

is a community field used by local children, for camping, the dog show, parking and other events. The concern is that should the landing site be approved the land will no longer be accessible as the very valuable resource of a playing field.

- viii) MoP7 responded that the community would still have complete control of the playing field and can close the site if used for other events, further commenting that a pole with a light on it is minimal impact for such a vital service to the village. MoP7 commented that the service has saved residents recently and in the past. It was commented that the lanes aren't always clear, such as when the village was cut off by snow for five days. It was commented that ambulances are in short supply and very high demand and that one of the reasons the village defibrillator was installed is because the community wanted to take responsibility for themselves.
- ix) A cllr commented on the issue of transporting a patient to Harbertonford, commenting that large farming vehicles such as silage trailers can be met on the narrow roads. Whilst it was noted that the example given had been during in the day, silaging also happens at night.
- x) MoP8 commented that it can be very difficult for cars to get through to Harbertonford at any hour of day or night due to parking in narrow lanes. It was their opinion that a rural community needs this sort of service.
- xi) MoP5 reiterated that as elected representatives, Parish Councillors should consider research as well as popular feeling. MoP5 would like to lobby for better cover from first responders, the reinstatement of minor emergency units and beds at local hospitals and consider whether DAAT's helicopter is a distraction from the wider issue of public spending cuts. Cllrs commented in response that government spending policy is out of the remit of Parish Councils. The Chair commented that no NHS money is being diverted to support this supplementary service.
- xii) MoP8 commented that government policy is not relevant. All that is wanted is a landing square in the village to save lives.
- xiii) The Chair commented that it had been mentioned at the last meeting that the Parish Council needs to make its decision based on evidence and not just popularity. The Chair then read out a prepared statement to remind the public of the Parish Council's role, referring to written guidance. This is abridged for the minutes. It is entirely right and proper for Parish Councils take into account popularity among Parish residents alongside other evidence. Historically a Parish Council's function is to focus village opinion and represent such opinion to the outside world as well as carry on small scale, local tasks. As the first tier of local government, Parish Councils provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. Occasionally there will be conflicts of interests that require sensitive judgement, for example when different groups might disagree about the use of a village green. Making difficult decisions in an open reasoned way is something local councillors need to do well. Local councillors have a responsibility to be well informed, especially about diverse local views and not assume that they represent the views of all electors without consulting them. The public meeting on the topic of the air ambulance initiative was held therefore, to provide an opportunity for people to express views to the council and raise questions. The 'vote' taken at that meeting was not definitive. A Parish Council needs to consider all the relevant facts and issues and on matters that require decisions and represent the whole electorate, not just those who just attend meetings. On the question of cost benefit analysis of air ambulance compared to road ambulance, there is a misunderstanding of the choice of the decision available to the Parish Council. The Parish Council is being asked to either allocate funds to provide lighting for a landing site or to reserve those funds for some other unspecified future purpose. There is no application before the Parish Council that the funds should be allocated towards road ambulance provision. The Parish Council is not aware of any charitably run road ambulances in the area, and if the funds were given to the NHS, it would not result in the provision of an extra road ambulance. The Parish Council does not have enough funds to make a difference to the overall problem regarding road ambulances, but it does have enough funds at its disposal to allow for cover landing at night, the operation of which is wholly funded by charitable donations from the public. It was suggested that as the night landing site in Harbertonford has been used twice already, this was a good use of funds. The other question was in terms of lack of evidence of the efficiency of the air ambulance compared to the road ambulance. As already commented, the research on the matter has been subject to the Cochrane Review, finding that all the papers published before 2015 were so low quality by scientific terms that no conclusions could be drawn from them at all. Therefore, there is no reliable scientific research to refer to when coming to a decision.
- xiv) Final comments were made that if it saves one life it is worth the cost. A cllr commented that if the proposal was turned down, cllrs must live with the decision in the event that a life could have been saved by the service. All members of the public left the meeting.

Agenda

1. **Apologies** were received as above
2. **Declaration of Interests**
 - 2.1 Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - 2.2 No interests were declared on items on the agenda.
3. **Reports from County and District Councillors** for information.
 - 3.1 **County Councillor (C.Cllr)** The C.Cllr's written report was tabled for information.

