

HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Harberton Parish Council at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th January 2015, Harberton Parish Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs Padfield, Janes, S.Hockings, J.Hoddinott, Wynne, Trott, Clayton, J.Hockings, Beamish, Broom, Camp, County Cllr Vint

Apologies: Cllr Williams and District Cllr Steer.

Public: 6

Clerk: Ms Radford

Public Session

- It was commented that Community Benefit applications should only be assessed against the criteria of 'Community Benefit' and not preclude projects based on current guidelines. Clarity was requested on the use of the word 'sustainable' in the context used. The Chairman responded by commenting that the Community Benefit fund is in its early days and the Finance Committee are learning on its way. It is anticipated that precedents are set as applications come in and are considered.
- The Parish Council was asked to consider adding comments to the objection to the re-advertised planning application on the agenda. Suggested comments include spoiling enjoyment of the green lane, setting of a listed building and impact on tourism.
- In response to comments at the previous meeting of the Parish Council, a member of Neighbourhood Plan steering group wished to reassure the Parish Council that the steering group is very enthusiastic in taking the plan forward and have been reviewing the history of the plan and getting organised before taking the plan to the next stage. It is hoped more people get involved as everyone moves on from the difficulties of the past.

Agenda

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllr Williams and D.Cllr Steer.
2. **Reports from County and District Councillors**
 - C. Cllr Vint reported he had been asked by Stagecoach to comment on the discontinued Dartmouth leg of the Gold service, replaced by an extension of the X64 service. It was commented that services through Harbertonford have been reduced, particularly services between 7am and 8.25am. **Action:** Cllr Clayton agreed to forward her comments on the reduction of the service to C.Cllr Vint for inclusion in his response.
 - The Parish Council's refusal of participation in the Road Warden scheme has been passed onto the Highways Department, as have public concerns regarding mud on the public highway at Luscombe Farm.
 - As no agreement was made with the landowners to purchase land at the Old Toll House by the 1st January, it is expected that the Toll House Cycle Path will proceed as the initial plans proposed.
 - Cllrs commented that DCC have not been cleaning out under the hedges and roads are getting narrower as a result of verges increasing. C.Cllr Vint comments that this kind of maintenance is going to continue to be reduced as budgets are cut back further.
3. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 9th December 2014.** Minor amendments to the minutes were made before being signed by the Chairman as an accurate recording of the meeting.
4. **Report matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

Letter to Highways regarding poor road surface, abandoning of works in Harberton, 'Keep Clear' road markings in Harbertonford was still in process. It was agreed that the clerk ask Highways to liaise with the bottle bank contract to find out what flyway the lorry needs, and where 'Keep Clear' markings need to go to ensure ease of entry.

Opening new bank accounts for the Community Benefit Fund was also still in process.
5. **Planning**

Readvertisement of planning application 23/2373/14/F ground mounted solar arrays at Lower Blakemore Farm. Cllr Camp declared an interested and left the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED That the Parish Council sustain objection to the planning application and in addition to previous grounds for objection, state the Parish Council are concerned by the public amenity impact on the enjoyment of the green lane, in particular the gate at the top. The visual impact from the public road to Belsford has been underplayed in the planning application. The Parish Council are concerned about the impact to tourism in the Parish and visual impact on the setting of the listed building.

Cllr Camp rejoined the meeting.

The clerk reported the following planning approvals as received from the Planning Authority:

- 23/2110/14/F Installation of insulated metal cladding to existing barn walls and roof and construction of new workshop extension to rear of Brockhills Barns. Requires additional tree planting in the interests of visual amenity and to mitigate for loss of trees as part of the development.
- 23/2592/14/VAR Removal of conditions 4 and 5 of approval 23/1030/11/F to allow use as permanent residential dwelling at Bridge House, Tigley
- 23/2593/14/F Householder application for extension of existing garage for conversion to gym at Mill Meadow, Harbertonford. No windows other than those already authorised shall be inserted in the eastern elevation of the development without prior permission of the Local Planning Authority.
- 23/2751/14/VAR Variation of condition 2 for planning consent (addition of timber doors to garage building) at Hernafor Barns, Harbertonford. Garages and parking area shall only be used for parking and storage ancillary to the residential units approved and for no business or commercial activity.

6. Monthly Reports

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met on the 6th January 2015 to consider the budget for 2015/16 and to make recommendations to the Parish Council on applications to the Community Benefit Fund – to be considered later in the meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Harberton Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) Steering Group met on the 8th January 2015 at which the status of the housing section was reviewed, research on tourism in the Parish was heard and a proposed review of the website and communication strategy were adopted. Twitter and Facebook accounts for the HNP had been established and monthly news bulletins would be circulated via all channels.

Community Land Trust: No update.

Town and Parish (TAP) Fund: Cllr Vint had reported progress on the Toll House Cycle Path in his report. The Parish Council's application to the 2014 TAP fund had been sent in before Christmas. All applications will be reviewed at the Super Cluster Meeting in February, at which all Parishes will have a vote on which applications should be awarded funds. Cllr Padfield will attend on behalf of Harberton Parish Council.

7. 2015/16 Budget

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed budget as prepared by the Finance committee as below.

