

HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 7.35pm, Tuesday 13th May 2014 at Harberton Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Beamish, Broom, Camp, Clayton, J. Hockings, S. Hockings, Hoddinott, Janes, Trott, Williams, Wynne.

Apologies: Cllr Padfield, D.Cllr Steer.

Also present: C.Cllr. Vint of Totnes

Public: 12

Clerks: Mrs D. Crann and Ms C. Radford

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Padfield and D.Cllr Steer.

Public Session

1. Mr Offley from New Energy for the World GmbH attended the meeting with two colleagues in order to present a solar park proposal to the local community. They reported an intended public consultation of one month before a pre-application is submitted.

It was strongly suggested by Councillors that Mr Offley advertise a public meeting via the Harberton and Harbertonford websites and email lists, posters on noticeboards and throughout the Parish and via Village Life and Parish magazines in order to enable full consultation.

2. Four members of the public addressed the Parish Council to express opposition to the above proposal on grounds that it would damage the area, that the proposed development would surround Belsford and be very oppressive to the residents there.

The Chair responded by stating that the Parish Council cannot discuss plans prior to an invitation by South Hams to respond to plans submitted. However, the Parish Council would do what they were able to make sure a proper public consultation took place.

3. Denise Hawkins challenged councillors on why they have passed 'no comment' on solar park planning applications in neighbouring parishes and challenged councillors for the grounds on which they abstained from voting on planning as this could be seen as disenfranchising those people of the Parish whom Councillors represent.

The Chairman responded by reporting that it is a point of law that if a Councillor has an interest then they must declare it and abstain from voting on that issue. It is at the discretion of a councillor to abstain from a vote if he/she believes their views have been affected by association.

It was commented that it was a relatively new practice to ask for any comment on applications outside of the Parish. Councillors have generally passed 'no comment' on planning applications that do not affect the Parish.

4. Sally Lougher addressed the Parish Council with concern about transparent process, with particular regard to her application for the post of Parish Clerk, receipt of which had not been acknowledged, nor an explanation received when she made an enquiry.

Cllr Broom admitted responsibility for mislaying Ms Lougher's application and apologised to her for the mistake. Ms Lougher accepted his apology.

Following the Public Session all but 5 members of the Public left and the Parish Council Meeting was interrupted for approximately 30 minutes in order to complete AGM business. The Parish Council meeting was resumed at 8.35pm.

Reports from County and District Councillors

C.Cllr Vint reported that he is looking at the best way to secure match funding through the County Council to fund the Totnes to Harbertonford cycle path. A joint letter from the Town and Parish Council with support from the County Councillor would be advantageous, as there is a joint transport and traffic strategy there is the possibility of putting in a collective request for match funding. **Clerk to action.**

C.Cllr Vint reported that he has written an updated report of Totnes on the Move concerning traffic and transport of Totnes and the surrounding areas. That report was given to the Traffic and Transport Committee (of which Cllr Padfield is a member) and can be circulated to the Parish Council. **C.Cllr Vint and Clerk to action.**

The issue of red diesel use is as yet unresolved but C.Cllr Vint is continuing to request an answer on the matter. **C.Cllr Vint to action.**

Cllrs raised issues regarding new road surface repairs being unsuitable and that those responsible for the work should inspect it. C.Cllr Vint suggested that an email should be sent to Darren Cole with comments via email, copying C.Cllr Vint. **Clerk to action.**

Minutes

The draft minutes were amended at the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

1. Cat Radford will be taking over from Mrs D. Crann as Clerk over the coming month.
2. Cllr Broom has undertaken research to determine the powers that the Parish Council have over the village green. The Council's powers were mainly limited to stopping damaging activities. As the walls are the responsibility of the riparian owners the matter was closed.
3. The Finance Committee have proposed that a separate bank account be opened for the Community Benefit Fund.
4. Various options to improve the appearance of Luscombe Cross were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr J. Hockings would approach Mrs Hookway for a site meeting with Cllrs Hoddinott, J. Hockings, Clayton and Camp present. **Cllr J. Hockings to action.**
5. The Luscombe Maye oak tree has been planted.

Planning (Parish Council Recommendation)

17-23/2323/13/F Beenleigh Meadows, Harberton. It was reported that the buildings were suitable for agricultural use and conditional approval has been given.

17/-0265/14/F Coombeshead Farm, Diptford. Installation of Solar farm. The Coombeshead Farm application is to be considered by South Hams District Council on Wednesday 14th May 2014 at Follaton House.