- 3.1.1 *Buddle Hole Map* The C.Cllr delivered an A1 print of the map. Devon County Highways (Highways) officers agreed to walk round with a new lengthsman should Parish Councillors contract such a service. It was commented that there was a lot more detail available on the online version of the map.
- 3.1.2 *We have to talk about plastic* leaflets were distributed along with other information leaflets.
- 3.1.3 *Clean Air Strategy* It was commented that there is no allocation of funds from Devon County Council (DCC) which is critical to the success of the strategy. The strategy is all about developers funding developments in highways as opposed to the public purse contributed to by Council and Income Tax. The C.Cllr's response has been published on her new blog <https://jacqihodgson.org/>
- 3.1.4 *Gypsy and traveller encampments* The C.Cllr commented that there a high proportion of the enforcement caseload relates to such encampments. It was noted that the encampment at Tigley is still present, but that concern has been about associated parked cars rather than the encampment itself.
- 3.1.5 *Library consultation* Deadline end of the month. The service is now run by 'Libraries Unlimited' who are inviting views as to how rural library services are run, such as via bus services.
- 3.1.6 *Cockwells Nursery* Following a request for an update the C.Cllr responded that there had been no further news.
- 3.1.7 *TRAYE* Cllrs were informed that an advertisement for a youth worker has been published in the paper.
- 3.1.8 *Pot Holes* Cllrs commented on the inefficiency of pot hole repairs, having observed workers filling specific pot holes when others on the same stretch of road are not done.
- 3.2 District Councillor (D.Cllr) No report.

4. Minutes The following minutes were approved as an accurate record:

- 4.1 Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council 12th June 2018
- 4.2 Meeting of the Finance Committee of Harberton Parish Council 3rd July 2018

5. Report Matters Arising from the Minutes for information only

- 5.1 Harbertonford Defibrillator Kiosk Light No further information has been received. It was agreed that the Clerk approach a qualified electrician to fix the light.
- 5.2 Community Speed Watch No further information has been received.
- 5.3 Parish Map of Buddle Holes The Clerk had forwarded the PDF map to SHDC for printing, however a paper copy has now been delivered by the C.Cllr. **ACTION: Cllrs Davidson, Bowley and Waite** agreed to form an action group to begin preparing a lengthsman brief.
- 5.4 Harbertonford Bus Shelter Maintenance Ongoing.
- 5.5 Emergency Plan Cllr Broom reported that the plan is in progress and that he is reviewing several different templates. The C.Cllr commented that the Staverton Emergency Plan has just been completed and may provide a good template. Cllr Broom agreed to bring a draft to the Parish Council for review in September.
- 5.6 Telephone Kiosk Insurance Ongoing. The Clerk has not yet had a response to her query to the insurance company.
- 5.7 Highways report The Clerk had received a response from Highways to issues raised:
 - 5.7.1 *Hazard Farm Road.* The deterioration photographed by Cllr S Hockings had already been identified by DCC safety inspectors. Category 1 defects were addressed soon after. The Officer has submitted this road for funding to get some maintenance patching done if priorities allow. It was noted that during a site inspection there was no flooding evident and the officer was unable to identify any location where this may be a problem. It was agreed to reply to suggest a site visit during wet weather and to reiterate that the issue appears to be in relation to a lack of soak away for the run off from the roof of the barn.
 - 5.7.2 *Debris, Cricket Club to Vicarage Ball, Harberton* It was reported that the officer had undertaken a site visit and suggested that the debris naturally accumulates on gully grills and can result in surface blockage. It was noted that this would historically been a lengthsman's role, but due to cuts to this service, relies on locals being proactive and clearing surface debris themselves when it becomes apparent. Cllrs agreed to respond that the issue at this location is that the gully itself is sited on the curb, above any water flow.
 - 5.7.3 *Encampment, Ashridge Cross, Tigley* It was reported that DCC can only act if there are parking restrictions in place, therefore any issues regarding this site should be reported to the Police.

6. Planning

- 6.1 Consideration of the following planning applications:
 - 6.1.1 1763/18/FUL Retrospective application for change of use of agricultural building to use as an annex ancillary to adjacent dwelling at The Orchard, Harberton **It was RESOLVED** to make NO OBJECTIONS to this proposal.
 - 6.1.2 1764/18/FUL Retrospective application for use of land for siting movable timber lodge for use as an annex ancillary to adjacent dwelling at The Paddocks, Harberton **It was RESOLVED** to SUPPORT the application.
 - 6.1.3 1819/18/HHQ Householder application for single storey extension with a flat roof at The Forge, Dorsley Barton, Harberton **It was RESOLVED** to SUPPORT the application.
- 6.2 Receive a report on planning decisions It was reported that the Local Planning Authority had APPROVED application 1164/18/ARC Approval of details reserved by conditions 5 (surface water drainage) and 8 (landscaping scheme) following grant of planning consent 2559/17/FUL at Orchard Lodge, Harbertonford.
- 6.3 Receive a report on enforcement cases It A hard copy of enforcement cases was circulated for information.

