

Minutes of Harberton Parish Council
meeting held on Tuesday 13 July 2010 at
Harberton Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Fearn, Knight, Johnson,
Jeffreys, Janes, Steer, Hoddinott, Hockings,
Beamish, Hill, Hookway & Devon County
Cllr Black.

Apologies: Cllr Williams & District
Cllr Robert Steer.

Members of the Public: 13

Clerk: Mrs D Crann

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and invited members of the public to speak.

Jan Culf of Harberton spoke first. She reported that the new roundabout was now in place in the playground and that other works had been completed by a working party of the HPFA volunteers.

Mr R Trott of Harberton spoke next. He referred to the wooden lodge/mobile home on the side of the road at Lauraleigh, Harberton – specifically Mr Trott referred to the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 11 May 2010, which reported this building as ‘permitted development’. According to the letter he had received from SHDC dated 08/06/10, this mobile home which has been assessed against Section 29(1) of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act is a caravan and does not constitute development as defined by the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

Mr Harrison of Harbertonford spoke next. His subject was the proposed allotments in the field next to his property in Hernaford Road. He thought they were a good idea, but was opposed to a vehicular entrance in a very narrow lane.

Mrs Padfield of Harbertonford referred to the recent meeting of HAS (Harbertonford Allotment Society) with a number of residents & Mr Finch. She said progress had been made, but so far no time limit to the lease had been decided. However, 10years was probable with plans to be drawn up.

Several other speakers made favourable comments, including Meg Lane (who also spoke for Jean Lambert) & Steve Woollett who hoped this proposal would work out as there did not appear to be any other site on offer. Cllr Knight then suggested the Parish Council should join the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) who would help with drawing up contracts, insurance etc for an annual subscription of £55.00 + VAT.

Mrs Padfield commented that Mr Finch had suggested the rent for the field to be £500.00 pa. This would work out at £50.00 pa for a full plot plus any other expenses that might be incurred, particularly in setting up.

The Parish Council meeting then continued. Minutes of the last meeting were considered, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

County Cllr Black gave her report. She had attended an Environment Scrutiny meeting. Funding for the Arts had been reduced, Mobile Library proposals reviewed – Cllr. Jeffreys commented on the need in Harbertonford to have two stops, one by the church and the second down Bow Road, as there were elderly residents in this area who would not be able to cross the A381. Farmers were to have more freedom for clearing snow when needed. The DCC Pensions fund was fully funded – the average County Council pension being £4,000.00 pa. KEVIC to set up an Archimedes screw in the Dart to generate electricity. Cllr Black urged everyone to keep an eye open for the old and vulnerable during the coming hard times. The dangerous barbed wire around the pots on the pavement outside the Toll House up Kingsbridge Hill, Totnes, had been referred to the Police.

Police Report: Theft of red diesel under investigation and a burglary also under investigation.

Matters Arising:

1) Interactive road sign on A381 at Harbertonford. The latest email received 12/07/10. reports new equipment being

delivered on 15/07/10 then to be installed.

2) Repairs to fence in Harberton Playing Field – ongoing.

3) Allotments in Harbertonford. Cllr Knight continued the report on the recent meeting. If interest wanes Colin Finch will take back vacant plots. It was proposed by Cllr Knight, seconded by Cllr Jeffrey's to join the NSALG @ £55.00 + VAT pa. - £64.73. Cheque to be signed between meetings when the Clerk has full details. There will be pedestrian access only. Certain preparations to the site will be carried out by Mr Finch.

4) SHDC LDF Site Allocations. County Cllr Black reported that following the change of government these proposals were now to be scrapped.

5) Registration of land at the Ford Area in Harbertonford. The papers sent recently had been accepted by DCC and are being processed.

Planning:

Parish Council recommendations.

Decision at meeting -

56/1487/10/F – 9 The Copse, Totnes.

Single storey extension to side of house.

No objections. All in favour.

Correspondence:

1) SHDC 8th Repayment of Parish Loan - to be paid £328.36. Proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Johnson. All in favour.

2) Invoice received from James Miller for 1st clearance in 2010 of silt in Harberton. To be paid. £155.00 + VAT £27.12 - total £182.12. Proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Johnson. All in favour. The Clerk will ask Mr Miller to contact one of the Harberton councillors before future clearances.

3) Request received from Harbertonford PCC for a grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard, together with a copy of the annual accounts. It was proposed by Cllr Hookway, seconded by Cllr Janes to grant £300.00 this year. All in favour. This grant has been reduced in line with the one for Harberton due to the current financial circumstance as the Parish Council will not be able to increase the precept next year.

