

HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Harberton Parish Council Tuesday 11th November 2014, 7.30pm at Harberton Parish Hall.

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

District Cllr Steer, County Cllr Vint

Apologies: Cllrs Camp, Hoddinott,

Members of the Public: 3

Clerk: Ms C Radford

Public Session

- A letter was read out informing the Parish Council that a Tree Protection Order (TPO) had been requested for the 'marker oaks' on Watery Lane. The letter also thanked Councillors for supporting the objection to the Blakemore solar farm development, but queried the objection being on cumulative impact alone. The letter also commented that Mr Padfield had written to South Hams District Council (SHDC) in support of the proposals and perhaps others would be willing to write as individuals to object.
- Comment was made that the Neighbourhood Plan process should now move on, and not go back to the beginning of the public consultation as had been suggested at the recent EGM, as public consultation had been adequate at the time. Workshop suggestions by Cllr Hodgson of Totnes and Dartington Neighbourhood Plans could be adapted in new consultations on the housing section of the plan, sections which should be prioritized as the next step.

Agenda

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllrs Camp and Hoddinott.

2. **Reports from County and District Councillors** for information.

- C.Cllr Vint circulated his monthly report which included proposals for a joint TAP fund bid for outreach youth events, either in transporting local young people to youth nights at Totnes Pavilions, or bringing youth activities into the Parish.
- It was reported that the Old Toll House Cycle path will be implemented and is now moving forward with some delays are due to a BT chamber on the route. C.Cllr Vint was congratulated on a very positive result.
- There are concerns at County Council that there is no route for local concerns regarding highways to reach the Council. Currently only District Council approaches are regarded by Devon Highways and opinion of town and parish councils are not taken into account. Parish Cllrs agreed that Devon Highways will only respond to approaches by District Council and have had no success in obtaining comment on proposed Neighbourhood Plan development sites, which could pose significant problems later on if sites are rejected after referendum. C.Cllr Vint reported that the issue is due to be discussed at a County Council meeting.
- Cllrs commented on recent government announcement of funds released for roads. It was commented that further County cuts to road maintenance should still be expected as newly announced government funds are likely to be for major roads.
- District Cllr Steer reported that much of his time at SHDC is taken up with Planning, with particular mention of visits with officers and the public around the Blakemore solar development. Following an objection from a member of the public at the lack of Environmental Impact assessment in the plans a decision from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol is awaited before the application can progress.
- It was reported that solar parks have been approved at Landscope and Brixton. It was commented that current government policy on renewables remains intact, regardless of comments by individual ministers.
- It was reported that enforcement officers have visited a site in Tigley following objections from residents. It appears that vans from the Dorsley farm entrance have moved to this site.
- D.Cllr Steer was asked for clarity regarding the application process for a TPO and the expected time for response. Applications should be made to Ross Kennerley at SHDC. **Action:** D.Cllr Steer will follow up the recent request for a TPO at Watery Lane.
- It was commented that Police reports are no longer forwarded to the Parish Council. **Action:** C.Cllr Vint will request that the Totnes police report produced by Andy Tomlinson include reports on surrounding parishes so that it may be forwarded.

3. Minutes

After making minor amendments the minutes of the following meetings were signed as an accurate record:

3.1 Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 14/10/14

3.2 EGM of the Parish Council 04/11/14

4. Report Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1. It was commented that the interruption of the meeting by a Councillor from another Parish should not have been allowed.
- 4.2. It was commented that the letter listed on the agenda from Peter Fusco regarding a proposed wind turbine installation at Foales Leigh Farm should have been read out in full and councillors given the opportunity for debate and the possibility of early negotiation if invited, as permitted by a Parish Council resolution of July 2013. After debate it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk should invite a planning officer (Malcolm Elliott) to attend the next ordinary meeting in order to give guidance on what the Parish Council can and can't do with regard to conditions, specifically whether the Parish Council can make comment on conditions after planning consent is given by the planning authority.
- 4.3. It was reported that a conversation had been had with John Camp regarding the mud on the road at Peak Hill. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk write to John Camp at Gerston Farm to ask if anything can be done to solve the problem of the mud on the road and damage to the hedge at Peak Hill.
- 4.4. It was proposed to make the following minor amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups Terms of reference:
 - o 3a) Addition of 'consecutive' i.e "Members who fail to attend two [**consecutive**] meetings..."
 - o 3a) Removal of 'including those who indicated an interest in assisting in the preparation of the neighbourhood plan in the initial parish wide consultation'.
 - o 3e) Removal of the first mention of 'eligible to vote'.
 - o 5. Removal of 'Additional financial assistance may be required for the printing and distribution of draft plans'

5. Planning

5.1. Planning Applications:

5.1.1. Planning application 03/2422/14/F

Proposal: Erection of 1No. wind turbine (estimated output 60kW) with a 22.6m hub height, 34.2m tip height and associated infrastructure.

