

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th January, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. E. Squire
Councillors: Cllrs. R. Buckingham, D. Smith, B. Priddy, P. Johns, R. Brown, B. Harris, R. Kennedy, R. Latty and M Heslip

Town Clerk in attendance
Police – Sgt. P. Channing
Members of Public
Mr. Keith Ferguson and Mr. Ian Parkinson representing Western Power Distribution

1717

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Barfett and Jose sent apologies. County Cllr. Parsons sent apologies. Cllr. Brown would be late.

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Mayor requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

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PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

No matters arose.

Cllr. Johns arrived at 7.02 p.m.

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POLICE REPORT

Sgt. Channing reported that December had been a quiet month. However, there was a “blip” with Criminal Damage and Property Arson. Suspects had been identified with 5 Juveniles responsible for 1 crime and 1 responsible for another. The two victims did not want any formal action taken, however the Police did speak to the perpetrators, and letters of apology have been sent and compensation has been paid. There were no further issues regarding Criminal Damage and the Police believe this has been “nipped in the bud”.

Cllr. Brown arrived at 7.06 p.m.

Sgt. Channing reported further: there were several cases of Domestic Violence and the Police are involved in a new initiative which is being launched in February called J9 (see Minutes of December Council Meeting – Item 1702); Nuisance Driving in Dobles Lane and at the Leisure Centre with an S59 Warning issued and one arrest under the Mental Health Act.

Sgt. Channing reported the following crimes in January: New Year’s Eve – 2 Assaults, which was the same incident at the White Hart Hotel; Domestic Violence; Road related issues due to the weather; Anti-Social Behaviour being logged and a Parking dispute. Following the Burglary at the Bowling Club in 2009, Launceston Police have identified suspects.

Holsworthy Police have identified littering issues on the old part of the Viaduct by Waitrose and will be working with local Councils to address this, with patrols being increased. Sgt. Channing left the Meeting.

1721

TO DISCUSS WITH MR. IAN PARKINSON OF WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY RESIDENTS OF THE VINEYARDS

Mr. Ferguson explained the reasons for the problems that residents of The Vineyards have been experiencing – **See Appendix 1**. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Parkinson left the Meeting at 7.40 p.m.
Cllr. Brown wanted it minuted that thousands of people are paying for electricity and not receiving the service that they should and it was evident that improvements would only take place when a third party is paying for them. It is evident from this meeting that the technology is available to update the system.

Cllr. Harris proposed that the Clerk’s notes be forwarded to Ms. G. Down, the original complainant. This was seconded by Cllr. Heslip and agreed. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1722

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st December, 2009 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Harris proposed that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st December, 2009 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Heslip and agreed. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions).

1723

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1724

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported as follows:

Late night shopping had been very successful. She had presented a cheque to Holsworthy Museum towards the purchase of a computer. The Civic Carol Service had been well attended. She had attended the Day Centre Lunch; the Army Cadets' Supper and presented awards and she had judged the snowman competition at the Library.

1725

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Parsons was not present at the Meeting and Cllr. Squire asked the Town Clerk to send Holsworthy Town Council's best wishes and wish him a speedy recovery.

