

MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY, 2015

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman

Eddie McLaney

Geoff Stewart

Yanine Tarr

Paul Williams

John Woodley

S.Hams District Councillor: Ian Bramble

Apologies: Councillor Steve Mammatt
Devon C. Councillor Rufus Gilbert

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Cllr. Roger Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY, 2015

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Hind.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Dark Sky Policy – the response from DCC was not particularly helpful. Basically they do not see the need to remove or turn off the lights on the two roundabouts.

The response was sent to all the Councillors.

Maintenance of Grass Verges – no response.

Road Closure – a letter was sent regarding this and the response received was negative.

4. REPORT FROM CLLR. I BRAMBLE

Cllr. Bramble reported that £700 had been approved for the purchase of a new notice board to be installed in the new Housing Estate.

There will be a freeze in Council Tax in the next 12 months. Massive savings have been achieved.

It was felt unreasonable to go out to the electorate to say we will put up Council Tax, so frozen and not budgeted to increase in the next four years. A number of new homes being built will generate more Council Tax. The decision will be approved at the Full Council Meeting.

Senior staff have not been replaced and a number of senior staff are taking early redundancy. Unfortunately we will lose a lot of knowledge and information. 2010/11 a Chief Executive, 2 Senior Directors, 5 Directors.

Cllr Bramble then updated the meeting regarding the Potato Processing Plant. (Item 7) The Council having received Richard Martin's report from Robert McCracken QC who is considered the top man in his profession felt the Council had acted unlawfully.

SHDC have taken own legal opinion. The Councils Council is very respectful of Robert McCracken and the Council have now written to Richard Martin and will be re-contacting English Heritage, AONB etc. With regard to the listed building, the Councils action was unlawful particularly to this. Robert McCracken and Richard Honey may well come back with some more ideas.

Richard Martin to organise a meeting for the Parish to explain what has happened and the next step.

Cllr. Bramble commented that if some of the Planning decisions did not change, they may not be supported by case law. SHDC would not like to take this risk as there could be a Judicial Review.

What Richard has achieved so far is to delay the development for at least a year.

Cllr. Hind asked what the situation was regarding the Galmpton site. Cllr Bramble replied that on receipt of Robert McCracken's Opinion the Council was advised to hold back on the S106 until this had been resolved.

Cllr. Tarr asked why the point regarding looking at other areas for the processing plant has not been addressed. Cllr. Bramble replied that as there were informal conversations regarding this no further action could be taken and the Council must be given every opportunity to not spend tax payers money unnecessarily.

Cllr. Tarr suggested that we recorded the Planning Application meeting this time.

5. David Cohen's letter regarding "meaningful Localism"

This letter was circulated to all Cllrs. before the meeting. Cllr. Bramble agreed with David Cohen as does Sarah Woolaston.

Cllr. Hind felt that this is a brilliant idea and we would be interested in a meeting or further conversations regarding this. Sue to email David Cohen

6. Suggestions on Housing Development Name

Claire Gray emailed and explained that the Council do not accept road names of people who have died. Sue to write to Claire Gray regarding this and to ask whether they would accept a name of a person still living – i.e. Reeves Way.

7. Potato Processing Plant

This was dealt with under Point 5

8. Precept Forms

We will have more costs this year so have applied for £6000 precept. Sue to fill in form and send tomorrow.

9. Parish Elections – 7th May 2015

All Councillors will step down and 6 will offer to be re-elected. Sue to organise this.

10. AOB

Cllr Bramble advised that the consultation regarding Bus services cuts would close on 20th April.

If the Council wishes to respond to do so by then. Cllr. Hind felt that Churchstow would not be affected as it was on the main route to Plymouth.

Cllr. Bramble also advised that the consultancy period for "Our Plan" has been extended until the end of 2015.

Cllr. Stewart was concerned about the car park in the new housing development being used for Public and caravan parking overnight. Would like advice on bylaws. West Alvington, Modbury Aveton Gifford and Loddiswell have similar problems. Sue to investigate.

Cllr Hind asked if there was plans for more housing in villages. Cllr. Bramble replied, yes, each village is to identify housing sites with owners prepared to sell and developers prepared to build. In Modbury they had identified an area for 50 houses but the developer now insists that he would need to build 93 to cover costs.

Cllr. Bramble advised us that there was a presentation being given by Phil Baker at Buckland Tout Saints on 23rd February and it might be useful if Churchstow Parish Councillors could attend. Sue to contact Phil Baker.

Sue presented her invoice of £818.00 ½ yearly to Cllr. Stewart - Treasurer. This was agreed by the Council. Cllr. Stewart to raise cheque.

Meeting closed at 9 pm. The Chairman, Cllr Hind thanked everyone for attending.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 11th March, The Vestry Room at the Church House Inn
7.30 p.m.