

Draft Minutes subject to confirmation

Mary Tavy Parish Council
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Reading Rooms

Tuesday 13th April 2010

Present: Cllr T. Pearce (Chairman) (WDBC), Cllr M. Anning, Cllr C Downham, Cllr R. Elton, Cllr G. Hill, Cllr A. Prosser, Cllr M. Robins, Cllr S. Street (8). Ms N. Gardiner (Clerk)

Others present: 4 members of the public.

60-2010 Parishioners Time:

The first parishioner spoke on 2 issues:

1) He thanked Cllr Prosser for her reply to his November 2009 letter; he had also received a reply from the previous Clerk, N Cullen – he will pass a copy to Cllr Pearce for the file. He reiterated his concern about the Parish Precept increasing again and he felt the Parish Council has made no effort to justify its spending, particularly at a time when household budgets are so tight. Cllr Pearce replied that Mary Tavy is actually a lower spending Parish Council than some, with the cost to owners of a Band D property in the Parish being 66p per week. He stated that the Parish Council believed in supporting our community groups, a lot of which are now thriving.

2) The parishioner then stated that the wording in minute number 46-2010 (point 2) of the Parish Council meeting on 9th March regarding Cllr Pearce being found to have ‘no case to answer’ by the Standards Committee was an over-simplification. The Chairman replied that the letter received by the Parish Council from the Monitoring Officer did not contain the wording quoted by the parishioner.

The second parishioner asked for an update on the position in regard to his November 2009 letter to Cllr Pearce. He was told that there was no further action to take on this matter.

At this point, a lady parishioner left the meeting, after announcing her reason for doing so, to be her utter disgust at the behaviour of members of the public who attended Parish Council meetings just to find fault, when they themselves did nothing for the community

The 4th member of the public had no questions; he had attended the meeting as an observer only.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

61-2010 Apologies for absence: Cllr Roe.

62-2010 Declarations of Interest: None. Members were reminded that they should declare any personal or prejudicial interest in any item to be considered.

Minutes of the previous meetings:

63-2010 Tuesday 9th March

Two handwritten amendments were made to the minutes:

- **39-2010** - the spelling of **Baldrey** was amended to **Baldry**
- **46-2010** – in the last sentence the word **former** was changed to **latter** in order to convey the correct meaning

The minutes were then approved – proposed Cllr Street; seconded Cllr Prosser - & duly signed by the Chairman as a true & accurate record.

64-2010 Thursday 1st April 2010 (Planning meeting)

The Clerk confirmed to Cllr Hill that the wording in the minutes of the Parish Council's response on the application was the same as that sent to DNPA.

The minutes were approved without amendment - proposed Cllr Elton; seconded Cllr Robins; signed by the Chairman as a true & accurate record.

65-2010 Matters Arising

65.1 Speeding and Parking

Speeding – Cllr Pearce stated that Inspector Hammond will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th April and it is hoped he will bring figures to show the number of prosecutions that have taken place for speeding through the village. Councillors discussed the initiative (currently in operation in some areas), under which parishioners are trained to use a speed gun; drivers reported 3 times under this system can be prosecuted. Councillors were reminded that this idea was previously raised by PCSO D Chapple and was discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 8th December 2009, but no volunteers had come forward.

Parking – Cllr Pearce stated that the former lay-by adjacent to land at the Royal Standard Inn is not in ownership of the Highways Authority, which is why they are not maintaining it. The appropriate householder will be notified, once ownership has been established. In regard to the hedge having been moved closer to the road, Cllr Pearce confirmed that this was done before the Conservation Area came into being (such a development could be allowed under Permitted Development Rights in a non-conservation area).

65.2 Emergency Plan

The required copies had been prepared & those for Wardens would be distributed to Councillors at the end of the meeting.

65.3 Peter Jarvis' November & December 2009 letters

November letter – this had been dealt with under **Parishioners Time**.