1726

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

HOLSWORTHY TOWN COUNCIL - DECEMBER TO BE PAID IN JANUARY 2010

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COUNCIL EXPENDITURE							
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Nett	VAT	Reason	
09.12.09	Holsworthy Museum	105286	£100.00	£100.00		Donation from Mayors allowance for comp	
09.12.09	BT Payment Services Ltd	105287	£20.52	£18.24	£2.28	Line rental	
21.12.09	CL Dalley, M Fenner, S Cole	105288-105290	£1,956.01	£1,956.01		Salaries	
22.12.09	The Society of Local Council Clerks	105291	£168.00	£168.00		Membership 2010	
23.12.09	Ultimate Finance Ltd	105292	£7.87	£6.84	£1.03	Call charges	
30.12.09	C. Baker	105293	£130.77	£130.77		Balance of Market Manager's salary	
06.01.10	C. Dalley	105294	£59.99	£59.99		Virus removal package	
06.01.10	Concorde Copiers	105295	£175.87	£152.93	£22.94	Copies taken	
06.01.10	Cash	105296	£52.49	£52.49		Petty Cash	
		105297					
06.01.10	Holsworthy Army Cadets	105297	£75.00	£75.00		Newsletter distribution	
06.01.10	HM Revenue & Customs	105298	£1,840.24	£1,840.24		PAYE and National Insurance	
06.01.10	C Drew	105299	£188.00	£188.00		Maintenance Badock & Stanhope	
06.01.10	Viking Direct	105300	£59.16	£51.44	£7.72	Stationery	
TOTAL			£4,833.92	£4,799.95	£33.97		

PETTY CASH

Date			
23.11.09	Milk	£0.49	£0.49
23.11.09	Window cleaning	£8.00	£8.00
26.11.09	Newspapers	£1.45	£1.45
30.11.09	Milk	£0.49	£0.49
30.11.09	Stamps Xmas Cards	£14.40	£14.40
02.12.09	Water for Council	£2.50	£2.50
03.12.09	Newspapers	£1.45	£1.45
07.12.09	Milk	£0.49	£0.49
07.12.09	Battery	£1.00	£1.00
15.12.09	Milk	£0.49	£0.49
15.12.09	Soap for offices	£0.97	£0.97
16.12.09	Xmas Tree	£10.50	£10.50

17.12.09	Newspapers	£1.45	£1.45
17.12.09	Stamps	£8.28	£8.28
29.12.09	Milk	£0.53	£0.53
TOTAL		£52.49	£52.49

COUNCIL RECEIPTS

Date	Paid By	Council	Nett	VAT	Reason
03.12.09	Cash	£127.50	£127.50		Market Takings
03.12.09	Cash	£10.00	£10.00		Newsletter
03.12.09	Cheques	£115.00	£115.00		Newsletter
09.12.09	Cheques	£85.00	£85.00		Newsletter
09.12.09	Cash	£20.00	£20.00		Newsletter
09.12.09	Cash	£160.98	£160.98		Market Takings
17.12.09	Cash	£161.63	£161.63		Market Takings
17.12.09	Cheques	£415.00	£415.00		Rent Penroses Terrace
17.12.09	Cheques	£75.00	£75.00		Newsletter
23.12.09	Cheques	£45.00	£45.00		Newsletter
23.12.09	Cash	£20.73	£20.73		Market Takings
TOTAL		£1,235.84	£1,235.84		

Cllr. Kennedy went through the accounts to be paid; Cllr. Kennedy asked if there were any other queries. There being none, Cllr. Kennedy proposed the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Harris and the payments were unanimously accepted. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). Cllr. Kennedy then went through the Budget Sheet.

1727

TO DISCUSS THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR A UNITARY DEVON AND AGREE A COURSE OF ACTION

After discussion, Cllr. Latty proposed that the Town Council write to the Secretary of State detailing the Council's wishes for the current status quo to remain. However, should the Secretary of State decide that Unitary status must be followed then the Town Council wishes for a single Unitary Authority for Devon to include Exeter and Exmouth. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Smith and carried. (Vote 9 For. 1 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1728

TO RECEIVE THE CONTRACT FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE STRIP OF LAND AT PARSONS CLOSE AND AGREE WHO WILL SIGN IT IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE MATTER

Cllr. Harris proposed that the Transfer Deed be approved and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be the signatories on the Deed of Transfer. This was seconded by Cllr. Latty and agreed. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1729

TO RECEIVE, AND TO RATIFY THE DECISIONS THEREIN, THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETING: -

a) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES 16TH DECEMBER 2009

The Minutes had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Cllr. Squire asked if there were any questions. Cllr. Priddy proposed that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes be approved and ratified. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Heslip and unanimously agreed. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1730

