

Draft minutes subject to approval

# **Burrator Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Meavy Parish Hall**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs Hopson, Powell, Lynn, Cole, Moorhead & Legassick.  
Cllr Moyse, West Devon Borough Councillor.

**Also Present:** Mr Ellis, Mr Palmer for Item 3 on agenda. 8 members of the public.

**Councillors absent:** Cllrs Parle, Aves. Cllr D Cloke, West Devon Borough Council.

Cllr Hopson welcomed everyone present and explained that Items 1 & 2 would commence, then the meeting suspended for public time.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1. **Apologies**  
Cllrs Parle, Aves, Scrivener & Fisk.
2. **Declarations of Interest.**  
None. Otherwise as recorded in the Register.

Cllr Hopson suspended the meeting and invited parishioners to speak.

Mr Drennan spoke regarding the planning applications on the agenda for proposals at Burrator Dam. He requested that the Parish Council object to the applications and send a representative to the DNPA meeting to reinstate their objections. Mr Drennan advised that he felt impact of the proposals would cause discontent to the varied users of the reservoir and residents of Sheepstor. He questioned the statement of vandalism to the toilet block and recalled that the pipes froze many years ago and that SWW did not at that time, wish to incur costs.

The Clerk and Chairman confirmed that it was too the recollection of the Parish Council that the pipes had frozen causing the toilets to be closed. It was also clarified that SWW had asked the Parish Council to take over the lease on the toilets and carry out repairs and maintenance. At the time of the proposal, the Councillors had strongly refused to spend the Parish Precept on providing toilets to the visitors.

Mrs Thomas requested that the Parish Council advise DNPA of the above paragraph. Mrs Thomas raised concern over the applicants' statement of "not for commercialisation", when SWLT Annual Report advises of £1.5 million of Commercial Income. The toilet block would be coin operated and the kiosk would be charging and paying staff, therefore this can be no other than commercialisation. Mrs Thomas also raised concerns over the proposal long opening hours and full time staffing which is an increased proposal than that applied for in 2013.

Mr Palmer advised that the applications are the thin edge of the wedge and are shrouded by the provision of toilets and storage.

Mr Sheard raised concerns over litter. He also advised that walkers in the National Park do not expect a toilet and/or refreshments at their convenience. Walkers as they do now - would finish their walk before heading to Princetown, Meavy or Yelverton etc for refreshments.

Mr Traies advised that there is now a strong coffee culture and that the kiosk will encourage extra visitors as a new meeting place.

Mr Allan advised of his personal experiences with similar commercialisation which has had an impact on his working life.

Mr Hopson thanked the parishioners for their comments and reconvened the meeting at Item 6b (moving back to Item 3 immediately afterwards).

**6. Planning Committee.**

**b) 0458/15 Proposed conversion of stores building into electrical room and kiosk at Burrator Dam, Sheepstor.**

Councillors discussed the applications taking into account the concerns raised by parishioners and their own experiences in the area. Cllr Scrivener advised that the applicants have been involved in meetings with various authorities to try and tackle parking and traffic congestion at the dam which is then contradicted by the application which will increase both issues. Cllr Scrivener advised that he felt the DNPA refusal reason of application 0653/13 still applied to this new application, as nothing has changed. Cllr Scrivener proposed that the Parish Council object to the application and that he would be available to speak as the Parish Council representative at the DNPA meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Legassick and agreed by all present.

**c) 0462/15 Proposed external alterations to disused public convenience at Burrator Dam, Sheepstor.**

Councillors discussed the application and recalled that when the toilets were operational many years ago, visitor numbers were much lower. It was agreed that only in recent years, increased activities and promotion of exercise has greatly increased visitors to the Reservoir. Councillors felt that the current location of the toilet block if refurbished – will create more parking congestion. Councillors were of the view that toilets could be sited elsewhere around the Reservoir and be of a “green” operation. Cllr Legassick proposed that the Parish Council object to the application for the above reasons and this was seconded by Cllr Scrivener and agreed by all.

