

Harberton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm, Monday 1st June 2015, Harbertonford CE Primary School

Minutes

Present: Jane Jeffreys (Harbertonford Playground Committee), Les Wright (Harberton Parish Hall), Parish Cllrs, Broom, Camp, Clayton, Davidson, J.Hockings, McDonnell, Wynne

Apologies: Sheila Coombes (Harberton Allotment Society) Barry Goldsmith (Harberton Cricket Club), Simon Harrington (Totnes and Rural Community Bus Association), Frances Harvey (St Peter's Church), Alison Merrell (Harbertonford CE Primary School), Freda Wheat (St Andrew's Church), Cllrs Beamish, Janes, S.Hockings, and Williams.

Clerk: Ms C Radford

Agenda

1. **Apologies** as above.
2. **Annual Reports** from groups and organisations who have agreements with, or funding from Harberton Parish Council or the Harberton Parish Community Benefit Fund

2.1. Harbertonford Playground Committee

Jane Jeffreys reported that funds currently stand at £1,564.07, funds will be used to pay this year's asset insurance (an obligatory requirement of the National Lottery Funding until May 2016) and for some repairs to the playground safety surfacing and equipment as identified in the latest Allianz inspection report.

Several experimental treatments to remedy fungal growth in the Earthworks equipment have been undertaken, the final taking place within the next couple of weeks. They have been very successful and should resolve the problem permanently. The worst case scenario is that part of the equipment will be replaced though this would be a last resort.

Some recent vandalism – the first in many, many years – has resulted in £300 worth of damage to the safety surfacing which SHDC repaired within 24 hours. It was agreed that the Clerk make enquiries with regard to a possible claim on the insurance.

It was reported that the committee continues to struggle and it was proposed that a Parish Councillor be appointed to join the Committee and agreed to discuss the issue at the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

2.2. Harberton Playing Field Association (HPFA)

Charlie Wynne reported that the Playing Field Association has reasonable funds in the account following the success of the Dog Show, camping events and fundraising at the annual village pantomime. Provision of goal posts in the field is still being discussed, and a proposal for an all-weather tennis court/football pitch is being considered. It was commented that the Playing Field seems to be well used by young people.

South Hams District Council are providing mowing services for a second year as the committee were satisfied with the arrangement. Further mowing is undertaken by local contractors and volunteers. It was suggested that the Harbertonford Playground Committee would be welcome to come along to Playing Field committee meetings to share ideas.

It was commented that the hedge is growing out and over the container in the top car park which should be cut back as this may cause it to rust.

2.3. Harbertonford Allotment Society (HAS)

The Chairman's report from the 2014 AGM was read and summarised for the minutes:

2014 was a really good growing year with an extremely high water table, an early, mild spring and a gloriously warm long summer. The HAS plots have produced an abundance of fruit, vegetables and flowers. HAS welcomed new members, some are very experienced growers and the cultivation of the plots has been at the highest level since set up 4 seasons ago. Approximately 40-60 people attended the Open Day in July and the waiting list for plots grew as a result. The next open day will take place on Sunday 5th July, at which tea, cakes and produce will be sold.

HAS provided a stall selling produce at the Harbertonford Flower and Produce Show which raised funds and was good fun for all who entered. A small group of members recently took advantage of membership to RHS affording free entry to Rosemoor's Apple Day. Church Wardens asked HAS members to donate produce for the Harvest Festival and appreciative thanks were given for responses.

The committee continue to meet irregularly, often communicating effectively by email. Thanks were given to the HAS committee for their genuine desire to do the best thing for the society. Thanks were also given to those who cut communal grass areas.

The HAS chair decided to step down from the committee at the AGM, thanking all members of the Society who have helped make the role a most satisfying experience.

2.4. Harberton Parish Hall Committee (HPH)

The current chair of the Parish Hall Committee, Les Wright, reported that the aim of the hall committee is the proper maintenance and management of the hall for the good of the village and surrounding area. The committee of 9 people meet on the third Monday of the month. The AGM is scheduled for Monday 20th July for anyone to attend, with wine and cheese provided.

Current cash assets are around £16,000, which are considered appropriate reserves for unforeseen emergencies. Income for the year 2013/14 was just under £13,000, following a decision to completely replace the main kitchen, plus annual repairs and maintenance took expenditure to approximately £12,000 leaving a balance of £1,000. The committee will focus on building up reserves in the current year, subject to regular utility and oil bills. Painting of the upper walls inside the hall and re-stoning the car park are planned to take place in the year, and the committee will apply to the Community Benefit Fund for support. It was suggested that the District and County Councillors could be approached regarding chipping donations from Devon Highways and that HPFA and HPH committees could liaise regarding chipping on both carparks. Councillors also commented on proposals for solar powered lights on the steps between the two car parks, suggesting approaching the landlord of the Church House Inn to contribute to the project. It was agreed that a few low level motion sensor lights to guide safe use of the steps would be most appropriate.