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received – December 09

1. C. Mills – Market yearbook insert 2010
2. St. Peter's Church – carol service 13th December

3. Bude Canal Trust – partnership mtg.
4. M. Crocker – litter bins
5. C. Mills – market yearbook confirmation
6. K. Robertson – cycle 2011
7. TDC – Policy, Performance & Resources Agenda 7th December (**landing**)
8. M. Fry – advertising in newsletter query
9. SLCC – December newsletter
10. Safer North Devon – leaflets Autumn newsletter
11. TDC – questionnaire re. Budget
12. SW Highways – Road Closure – Hls Beacon Cross to Blagdonmoor Cross 16th March
13. St John Ambulance – carol service invite
14. TDC – Licensing Agenda 10th December (**landing**)
15. Devon & Cornwall Police Authority – newsletter data
16. Village Green – December issue
17. L. Curtis – thank you to Mayor
18. DAPC – training ‘rising to the challenge’.
19. British Heart Foundation – opening
20. P. Hunter, TDC – New Register of Electors 2010
21. L. Moon, Coodes – Transfer Deed for signing
22. A. Taylor, Audit Commission – Appointment of External Auditor
23. C. Stobart, DAPC – Structural Review of Devon
24. DCC – Works to Chapel Street Bridge
25. Cllr. P. Johns – free parking on 16th December 2009-12-10
26. TDC – Community Development Committee Agenda 15th December (**landing**)
27. S. Church, Bude Canal Trust – Meeting 5th March 2010
28. Cllr. P. Johns - Catesby Appeal to Planning Inspectorate
29. R. Webster, TDC – Catesby Appeal to Planning Inspectorate
30. TDC – Planning application North Road – Meeting 17th December
31. Boundary Committee – Advice to Secretary of State
32. Coodes – Strip of land Badock
33. B. Parrish – Football Club – attending F&GP mtg. 27th Jan.
34. TDC – Lottery registration (**copy in Stanhope file**)
35. Holsworthy Hamlets – copy of letter sent to TDC Planning re. Biogas
36. TDC – Plans Committee Agenda 17th December (**landing**)
37. Information Commissioner’s Office – Freedom of Info. Act
38. Torridge View – Winter edition
39. TDC – Standards Committee Agenda 18th December (**Landing**)
40. P. Whitehead – Planning for non planners
41. J. Hutchings – market stall for Memorial Hall advertising
42. Planning Inspectorate – Showground
43. Senior Council for Devon – conference 11th March (**copy to Cllr. Squire**)
44. TDC – North Devon & Torridge Core Strategy consultation
45. Devon and Somerset Law Society – Mediation
46. JE Stacey – Work to Penroses Terrace
47. NHS Devon Healthcare – Modern Matron
48. Plandscape – quote re. Stanhope Park
49. TDC – questionnaire re. internet survey
50. TDC – Overview and Scrutiny Agenda – 5th January 2010 (**landing**)

The Town Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the highlighted items.

Item 37 – the Clerk will issue to all Cllrs.

Item 35 – the Clerk read the letter to the Council and suggested contacting Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council, to establish what gains this Council has allegedly received.

Item 44 – the Clerk confirmed a copy would be available in Suite B for all Cllrs. to read. It was also agreed that the section relating to Holsworthy would be circulated to all Members of the Planning Committee and the item would be discussed at the February Planning Committee Meeting. Cllr. Johns also confirmed that there was a Public Consultation regarding the Core Strategy on the 4th February at Holsworthy Memorial Hall.

