

Sheepwash Parish Council

Clerk: Mr M Crake, Cannapark, Newton St Petrock, Torrington, Devon, EX38 8LT. Tel 01409 282977

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Minutes of the meeting of Sheepwash Parish Council, Wednesday 17 January 2018, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Hackett (Chairman); Cllr. Hutchings; Cllr. Trace; Cllr. Tubby; Cllr Ritson (Vice-Chairman)
19 members of the public

1) **Apologies For Absence:** Cllr. Penn; Cllr Newby

2) **Declarations Of Interest:** A pecuniary interest was declared by all in the item 6 Setting budget and precept.

3) **Public Discussion –**

25 minutes was given to the Public Session.

Points were raised regarding the item 9 Devon Air Ambulance landing site, in that more details of the plans/works required was requested and ongoing health and safety risk assessment for works and running of the sight.

A letter was read out by a member of the parish challenging the content of the letter of resignation of the Parish Clerk. The tenet of the letter was that it was a despicable slur on the members of the Parish.

Question was raised regarding the authority was the overtime worked as claimed by the Clerk under item 7.

4) **Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th November 2017, having been circulated by email to be approved for accuracy and signed by the Chairman.**

Approved 4 votes for and 1 abstention

5) **Resignation of the Clerk and Proper Officer**

i) **Clerk's resignation.** Item was noted. Words of regret, thanks and support were expressed by the Councillors present. The Clerk responded to the points raised in the Public session stating the letter was his reasoning and the speaker had also been entitled to air his differing views.

ii) A Challenge was made from the floor to the listing of the appointment of a Locum Clerk being held under part2. This was over ruled as discussing terms of employment. Outcomes listed part 2

6) **Set Budget for 2018.**

Each budgetary item was discussed and set for the coming financial year. Please see attached chart at appendix 1 for the amounts.

The final amount of £6000.00 was proposed by Cllr Ritson and seconded by Cllr Trace. Council resolved to accept the proposal and set the afore mentioned budget by a unanimous show of hands.

A discussion was held regarding a joint application with a neighbouring Parish for funds from the Tap Fund to be used for new and maintenance of play equipment. Cllr Trace proposed the Council agrees and makes such an application. Seconded by Cllr Hutchings. Voted by show hands unanimously carried.

During this part the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for a policing update from the Local officers in attendance then reinstated upon completion

7) Finance

A discussion was held regarding the overtime worked by the Parish Clerk. Mr Crake gave a verbal explanation in support of the figures of hours worked (already circulated). It was then proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Trace that the payments submitted for wages, overtime, expenses and unused holiday be approved. It was put to the vote and was unanimously carried.

8) Holsworthy Community Transport

This item was carried over from previous meetings and was in respect of a request from HCT for a grant towards their running costs as they are a registered charity. A discussion took place and the following proposal was put and the Parish Council resolved that

“The request for a grant is not supported at this time but can be reviewed at a later date should circumstances change” proposed by Cllr Trace seconded by Cllr Hutchings. The proposal was carried

9) Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site

Standing orders suspended to permit discussion with affected residents. Then reinstated

A discussion took place regards the works and exactly what was needed and whether any of the costs could be mitigated by the skilled tradesmen within the village itself.

Cllr Hutchings proposed that the Parish Council consult with members of the village and the owners of the site to see if they have the required skills and equipment to carry out the preparation works” seconded by Cllr. Trace. Council resolved to accept this proposal by a unanimous show of hands.

It was noted that a more detailed specification was required from DAAT and a plan was required. The PC will liaise with DAAT directly.

Item carried over to next meeting

10) Parish Meeting

In addition to a discussion on this matter at the last Parish Council meeting a further brief discussion was held where changes to the way the Parish Council now works such as informative website and full papers circulated prior to the meetings that was not the case a some years ago. Also now a full sets of papers are available for the public at the meeting. Several Parishioners wished to raise points regarding this item expressed and so Standing Orders were then suspended at 9pm which allowed a long discussion with those present over the outcomes and conduct of the aforementioned Parish Meeting. Some present were still not happy in the way things were done desiring a more liberal and flexible approach to Standing Orders whilst others wanted a firm and rigid application of Statutory requirements, Council procedures and Standing Orders. Councillors also stated they were working hard for the community and would not be resigning. There was also some further support for the council expressed from the floor. Standing orders we reinstated at 9:45pm.