4) Harbertonford Playground Lease. The new lease, which is the same as the previous one, had been received for signature by two Councillors. Cllr Jeffrey's noticed Item 13 in the text, which mentioned a possible increase of the rent to £500.00 pa if a new 'fence was erected around the Playground by the public footpath'. The Clerk will contact Messrs Michelmores, solicitors, to clarify this point before signature. There is also a cheque for the sixth year's rental of £50.00 for the current lease starting 24/08/10. To be paid.

Proposed by Cllr Janes, seconded by Cllr Steer. All in favour. The new lease, when signed, will commence on 24/08/11 and run for six years. with the annual rent to remain at £50.00.pa. This has already been agreed at a previous meeting. Councillors agreed that if steel fencing is erected, then it should be coloured green.

5) Letter from Exeter City Council. Recession Impact Campaign. Any households having difficulty paying mortgages etc can contact 01392 265855 or 07814 381705 for information about assistance.

Also, a letter from SHDC Council Tax Benefit about additional help. Tel. 01803 861422.

6) DCC Road Closures. Bow Road, Harbertonford 13/09/10. Also, in Harberton, Ford Park Stile to Preston Farm 27/09/10.

7) Email from Paul Land re road closures in Harberton 05/07/10.

8) D&C Police Community Open Day at the Civic Hall, Totnes on 23/06/10.

9) SHDC Parish Council Emergency Planning Support Session 23/09/10. Details to be announced.

10) SHDC Dog Byelaws/Dog Control Orders – meeting 24/06/10.

11) Email from Steve Shaw – Unlock Democracy. Details shown to the meeting.

12) Letter from Mr Fairweather of Harbertonford re LDF Site Allocations, shown to the meeting. There were adverse comments from Councillors of the proposed car parking at the Ford Area and these were supported by the majority of residents.

13) Email from Thomas Hine re Devon Folklore shown to the meeting.

14) HPFA. Email from Jan Culf relative to her comments at the start of the meeting.

Councillors confirmed that they gave HPFA permission to improve the bank in question at the playground, but that proposed steps be of non toxic wood and a hand rail of rope.

Councillors also gave permission for a cheque to be issued between meetings to pay for the roundabout when the grant was received from SHDC. Proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Jeffreys, All in favour. The Chairman will liaise with Jan Culf on these details.

15) DCC In Touch magazine. Letter received confirming the result of the judicial review confirming that 'the previous Government's decision to create Unitary Authorities in Exeter and Norwich was unlawful and that due process was not followed'.

16) SHCVS Survey for completion received too late.

17) D&C Police. Insp Livingstone monthly report received and read to councillors.

18) Invoice for £15.00 received from Steve Jane for repairs to two notice boards in Harbertonford. To be paid. Proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Beamish, All in favour.

Other items on the table: Devon In Touch magazine; SHDC Executive Forward Plan; SHDC Agenda & Minutes; Voluntary Vine; South Hams Society Bulletin; SHDC Minutes of Executive meeting 10/06/10; South Devon Carers Consortium; DCC Emergency newsletter; Senior Council for Devon newsletter; DALC Newsletter; 2011 Census Handbook; Being a good employer and South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership newsletter.

Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman:

1) Cllr Hockings reported potholes at Coopers Hill and Leigh Hill, Harberton.

2) Cllr Janes reported an overhanging hedge over the pavement outside 4 Roundway, Mill Meadow, on A381 side of the property.

3) It is hoped the flower pots next to the Post Office Stores will be removed as they are a hazard. (Cllr. Knight)

4) Cllr Jeffreys also reported cars parking on double yellow lines in Old Road outside the Post Office Stores and at the corner of Old and Bow Roads. This is a police matter and should be reported to them. A new memorial on the roadside by Langridge Cross on A381 was acting as a distraction to motorists.

5) Cllr Johnson reported Chapmans Lane from Peak Cross just inside the Parish was overgrown. This is usually cleared once a year by the farmer. Also a pothole outside the Tall House in Harberton.

6) Cllr Beamish reported the transformer along the footpath around Harbertonford Playground on the field boundary was very overgrown with ivy. There was a caravan parked in the church car park which belongs to the Diocese.

Cheques signed:

No 490 - Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd - £50.00

No 491 – SHDC - £328.36

No 492 - James Miller - £182.12

No 493 - Harbertonford PCC - £300.00

No 494 - Cancelled

No 496 - Mr D Jane - £15.00

D/D - Plusnet -£9.99

The meeting closed at 10.40pm. The next will be held on Tuesday 14 September 2010 at Harbertonford Primary School at 7.30pm.