Correspondence Sent – December 2009

1. C. Mills – Market yearbook insert 2010
2. M. Crocker – litterbins

3. M. Fry – advertising newsletter
4. Cllr. Johns – Probation details
5. P. Kemp – 106 Agreements
6. K. Robertson – Time trials 2011
7. Holsworthy Museum – vat decline
8. B. Johns – late night Xmas shopping
9. Mr & Mrs Jones – street lighting
10. Primary School – D. Stevens – poster
11. G. Down – Vineyards electricity
12. S. Church – Bude Canal – R. Brown rep.
13. L. Curtis – Museum vat
14. TDC Planning – recommendations Dec.
15. British Heart Foundation – accepting invite
16. M. Fry – advertising in Newsletter
17. J. Kelly – ND Healthcare NHS Trust – Modern Matron
18. I. Parkinson – Western Power – Vineyards
19. J. Payne, TDC – Precept Return
20. L. Moon, Coodes – Transfer Deed
21. Planning Inspectorate – Objection to planning appeal on Showfield
22. G. Down – Confirming Western Power attending January Meeting
23. I. Parkinson, Western Power – attendance at January Meeting
24. Janine, Cornish times – pictures for article
25. G. Cardduck & P. Bere, TDC – request dwelling numbers and map for Holsworthy
26. L. Moon – update on Transfer Deed
27. J. Hutchings – Market stall for Memorial Hall advertising
28. Memo – Cllrs. – TDC Budget Questionnaire

The Town Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the highlighted items.

1731

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

- The Newsletter deadline is 18th January, 2010 and suggested that a Committee Meeting be arranged in order to review the current procedures regarding advertising and distribution of the Newsletter.
- There will be a Highways' Surgery in Suite B on 21st January, 2010 between 10 a.m. and Noon.
- Midas Homes have confirmed, in writing, that they will be undertaking remedial works to the boundary banks at Badock Gardens.
- The Clerk has received no communication from the organisers of the Cycle Time Trials 2011 and will be pursuing this matter over the coming weeks.
- The Annual Town's Meeting had been scheduled for the 22nd April, 2010 and the Clerk asked Councillors to confirm that they were happy to proceed with this date, and with the format of the Meeting being the same as 2009. There were no objections to this.
- The Clerk advised the Council that Manor Car Park and Well Car Park had been closed for one week due to the extreme weather conditions. Cllr. Brown confirmed that he had been copied in on correspondence and had taken the issue up with the Leader of TDC and said that the matter was being referred to Full Council.

1732

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr. Brown reported that many meetings had been cancelled due to poor weather conditions. £22,000 had been allocated to make repairs to the Market Hall and he was still pursuing funding for the public toilets. Cllr. Johns had nothing to report.

Cllr. Smith asked the District Councillors to pass the Town Council's thanks on to the Torridge Officers responsible for clearing The Square of snow and ice and gritting it.

1733

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

There was no exchange of information.

Cllr. Squire proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded and

they be instructed to withdraw. This was seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1734

TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION TO ADVISE ON COUNCIL EXPENSES.

After discussion, Cllr. Smith proposed and Cllr. Heslip seconded the motion that the Council joins the South West Employers organisation – (Vote - all in favour). The Mayor to sign the application form – proposed by Cllr Buckingham and seconded by Cllr. Latty. (Vote – all in favour).

The Chairman proposed that all correspondence should be by e-mail so that a record of everything is kept and will liaise with Cllr. Squire.

Cllr. Smith asked that Councillors think of the questions they would like to be asked of the organisation, and forward them to Cllr. Squire by the 21st January.

1735

CLOSE

The Mayor formally closed the Meeting at 9.00 p.m.

Signature

Date

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th January, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. E. Squire
Councillors: R. Buckingham, D. Smith, B. Priddy, P. Johns, R. Brown, L. Latty, B. Harris, R. Kennedy and M. Heslip

Cllr. Buckingham proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw. This was seconded by Cllr. Harris (Vote – all in favour).

1734

TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION TO ADVISE ON COUNCIL EXPENSES.

Cllr. Kennedy opened the discussion stating that the Finance and General Purposes Committee are not qualified to look into the matter of Council expenses. South West Employers are a non profit organisation providing a range of services. The annual fee is £350.

Cllr. Smith asked how much free advice was available and was told as much as you need – no cost involved until the firm actually carries out a service. Cllr. Heslip queried why the Council needed to consult an outside organisation and the Chairman replied that we have to be aware of Employment Law and need independent advice.