It was **RESOLVED** to set the 2015/16 precept at £9395.56. The precept form was signed by the Chairman.

Income		Expenditure	
Precept	9395.56	Room Hire	135
Council Tax Support Grant	620	Subs	375
Harberton Parish Hall Ground rent	10	Insurance	500
Bank interest	6	PCC Grants Harberton	350
VAT refund	350	PCC Grant Harbertonford	300
HFPFA	100	Salary	2715.04
Mower repairs	0	Salary overtime	1357.52
Allotments	500	Office Expenses	200
Totals	£10,981.56	Professional Fees	370
		Broadband	90
		Grasscutting Harbertonford	600
		Grasscutting Harberton	425
		Highways Contingency	0
		HFPFA	100
		Playground Inspections	264
		Harbertonford Playground Lease	50
		Contingency Mower repairs	200
		Allotment	500
		Computer	0
		Neighbourhood Plan	600
		Training	250
		Elections	600
		Contingency	1000
		Totals	£10,981.56

8. Community Benefit 1st Round

The Parish Council approved the Finance Committee resolution to offer the following grants:

- £500 towards new double glazed front main doors at Harbertonford Village Hall
- £500 towards repairs to leaking roof at St Andrew's Church, Harberton
- £157 for planning and search fee for a southbound bus shelter in Harbertonford

It was **RESOLVED** to pay grants to on completion of the work, on production of receipts.

It was **RESOLVED** to revisit the wording of the Community Benefit Fund guidelines at the next meeting.

9. Finance

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

Chq		Invoice	Detail	Amount before VAT	VAT	Total
654	Cat Radford	n/a	Clerk Salary (January)	£224.38	n/a	£224.38
655	Harberton Parish Hall	19 th Dec	Committee Room Hire	£56.00	n/a	£56.00

The Chairman will assist the Clerk completing the application forms for the new bank accounts.

10. Internal Auditor

It was **RESOLVED** to contract the services of South and West Internal Audit. The Chairman signed the contract.

11. Parish Council relationship with Highways

The Parish Council discussed speed limits on the A381. It was **RESOLVED** that Harberton Parish Council and Totnes Town council write a joint letter to Devon County Council to request the speed limit on the A381 is extended.

12. Harberton Bus Service

It was reported that Devon County Council is looking to make substantial cuts to bus service subsidies. The 164 bus that serves Harberton is 100% subsidised and therefore maybe at risk. C.Cllr Vint commented that any bus less than half full could be at risk and commented that either more people need to use buses to make them more economically viable, or alternatives to buses need to be found, such as mini buses, car share schemes or putting money into small scale community schemes.

It was commented that the Harbourne Shuttle is now fully integrated with Bob the Bus (Totnes) but hasn't yet agreed routes and timetables and a route into Harberton should be requested.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk draw the public's attention to this matter via John Culf's Harberton e-bulletin and encourage responses that give justification for retaining the service. The Parish Council will consider a response to Devon County Council at the next meeting.

13. Correspondence

10/12/14 – Rendells Totnes. Proposals for wind turbine at Fowsly Farm [sic]. An invitation for Parish Councillors to undertake a site meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to arrange a site meeting when the planning application is received.

16/12/14 – House Naming. The Parish Council received official notice of street naming and numbering of the new development at Hernaford Farm.

16/12/14 – A. Palmer. General Power of Competence. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond Ms Palmers research to state that the Parish Council are not able to use the General Power of Competence as the Clerk does not yet have the requisite qualification.

20/12/14 – D. Groom. Building plot at rear of Hillcroft, Morleigh Road. The Parish Council was informed that the land was no longer owned by Mr Groom.

22/12/14 – D. White. Invitation to attend Super Cluster Meeting 11th Feb 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Padfield attend the meeting as the Parish Council representative.

5/1/15 - Flood Risk Management. It was reported that flood investigation reports for September and October are now available online <https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-investigations-reports-and-studies/>

6/1/15 –J.Hodgson Invitation to attend Future Homes Conference on 6/7 Feb 2015. It was **RESOLVED** to circulate the invitation to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

07/1/15 – DALC. Responding to the Ministers Finance Statement regarding local council referendum on budget increases about 2.5%, by 15th Jan 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond to the statement to include the comment that a referendum would likely cost more than 2.5% increase on the precept.

14. **E-Circulars** including Rural Services Network, Devon Home Choice, Devon County Council Community News Round-up, Public Sector Executive available.

15. Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman

It was commented that there had been an alleged serious incident concerning a hunt in the Parish. The clerk was asked if there had been a police report but commented that no police reports had been received since she had been in post. **It was RESOLVED** to ask the PCSO with responsibility for the Parish to include a report about the area in the Totnes report, as received by C.Cllr Vint.

It was commented that there are large stones buried in the earth on the roadside near Langridge Cross causing damage to vehicles pulling in to let other vehicles pass. Cllr Wynne agreed to speak with the landowners.

It was reported that the issue of lighting in the upper car park at Harberton Parish Hall was raised with the Hall Committee, who agreed that the steps need to be lit, commenting that low pillar lights on the steps would be preferable.

Next meeting Tuesday 10th February 2015.

Meeting closed at 10pm.