

## **Minutes of Harberton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2002 at Harberton Parish Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Hockings, Monaghan, Hoddinott, Christiansen, Mason, Stubbings, Preston-Day, Mills and D Cllr Steer

**Apologies:** Cllrs Fearn, S Jane and E Janes

**Public:** 2

**Clerk:** Mrs D Crann

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and invited the members of the public to speak. Ms A Evans from Harberton said she had come in respect of her concerns regarding the possible building of houses on the field below Tristford Farm by Mrs Yates. The Chairman answered by saying there had been a dialogue with Julian Darling (Mrs Yates' representative) on the subject some time ago, but nothing more had been heard. There was no provision for these houses in the Local Plan, and if there were to be any firm developments, a public consultation meeting would be held in Harberton by the Parish Council.

Ms E Giles from Harbertonford then spoke. She was interested in developing a Jubilee Garden for Harbertonford. She had approached most of the local landowners and had some interest following a meeting at the hall in Bow Road, Harbertonford. She had approached Joyners regarding their site in Bow Road, but they still had not decided if they were going to redevelop it. Both ladies then left the meeting.

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

### **Matters Arising:**

**1)** Flooding in Harberton. Still ongoing.

**2)** Ford area in Harberton. The Chairman passed around the sketches of proposed landscaping of the Ford area for councillors to see. There was now a timetable for the start of the work, commencing 9 May. The Clerk read out part of the Public Liability Insurance policy, which would cover this proposed work. The estimate for materials was £750 approx. It was proposed by D Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Mills to proceed. All in favour. The Clerk stressed that all invoices should be made out to Harberton Parish Council, which she would then pay and recover the VAT.

**3)** Re Harbertonford Playground. The subject of the broken fence on the south side was again discussed and it was proposed that Cllr Christiansen would, yet again, approach the school for their co-operation. The Clerk had taken legal advice from DAPC, who said that whoever removed the broken fence would take responsibility for it.

**4)** Queen's Golden Jubilee. Referring back to Helen Strivens' offer to make a photographic record of Harberton residents, it was proposed by Cllr Hoddinott, seconded by D Cllr Steer, that up to £150 be paid. All in favour. Cllr Hockings also said that he would consult with John Culf, Tree Warden, regarding the site and species (British native) of the tree he and Mrs Hockings were to donate. It was decided after discussion, that a redwood would not be suitable as it was not a native species.

**5)** The Clerk had attended the Audit Training Day at Buckfastleigh on 27 March. There were to be new relaxed audit arrangements for the year ended 31/3/02 – ie: an examiner should be appointed to check the Parish Council accounts, who must not be a member of the Parish Council. D Cllr Steer agreed to approach Mr Maddox of Harberton and would report back. The Clerk also said she would require a copy of the new Audit Guidance Manual costing £9.45. It was proposed by Cllr Preston-Day, seconded by D Cllr Steer, to pay for this. All in favour.

6) Re Parish Paths and Mrs Franklin's letter of last month, the Clerk had not received any interest in this scheme and it was decided, after further discussion, that the Parish, having a number of projects in the pipeline this year, would not proceed with this at present.

### **Planning:**

#### **Parish Council Recommendations**

#### **Decisions between meetings –**

**23/0368/02/F** New Barn, Eastleigh, Harberton. Amendments to 23/0992/01/F conversion to agricultural dwellings. No objection in principle.

**23/0369/02/F** Hungry Horse, Harbertonford. Garden Room and extension. Parish Council strongly object to these plans as out of keeping in a conservation area, especially the decking. The new development at the side of the building already encroaches on the river flow and reduces the width of the river in the main area prone to flooding. The impingement on the main parking area at the front will reduce space for clients' cars, thus increasing parking problems in the village.

**23/0415/02/LB** Little Belsford, Harberton. Replacement of doors, windows, etc. No objection in principle.

**23/0417/02/F** Mill Cottage, Old Mill, Harberton. Side and front extensions. No objection in principle.

### **Correspondence:**

1) Model Code of Conduct. All councillors **had now had** time to consider this new Code of Conduct and had seen the "Ethical Framework" booklet. There was a long and detailed discussion regarding this subject and the new forms that each councillor would be required to complete and sign. This new Local Government Act came into force on 5/11/01 and allowed councils six months to sign up (ie: 5/5/02), then giving councillors two months to complete their forms. Any councillor who fails to sign up to the Code within two months from adoption by the council will cease to be a member of that council. A casual vacancy would then arise, which must be filled by election or co-option in the usual way.