Cllr. Smith proposed and Cllr. Heslip seconded the motion that the Council joins the South West Employers organisation – (Vote - all in favour). The Mayor to sign the application form – proposed by Cllr Buckingham and seconded by Cllr Latty. (Vote – all in favour).

The Chairman proposed that all correspondence should be by e-mail so that a record of everything is kept and will liaise with Cllr. Squire.

Cllr. Smith asked that Councillors think of the questions they would like to be asked of the organisation, and forward them to Cllr. Squire by the 21st January.

Signature **Date**

Appendix 1

Western Power Distribution

Mr. Keith Ferguson explained that he had looked at the area and the issue being experienced related to the Auto Reclose Cycle (ARC). The primary sub-station in Holsworthy has 4 x 11 vault feeders. One of these feeders runs from Holsworthy to Bradworthy and Chilsworthy, and covers approximately 1,000 customers over a large area.

There are circuit breakers which monitor the electricity circuit, and if a fault is detected it will switch the electricity off to ensure safety. It then waits 10 seconds and then turns the electricity back on. If the problem has gone the electricity stays on. If the problem has not cleared individual spurs will then go off, until the necessary repairs can be carried out.

The network is extensive so it is likely that the number of reported faults is correct. 20 of the issues experienced were subject to this ARC. 12 of which were over 2 days; with 8 in 1 day due to lightening. All together, 18 were lightening related and 2 were cable faults. It was also confirmed that the lightening issues could be experienced any where on that network, not necessarily in Holsworthy.

Mr. Ferguson also explained that lightening did not have to hit the cable or pole to cause the ARC to activate. He explained that lightening can strike the ground and create a 'feed' to the circuit breakers which will then instigate the ARC. He explained that the ARC has been around for 50 years, but is more visible to customers in recent times due to the level of technological items in homes. There is no easy answer. The big issue is the amount and size of the network.

Cllr. Heslip asked why this was affecting The Vineyards. Mr. Ferguson said everyone on the circuit is affected. The circuit breaker is by Deer Valley Park, where the cable runs to the primary sub station. The first 500 customers in Holsworthy won't see anything since the cable is underground. It is the overhead network which experiences the problems, as it is susceptible to transient items i.e. birds, branches, etc. There are 1000 customers on the overhead network.

Cllr. Brown commented that the Parish of Holsworthy Hamlets had discussed this last year and the problem seems to be increasing. Cllr. Harris said that Mr. Ferguson had given a very comprehensive explanation, but why when residents have asked, they haven't been given a satisfactory answer? The answer seems to have been that "you have to live with it".

Mr. Ferguson asked "what is a satisfactory answer"? Cllr. Harris said that people feel that they are being fobbed off.

Mr. Ferguson commented that he hasn't been approached by residents of Vineyards himself, and he has never received a complaint regarding Customer Service. He confirmed that he is happy to speak to any residents. Mr. Ferguson then showed a map of the electrical system for the Holsworthy area to assist Cllrs. in their understanding of the situation. Cllr. Priddy said that the residents had taken a note of the weather conditions when they had lost their electricity, and this did not confirm lightening issues.

Mr. Ferguson replied that damage can be done which will not affect the system for weeks i.e. an insulator can be damaged or cracked which cannot be seen by the eye, but dirt can then make its way into it and cause problems. Improvements are being made and more circuit breakers have been installed to minimise the problems experienced. With regard to Customer Service, he is very sorry and it is very regrettable if people have not been happy with the level of Customer Service. Western Power takes their Customer Service responsibilities seriously, and he appreciates that it is frustrating, and that it is helpful to customers when a situation is explained.

Looking at transformers, he has reviewed the records back to 2000, as there is a particular cable to be known to have caused problems in the past. However, over the last 10 years there have only been 2 interruptions due to cable fault. Mr. Ferguson is happy to speak to residents of the Vineyards. Mr. Parkinson confirmed that if the development of the Old Showfield went ahead, there would be future works conducted that would improve the Vineyards problems. They both left at 7.40 p.m.