Strategy. Closes 13 February 2017.

No comment.

6.4. Proposed Visit from Senior SHDC Planning Officer

It was agreed that this visit would be useful and BPC would host other PCs in BVH. It was agreed that the Clerk would also post on the Blackawton Community website information about material planning considerations and how to make influential and relevant comments on planning applications.

7. Finance

7.1. Update on Current Financial Position

Allowing for payments to be made and earmarked reserves of £32,644.98, a balance of unearmarked reserves of £7,341.57 remained.

7.2. Payments Made, Due and Received

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

- Westdown Farm Ltd for Cemetery hedgetrimming: £54.00
- Clerk for Salary December: £435.20
- HMRC for PAYE December: 31.20
- Clerk for Expenses CE01: £112.87
- Blackawton Fireworks for replacement of cheque 48: £50.00

8. Churchyard fence and grass maintenance

This item was moved up the Agenda because the decision impacts on the 2017/18 budget.

It was resolved that it is not feasible for BPC to arrange for sheep to be grazed in the churchyard, therefore the current fences will be removed and the grass cut.

Cllr Joyce voted against this resolution.

9. 2017/18 Budget.

9.1. Approval of the 2017/18 Budget

A corrected earmarked reserves spreadsheet was circulated.

Cllrs resolved to adopt Option 1 described in the Budget Report with the amendment of an increased churchyard cuts budget of £1,500. This allows BPC to take actions identified by the December meeting to support community projects. It requires an increase in the precept.

9.2. Setting of the 2017/18 precept demand

It was resolved that the combined precept council tax support income required is £18,000 which requires a precept demand of £17,465.

10. Correspondence

The following miscellaneous correspondence was noted.

- Devon County Council, A new Highway Community Enhancement Fund.
- Invitation: Dartmouth and District Health & Caring Forum for Voluntary and Community Groups, Stoke Fleming Village Hall, 1 February 2017, 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm.
- Invitation: South Devon and Torbay CCG, Briefing of key stakeholders on the evaluation process and the key recommendations in the Governing Body report ahead of publication, Friday 20 January, 2 pm - 3 pm at The Ten Tors Inn, Exeter Road, Kingsteignton, Devon, TQ12 3NP.
Cllr Rake will attend.

11. Reports from Parish Councillors and Wardens

• Village Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights

The consideration of action necessary to replace the tree and lights in time for Christmas 2017 will be on the February 2017 Agenda with Cllrs to liaise and research in the interim.

• Rope across the bridleway at Greenslade

Cllr Joyce will discuss with landowner.

- Cllr Wills will bring the book about the history of Blackawton to the Annual Parish Meeting.

- Cllr Joyce and users of the Park will discuss the project to install a village Skate Park at the next Playing Field Committee Meeting.

- Cllr Mallyon will book the necessary maintenance of the Blackawton Playground. More work will be done to raise funds.
- Cllrs Rake and Joyce agreed to volunteer for Whist and Euchre washing up duty on 23 January 2017.

12 Future Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 7 February 2016.

Cllrs will consider the date and subjects for the Annual Parish Meeting (between 1 April - 1 June) and the date for Annual Meeting of the Council (in May).

Annette Thom
Parish Clerk