**3. Co-Option of New Councillor.**

Mr Palmer and Mr Ellis introduced themselves to the Councillors and left the room for the discussion to take place. It was agreed to co-opt Mr Palmer to the Walkhampton Ward and Mr Ellis to the Walkhampton-Dousland Ward. Both applicants re-entered the room and were updated by the Chairman. Cllrs Palmer and Ellis joined the Councillors for the remainder of the meeting.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.**

The Minutes were signed as an accurate record.

- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes.**  
Cllr Lynn reminded Cllrs of the public time at the last meeting, at which Mr Cheadle spoke about a Community Energy Scheme. Cllr Lynn advised that she had been considering possible sites within Burrator Parish, being the two schools and the nursing home however with the feeding tariff having just been removed, it is no longer an option for the Parish to consider.
- 6. Planning Committee.**  
**a) Chairman's Report of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015.**  
Cllr Moorhead presented the minutes which were noted.  
**d) 15/0044 Proposed tree works at Meavy Barton.**  
Councillors noted the application and agreed that it would be dealt with by the tree experts involved.
- 7. Finance & General Purposes Committee.**  
**a) Bills for payment.** It was proposed to pay the bills of £2521.03 **Proposed**  
Cllr Moorhead **Seconded** Cllr Cole.  
**b) Financial Statements.** These were noted.
- 8. The Royal Oak Inn Committee.**  
Cllr Cole advised that there was no report to make.
- 9. Commercial horse and trap rides at Burrator Reservoir.**  
Councillors agreed that the item had been placed on the agenda due to reports that the rides were operating already around the Reservoir. However it has since been clarified by the licensing department of WDBC that no licence has been given.
- 10. Burrator Twinning Association.**  
Cllr Hopson advised that he had requested the agenda item and would like to see the Parish Council re-establish its links with the Association. Cllrs agreed and Cllr Hopson advised that he would initially speak to the Chairperson. Cllr Lynn advised that she would be keen to be the Parish Council representative on the Twinning Association.
- 11. Burrator Beacon.**  
The Clerk advised of a request from SWLT made via the Editor, for free advertising space in the Burrator Beacon, due to limited funding. Cllrs disagreed strongly with the request and it was agreed that SWLT would pay the usual advertising fees.
- 12. Reports from Outside Bodies.**  
**a) Borough Councillors Report.**  
Cllr Moyse gave a report on the AGM of DNPA and WDBC.  
**b) Any other reports.**  
Cllr Scrivener reported on the recent Airband meeting at DNPA which he attended with Cllrs Cole and Lynn. In summary the service should be available in December 2016 and advised Cllrs that they need to register their interest on the website or through their existing provider. Cllr Scrivener advised that he would write a detailed article for the Burrator Beacon.
- 13. Parish Property.**  
It was noted that the telephone box in Sheepstor had been repainted. The sign at Lovaton was still lying in the hedge and Cllrs felt that this could be easily

repaired instead of waiting for Highways to replace it. The Clerk suggested the DNPA ranger may do this and would ask.

Cllrs discussed increased fly tipping in the Parish and felt it was encouraged by the unnecessary fees charged by DCC at the local recycling centre. The Clerk was asked to write to DCC regarding this.

**14. Highways**

Cllr Legassick in her role as Snow Warden, checked with Cllrs road salt stocks in the Parish.

**15. Correspondence.**

The correspondence had been previously circulated. It was agreed that the Parish Council would place a representative on the Speedwatch Committee set up by Dartmoor Forest Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to find out more details on frequency of meetings and what is involved.

The notes of the Southern Link Committee Meeting, provided by Cllr Aves, were noted with the Clerk requested to find out more regarding the provision of defibrillators.

**14. Urgent additional business, by leave of the Chair.**

It was noted that the new cycle bridge at Peek Hill was still not yet open.

The Meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed

Date