

SOUTH POOL PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 2nd October, 2017 in The Church Village Hall at 6.30pm.

**Present – Cllrs. J. Milne, T. Hirst, B. Perrett, P. Wotton and F. Green in the chair, Cllr. J. Brazil and Leader of SHDC Cllr. J. Tucker.
10 Members of Public.**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Tucker and members of public, Cllr. Brazil and Councillors to the meeting.

1. Apologies – Cllrs. P. Evans, M. Warren and Mr. A. Preston.

2. Declarations of Interest – Nil.

3. Public Participation - District Cllr. John Tucker addressed the meeting on the proposal to create one council for the South Hams and West Devon areas.

He stated their reason for this merger being mainly financial savings central government are reducing their funding every year, they would like to protect their services from cuts. West Devon have debts at this time, South Hams are not in debt but do have a gap in the pension scheme. All staff with the exception of refuse collectors are in the employ of both Councils sharing staff saves money.

West Devon does not have the income streams that South Hams has. South Hams, has looked at various ways to raise money, forming a company to provide services, Councillors decided

against.

Garden waste, investment in properties all decided against at present, They are looking at the proposal to amalgamate with West Devon.

The amalgamation must take place by 21/22/23 to keep within budget and provide the services they do at present, this will allow time for the proposal to go before government and be in place for 2023.

This is not a done deal; The consultation is open until 8.10.17.

Questions – Where will the boundaries be? – Roborough, Hatherleigh, Tavistock, S.Hams – why not Plymouth & W. Devon, they do not communicate.

If W.Devon are in financial difficulties what will the raise in council tax be? – S.Hams can increase tax up to 5.00 per year legally above 5.00 they would have to go to government for a referendum.

It will be approx; 63.00 per year.

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Questions – If S. Hams decide in favour of the proposal can the new council reverse that decision? – no technically speaking this could only be reversed before the government signs the merger.

Have S.Hams looked at Social housing? they have rejected this scheme but will look at it again in the future, housing is not a very good return for money.

Is there another plan on the table? no they have looked at Teignbridge but pulled out a few years ago.

The questionnaire wording and set up should have had a yes/no question before questions on how we would like to pay

Where will headquarters be? no direct answer, W. Devon has not refurbished, they rebuilt several years ago, where this debt came from.

Parts of Follaton house are let to other organizations.

Comments – It is the government's responsibility to bale out councils in financial difficulty, it has not baled any council out yet, there are 8 councils looking into mergers at present.

It will not be an equal merger, the number of councillors at this time is equal following the merger it is proposed S.Hams 28/29, W.Devon 31.

There would not be an election in 2019 this would take place in May 2020.

There are many untaxed properties in S.Hams the monies from which would help this financial problem, S. Hams continue to take this problem to central government to no avail.

Cllr. Tucker thanked the Parish Council for their invitation to this meeting and thanked Councillors and public for listening.

The chairman thanked Cllr. Tucker for attending and answering our questions so frankly. Cllr. Tucker then left to attend another meeting.

4. Cllr. Brazil's Report – DCC – Cllr. Brazil will be working with the children's scrutiny committee, this will include working with the social workers. There will be a full council meeting next week. Meg Booth is now head of Highways. He had taken Emma Edmunds to see the pot holes around the parish. The education grant from central government has increased slightly but is still 268.00 less per pupil than other parts of the country.

SHDC –Harbour – the new pontoon for South Pool has arrived at Salcombe. Cllr. Brazil will vote against One Council.

5. D&C Police Report – Clerk reported their had only been one crime in from beginning of July. this was theft of sheep from Gullet.

6. Minutes – Minutes of meeting 04.09.17. were approved and signed.

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7. Chairman's Report –

Removal of vehicles – the camper van and trailer parked for so long under The Glebe have been removed, and the vehicle at Cliffend has also been moved.

The overflowing dog bins and the refuse bin have all now been emptied after several phone calls to SHDC.

The running mooring undercliff – Chariman has contacted the Harbour Office and this is a legal mooring.

Clerk & Chairman had attended an Estuary Forum meeting, 2 main topics were Long -eared grey bats and Pacific Oysters.

8. Clerk's Report/Audit/Finance – Current Acc.- 96.47

Business Acc.- 6,330.85

Second ½ yearly precept has been received – 2,462.00 from SHDC.

Sign cheque - Data Protection – 35.00

Audit report for 2016/17 the audit has now been signed off by the auditors and will now be advertised on the website and notice board.

This is the last year Grant Thornton will be our auditors.

9. SHDC – Proposal One Council for S.Hams & W. Devon –

It was proposed by Cllr. Wotton, seconded by Cllr. Perrett South Pool Parish Council rejects the proposal.

This was passed unanimously.

Members of Public present were asked to vote on this proposal to reject, passed unanimously.

10. Planning Application – 3182/17/FUL

Provision of manure store,

Field SX773414, North Pool Farm,
South Pool. TQ7 2RY

It was unanimously agreed to support this planning application.

Planning Application 3185/17/FUL

Provision of roof to cover existing livestock handling yard.

North Pool Farm.

South Pool. TQ7 2RY.

It was unanimously agreed to support this planning application.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and members of public for their attendance and their support at this meeting.

Date of next meeting **Monday 6th November 2017 at 6.30pm**