

# **SOUTH PETHERWIN PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of South Petherwin Parish Council was held in the Methodist Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Present Chair : Councillor Mrs Dawn Rogers. Councillors: A Finnimore, Mrs C Goodman, T Goodman, R Kneebone, P Parsons, M Screech, Mrs M Tyler. County Councillor N Burden

Apologies Councillors A Hosking, R J Whiting, PCSO Clare Danson

## Representations from the public

Three members of the public were present.

The Reverend Anne Brown updated the council on progress of the Community Shop. The project was successful at the "Bishop's Den" and selected as one of two projects for support up to £100,000 each. A condition of the award is the completion of a consultation and feasibility study. A questionnaire is currently being circulated in the village and requires 150 returned copies to comply with the conditions. Copies were circulated to councillors who were urged to complete and return them. A Tea Party has been organised for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April between 5:30 and 7:30 pm at which information about the progress will be presented and an opportunity for feedback and discussion provided.

Mr Stuart Blackie (SB), Housing Manager of Cornwall Housing presented information to the Council about the allocation policy and procedure for Council Housing. Mr Blackie has 20 years experience as Head of Housing of NCDC prior to taking up his current post. Cornwall Housing is a separate company within Cornwall Council (CC).

Information was provided about the number of applications made to CC and how these are banded according to need. Once banded applicants can register an interest in properties as they become available on a weekly basis. Order of allocation is linked to the level of banding and length of time on the register. In areas such as South Petherwin with a limited supply of accommodation, local preference is given on all properties becoming available.

Councillors expressed concern that local properties were not being allocated to local people. SB noted that out of 47 local applicants registered only 3 stated a wish to be housed in the parish. Of these two were for 2 bedrooms and one for 1 bedroom properties. Councillors noted that there were no properties of this type currently in the village.

SB explained how the Welfare Reform Act had impacted his team's ability to allocate properties since welfare need overrides local need. It is not possible for a property with 3 bedrooms to be let to someone assessed as needing only 2 even if they are self-financing and can afford the rent. Councillors noted this meant that local people seeking housing in the parish will be unable to access any of the currently built property.

In an extended discussion issues raised included:

- The length of time taken in the last years between vacation of property and re-letting (SB said Cornwall Housing were embarrassed by this and were working to rectify), cost of repairs to property caused by tenant damage, provision of new housing reflecting local needs, proof of evidence of need provided by applicants.
- SB stated that the allocation policy is under review currently.
- Councillors expressed concern that reform to provide greater weighting on local need was urgently required. Councillor T Goodman proposed and Mrs C Goodman seconded a proposal to bring forward motions later in meeting for



- years) and properties are to be let in a more timely manner.”  
Proposed by Cllr T Goodman, seconded Cllr Screech. Approved unanimously.
- Additionally if an applicant is local and can afford premises above their assessed need they should have an opportunity to pay the high cost and rent the property. Proposed Cllr Parsons, seconded Cllr Screech. Approved unanimously. Clerk to write to Cornwall Housing AB
- 14/037 Landlake Bridge. Email received from CC Engineers advising estimated cost would be £30k. Decision based on traffic movements in 2003 and support given by Stoke Climsland PC. Councillors asked Clerk to ask for actual cost, note that since the traffic survey the Beet Mill has closed on the Scarne Industrial estate & confusion as to why Stoke Climsland PC would have any say in the decision. AB
- 14/038 Weed Treatment. Clerk reported that CC had split bills for treatment between SPPC and St Thomas Rural. SPPC only paying this year for treatment in the village. Contract has been signed and as agreed.
- 14/039 Toilets. Clerk advised that graffiti in the unisex toilet had been reported. Notices have been posted as requested by Council and Neighbourhood Watch asked to be vigilant to vandalism.
- 14/040 Footpaths. Local Maintenance Partnership payment for 2013/14 has been chased and offer of funding for 2014/15 received. Council approved acceptance of funding for 2014/15. Clerk to sign documentation. AB
- 14/041 Emailing of documents. Several councillors have requested email rather than hard copy summons to meeting etc. Minutes in Draft will in future be sent by email as soon as possible after meeting with actions clearly indicated.
- 14/042 Correspondence. Councillors were advised of the availability of an additional course on proposed planning guidance for future solar and wind farms. Rural Networks has set up a Sounding Board (Cllr Mrs Goodman expressed an interest) and a draft Manifesto (Cllr Kneebone expressed an interest). Clerk to forward appropriate documentation. Information about a commemorative medal for WW1 has been passed to Peter Bailey. Information has been posted regarding Free Dog Chipping and Grants for Carer Groups. AB
- 14/043 Planning. No applications received this month.
- 14/044 Cornwall Councillor Report. School Transport cost increases are out to consultation and Counsellor will be keeping an eye on these. Restructuring in the CC will result in 3 Director posts going as well as support roles. 2 respite centres for children have been closed. Repairs around the coast are expected to cost £20-30M but government contribution is expected to be small. Travelling libraries are being cut. Concerns expressed about One Stop Shops having capacity to deal with needs of people having problems. Proposal is to reduce opportunities for people to access help with completing forms to one day a week. The Welfare Reform Act is having an impact.

14/045 Accounts.

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| SWW        | £11.04  |
| A Peerless | £167.50 |
| C Masters  | £40.00  |
| A Brook    | £370.10 |
| A Brook    | £87.40  |
| HMRC/PAYE  | £92.40  |

Proposed by Cllr Tyler that accounts be paid, seconded by Cllr Screech, proposal carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in the Methodist Hall.