December letter – a discussion took place; it was confirmed that, although all Councillors had been sent a copy of this letter, no mention of it appeared in the January meeting minutes. It was agreed that a letter would be written in response, noting the comments –proposed Cllr Street; seconded Cllr Elton; 7 in favour; Cllr Hill abstained.

Action – Clerk.

65.4 Litter pick-up

Cllr Robins reported plans were on schedule for Saturday 24th April. Guides will litter pick on the Playing Field during their evening meeting on the previous Tuesday. It was agreed the budget this year for pasties & hot drinks would be £60 (last year's budget was £54). Cllr Robins asked whether the Coronation Hall could be used this year for heating pasties (rather than the Post Office), with a small donation in return – this was agreed. It is expected that approximately 30 adults will attend. The event has been advertised in the last 2 Community Newsletters & it will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19th April. Paul Glanville of DNPA will bring litter sticks and bags. Suggestions of places needing to be cleared of litter were Warne Lane, Bal Lane & Brentor Road (to be done by Cllr Prosser). Focsa will collect the bags of litter at the Coronation Hall on the morning of Sunday 25th April.

65.5 Standing Orders

Cllr Pearce announced that he had been unable to access the relevant computer file in order to make the necessary amendments. He will consult with former clerk, C Williams, & prepare the finalised sections for the next meeting.

66-2010 Police - Community Beat Manager

66.1 To receive report from PC Reed

No report, or any relevant correspondence, had been received. However, Cllr Prosser was able to inform the Council 8 crimes had been recorded in Mary Tavy between 1st December 2009 & 28th February 2010. It was hoped that Inspector Hammond will elaborate on this statistic when he speaks at the Annual Parish Meeting.

67-2010 Correspondence:

The Clerk circulated lists of correspondence received since the last meeting (copy list appended to minutes). Cllr Pearce highlighted the following items:

- E-mail message from Ian Bollans, Head of Environmental Health, WDBC, informing of changes to the Council's Pest Control contract & collection of stray dogs. The Pest Control service was contracted out from 1st April 2010 to County Mole & Pest Control (already used by South Hams DC).
Action- Clerk will enquire how much is charged for mole control, on behalf of Cllr Hill.
- Renewal documentation for insurance policy with Zurich Municipal. The increase in premium for the next year is approximately £13.
- Notice of closure of road past the Old Rectory, Mary Tavy, from Monday 7 June to Friday 11th June for utility works to be carried out by May Gurney.
- Letter from Chris France, former Director of Planning & Sustainable Development at DNPA, thanking us for the Council's letter of best wishes for the future.
- Letter from MP Geoffrey Cox, correcting any impression that may have arisen of his support for the application for the abattoir development at Burntown Farm. Cllr Pearce read the contents to Councillors, to make them fully aware of G Cox's position of impartiality on the matter, as was requested in the letter.
- Information on the Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund. Cllr Pearce asked Cllr Hill if he would be prepared to discuss this with Kevin Bishop; Cllr Hill agreed to do so, although he understands that this funding (up to £4,000) must be applied for by an individual on behalf of the community & not by a group. It was agreed that further details of the criteria for obtaining this funding were needed.

68-2010 Financial Report

68.1 Receive report from Responsible Financial Officer.

The Clerk circulated copies of the Reports for March & April, as well as the revised Report for February, the original having been found to be incorrect. Cllr Pearce said that an anomaly present in the Community Newsletter account figures of the April Report, as presented, will be investigated once all bank statements for March have finally been received. The former Clerk, C Williams, will be consulted if necessary. Councillors agreed to accept the 3 Reports, subject to the above correction being made.

68.2 To authorise payments for March.

The Chairman listed the following payments:

- March salary for Clerk – £269.75
- March expenses for Clerk - £64.80

Councillors agreed that cheques be issued for the above amounts; proposed Cllr Elton; seconded Cllr Prosser; carried unanimously.

69-2010 Cemetery:

69.1 To receive cemetery report.

C Williams had informed Cllr Pearce there was nothing to report.

70-2010 Receive reports from members elected to outside bodies:

70.1 DNPA

There was nothing to report.

