

**MINUTES**

of

**SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL****Meeting****Held on****Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

at

**Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall**

Present: Chairman Cllr Stone  
Cllrs Sims, Mrs Chater, Mrs Francis-McLeod, Mrs Boulting, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Proctor and Mrs Burkill

District Cllr Chris Oram

2 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Spencer, County Cllr Hart, DNPA Rep Cllr Smerdon

Minute Number		Action
101/24	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>Mr Clewer asked if the Clerk had received any response from Cllr Hart in respect of the question raised at the June PC meeting relating to the safety of the use of the bridleway next to the B3417 Lee Moor Road following the recent fatality that had occurred on the road? The Clerk read out the response received from DCC Highways where they confirmed that there had been no change in their assessment of the safety of the use of the bridleway (they were still of the opinion that it was safe to use) and that it was no different to other examples of such elsewhere in the County. Cllrs were concerned by this response received from DCC Highways and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk would contact the British Horse Society in order to ascertain their views on the safety of the use of the bridleway.</p> <p>With regard to the provision of speed cameras on the B3417, recent correspondence received from Cllr Hart confirmed that one speed camera would be provided which would record the speed of vehicles travelling in either direction. Cllr Mrs Burkill stated that this was different to the information supplied to her by Marica Lyndon of Tungsten West who had previously confirmed that they (TW) were due to install power to two separate locations. It was agreed that further clarification on this matter would be sought at the next PC</p>	Clerk

	<p>meeting. Mr Clewer also made the PC aware that he had contacted TW in relation of the explosion of ragwort which can be dangerous to livestock. It was confirmed that the PC has no strategy for the removal of such and that it's removal from areas adjacent to the public highway would be a matter for either DCC Highways or the adjoining landowner. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Chater would provide some wording for the parish magazine and website/social media regarding this problem.</p> <p>Julia Sanders asked if the PC would once again agree to providing a financial donation towards the purchase of a Christmas Tree for Shaugh Recreation Hall. Resolved by Cllrs to provide a contribution of £30 towards such. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Tyler and seconded by Cllr Mrs Boulting. It was also agreed that if required, a similar contribution would be made for the hall at Lee Moor.</p>	Cllr Mrs Chater
102/24	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No declarations had been received by the Clerk.</p>	
103/24	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>In the absence of PC Rob Pike there was no report.</p>	
104/24	<p><b>County and District Councillor Reports</b></p> <p>Whilst Cllr Hart was not at the meeting, District Cllr Oram provided a County Cllr Report which was as follows:</p> <p><b>Over 40s encouraged to check their blood pressure</b> NHS and Public Health professionals are encouraging people aged 40 years and over to check their blood pressure. It's part of a week-long national 'Know Your Numbers' campaign, beginning next week, to raise awareness of high blood pressure. Known as 'the silent killer', high blood pressure is a major cause of heart attack and stroke, but often has no symptoms. Many local pharmacies across Devon are now offering free blood pressure checks. To check whether your local pharmacy offers free blood pressure checks visit the NHS webpage.</p> <p><b>This September explore Devon's great outdoors!</b> While we're thinking about our health and wellbeing, it's Outdoor September month also starting next week. It's a campaign, promoted by Active Devon, to encourage us all to embrace the great outdoors! Being active, particularly outdoors, benefits your health and wellbeing, and during the course of the month, Active Devon and partners from the Devon Local Nature Partnership, Devon Climate Emergency, our own Public Health team and Travel Devon, will be sharing details of events, ideas and tips to help us all make the most of our environment.</p> <p><b>Councillors call for re-think on winter fuel payment</b> Our Leader, Councillor James McInnes (Conservative), and Councillor Alan Connett (Liberal Democrat), have signed a Notice of Motion</p>	

calling on the Government to re-think its intention to stop winter fuel payments to all but the most needy pensioners. The Government made the announcement last month that only people on Pension Credit and other benefits would continue to receive the £300 annual payment to help with their heating bills. The Notice of Motion, which Councillor Connett will move, will be discussed at our County Council meeting next Thursday 5 September.

