

Minutes of Harberton Parish Council
meeting held on Tuesday 08 February 2011
at Harbertonford Primary School at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Knight, Beamish, Steer,
Hookway, Janes, Johnson, Hockings,
Hoddinott, Hutchinson, District Cllr Robert
Steer and County Cllr Paula Black.

Apologies: Cllrs Hill and Fearn.

Members of the Public: 20 and a reporter
from the Totnes Times.

Speakers: Mr John Halliday & Mr Mike Jones
from DCC Highways.

Clerk: Mrs D Crann.

In the absence of Cllr Fearn, Cllr Knight took the Chair. He opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and invited Mr Halliday and Mr Jones to speak. They had come to talk about the Interactive lights on the A381 in Harbertonford. These were put up in July 2009 after some delays (they were originally requested in autumn 2008). Mr Halliday and Mr Jones both repeated they had been a trial and were experimental, though this was not made clear to the Parish Council initially. Despite the fact that they had been removed and replaced twice, they still did not light up as expected. Cllr Hockings said DCC should have some recourse from the manufacturers as these light were definitely not fit for purpose. Cllr Knight asked how much standard lights would cost and it was reported £2,500 - £3,000. The idea was raised as to whether the community could contribute to another type of warning lighting such as that at Avonwick. There was a full discussion and both speakers answered many questions from the audience. Mr Jones said the average speed through Harbertonford was 26mph when checked last autumn. They said they would both come back at a later date with alternative suggestions. They and most of the public then left the meeting and the Parish Council meeting then continued. County Cllr Black then gave her report. The DCC Budget was two weeks late -

concessionary bus fares are to be cut; jobs at County Hall to be reduced over the next three years by 635 as well as cuts to spending in Social Services, Youth Work, the Arts, Highways (especially potholes), Animal Health Welfare; DCC skip services, Domestic Violence Services and CAB. The incinerator at Devonport is to go ahead. Some bus services in the area are to be reduced, specifically route 164.

District Cllr Steer then gave his report, the main points being: SHDC Council Tax is to be frozen this coming financial year, a £10,000 grant will be made to CAB, £13,000 can be saved if wheelie bins are closed for collection, SHDC recycling is 57%, savings also on shared services with West Devon District Council. He said there had been no planning applications so far this month and concluded by announcing that a grant has been made to Harbertonford Allotment Society. Police Report. There had been no crimes reported in January.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then considered, agreed and after one amendment agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- 1) Proposed Travellers' Site at Tigley – ongoing.
- 2) Interactive signs on the A381 at Harbertonford. This matter had been fully discussed at the start of the meeting. DCC representatives will return to the Parish Council at a later date with suggestions.
- 3) It is hoped the amended agreements can be agreed and signed by Colin Finch and two Parish Councillors before 01/3/11. All councillors now have copies of the agreements.
- 4) Collapsed Wall in the car park by the A381 bridge. The Clerk had spoken with Lesley Smith of DALC, who had said the next step should be to contact Mrs Harvey to stress the necessity for her to ensure prompt repair to her garden wall so that the Parish Council may regain full normal use of the car park.
- 5) Two trees at the Ford Area in Harbertonford had now been pollarded and the reduced as per estimate and a good job

done.

6) Dog Fouling in Harbertonford. SHDC Dog Warden had now sent the Clerk sample posters against Dog Fouling. Cllr Knight had offered to copy them for display at the Ford Area and near Marl Park where the problem is worst.

7) Cllr Hutchinson showed the meeting illustrations of the new playground equipment chosen equipment for supply by Earth Wrights Ltd. Cllr. Hutchinson also explained that the Parish Council should precept for 2012/13 onwards for the maintenance and power washing of matting and equipment - possibly £100pa.

Planning. Parish Council recommendations:

Decision at the meeting -

23/0143/11/F – Cricket Pavilion, Harberton. The Parish Council fully support this application. Proposed by Cllr Hockings, seconded by Cllr Johnson. All in favour.

Correspondence:

1) SHDC Licensing Act 2003. All new and Variation of Premises Licence applications are now on the SHDC website.

2) Temporary road closures. Harberton 21/03/11 Vicarage Ball to Wesley Place. Harbertonford 11/04/11 Bow Road.

3) Letter from D&C Police re Reform & Social Responsibility Bill. The letter outlines the possible changes. The Chairman read the letter out to the meeting and following discussions it was proposed by Cllr Knight, seconded by Cllr Hoddinott to respond against these proposals as outlined in the letter. The proposals will cost more in times of deficit and reduce democracy as it appears decisions would be taken by one person behind closed doors. Voting 4 in favour, 3 abstentions. No amendment.

4) Greengardens, Wrangton. The Clerk had approached five other contractors for estimates for grasscutting in Harbertonford at the Ford Area. Mr Thomas of Greengardens had quoted £29.00 per cut for 8 cuts (no VAT). The Clerk will take up his references.

5) James Miller's quote for clearing the silt from the river in Harberton was the same as last year (£155.00 + VAT each time).

6) SHDC Play Areas Insurance, Inspection & Maintenance. The £100.00 annual fee will now carry VAT. The Parish Council will again be included in the scheme organised by SHDC for the monthly inspections and be notified of any problems which occur.

Councillors agreed to continue with the Heads of Agreement, the same as for 2010/11.

7) SHDC Charity Quiz Night 08/02/11 at the Royal Seven Stars Hotel, Totnes.

8) Church Cottage, Harberton. There had been some publicity of this property recently when a squatter moved in. He has now gone after attending Court. SHDC have explained that this is registered as a Second Home and they have no power to act on it being empty.

9) A letter received from Mrs O'Brien of Harbertonford was read out. Items mentioned were car parking in Old Road, Harbertonford could pose a danger by lack of access if there was a fire, speed reduction on A381 should be top priority, the zebra crossing could be raised by a ramp, and a 20mph speed limit could be introduced through Harbertonford. The Clerk will reply.

10) Email received from Graham Swiss of SHDC advising that DPD Site Allocation is now on the Council's website.

11) Email received from Public Forest Estates – response to dapce.org.uk.

12) Cllr Hill's report on the recent Cluster Meeting was read to the meeting.

13) Email from Cllr Fearn re a request to erect a yurt at Harberton Playing Field for a wedding 25/06/11. Councillors had no objections.

Other items on the table - Green Co Exhibition 24/02/11 in Totnes; Walk & Talk Feb-Apr; Playing Field Magazine; TOR Homes Open Door; Senior Council for Devon newsletter and DCC Social Care for Adults.

Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman:

1) Cllr Johnson reported the road needed patching in Screws Lane near gateway to the orchard.

2) Cllrs were not happy that a member of the public was allowed to speak during the Parish Council meeting contrary to due process laid down for the Governance of meetings of Elected Councillors.

Item Paid:

D/D - PlusNet - £9.99.

The meeting closed at 10.40pm. The next will be held on 08/03/11 at 7.30.pm at Harberton Parish Hall.