11) Standing Orders

Cllr Ritson expressed strong views that Standing orders need to change to permit the public a stronger voice and reflect their views more in the meetings. This received some support from the public. It was pointed out that these standing Orders were the NALC standard ones and introduced by some including a previous Chairman requesting the changes now. It was agreed that the matter of a Review of Standing Orders is good practice and this should be done before and during the next meeting in order for any changes to be ready for the new financial year.

Public Session Closed

Part 2

The terms and appointment of a Locum Clerk was discussed and agreed for the duration until a full time replacement can be found.

The terms and details of the quotation for works needed under item 9 were discussed in line with the previous notes.

Meeting Closed 10:05pm

The next Council meeting is on Wednesday 14th March 2018, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed

Dated.....

Appendix

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**SHEEPWASH PARISH
COUNCIL**

Proposed Budget 2017/2018

ITEM	2015/2016 ACTUAL	2016/17 budget foreca st	2016/17 actual 30th Sept	2016/17 amende d forecast	2017/18 budget agreed	2017 18 actual 30th Sept	2017 to 18 actual 10 January 2018	2018 to 2019 Budget Agreed
EXPENDITURE								
Employment expenses	1,224	1,224	810	1,473	1,050	555.75	1,215.88	1,500.00
Office exp inc. Travel in 2014/2015	61	105	57	105	331	95.24	172.24	250.00
Travel 2015/2016	334	400	91	250	200	62.10	129.60	200.00
Insurance	265	265	274	274	274	280.00	280.00	300.00
Subscriptions	140	107	35	107	155	88.54	118.54	150.00
Audit Fees & Bank charges	50	50	68	104	266	131.00	149.00	200.00
Village Hall Rent	0	120	140	140	80	400.00	400.00	400.00
Jubilee field (& play area till 2017) Play area 2018 19	426	230	14	230	180	438.76	438.76	150.00
General Maintenance Provision	0	150	165	195	50	0.00	0.00	100.00
Chairmans Allowance	0	30		30	30	0.00	0.00	30.00
Grants	100	500	450	500	500	0.00	0.00	500.00
Computer/Software/Website charges	419	80	773	773	170	125.00	125.00	170.00
Clerk training/conferences	90	30		30	150	0.00	30.00	150.00
Councillor Training	25	100		50	100	30.00	30.00	150.00
Election contingency	0	500		500	500	0.00	0.00	500.00
Contingencyetc (wreath & xmas tree inc.)	82	300		300	300	0.00	17.00	250.00
Best Kept village competition	0	0		0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Village Hall Grant towards toilets	0	2,000		2,000	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Village Square		150		150	150	0.00	0.00	150.00
Bus shelter	400	500	400	400	0	0.00	0.00	200.00
Footpaths Parish Spaces	466	100		100	100	124.00	124.00	200.00
Defibrillator	1,175		190	190	0	0.00	0.00	100.00
VAT	580	0	292	325	150	129.50	129.50	200.00
TOTAL	5,837	6,941	3,759	8,226	4,736	2,459.8	3,359.52	6,000.00

3000
approx

Helipad under written

						9		
INCOME								
Bank Interest	20	25	7	25	14	4.27	6.88	
						5,750.0		
Precept	4,347	5,362	5,216	5,216	5,750	0	5,750.00	
Council Support Grant	267	147	147	147	0	0.00	0.00	
VAT reclaimed	297	250	580	580	325	292.06	292.06	
Grants/Donations/TAP fund	1,891	0	200	200	200	0.00	0.00	
P3 footpath scheme	500	100		0	50	0.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous	63			0	0		300.00	Cllr Parsons
TOTAL	7,385	5,884	6,150	6,168	6,339	6,046	6,348.94	
DEFICIT FOR YEAR		1,057						

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