

Minutes of Modbury Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 10th March 2020 commencing 7.00 p.m.
Held at The Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth 11 Recreation Field

Apologies: Cllr Mrs M Middleton, NHPG Chair Ms A Turner and Clerk Mrs S Hagar.

Present: Cllrs Watts (Chair), Coates, Cole, Keele, Keohane, Harvey, Taylor (Also DC), West, Whybrow, Woodcock (from 7:11 p.m.), DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert and Cllr Rosevear (Clerking). And 8 members of the public.

Open Forum:

A resident representing the Allotments Association outlined their frustration and concern about the continuing delays in securing the transfer of the site to the Council from Bloor Homes. The Council was also asked about the likely annual rent and whether the water troughs that had been selected were able to be purchased. Cllr Whybrow responded, making it clear that the delay lay between Bloor Homes' Solicitors and Bloor Homes themselves, with the burden on Bloor Homes to respond to their solicitors. Cllr Whybrow informed the meeting that he had already, and would do again, request the Regional Managing Director of Bloor Homes to put his weight behind resolving the matter.

Cllr Whybrow also took the opportunity to confirm that the Gateway was ready for hedge cutting and that the manure base was ready to be concreted. The troughs were also under consideration by the Council. Access had been granted, notwithstanding the lack of the transfer being complete, to enter the site and mark out the allotment plots. In respect of the annual rent payable by the Allotments Association to the Council, Cllr Rosevear read from the minutes of the Finance & HR meeting of the 9th March, which had recommended to Council an annual rent of £500.00.

When surprise was expressed that this was twice what the allotments Association had hoped for, it was outlined by Cllr Rosevear that, as Bloor Homes would and could only deal with a Statutory body and not a Community group, the Council, to secure the transfer, would incur legal and Land Registry costs in the order of £850, as well as ensuring the site met any relevant legislation during the term of the lease. In essence, without the Council taking the transfer in practical terms the site would not have been available. Whilst the Council may own the site, its use had been predetermined in perpetuity.

Another resident raised the issue of the former Town Square project, as a means of, not only enhancing the town's facilities, but also of alleviating some of the car parking issues. Namely, encouraging off street parking. The SHDC car parking scheme itself, would be covered later in the agenda.

Devon County Council Councillor's Report – Cllr Rufus Gilbert:

1 / Pot Holes. There is a significant back log to address and it was not expected to have caught up until the end of the summer.

2 / Flood Prevention: The overall cost of the scheme had been £1,400,000, with DCC's share being £140,000. Overall this had been a success, as recent events in Modbury had demonstrated.

3 / Drainage Budget: This had now been set at £2,000,000. Devon had some 8000 miles of roads to maintain.

4 / Climate Change: This would see a gradual change from the winter need for sand and salt, with increased rainfall, to improved drainage systems.

5 / Council Tax: DCC had increased Council Tax by 2% plus a further 2% for Adult Social Care. The maximum permitted without a Referendum. The latter aspect is Ring-fenced. Cllr Gilbert commented that the counter-point to this would be an increase in the National Minimum Wage,

6 / Pot Hole repair materials: for both fiscal years 18-19 and 19-20 Modbury had consumed 52 Tubs in each year, with an order for 54 for the coming year. Cllr Taylor commented that to date over 200 had been used.

7 / On Street Parking Order: Whilst this is a District matter it was appreciated the Parish would be responding.

8 / Work Hubs: Cllr Gilbert was pleased to see that this was on the Agenda.

Cllr Gilbert then took questions:

Cllr Harvey raised the Edmeston Highways work. Engineering work in readiness for pile driving is in hand; but the work is not planned to be finished before winter, only maybe earlier.

Cllr Keel raised the matter of Social Services (Health & Social Care). He considered that the national £100,000,000 reduction was not helpful and that the lack of integration simply exacerbated the situation. There were already 30,000 bed nights blocked in Devon alone.

Cllr West raised the issue of the Swimming Pool. There had been no response from the School to the last letter submitted. Would Cllr Gilbert take-up the matter on the Council's behalf. Copy papers will be provided. From The Floor: The matter of Business Hubs was raised. Should the prospective space in the old bank building fail to materialise, can the Council look for and consider alternatives.

Cllr Cole raised Pot Holes. Not just the general situation; but several specific sites were discussed as needing immediate and lasting solutions, rather than temporary repairs that were quickly washed out.

South Hams District Council Councillors Report – Cllr Bernard Taylor:

1 / District Council Budget 20-21 Extract: There is a provision of £400,000 in the budget for the recognised Climate Emergency. This will be allocated out of the New Homes fund. An officer is to be recruited for the post of climate Change Emergency, for 1-2 years and part of the work will be to directly liaise with Town and Parish councils to give guidance as to how they may participate in the work.

