

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held at 7:39 p.m. on Tuesday 3 October 2017 in Blackawton Village Hall**

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**Present:** Cllrs Rake, Joyce, Perry, Wills, Mallyon, and Coe were present, as were Cllr Brazil (Devon County Council), A Thom (Clerk), and three members of the public.

**Open Forum**

**a. Yellow and Black poles opposite Normandy Arms**

BPC supports the view that these post are unnecessary and out of keeping with the character of the Village. The owner appears to be sympathetic to these concerns. Unfortunately the original unsympathetic metal posts have been replaced with yellow and black metal posts. BPC will write to the owner.

**b. East Hartley Lane**

The Clerk will report the very badly potholed road surface to DCC.

**c. Litter Pickers**

A member of the public has three litter pickers which have been supplied by SHDC and are available for general use. Clerk to advise Blackawton Primary School.

**d. Enforcement of new Double Yellow Lines**

BPC considered enforcement when deciding whether to request the lines. DCC's report will be forwarded to the Parishioner raising this issue.

**e. Progress on public access cardiac defibrillator project**

Cllrs Rake and Lewis-Davis will meet with the Parishioner raising this question and progress the project to install a public access cardiac defibrillator in the Main Street phonebox.

**78/17 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lewis-Davis and District Cllr Hicks.

**79/17 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**80/17 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2017 were approved.

**81/17 Report from South Hams District Councillor**

The written report from Cllr Hicks was read. SHDC has been busy with the proposed merger of SHDC with West Devon Borough Council and with the search for new ways to improve its income in the context of continued reduction in Government funding. Annual budget discussions have started and will continue to early in the New Year. They will attempt to close the budget deficit without a reduction in frontline services - which gets increasingly difficult. SHDC is continuing to receive high volumes of new planning applications and enforcement issues continue to cause concern especially with rising volumes of new alleged breaches.

**82/17 Planning Issues**

**82/17.1 Review of New Applications**

3054/17/FUL Field at SX 793 508, Woodford, Blackawton. Construction of an agricultural/equestrian building (resubmission of 0767/17/FUL).

BPC's comment on the previous application stands: Support. However BPC does note that the proposal does not comply with requirement 2(b) of DP15 Development in the Countryside that the development should 'be well related

to an existing farmstead or group of buildings, or be located close to an established settlement'.

3116/17/FUL Yeomans, Cotterbury Green To Bugford La, Paddelake, TQ6 0NA. Demolition of dwelling and garaging (with retention of some stone walls) and erection of replacement dwelling with associated landscaping. Support.

2951/17/ARC Land At Sx 805 510 Town Farm Blackawton Devon Town Farm. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3, 6, 10- 12, 14-18 & 20 of planning consent 06/0992/14/F.

A good result has been obtained with Linden Homes' decision to remove street lighting from this application. The remainder of the application is very technical, eg flood management, and it was agreed that no further comment would be made by BPC.

## **82/17.2 Consultations**

82/17.2.1 West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Councils' proposal to form one council.

BPC opposes the proposed merger of South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council for the following reasons:

- The merger does not address the chronic underfunding of local government which is given as the main motivation of this proposal.
- The proposal would result in a major change to local democratic representation. Parishes and Parishioners would become smaller relative to the District Council. A reduced access to democratic representatives is anticipated.
- West Devon and South Hams Councils serve quite different populations with different needs, and merger of the two would make it harder to reflect these differences.
- BPC is concerned that by creating a larger council covering a bigger and more diverse area this merger risks making SHDC less flexible and thus less able to respond to future changes in central government policy.

Cllr Brazil joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

82/17.2.2 SHDC: Proposal for two Public Spaces Protection Orders for Kingsbridge Public Spaces. No comment.

82/17.2.3 DCC: Draft mineral safeguarding guidance. No comment.

## **83/17 Finance**

### **83/17.1 Update on Current Financial Position**

The report which showed a total balance of £54,416.53 and unearmarked reserves of £14,808.95 was approved

### **83/17.2 Payments Made, Due and Received**

The following payments were approved:

Clerk: September 2017 Salary & pension	£446.49
HMRC: PAYE	£17.40
Grant Thornton: External Audit	£100.00+VAT
Office Expenses reimbursement CE4	£98.38

Receipt of the following payments was noted:

Allwood for interment of non-Parishioner	£500
Parishioner for exclusive right of burial	£125

**83/17.3      2017/18 Internal Auditor**

It was unanimously resolved to commit to a three year agreement with the current Internal Auditor (Alison Marshall, Local Council Administration Services).

**83/17.4      Grant applications**

- 2017/18 Town and Parish Fund (closes 15/12/17).  
Applications may be made for defibrillator, website, lengthsman service.
- Community Re-investment Projects Fund (closes 8/01/18).  
Applications can be made for sums from £5,000 to £153,900. Decisions based on quality of the project.

It is not possible to apply for funding for the Town Farm employment units in this round. The information will be forwarded to the Community Shop and the Village Hall Management Committee.

**84/17    Blackawton community website**

SHDC has given notice that the current microsite it hosts for Blackawton will be withdrawn. Quotes have been sought for a new website. Quotes and requirements will be reviewed in detail over the next month. Cllrs will consider the preferred appearance of new website.

**85/17    Cemetery**

BPC accepted the Clerk's recommendation (in circulated Report) that the proposed seven foot hydraulic shoring proposed by Allwood of Totnes is acceptable to BPC. The Clerk will respond to Allwood of Totnes.

**86/17    Memorial for Steve Gale**

It was agreed that the proposed wording be accepted with the addition of dates and the size will be increased to 150\*100mm.

This will lead to a small increase in total cost from £84.50 in the example circulated. The purchase of a memorial tree plaque and metal stake as above was approved.

**87/17    Blackawton noticeboard**

BPC approved the Clerk's recommendation to replace the two discoloured plastic panels with acrylic sheet from the Plastic Shop (as in Report circulated) with a cost £64.47(excl VAT) plus installation by BPC's Maintenance Contractor.

**88/17    Report from County Councillor**

Issues with roads at East Hartley and from Cotterbury to Bow were discussed. Cllr Brazil reported that the Acting Head of Highways has been give the permanent position. The Devon school funding settlement is £268/pupil less than the average for England.

**89/17    Reports from Parish Councillors and Wardens**

Cllr Rake has reported and chased repainting of the postbox near the bus stop on Main Street.

Cllrs Rake and Joyce will do the next Whist and Eucre rota on 6 November 2017.

**90/17    Future Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 7 November 2017 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:08