**So, what is Pension Credit?**

Pension Credit is worth, on average, £3,900 per year and unlocks additional support including the Winter Fuel Payment, help with council tax, NHS dental care and for those over 75, a free TV licence. The Government is raising awareness of Pension Credit to help to identify households that are not yet claiming the benefit, and to encourage pensioners to apply by Saturday 21 December. Pension Credit can be backdated by up to three months, so long as there is entitlement during that time, which means that pensioners need to have applied by Saturday 21 December in order to receive the Winter Fuel Payment. You can read more in the news story on the Government's website. You can also find information about Pension Credit online.

**Is your child entitled to free school meals?**

All children in reception, year one and year two at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, if you receive certain benefits, you are encouraged to apply for free school meals when you enrol your child in school, as this can also help your school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support your child's learning. Please apply through our website, as this is the quickest and easiest way and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call our Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

**Support is available for households in Devon who are struggling**

The financial challenges facing some households in Devon can be intensified over the school summer holidays. Increased costs such as food and activities, particularly with the current cost of living, and reduced incomes due to childcare, mean that this year's break may have been especially difficult. And now, with the new school year just around the corner, and new uniform and supplies to buy, budgets are being squeezed. That's why we are reminding people of the support available through the Government's Household Support Fund, which is planned to run until Monday 30 September. Visit the news page of our website to find out more about how you can access the support.

**SUEZ staff collecting items to help families affected by war in Ukraine**

Staff at our Household Waste Recycling Centre in Ivybridge have been working closely with a local charity to help families affected by the war in Ukraine. The facility is operated on our behalf by SUEZ recycling and recovery UK and, in a show of community support, they have been collecting and reusing items which are then distributed to families in need. Staff have been carefully sifting through items that come in to ensure that only those in the best condition are set aside for distribution.

