

Minutes of Harberton Parish Council

meeting held on Tuesday 08 September 2009 at Harbertonford Primary School at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Knight, Hill, Hockings, Jeffreys, Janes, Johnson, Steer, Hookway, Hoddinott, Williams, Beamish, County Cllr Paula Black & District Cllr Robert Steer.

Apologies: Cllr Fearn.

Clerk: Mrs D Crann.

Owing to the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Knight the Vice Chairman took the meeting.

County Cllr Black gave her report. She had attended the Investment & Pensions Committee. Funds were in good health owing to a wise investment policy. There had been a Highways meeting with DCC at Ivybridge and several local issues discussed included closure of Totnes High Street next year.

Funds had been made available to support a new Saturday night Youth Club in Totnes and the Totnes Library was looking for larger premises. Foxhole proposed retirement project discussed. Cllr Black had been appointed a member of the SW Council for the Green Party.

District Cllr R Steer then gave his report. The Sherford development had been finally passed. Condolences were expressed to the family for the sudden death of a young man in Harbertonford also for the death of a Parish Cllr in Diptford. The Planning System was under review, lack of teeth for enforcement officers was a great concern.

Police Report. Jul: Three crimes reported – Burglary, Common Assault & Criminal damage to property. Aug: One crime of note – Theft.

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

Matters Arising:

- 1)** Street Lighting in Harberton. C Cllr Black reported that DCC was implementing a new policy aimed at saving costs, ie: turning off lights after midnight. We hope to have further information soon.
- 2)** Repair to fence on path to playground in Harberton. Cllrs Williams, Hoddinott & Hockings to liaise with this project which had now been ongoing for a year.
- 3)** Community Planning – ongoing.
- 4)** P3 Footpath Scheme. Cllr Hill had attended the meeting on 24 July at Rattery Village Hall. He had also followed up a report that footpath No 14 was blocked and had cleared it. The Clerk also had reports of a locked gate on No 4 and problems with another gate on No 3, together with the problem with No.6 having been closed since last year. The Clerk had reported these problems to Ros Davies of DCC, who will look into the matter & report back.
- 5)** Interactive road signing along A381 in Harbertonford. The Clerk had today spoken with Neil Oxtton of DCC who reported that the manufacturers were due to come and inspect these signs 22/23 September to diagnose the problems.
- 6)** Boundary Marker Stone at Peak Cross, Harberton. The Clerk had again contacted DCC who said the matter was in hand.
- 7)** Re Buses to & from Kingsbridge School. There had been no progress to the problem of pupils arriving late at school because of the timing of the buses. C Cllr Black will again contact the bus company.
- 8)** The Clerk had spoken with Mrs Ronson, Headteacher of Harbertonford Primary School, confirming that the fee for hire of the room for the monthly meetings remained £5.00 and that the hire of the hall for any public meetings would be at the higher rate minuted at the previous meeting.
- 9)** Cllr Hoddinott had visited Mr & Mrs Ganter of Harberton to explain the situation with the signing in Tristford Road & Parish Road. Harberton.
- 10)** Cllr Jeffreys hopes to have quotes for the repairs to fence and gates at Harbertonford Playground by the next meeting.

11) The Clerk had received a reply from SW Water regarding the pothole outside Lower Orchard, Harberton. They suggested we ask DCC to fill it as they, SW Water, did not accept any responsibility for the pothole.

Planning: Parish Council recommendations.

Decisions between meetings.

17/1225/09/F – Larcombe Cottage, Diptford. Resubmission of **17/1740/08/F** alterations to extensions. No objections but colours not in keeping back/front.

45/1226/09/F – West Moore Farm, Diptford. Retrospective application for retention of existing stables plus demolition of shed & replacement with timber building to house swimming pool. No objections.

45/1230/09/F – West Moore Farm, Diptford. Retrospective application for retention of existing agricultural building & erection of extension for stables & calving shed. No objections.

23/1347/09/F – Hazard Farm, Harberton. Erection of agricultural barn & altered access. No objection.

Decision at meeting.

14 – 23/1402/09/F – SX 759 Tigley Croft, Tigley, Dartington. Retrospective application for retention of stable plus construction of post/rail fence & screening hedge. Objection – size, quality, shape not appropriate for a block for 2 horses. There should be no need for a hedge. Should be for owners use only. Proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Williams. All in favour.

For Information only.

23/0067/09/F – Smokey Cottage, Harbertonford. Appeal against construction of timber cats pens etc was dismissed.

23/1092/09/RM – 1, Mill Meadow, Harbertonford. Plans refused.

Correspondence:

1) SHDC. Inquiry by Design. Letter c/fwd from previous meeting. This concerns the workshops for the Princes Foundation, SHDC & Parish Council that have been taking place this summer. It is made clear that “it is a breach of code for members to use or attempt

to use their position in members improperly to confer upon or secure for themselves or any other person an advantage or disadvantage. Members who are being consulted because they are Parish Councillors and who offer land in which they have an interest for development purposes are putting themselves in a way of an allegation of a breach of Para 6(a) of the Code.”

2) DCC 20mph zones & limits. DCC & D&C Constabulary are striving towards reducing collisions on the highway through engineering, education and enforcement measures. 30mph is a recognised mechanism for reducing speeds, but 20mph limits are in some locations where appropriate.

3) Letter received from Harbertonford PCC applying for a grant towards upkeep of St Peter’s churchyard, together with a copy of the Annual Accounts. This was discussed & it was proposed by Cllr Beamish, seconded by Cllr Janes to grant £350.00. All in favour.