Location: Proposed wind turbine at SX8312 5901, Lower Longcombe, Totnes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council make no comment on the planning application.

5.1.2 Planning application: 23/2592/14/VAR Proposal: Retrospective removal of conditions 4 and 5 of approval 23/1030/11/F to allow use as a permanent residential dwelling

Location: Bridge House, Tigley, Harberton, TQ9 6EW

It was **RESOLVED** to support the planning application.

5.1.3 Planning Application:23/2593/14/F

Proposal: Householder application for extension of existing garage for conversion to gym

Location: Oak Lea, Mill Meadow, Harbertonford, Totnes, TQ9 7SZ

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection.

5.1.4 Planning Application: 23/2751/14/VAR

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 for planning consent 23/1494/14/F (addition of timber doors to garage building)

At: Hernafor Barns, Hernafor Farm, Harbertonford TQ9 7HY

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection.

Action: D.Cllr Steer will follow up a comment made that all planning applications seem to have a grid reference error.

5.2 The clerk reported that the following applications have been given conditional approval:

5.2.1 Application No.: 23/2048/14/AGFPA

Proposal: Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to showroom and associated office use. Yard to be resurfaced as parking area

Location: Brockhill Farm Barns, Harbertonford, TQ9 7PS

5.2.2 Application No.: 23/2059/14/F

Proposal: Erection of a lean-to building and replacement of agricultural storage building

Location: Hazard Farm, Totnes, TQ9 6DN

5.3.3 Application No.: 23/2124/14/F and 23/2125/14/LB

Proposal: Householder application for replacement french windows

Location: 7 The Old Mill Woodland Road, Harbertonford TQ9 7RS

5.3.4 Application No.: 23/2171/14/F Proposal: Householder application for extension to dwelling and replacement shed

Location: 1 Riverside Mill Cottages, Harberton, TQ9 7SS

6. Planning Applications outside of the Parish.

It was commented that there were planning applications under consideration in other parishes that had equal, if not more impact on the Harberton Parish to the application at Lower Longcombe as discussed above. It was commented that the recently approved development at Blackawton would increase weight of traffic and congestion on Harbertonford bridge. D.Cllr Steer commented that it was down to the individual

planning officers whether plans are sent to adjoining Parishes. C.Cllr Vint remarked that Parish Councillors should comment on any applications they feel will have an impact on the Parish. Planning applications are listed on the SHDC website, in local papers and lists are sent to the Clerk which can be forwarded on request.

7. Monthly reports for information

7.1 Finance Committee update. Nothing to report.

7.2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group update. Nothing to report.

7.3 Community Land Trust update. Nothing to report.

7.4 TAP Fund update. Cllr Padfield was glad to hear that the Toll House Cycle path is moving forwards and congratulated C.Cllr Vint for his negotiation with Devon Highways.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Padfield would proceed in working up two TAP fund proposals concerning the school, one to create a mural on the playground wall and the other to install an air-source heat pump in the swimming pool. Cllr Padfield will keep councillors updated via the clerk for proposals to be considered at the next meeting.

7.5 Clerk's update. The clerk reported attendance at the DALC Budgets and Precepts training course, at which it was suggested to attendees to take into account likely County Council cuts to services when setting the precept for 2014/15. Parish Councils were advised to be financially prepared and consider increasing the precept demand accordingly, preparing residents for the likely increase via minutes.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

8.1 It was **RESOLVED** to convene a public meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd December at Harbertonford Primary School to convene a new Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and encourage future participation from members of the public. It was resolved that the date of the meeting would be promoted via the village email lists, through posters and word of mouth and include in Village Life and the Parish Magazine.

8.2 It was reported that £7,000 of new 'bridging support' funding has been made available for Neighbourhood Plan activities between December 2014 – March 2015. Following debate it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and the Clerk would draw together a budget to make application to include a salary for a part-time clerk, funds for establishing a website, promotion and marketing and for printer hardware costs.