	<p><b>Libraries Service; one hundred years of ‘enriching lives and building communities</b></p> <p>We're especially proud of our libraries in Devon and the vital role they play in people's lives and in local communities. This is the centenary year for Devon's libraries and there are events and activities planned throughout 2024 to help celebrate this significant milestone.</p> <p><b>We're trialling the Duolingo English Test to help people seeking asylum and refugees</b></p> <p>We are trialling an English language proficiency test, delivered by the popular learning company, Duolingo, to help refugees and people seeking asylum in Devon. English proficiency tests are often needed by applicants to get into university or employment, but refugees and people seeking asylum often struggle to access the tests due to their cost, the testing location, or other commitments that prevent them from attending in person. So, South West Council's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) co-ordinator, introduced us to Duolingo because the app provider was looking for local authorities to work with to test its online language proficiency programme with speakers of other languages. The trial started this month, with people able to take the tests online at any time and in any location to suit them.</p> <p><b>English Freeports tax benefits extension laid in law</b></p> <p>New and high growth businesses in the South West's blue/green economy can now benefit from a significant boost, as the English Freeport tax benefits extension window went into law in May. The Plymouth and South Devon Freeport has welcomed the extension, which sees English Freeport tax benefits extended until September 2031.</p> <p>District Cllr Oram kindly provided a report to Cllrs prior to the meeting which included the following points:</p> <p><b>Helping communities to deliver more homes</b></p> <p>We're helping communities to deliver more homes which local people need - it's one of our top priorities. We're supporting the delivery of 39 new energy-efficient affordable homes for people with a strong connection to Dartington and Totnes. Local housing association, Aster Group, has agreed a new partnership with Transition Homes Community Land Trust (CLT) to deliver the new Clay Park development. We've provided £322,853 of funding and are supporting the CLT to make it happen. The homes, which will all be available for social rent, will be delivered to the highest energy efficiency (EPC A) and come with air source heat pumps and PV panels.</p> <p><b>Beware of fake X account</b></p> <p>Beware of a fake X (Twitter) account imitating our own. @SouthHams_DC is the only official X account for South Hams District Council. Watch out for the @HamsSouth35493 account - we've already reported it to X as fake and will be monitoring it until it is removed.</p> <p><b>Free leisure facilities for care experienced children and young adults</b></p> <p>Do you know of any children in care, or care leavers, who could</p>	
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	<p>benefit from using our leisure centre facilities? We're looking for children and young adults who have left care (up to the age of 25) to sign up for free access to Dartmouth Leisure Centre, Totnes Leisure Centre, Ivybridge Leisure Centre and Quayside Leisure Centre. Signing up to the scheme is very simple. There's a letter for social workers to submit, along with an application to be completed by either the young person or foster carer, which will give access free swimming, gym and soft play facilities. Anyone interested should contact Clare Bill at <a href="mailto:clare.bill@fusion-lifestyle.com">clare.bill@fusion-lifestyle.com</a></p> <p><b>Tackling the sticky problem of chewing gum</b> A grant from the Chewing Gum Task Force, administered by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, will help us to clean up gum and reduce gum littering. Along with West Devon Borough Council, we are putting plans in place to remove the chewing gum on local streets after receiving a £18,754 grant to tackle the issue.</p> <p><b>Beware of fraud!</b> If you are using car parks across the South Hams, please remember to download the RingGo app from RingGo directly or through the official Android or Apple app stores only. There have been a few instances where residents have fallen victim to fraudulent RingGo accounts after using QR codes.</p> <p><b>Looking to learn a new skill?</b> Learn Devon's new adult education courses have arrived for 2024/25! If you want to develop your skills, gain a qualification, meet new people or just learn something new, have a look at what our partner Learn Devon is offering. Learn Devon has a range of courses and qualifications starting in September 2024. Alongside qualifications such as GCSEs and Functional Skills, Learn Devon is now offering courses for those interested in working in schools, nurseries and in the health care sector. Don't miss out - see our website for the full programme.</p> <p><b>Help shape adult education in the District</b> Our residents' wellbeing is so important to us. That is why we are working with Learn Devon to better understand how local residents can engage with adult education. Learn Devon is Devon County Council's adult education provider and delivers courses and qualifications across Devon, both online and in-person. To help us ensure that relevant courses and opportunities are available, please take part in a short online survey.</p> <p><b>Cost of living scam</b> We're warning residents to be aware of a scam currently doing the rounds about a £900 cost of living payment. The scammers will text you saying you have not yet received "your annual living allowance" and include a link to a convincing - but fake - webpage that promises a £900 payment if you share your credit or debit card details. Be careful when you receive unsolicited text messages from numbers you don't know! If in doubt, check a completely new Gov.UK webpage or ask us or the Citizens Advice for help.</p> <p><b>Hidden homelessness</b></p>	
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105/24	<p>Citizens Advice is conducting a major research project with the University of Plymouth into the issue of hidden homelessness in the South Hams, Plymouth and SE Cornwall. They want to hear from people who are sofa surfing, living in overcrowded accommodation, living with someone where the relationship has broken down but neither side can afford to move out or adult children living with parents where this is causing a problem such as straining relationships, financial issues or unsuitable living arrangements. The survey will help inform the research to be published later this year and shared with local and national policymakers, other charities and interested community organisations.  <a href="https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/plymouth/uncovering-hidden-homelessness">https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/plymouth/uncovering-hidden-homelessness</a></p> <p><b>The General Election results are in...</b>      Congratulations to Rebecca Smith of the Conservative Party who was elected as MP for the South West Devon Constituency with 17,916 votes. We wish her the best of luck in her new role.</p> <p>In addition, Cllr Oram also referred to concerns that SHDC have raised with SWW regarding their handling of the recent cryptosporidium outbreak in South Devon and that the CEO of SWW has been invited to a council meeting in order to answer and address the various concerns the District Council have with regards to this matter. It was also noted that the withdrawal of the winter fuel payments by Government will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting (Cllr Oram sharing the concerns of the Parish Cllrs regarding the withdrawal of this payment).</p> <p><b>DNPA Report</b></p> <p>In his absence, the Clerk read out the following report received from Cllr Smerdon:</p> <p><b>Car Park at Cornwood</b>      DNPA Members recently approved an application by a landowner to create a small carpark at East Rooke Farm, Cornwood. This site should provide parking for approximately 10 cars, and will help facilitate access to parts of Southern Dartmoor.</p> <p><b>Bronze Age Burial Cist at Cut Hill</b>      A granite cist burial chamber has been discovered at Cut Hill above Postbridge, similar to the one found at White Horse Hill in 2011, which helped transform understanding of Bronze Age life on Dartmoor. The cist has been excavated in early August under the supervision of DNPA archaeologist Dr Lee Bray, and following extensive work it was removed whole and without disturbance, and has been taken to a specialist forensic archaeology lab in Wiltshire, where radio carbon dating shows it dates from almost 4000 years ago. It is hoped that the cist may contain cremated human remains and grave goods similar to White Horse Hill.</p> <p><b>Wild Camping Case returns to Court</b>      In early October DNPA will appear in the Supreme Court to once again defend the right to wild camp on Dartmoor. Dartmoor landowner</p>	
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106/24	<p>Mr Alexander Darwall challenged the current DNP byelaw, under which people have enjoyed a right to "wild" or backpack camp on Dartmoor, currently the only National Park in England where this right exists. He was successful in his action in the High Court, but DNP were granted leave to appeal and in January three Appeal Court judges unanimously found in the Parks favour. Now we are back for round 3, as Mr Darwall was successful in asking the Supreme Court, the highest Court in the UK, to adjudicate for a final time. We understand that five Supreme Court judges will sit for this case, and a judgement may take several months before it is announced.</p> <p><b>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024</b></p> <p>All Cllrs agreed that they had received a draft copy of the minutes of the July meeting and resolved that they were an accurate reflection of the minutes of that meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Proctor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Chater. Resolved by Cllrs to agree the draft minutes of the July PC meeting.</p>	
107/24	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>	
8/24(a)	<p><b>Highway Matters</b></p> <p>Although he was unable to make the meeting, Cllr Spencer had raised some concerns regarding the impact of the proposed traffic management scheme associated with the first phase of the WTTG highway improvement scheme on the A386. However, after the first week it appeared that the closure of the right turn at the Woolwell Roundabout (and the detour around the Plessey roundabout) was actually working quite well.</p> <p>Cllr Sims confirmed that the speed activated sign in Shaugh Prior was now operational and was working as intended. The Chair wished to thank Cllr Sims for his efforts on getting the sign working. It was noted that similar signs were required on Wotter bypass and through Wotter village itself. It was noted that the Police often attend the monthly coffee mornings at the village halls and this would be an opportune time to raise these issues with them.</p>	
8/24(b)	<p><b>Shaugh Prior Community Fund</b></p> <p>No applications for funding have been received this month.</p>	
8/24(c)	<p><b>Tribute to Cllr Norman</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that there were no further updates and a response from Peter Davies was awaited.</p>	
8/24(e)	<p><b>Wotter Play Area Improvements Working Group</b></p> <p>A meeting of the working group took place in late August where each of the 4 design proposals were considered. On the basis of appearance, quality and cost, it was the recommendation of the working group that the design produced by Rhino Play should be the</p>	