Monthly Reports

1. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Broom reported that over 100 people commented on exhibition plans and approximately 80 people attended the public meeting. Checks are to be made with the Environment Agency before moving on to the next stage. The report of the public meeting is on the website and comments will be put onto the website shortly.

The Neighbourhood Plan is intended to last for 15 years when passed.

Cllrs commented that responses to the Neighbourhood Plan have informed the Parish Council greatly on issues of concern and interest to members of the Parish.

2. **Cluster & TAP Fund** Not discussed

3. **Community Lands Trust** Cllr Williams reported that meetings are in process with solicitors to make an agreement with the landowner.

4. **Finance Committee** Cllr Broom reported that the finance committee agreed the employment contract for the new clerk and discussed the accounts and the community benefit scheme. It was agreed to put money into a separate account and draw up a documents for the Community Benefit scheme to bring back to the Parish Council for Agreement.

The Clerk will research suitable bank accounts before bringing the decision back to the council. **Clerk to action.**

Correspondence

1. **Came & Co. Annual insurance renewal with Aviva.** Cllr Beamish proposed that the annual premium of £494.28 should be paid, seconded by Cllr Williams and the motion was carried with all in favour.
2. **Invoice from South Hams CVS.** Cllr Broom proposed that the invoice for £36.00 received from S.Hams CVS for the hire of display boards for the Neighbourhood plan exhibition should be paid, seconded by Cllr Clayton and the motion was carried with all in favour.
3. **Further discussion on HPFA Grasscutting invoice.** Following discussion on the issue of a lack of invoice from South Hams District Council for playing fields grass cutting Cllr Williams proposed the motion that an email sent to Rob Hartness to state that an invoice had not been sent and to ask for the Parish Council to be billed. The motion was seconded by Cllr S. Hockings and the motion was carried with 7 in favour and 4 against. **Clerk to action.**

Cllr Wynne reported that the HPFA and Cricket Club are collaborating on a Dog Show fundraiser on the Harberton Playing field with the Parish Council's permission to allow it. Cllr Clayton proposed that for 24 hours on the day of the dog show that dogs should be allowed on the playing field. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Janes and the motion carried.

4. **Letter from Mr. Barkas re Parish Council policy on solar panels** The Chairman read a letter from Mr Barkas challenging the Parish Council on making no comment on Dipford Solar Farm proposals. Following discussion, Cllr Camp proposed that the Chairman write to this applicant and communicate why the Parish Council has had a practice to pass no comment on matters that don't effect the Parish itself. This motion was seconded by Cllr Trott and was carried with all in favour. **Cllr Broom to action.**

It was agreed that there would be further discussion on the practice of 'no comment' at the next meeting to agree a policy that can be shared with members of the Parish.

5. **Accounts to be signed off for Annual Audit.** The Chairman signed the accounts and the annual audit and asked Councillors to consider a replacement internal auditor, as John Maddox will be standing down. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be written to John Maddox. **Cllr Broom to action.**
6. **New summer Bus Timetable X81 to Dartmouth commencing 25.5.14.** Information shared by the Chairman. It was reported that copies of the timetable will be available from the village shop.
7. **Notices received re European Elections 22.5.14.** Information shared by the Chairman.
8. **Meeting with Dr. S. Wollaston M.P. 14.6.14. at 11.00.am. Harbertonford Village Hall.** Information shared by the Chairman.
9. **Play Agreement from South Hams District Council.** The Chairman signed the Play Agreement from South Hams District Council for Harberton and Harbertonford playgrounds.

Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman

It was proposed that the passing place in the playing field be tidied up. As this is usually organised by the playing field committee it was agreed to raise the issue with Cllr Wynne for follow up. **Clerk to action.**

It was reported that a sign at Langridge Cross warning large vehicles not to continue down the road was knocked off and never replaced. It was agreed to request for it to be reinstated via the Highways Dept website. **Clerk to action.**

It was reported that Leigh Bridge has been damaged soon after it was restored, that the Highways Dept are aware and have made an inspection.

It was reported that there is a stump of a metal post protruding an inch from the ground on Bow Road near Marl Park that is likely to cause an accident. As it is on private land it was agreed that Cllr Beamish to make a personal approach to the landowner and report back at the next meeting. **Cllr Beamish to action.**

Cheques signed

Chq 625 £36.00 South Hams Community Volunteering Services

Chq 626 £494.29 Broker Network Ltd

DD £9.99 Plusnet.

The meeting was closed at 9.55pm.

Next meeting 10th June 2014 7.30pm Harbertonford CE Primary School.