2 / Council Tax: There is to be an increase of 3%, which for a Band D property equates to £5.00 per annum. Based on a Band D property, SHDC's share of the overall increase is only 8.33%.

3 / Car Parking: There will be a 4% increase in 20-21; but this will be the only increase in the remaining life of the District Council, (so notionally 1% per annum). At present Permits are still under review. Existing/old permits may be renewed; but no fresh applicants for permits are being considered. Cllr Coates asked whether there would be a consultation on the matter. The DC Cllr was not sure what had been decided yet.

4 / CVS and its Grant of £10,000: Initially at risk; but agreed to be retained by SHDC.

From the Floor: The work of the CVS was commended and Cllr Cole stated that Modbury Caring had benefitted too.

5 / New Bus Stop: Whilst on the agenda it was confirmed that there would be a contribution of £600 from the DC Cllr's Locality fund.

Cllr Taylor then took questions.

Cllr Cole reported that paper banks were full, both in Modbury and Bigbury and had not been emptied for some time. D C Cllr Taylor would take the matter in hand.

Action Cllr Taylor

20.23. Declarations of pecuniary and other interest:

A / Register of Interests: Councillors were directed to the Agenda.

B / Declarations of pecuniary and other interests: Cllr Taylor, planning, Cllr West planning and Cllr Whybrow Finance 8a) Appendix 1 as a beneficiary of a reimbursement.

20.24. Planning to consider the following applications:

250 – 0454/20/FUL. Land at SX657516 adjacent to Meadow View Modbury PL21 ORF This is a proposed new dwelling. File date 30.03.20. Objection on the grounds of access and overdevelopment of this small site. Proposed Cllr Keel, Seconded Cllr Whybrow. Bar those declaring an interest and abstaining, carried unanimously.

251 – 0404/20/FUL. The old Vicarage Stable Modbury PL21 OTA. Erection of a detached single dwelling with integrated single garage and new pedestrian access point. File date 27.03.20. No Objection. Proposed Cllr Keel, Seconded Cllr Whybrow. Bar those declaring an interest and abstaining, carried unanimously.

20.25. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 11th February 2020:

a / Approve the minutes, distributed earlier: Taken as Read. Proposed Cllr Keel, Seconded Cllr Harvey, bar those not present, [Cllr Coates, Cllr West & Cllr Taylor], approved unanimously. Chair to sign.

b / Clerk to review actions. In her absence, deferred.

20.26. Finance and Human Resources:

a / To consider the payments as listed in Appendix 1. Approved. Proposed Cllr Rosevear, Seconded Cllr Coates. With the abstention of Cllr Whybrow approved unanimously.

b / To ratify the Transfer of the Allotment and also the new car parking spaces from Bloor Homes to the Council, together with associated legal fees. Since the first matter is not ready, it was agreed to defer it. Since the second matter would not be ready until April it was agreed to defer it too.

Allotment Transfer Legal fees: Proposed Cllr Keel, Seconded Cllr Coates approved unanimously.

c / To consider SHDC Car Parking charge increase of 4%. Cllr Rosevear read from the minutes of the Finance and Human Resources Committee meeting of 9th March 2020.

Since then the Council has received the details of SHDC's proposal. The committee had, through Cllr Coates, prepared a variation of the SHDC's scheme. However, without the background information behind SHDC's proposal it was not possible to present a compelling alternative. Bearing in mind, any changes would need to be Revenue neutral. DC Cllr Taylor agreed to liaise with the officer to secure the background information needed, which would allow Cllr Coates to discuss directly. The changes are not scheduled from 1st April, but more than likely from June.

Cllr Keel expressed the view that whatever to outcome, he would like to see it aiding better use, in particular of the lower car park.

Cllr Cole proposed that the existing SHDC schedule be adopted. There was no seconder to support the proposition.

Cllr Rosevear proposed and Cllr Harvey seconded a motion to pursue Cllr Coates scheduled plan, or one as close to it as was practical. This was then approved unanimously.

Cllr Harvey raised to issue of limited patient parking within the confines of the Modbury Health Centre MHC. He posed the question as to whether there could be changes to the SHDC car park and MHC car park layout and boundaries to provide additional patient car parking. The view was that this would be between MHC as a business and SHDC.

d / To consider the replacement/upgrade of the two Defibrillators' under a new contract with SWAST.