8/24(f)	<p>chosen option (with the inclusion of some balance beams). The Clerk confirmed that the total cost was £22,342.00 (exc VAT). Resolved by Cllrs for the Clerk to proceed with the grant application from the National Lottery on the basis of this quotation – proposed by Cllr Mrs Francis-McLeod and seconded by Cllr Mrs Tyler.</p> <p><b>Emergency Plan</b></p> <p>As a result of focussing on the Wotter Play Area Improvements, there was no further progress on the EP at present.</p>	Clerk
8/24(g)	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr Spencer kindly provided a report which the Clerk read out in his absence. Cllr Mrs Boulting confirmed that the communications group were currently in the process of finalising the communication strategy which should hopefully help to get more people in the Parish involved. It was noted that the £10k locality grant funding needs to be spent by April 2025 which will be challenging. It was noted that some parishioners had not heard about the NP as they didn't have access to FB etc. Cllr Boulting mentioned that the communications group had some ideas on how to address this. SO's were temporarily lifted by the Chair in order to allow Cllr Oram to speak. It was agreed to try and include Cllr Oram in correspondence addressed to SHDC so that responses can be chased from his end. He confirmed that he would be happy to be involved in developing the NP for the Parish and could be able to offer assistance in terms of future leafletting and producing literature. SO's were then reinstated.</p>	
108/24	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>The following applications have been approved:</p> <p>App No 0212/24 – The White House, Shaugh Prior, Plymouth Confirmation that planning ref 0075/01 for a 2-storey side and single storey side extension is still extant.</p> <p>TPO App No 24/0039 – Shaugh Bridge, Shaugh Prior Holly tree to coppice.</p> <p>The Clerk also referred to a list of current planning enforcement cases which includes two cases in the parish.</p>	
109/24	<p><b>Chairman's Business</b></p> <p>The Chairman made reference to a recent letter received from our new MP Rebecca Smith asking if there were any matters in the Parish which she could assist with? It was agreed that a meeting with the new MP may be helpful although it's likely that this would have to take place at an additional meeting due to her mid-week Westminster commitments. The Clerk suggested that we would need to have an agenda of items that Cllrs would want to discuss with her.</p>	All
110/24	<p><b>Wotter Surgery E-Consult Feedback</b></p>	