4) Email received from Dan Hughes, subject Community Involvement in Renewable Energy. This asked if this community had any policy on renewable energy and what steps we had taken to promote it. After discussion, it was agreed that this Parish Council did not have any specific policies in place.

5) DCC Temporary Road Closures. – Bow Road. 31/08/09. for street party & Moreleigh Road 29/09/09 for utility work in Harbertonford.

6) New Register of Electors 2010. Notices posted in both villages.

7) Copy of a letter from BT received re proposals for the adoption of red telephone kiosks. However, both our red telephone boxes are to be retained so this does not apply.

8) Letter received from Superintendent Sarah Sharpe of D&C Police was read out. This letter was to remind everyone in S. Hams & W. Devon of the procedures when applying for road closures for local events.

9) Community Council for Devon notification of a Parish Planning Drop-in Surgery at the Old School Centre in South Brent on 18/09/09.

10) Invoice received from Audit Commission

for £138.00 (incl. £18.00 VAT) to be paid. Proposed by Cllr Jeffreys, seconded by Cllr Janes. All in favour. This follows notification of the successful completion of the audit for year 2008/9.

11) DCC Car Free Day to be 22/09/09.

12) DAPC AGM 26/09/09. + Agenda + Annual Report 2008/9 + e.bulletin + Village Green magazine + CCD Review received & shown to the meeting.

13) SHDC Sect 17 Document - Reducing Crime & Disorder. Details shown to the meeting.

14) SHDC. Gambling Act 2005 - Consultation. Renewal of Statement of Principles for 2010/13 shown to the meeting.

15) SHDC. Devon Rural Network Profile 2009 shown to the meeting.

16) SHDC. Review of Development Control Services at Follaton House, 07/09/09 at 6.00pm.

17) SHDC. Open Forum for Greater Dartmoor at Follaton House, 07/09/09. at 6.30pm.

18) HPFA. Request for a grant towards grasscutting of Harberton Playing Field received together with a copy of the Annual Accounts. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Williams to grant £450.00. All in favour.

19) Cllr Jeffreys had attended meetings with Alex Whish of SHDC regarding Harbertonford Playing Field and the Clerk had received a copy of an email from SHDC to Jan Culf of HPFA. There was now £6,000.00 available to this Parish for playground equipment which councillors felt should be shared equally between the two villages. Both Cllr Jeffreys & Jan Culf had carried out surveys to find out what equipment the various children would prefer. It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Beamish that this should go ahead. All in favour.

20) Devon Broadband Survey – Cllr. Knight will complete this.

21) South Hams Standards Committee. The Clerk had received a survey to complete on Code of Conduct Training. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

22) Emails from Mr & Mrs Padfield regarding the Registration of Common Land, together

with details of free registration service by Land Charges Dept at DCC had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up. Cllr Hoddinott also reported on a free registration scheme for farm land now in place.

23) Letter received from Dave McCord of DCC. A381 Harbertonford to Gerston Cross, road works will take place from 14/09/09 for three weeks 09.30-19.00.

24) D&C Police Liaison meeting at Follaton House, 21/09/09 at 7.30pm.

25) Following further problems with dog fouling at the Ford Area in Harbertonford, on 18 July, Cllr Knight had contacted the Clerk and following advice from SHDC Dog Warden a letter will be sent to the owner of the dog in question.

Other items on the table:

SHDC Agenda & Minutes; TOR Homes Open Door magazine; DCC Newsletter; DCC Executive Forward Plan; South Hams Society Bulletin; South Hams magazine; SHDC Strategic Partnership magazine; DAPC Newsletter; RD + Express magazine and CCD Minding Our Business conference 21/10/09.

Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman:

1) Cllr Williams reported that his new neighbour, Ben Nute, whose property backs on to the Harberton Playing Field has now taken on some of the mowing of the playing field to help John Culf. Mr Nute was also seeking permission to install a gate so he would have easy access to the field for his mower. After some discussion, it was agreed to postpone a decision until the next meeting. Cllr Williams continued that having recently moved to the village, Mr Nute was also seeking permission for delivery lorries/vans to enter the playing field to deliver building supplies to the back of his property. After further discussion it was agreed that this could take place provided it was policed by Mr & Mrs Culf.

2) Cllr Beamish reported a damaged Gas Marker outside No 5 Riverdale in Bow Road. Also graffiti on the Youldens Close road sign had not yet been cleaned off. Cllr Beamish

also reported that the grass in Harbertonford Playground had been cut recently when 1foot high and in the rain leaving the grass very torn up. Cllr Beamish proposed that the contractors be given access to the playground during the school holidays as the gate was locked then.

3) Cllr Jeffreys reported that the new sign at the Riverdale entrance to the playground had been sawn off & taken away. She will approach Alex Whish at SHDC for another one.

4) Cllr Knight reported a water leak in Bow Road, outside the entrance to 10 Marl Park. It has been there several weeks.

5) Cllr Knight also proposed a “Get Well Soon” card be sent to Cllr Fearn. All in favour.

Cheques signed:

No 462 - Mrs D Crann - £462.60

No 463 - Audit Commission - £138.00

No 464 - Harbertonford PCC - £350.00

No 465 - Harberton Playing Field - £450.00

D/D - Plus Net (Jul) - £9.75

D/D – Plus Net (Aug) - £9.75

The meeting closed at 10.25pm. The next will be held on Tuesday 13 October 2009 at Harberton Parish Hall at 7.30pm.