7. Monthly reports

7.1 Finance Committee

7.1.1 Update It was reported that the Finance Committee had met and had reviewed and approved the end of quarter budget report and bank reconciliation. The budget report showed an income of £14,225.50 and expenditure of £4320.54 in the quarter. The bank reconciliation showed a balance of £46094.42 including reserves. It was reported that no applications had been made to the Community Benefit Fund.

7.1.2 Consider recommendations on reserves review **It was RESOLVED** to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to the Parish Council on review of the earmarked reserves:

Earmarked Reserves	Budget	Spent in Q1	Q1 Revised reserves
Community Benefit Fund	32337.77	0	32337.77
Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement Project (TRAYE)	800	0	800
Office Equipment	500	0	500
Mower contingency repairs	200	0	200
Training reserves	300	48	252
Harbertonford Playground	732.09	582	150.09
Parish Defibrillators	868.89	0	868.89
Elections	3000	0	3000
Bus Shelters	4000	20.37	3979.63
Car Park repairs	1500	0	1500
Harbertonford School Security Fencing Project <i>Expenditure was made in 2017/8 accounts</i>	2750	0	0
	46988.75		43471.98

Following discussion cllrs requested to discuss application guidelines for the Community Benefit Fund at the September meeting. It was agreed to raise awareness of the fund.

- 7.2 Neighbourhood Plan update It was reported that the HNP Steering Group is in the process of drafting a response the meeting with SHDC at Follaton House; the first to detail the actions on both sides, the second to document an official complaint. It was noted that the since the meeting had taken place, one of the officers had now forwarded comments on the plan which have been circulated to the HNP Steering Group for consideration. Cllrs were informed that the HNP Steering Group had suggested that the new site assessment include reference to Harbertonford CE School catchment area. Cllrs responded positively.
- 7.3 Community Land Trust update It was reported that the group is still responding to requests for further information from SHDC and is in an ongoing discussion with Highways regarding proposed splays. It was commented that the plan is unlikely to be taken to the August meeting of the Development Management Committee. The C.Cllr suggested that the CLT get in touch with Transition Homes for advice.
- 7.4 Town and Parish Fund 2017/18 Cllr White agreed to sit on the TRAYE committee and take on the liaison role with Harbertonford youth club volunteers. It was noted that the new youth worker has made three visits to the Parish and sessions have been well received.
- 7.5 Clerk's update A date for the Clerk's appraisal has yet to be agreed.

8. Devon Air Ambulance Community Landing Site

- 8.1 It was reported that a letter had been received from the Operations Director of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) in response to the issues raised by a Harberton resident. This letter was published on the Parish Council website, along with the paper from the resident, the presentation and notes from the public meeting. A link was circulated via the Harberton Village Circular and members of the community invited to give their view in writing to the Clerk. 25 emails had been received, which including co-signatories, were from a total of 27 residents. Two residents had written twice. 17 residents wished to express support for the proposal of creating a night landing site in the village. 9 residents expressed concerns and/or made objections. All papers had been circulated to councillors and late entries tabled. The Clerk provided a summary of concerns:
- 8.1.1 *Evidence of Need* Doubts that there is a persuasive argument for the efficacy of Helicopter Emergency Services. The landing site in Harbertonford already meets the needs for Harberton residents
- 8.1.2 *Capital and ongoing maintenance costs* Comments that resources would be better spent on increasing land ambulances and paramedics; lobbying for better Satellite Navigation in the area to enable land ambulances to find addresses and navigate to patients more effectively and/or other local causes.
- 8.1.3 *Limit primary function of the playing field* concerns that the recreational function of the community asset would be compromised if it became a night-landing site, necessitating restrictions and extra admin such as checks for debris or play equipment.
- 8.2 There was a lengthy discussion in which the following points were raised:
- 8.2.1 *Government spending/Land Ambulance vs Air Ambulance argument* Whilst it was acknowledged that there is local concern about the lack of land ambulance service in the area, it was agreed that cllrs disregard the issues regarding government spending as this is outside Parish Council control. It was noted that one of the letters of representation from a MoP it had been suggested that DAAT received money from the Government, which is inaccurate; it has received money from the LIBOR fines which is totally different. It was commented that DAAT provides a complementary service as should a patient be conveyed to hospital

