

HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting at 7.30pm, Tuesday 13th May 2014 at Harberton Parish Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr Padfield, D.Cllr Steer.

Also present: D.Cllr. Vint of Totnes

Public: 12

Clerks: Mrs D. Crann and Ms C. Radford

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone before he resigned. The Vice Chairman also resigned.

1. Election of Chairman

The Clerk, Mrs D. Crann, called for nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Broom was proposed by Cllr S. Hockings and seconded by Cllr Janes. Cllr Broom agreed to stand. There being no further nominations, voting was all in favour.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman then called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Cllr J. Hockings was proposed by Cllr Janes and seconded by Cllr Williams. Cllr J. Hockings agreed to stand. There being no further nominations, voting was all in favour.

At the decision of the Chairman, the AGM was briefly interrupted to hear the comments from members of the public, an item on the Parish Council Meeting agenda before returning to reports. The AGM was resumed at 8.00pm at which point only 5 members of the public remained at the meeting.

3. Annual reports

3.1 Harbertonford Village Hall. Cllr Clayton reported that external renovation work to improve the appearance of the hall was nearly completed. Skittles club, youth club, coffee morning, toddler group and martial arts classes regularly use the hall. There has been a recent drop off in regular group use, although the hall still hosts several public and private events. Recent fundraising events included bingo, quiz nights to meet maintenance costs, and an auction is planned for July. Thanks were given to current committee and villagers for their hard work. The committee would benefit from new members if any were to come forward.

3.2 Harbourne Community Shuttle Bus. Cllr Broom read the report from Simon Harrington. Due to low numbers of committee members and volunteer drivers the Shuttle Bus service is in crisis and that an EGM will be held on 16th June at Cornworthy Village Hall to discuss the proposal to amalgamate the Harbourne Shuttle with the Totnes Community Bus Group. The report encouraged members of the Parish Council to attend the meeting.

3.3 Harbertonford Playground. Cllr Broom read the report from Jane Jeffreys who reported that four fruit trees have been planted by the school children along with a monster face in the bank and a welcome sign at the entrance. Dog fouling has abated. The equipment is in good repair with only minor expenses. SHDC continue to highlight issues with fungal growth on the Earth Wrights installation and solutions are being sought. Funds are still buoyant although new committee members are desperately needed. Thanks were given to the Parish Council, D.Cllr Steer for locality funds for sports equipment and to Mrs D. Crann.

3.4. Harbertonford CE Primary School. Cllr Broom read the report from Janet Ronson, Headteacher, who reported that the school has taken over management of the Harbertonford Pre-School due to the voluntary committee struggling to find new members to run the setting. Since February the Reception/Yr 1 teacher has had day-to-day responsibility for children in Pre-School too and new staff have been appointed. The school website was hacked in September but is now back on track. After-school activities include Zumba, football, art club and badminton. Children have participated in a Christmas Production, Harvest Festival Service and Easter Service, and are involved in two music projects organized through Totnes Learning Community. The school is now governed by a federation of six village schools (Stoke Gabriel, Boardhempston, Landscope, Berry Pomeroy, Dipford and Harbertonford). Three heads from those schools are retiring in September and new leadership structures will be put in place. The School Committee continues to meet to discuss items of relevance to the school. The PTFA have funded a theatre company, an adventure challenge and the swimming pool and raise funds via raffles, Fete and the Christmas ball. The PTFA could always do with more members. The school was awarded an 'Outstanding' grading following a Diocesan SIAMS inspection and were presented with a certificate by the Archdeacon of Totnes.

3.5 Harbertonford Allotment Society (HAS). Cllr Beamish reported that the Allotment Society is thriving, with a healthy waiting list, ensuring full use of the field. A mixture of approaches to gardening is increasing the diversity of life on the site. Two workdays were held to maintain communal areas. Refreshments and produce were available for the 37 people the summer open day attracted. Many members entered produce in the village Flower Show. The HAS joined the RHS and have a visit to Rosemore Gardnes planned for October. Although finances benefitted from a Locality Fund last year enabling water saving guttering, the committee is aware of the need to consider more fund-raising options for the future.

3.6 Harberton Feoffees. Cllr J. Hockings reported that it has been a quiet year for Harberton Feoffees. As grant income is derived from interest rates only one grant was given this year. There are currently 9 trustees of the Feoffees and Rev. John Ough will be retiring this year so there is change on the way.

3.7 Harberton Parish Hall. Cllr J. Hockings reported that the Parish Hall has a good committee who work hard together. A new small kitchen was completed last year to be used for general hall use and a catering kitchen for hire is nearly complete. Storm damage to the roof has now been repaired, and a handrail for the top car park was installed. The village pantomime made approx. £1000 for the hall, and the proceeds of the draw, approximately £250 was given to the playing field committee.

3.8 Harberton Playing Field Committee. Cllr Wynne reported that since SHDC has taken over the mowing of the playing field, the committee's role is in transition, becoming more about fundraising to pay for costs rather than undertaking the manual work themselves. Fundraising is going well, the annual Snow Drop Walk made approximately £170 adds to the generous donation from the Harberton Parish Hall, and there are plans to raise more funds in partnership with the Cricket Club. There are plans to install new rugby/football posts when funds are sufficient.

3.9 Chairman's report. Cllr Broom reported that it had been another busy year. Following the wind turbine debate the Parish Council entered into the Solar Park debate. The Parish escaped the flooding of previous years. The Neighbourhood plan made good progress. TAP funding has been secured for the Totnes to Harbertonford cycle path. A Finance Committee has been set up to look at the budget and the Community Benefit Scheme. The loan to pay for flood defenses has been paid off. The Parish Council has made numerous comments on planning applications, not always taken up

by South Hams District Council. The street lights now turn off after 12 o'clock. Finally, this will be Diana Crann's last AGM as Parish Clerk as she will be retiring following Parish Meeting of the 10th June.

Cllr Broom thanked the councillors for their work throughout the year, and to Diana Crann for her services to the Parish Council as clerk for the past 25 years.

The AGM was closed at 8.25pm