70.2 Police Authority

Cllr Elton reported that there had been no further meeting since the Parish Council's last meeting on 9th March.

70.3 Southern Link

Cllr Prosser reported on the meeting of 25th March, when the following matters were discussed:

- Police use of ASBOS, particularly in connection with young people driving cars in the Bedford car park, Tavistock
- New waste contract – to begin in August 2010, with much publicity. There will be a separate box for food waste; The number of vehicle passes will drop from 7 to 4 in most areas.
- Youth Clubs are due to become autonomous (Cllr Pearce stated DCC funding of youth club leaders is being reduced & youth clubs will now do their own fundraising as part of a West Devon group. Cllr Robins suggested the Council put forward a team for the Youth Club quiz on 12th May.
- WDBC implementation of its Safety Policy. (Councillors expressed interest in the DCC policy for identifying people at risk when roads are not gritted)
- A comparison of methods used by different parish councils for distribution of agendas & minutes.

70.4 Coronation Hall

Cllr Downham reported that the last meeting included discussions about the Summer Fete to be held on 12th June; profits will be used for re-painting the Hall, as well as other repair jobs. Cllrs will consider ideas for a Parish Council stall. The Pantomime in January had been poorly attended & it had been suggested a better time to hold this would be late Autumn, as a pre-Christmas event.

70.5 Reports from Members attending Outside Bodies.

There was nothing to report. Cllr Pearce had not attended the March Planning Committee Meeting of the DNPA.

71-2010 Planning:

71.1 To discuss planning applications received:

- Elephants Nest Inn - Erection of a timber building providing garage, offices, storage & staff accommodation within the car park.
- Homeleigh, Okehampton Road - Change of use to B&B accommodation
- Glendale, Brentor Road – Erection of double garage

- Rowes Farm, Horndon - Conversion of redundant agricultural building to ancillary use

Site visits – It was agreed visits for all 4 applications would take place on Friday 16th April – members to meet at the Reading Rooms at 1.45 pm. Those attending will be: Cllrs Pearce, Anning, Downham, Prosser, Robins & Street & the Clerk.

71.2 To receive notification on previous applications.

Land adjacent to Half Acre – The applicants had at last signed the documentation to relinquish the approval granted on Appeal.

Grendon Farm - 12–18 months ago motorbikes from the Tamar Valley Trials Bike Group had been crossing the open farmland on a supposed unclassified county road, which was closed in 1957. Although maps held by the Parish Council show the road as closed, DCC is not able to trace the necessary court document to show this was approved. The County Solicitor has suggested the Parish Council could request the road to be downgraded to a bridleway or footpath; the landowner would support this action. Cllr Pearce asked members to consider this matter for discussion & decision at the next meeting.

Holding pen at Blackdown – The Planning Inspector had approved this development. Members felt that insufficient consideration had been given to nearby householders & to the problem of resulting increased effluent should flooding occur. Recently the gorse in this area was cut for the first time in 40-50 years. Although this was done under an ESA agreement, it appears no consideration was given to the nesting bird sites which seems bizarre given the notices warning dog owners about nesting birds.

72-2010 Annual Parish Meeting arrangements

Cllr Pearce reminded members of the agenda items. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting. Cllrs Downham & Robins will coordinate the use of any surplus ingredients for the Litter Pick-up refreshments. It was hoped that all Councillors will attend.

73-2010 Website update

Cllr Prosser reported K Rogers is working on development. She will contact him to ask when he would like to coordinate with the Clerk in maintaining/updating the finished website.

74-2010 To agree items raised at the March meeting for inclusion on this agenda: None.

75-2010 To receive items raised for inclusion on May agenda:

- Amendments to Standing Orders
- Grendon Farm

The Chairman asked that Councillors contact the Clerk with any further items they would like included.

76-2010 To agree the date of the next meeting.

The date of **Tuesday 11th May 2010** was agreed for the next meeting of the Parish Council, to commence at 7.30 pm & to be held in the Reading Rooms.

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.55 pm.

Nicola Gardiner
Clerk to the Parish Council

Date: 4th May 2010