Cllr Rosevear read from the minutes of the Finance & HR meeting of the 9th March. There is a lack of clarity, as to whether it is simply a new maintenance contract, with the same equipment, or new equipment and a renewal of the maintenance agreement for them. It was also not clear as to whether the price of £1800 plus referred to just one or both pieces of equipment. Nonetheless:

On the basis it was for new equipment with a maintenance agreement and even if it was £3600 plus VAT, it was proposed by Cllr Watts, Seconded by Cllr West and unanimously approved to undertake the upgrade, as per the recommendation from Finance & HR.

20.27. Neighbourhood Plan:

a / To receive the latest Neighbourhood Plan report. This was read on Ms A Turner's behalf by Cllr Whybrow and it would be posted with the minutes.

b / Community Plan up-date: This report was also read by Cllr Whybrow and would be posted with the minutes.

20.28. Palm Cross Green Development up-date:

a / General up-date: The Allotments transfer was covered earlier. Please refer to Cllr Whybrows' report in respect of the Bloor Homes Section 106 breaches. It was agreed that the tree from the Free Tree scheme would be planted, even if it necessitated re-planting at a later date. It was agreed to buy a second similar tree for a location on Church Lane.

b1 / Pocket Park: in general the Council is still waiting to finalise this project, in Bloor Homes' hands.

b2 / Memorial Play Park: Consultation Event 18th March Cllr Coates gave an outline of the promotion and content of the event and the hoped for outcomes. Also, the school had asked that members of the Council gave time to help the children's School Council. This will be led by Cllr Coates.

c / Allotments: See previous minute.

d / Transfer of the Allotment land from Bloor Homes to the Council. Given earlier comments this matter is deferred until Bloor Homes are ready. The Council would advise Beers Solicitors not to carry out Searches.

e / Bus Shelter. Cllr West confirmed that a Parishioner had pledged £1500 towards the project. DC Cllr Taylor was contributing £600 from his Locality fund. This meant the project had funds towards the project of £2100. Having considered the options and that the foundations would be by our self-help team, the project would cost £2800.

Should the Council approve the shortfall of £700 from its reserves and go ahead with the project.

Proposed Cllr Keel, Seconded by Cllr Rosevear, approved unanimously.

At this point Dc Cllr Taylor left the meeting.

20.29. Walkie Talkie Two Way Radios:

This project is still ongoing and in the absence of Cllr Middleton, a report was deferred to a future meeting.

20.30. Correspondence:

a / SHDC Local Green Development Plan: Response to SHDC. Refer to Ms Turner's report read by Cllr Whybrow. It was agreed that the NHPG and Cllr Whybrow would review and submit a response to SHDC by the due date.

b / SHDC Operational Carbon Reduction Plan – Reducing our Footprint: It was agreed to engage with the Climate Emergency officer when appointed.

c / Devon Work Hubs: It was agreed to support this and lodge an expression of interest. Identifying a venue will be the key.

d / Devon communities Together participation and subscription: Cllr Watts felt that the Council had its work cut out to ensure Modbury's needs were met and probably had nothing in real terms to offer. So the Council would not participate.

e / Flood Relief Respite in Modbury for other Communities: It was considered that it was not practical to support this initiative, beyond other Communities being able to review Modbury's model and the flood Alleviation Scheme. It was however, considered appropriate to send a letter of thanks to the Environment Agency for their work in making Modbury's scheme a success.

f / Request for a Bench Seat at the Exeter Inn from a deceased resident's family. Whilst in principle a bench seat would be welcomed, another location was needed, as there would not be sufficient clearance on the pavement to the curb, should a seat be placed outside the Exeter Inn.

20.31. Committees and Working Groups:

a /

(ii) The Maintenance Committee, requested a repeat order of Tarmac Tubs. Also, within the existing budget, deal with Gulley relief.

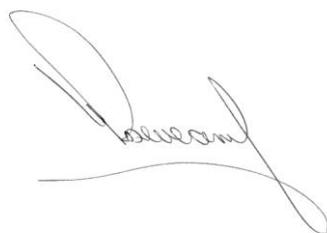
(ii) No other reports lodged or given.

20.32. Saturday Rota:

The New Saturday Rota runs from 14th March, Cllr Rosevear to undertake.

The meeting closed at 9:29 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for 15th April 2020; but may be subject to restrictions relating to COVID19 the coronavirus pandemic.



Cllr Rosevear
Acting Clerk

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Following the Saturday Surgery, the Chairman decided, in the light of the coronavirus pandemic - COVID19 - that the Parish office will be closed forthwith. The Clerk will work from home and the chairman deal with mail and emails. The Saturday Surgery will be postponed until June at the earliest.

A separate notice will be displayed and circulated; but it was thought appropriate to include the decision with the minutes.