	<p>SO's were temporarily lifted by the Chair in order to allow Julia Sanders to speak. Julia confirmed that some of the results of the feedback on the new e-consult system as well as the general views on Wotter Surgery, had been fed back to the Clerk. A number of concerns were raised and these were shared with Cllrs. On the basis of the negative feedback received, it was agreed that the Clerk should invite representatives from the Beacon Medical Group to the November PC meeting. It was also agreed that questions for the BMG should be forwarded to them prior to their attendance at a future PC meeting.</p>	Clerk
111/24	<p><b>Updates to Parish Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr Mrs Tyler highlighted that the Parish Plan on our website includes reference to persons who are no longer involved with the PC. It was agreed by Cllrs that this is an historical document included on the website for reference only and therefore did not need to be amended/changed.</p>	
112/24	<p><b>Reports from Committees</b></p> <p>No reports this month.</p>	
113/24	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email from Roland Stonex of silviculture regarding Maristow Farms consultation on a woodland creation plan. Having viewed the plans Cllrs were in support of the proposals. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond on this basis.</li> <li>• Email from SHDC regarding the South Hams Festival in 2025. It was resolved by Cllrs to not proceed with the financial pledge of £500 towards the festival.</li> <li>• Email from WesternWeb Ltd confirming that there may be some slight changes to the website for the update of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) from 2.1 to 2.2.</li> <li>• Devon Climate Change Emergency Newsletter for September 2024 (circulated to Cllrs)</li> <li>• Email from SHDC detailing consultation on draft Gambling Statement of Principles.</li> <li>• Email from TW confirming the next meeting of the community interest group taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (17.00-18.30).</li> <li>• Email from David Boocock of DNPA confirming that the Mobile Boost Voucher Scheme (for improving phone signal at home) is back.</li> <li>• Email newsletter from NALC</li> <li>• Email newsletter from SLCC</li> </ul>	
114/24	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 there was the</p>	

<p>115/24</p>	<p>sum of £12,200.64 in the Treasurers Account. This didn't include the second half of the annual precept which was expected from SHDC imminently. It was also confirmed by the Clerk that he would shortly be making an application to HMRC to recover VAT paid during 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p><b>Payments and Receipts</b></p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments:</p> <p>£22.00 direct debit payment to EDF Energy (electricity for Wotter defib)          £105.00 cheque to SLCC (annual subscription fee)          £282.00 direct debit payment to SHDC (insurance and inspection for Lee Moor Play Area)          £282.00 direct debit payment to SHDC (insurance and inspection for Wotter Play Area)</p> <p>Receipts          None</p>	
<p>116/24</p>	<p><b>Works and Maintenance</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the new notice board in Lee Moor was now in place and the old notice board was due to be removed by James Friend in the coming week. He is also in the process of completing the list of remedial works identified by SHDC for both Lee Moor and Wotter Play Areas following the safety inspections. This has included removing the swings in Wotter Play Area which had recently become unchained (the set of swings which currently have no safety surfacing beneath).</p> <p>Cllr Francis-McLeod confirmed that she had recently cut back overgrown vegetation which was obstructing existing road signs as well as giving some of them a clean. It was noted that one of the Shaugh Prior signs has been hit. It was also noted that our defibs had recently been taken (but not used) as a result of medical emergencies.</p>	
<p>117/24</p>	<p><b>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at Lee Moor Public Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting closed at 8.54pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date: .....</p>	