Firstly, the Parish Council was required to vote on whether it would accept this Code and it was proposed by D Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Hockings to accept the Code of Conduct from today, 9 April 2002. An amendment not to sign up to the Code of Conduct was proposed by Cllr Hoddinott, seconded by Cllr Mills.

Voting in favour of the amendment: 2

Voting in favour of the original proposal to accept: 5 in favour, 2 abstentions.

The original proposal was carried.

Some members of the Council were unhappy about having to sign up to the new Code of Conduct part way through their term of office. A letter had been received from Cllr S Jane (with apologies for absence) saying he would not be signing up to the Code. Cllrs Hoddinott and Mills said they would not be signing either. Cllrs Mason, E Janes and Monaghan had not yet signed.

2) Letter received from Totnes Town Council re Annual Meeting on 18/4/02 as part of the cluster meeting was shown to the meeting.

3) Letter received from DCC re Council Tax 2002/3 shown to the meeting.

4) SHDC. Development Control and Conservation User Group – minutes of their first meeting shown to the meeting.

5) SHDC. Executive Forward Plan displayed on the noticeboard.

- 6) SHDC. Minutes of meetings held on 28/3/02 and 4/4/02 shown to the meeting.
- 7) Letter received from Rattery Parish Council re a meeting on 16/4/02 at Rattery Village Hall. All are invited.
- 8) Letter from Lloyds TSB Bank re changes in bank charges shown to the meeting.
- 9) SHDC. Letter re Standards Committee. The Parish Council representative will be Dr Linda Durman, Wrescombe Court, Yealmpton, Plymouth, PL8 2NL, email: [durmanlinda@hotmail.com](mailto:durmanlinda@hotmail.com)
- 10) DAPC. Annual subscription now due - £138.00 this year. Also, DPFA subs - £12.00 now due. It was proposed by Cllr Monaghan, seconded by Cllr Stubbings, that these be paid. All in favour. There was also a letter from Society of Local Council Clerks raising the subject that the Clerk should have a Contract of Employment.
- 11) DTLR. New Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) Order 2001 forms shown to the meeting.
- 12) Audit Commission. The Clerk had received a letter detailing new external audit arrangements as from April 2002. This area will remain with the Audit Commission. A new list of charges had been enclosed indicating £50 for this Council for the next audit.
- 13) SHDC. Agenda and Minutes shown to the meeting.
- 14) Devon and Cornwall Police Performance Plan 2002/3 shown to the meeting.
- 15) A letter received from Mr Abraham of Totnes offering a new internal audit service was shown to the meeting.
- 16) A letter from DEFRA re the role of Town and Parish Councils was shown to the meeting.
- 17) GLEAM. Subscription now due. It was proposed by Cllr Stubbings, seconded by D Cllr Steer to pay the £10.00. All in favour. Their newsletter was shown to the meeting.
- 18) A letter and cheque for £1.35 had been received from John and Jan Culf of Harberton Playing Fields Association to cover the peppercorn rent of 5 pence per annum for the Playing Field for 27 years until 2028 when the lease runs out. The Parish Council preferred not to accept advance payment and will keep to the annual payment of the peppercorn rent. The £1.35 will be returned.
- 19) DCC Primrose Survey. Details shown to the meeting.
- 20) Devon and Cornwall Police Liaison meeting to be held on 15/4/02 at 7.30pm at Down Thomas Jubilee Hall.
- 21) SW Water. Water butts and composters are available at special prices. Call 0800 378937.

**Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:**

- 1) Cllr Stubbings reported a blue Ford Escort car parked in the Parish Council overflow car park above Harberton Parish Hall.
- 2) D Cllr Steer reported a Harbertonford resident had contacted her re the clay pigeon shooting on Easter Sunday morning for about an hour.

**Cheques signed:**

**No 246** – GLEAM - £10.00

**No 247** – Devon Association of Parish Councils - £9.45

**No 248** – Devon Playing Fields Assn - £12.00

**No 249** – Devon Association of Parish Councils - £138.00

The meeting closed at 10.20pm. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on 14/5/02 at 7.30pm at Harbertonford Primary School, when the speaker will be from the Environment Agency, who will give a progress report on the flood prevention work.