9. TAP fund proposals 2014

It was reported that Diptford Parish Council had sent an invitation to put in a joint TAP fund Parish Lengthsman proposal which was discussed along with the Totnes outreach youth services proposal and those in development with Harbertonford Primary School. It was agreed to wait for a decision until more detailed proposals had been made. Cllr Padfield volunteered to attend the Super Cluster Meeting on 26th November and will suggest that TAP fund proposals should be put on the agenda for discussions amongst Parishes.

10. Dog Mess Bins

The clerk reported the result of a conversation with the SHDC Cleansing Manager on the subject of dog mess bins who advised that SHDC will only install bins in areas in which they consider there is urgent need. SHDC will empty bins installed by the Parish Council if they agree on siting. It was advised that dog waste specific bins are being discouraged in favour of mixed use bins. Cllr Beamish and Cllr Broom agreed to form a working group to make a recommendation to the Council.

11. Peak Cross Milestone

It was **RESOLVED** to include a reference to the re-siting of the Peak Cross Milestone in the letter to John Camp in order to place the stone above the hedge on the correct side of the road.

12. Road Safety on the Western Bypass

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the Totnes Town Clerk to support extending the speed limit further south beyond Gerston Cross on the A381.

13. Parish Council Communications

It was **RESOLVED** to delay the discussion to consider systems and protocol for information exchange and email use within the Parish Council and between Parish Councillors to the next ordinary meeting.

14. Parish Council Model Publication Scheme

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the updated model draft publication scheme. **Action:** The clerk will publish this on the website along with the documents to which the scheme refers.

15. Finance

15.1 The Parish Council received the bank reconciliation showing the Parish Council is £41,837.32 in credit. The clerk reported that this sum includes Community Benefit funds and the TAP fund grant and little or no surplus is expected at the end of the financial year. A full budget report will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at its next meeting.

15.2 It was resolved to make the following payments:

Chq		Invoice	Detail	Amount before VAT	VAT	Total
648	Society of Local Council Clerks	n/a	Joining fee and membership subscription	£81.00	n/a	£81.00
649	Cat Radford	n/a	Clerk Salary (November)	£224.38	n/a	£224.38
650	DALC	4156	Attendance at Budgets and Precepts Training	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00

16. Correspondence for consideration

16.1 Lesley Clerk, Totnes Ring and Ride. Consider request for funds. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr S. Hockings would do further research on local use of the service, and the level of funding requested before responding.

16.2 301014 Mike Cox, Foales Leigh Turbine Consider proposal that members of the public could be invited to proposed turbine site to dispel concerns. It was **resolved** that the clerk write to Mr Cox thanking him for his letter and to suggest he contact the land owner.

16.3 241014 Darryl White, Super Cluster Meeting, Wednesday 26th November 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Padfield would attend.

16.4 Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Electoral Review of Devon. The Parish Council were informed that responses from councillors and members of the public were invited to comment on the consultation, closing 19th January 2015.

17. Correspondence for information only

17.1 281014 Customer Service Centre Roads & Transport Team, Parish & Town Council Webpage. Events, news and updates relating to Roads and Transport are now available via the following website:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/>

17.2 Cllr J Hodgeson, TTT Film Festival 14th -16th November. Information about screenings and workshops. www.transitionfilmfestival.org.uk.

17.3 Paul Cary, Grounds Maintenance Information regarding maintenance and landscaping services.

17.4 281014 Marion Playle. Councillors were informed of the rejection of the TPO request at Brockhills. Cllrs were unhappy to receive this news. D.Cllr Steer commented that he was pursuing the issue further.

17.5 041114 Sue Deakin TPO Request to reconsider outcome of TPO at Brockhills with further negative reply from SHDC.

17.6 041114 DALC E-Bulletin. The bulletin included notification that Parish Council's with a turnover of £6.5m or less do not need to comply with the Transparency Code, but that it is 'recommended practice'.

18. E-Circulars including Rural Services Network, Devon Home Choice, Devon County Council Community News Round-up, Public Sector Executive are available on request.

19. Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman: Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

There was a request to consider keep clear ground markings on the entrance of the bottle bank car park at the next ordinary meeting.

There was a request to discuss the history of dealing with Highways at the next meeting. Councillors commented that dealings are easily summarized by the statement 'Highways say no'. The Clerk commented that there is a new Highways website to report highways issues as listed in correspondence.

It was reported that Cllrs J Hockings and Hoddinott have installed an additional 12 metres of 9 inch pipe to complete flood alleviation in Harberton. All that remains is to wait and see if recent efforts are successful. Thanks were given to both councillors involved.

Meeting closed at 10.20pm.