Hall bookings are healthy, booked for most weekends throughout the year and regular bookings each weekday including weddings, dances, concerts, yoga, pilates, table tennis, bowls, machine embroidery, craft classes and dance. The hall website is being updated and improved to make the Parish Hall attractive to potential users in the area.

John Hockings was thanked for attending meetings as the Parish Council representative, and Ginny Davidson welcomed as she takes up the role in 2015.

2.5. Harbertonford CE Primary School

A written report was received from Alison Merrell, Head of School, read by the Chairman and summarised for the minutes:

Following retirement of the Head Teacher in 2014 a new structure was established. There is now an Executive Head of the Federation of Schools and a Head of School who takes day to day responsibility of overseeing the school. A new national curriculum was introduced in September and collaborative meetings with Federation partners have been to implement new and exciting ways of working to accommodate changes.

The Pre-School has been run by the Federation Governing Body since February 2014, its 20 place allocation being full. Numbers on roll at school are also increasing in September so in a period of growth.

The outdoor play surface will be improved during the summer and external walls will be painted. The children have been involved in improving outdoor learning areas, years 4, 5 and 6 have achieved the John Muir Award by clearing the pond area and have established an African garden within grounds. The outdoor work has been a real community effort with plants and seedlings donated by parents for children to grow and the PTFA have been asked to fund new outdoor projects. Local people are asked to respect the children's work by not walking their dogs on the school areas as evidence of dog walking on the site is unpleasant for the children. Any help in spreading this message is appreciated.

Regular newsletters encourage involvement and ask for help and the new website contains a lot of school information. The PTFA hold fundraising events such as the Christmas Fayre and provide refreshments after seasonal church services. Children fundraise for the school and charities by dressing up and making cakes. Soccer, basketball, chess and netball clubs, piano and ukulele lessons are run for students are run within and outside school hours. A performance of the Ukelele band is anticipated at July's Summer Fayre.

Following the disappointments of last summer the company who service and clean the swimming pool has been changed and the pool will be ready for use in June, available for community use over the summer.

2.6. Harberton Feoffees

It was reported that it had been a quiet year for the Feoffees, distributing approximately 45 donations of £25.00 to individuals within the Parish and to two people in hospital. Feoffees meetings take place twice a year, the committee has representatives from the Parish Council, church and school. Available Feoffees funds are generated by interest on capital investment (from historic sale of church land and private endowments). It was commented that the poor current rate of interest may mean that the fund may not be able to distribute money every year.

2.7. St Andrew's Church, Harberton – No report.

2.8. St Peter's Church, Harbertonford

A written report received, read out by the chairman and summarised here for the minutes:

St. Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of liaising with the vicar, Rev'd Caroline Luff at a difficult time for the whole mission community, awaiting the appointment of a new rector, after the retirement last September of Revd. John Ough and the leaving of Revd. Harry Jevons after only 18 months.

The PCC seeks to welcome new people to worship at the church by maintaining weekly Sunday worship and special services either led by Rev.d Caroline or led by churchwardens with participation of the congregation. The church is open for quiet contemplation seven days a week.

Although regular attendance at services is low (the Electoral Roll stands at 15, average attendance at services is 9) there is a dedicated band of ladies who arrange flowers and produce seasonal displays of which any cathedral

would be proud. The church coffee morning runs once a month without whose proceeds St. Peter's would be in financial difficulty. The annual fair is well supported by villagers.

The annual Harvest Festival service is followed by a Harvest supper, attended by some of the local farming community. The Primary School holds services for the children at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Many parishioners attend and the organist plays for them. At these times the church is full of proud parents. St. Peter's has usually hosted the annual 'Women's World Day of Prayer' service, well attended from within the mission community with themed food and music. This year St Peter's will be hosting the benefice Palm Sunday service.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £7327.55 in 2014. Restricted donations of £517.28 were also received (Fabric and Church Fund). Payments were £10,310.00, including roof and guttering repair costing £2144.88. As a result, both saving accounts were closed transferring funds into the current account to cover outgoings. The net balance being approximately £3,500. Only other funds are shares valued at approximately £1500. The books are able to be balanced for the time being, but if any repair to the church is needed, all modest savings will be used up.

2.9. Harbertonford Village Hall

Jackie Clayton reported that the Harbertonford Village Hall continues to provide a valuable resource to both local residents and people from the wider community. In the past year the hall has been managed by a committee of twelve members, meeting monthly. Improvements made this year include new double-glazed UPVC door, thanks to a grants from the Community Benefit Fund, landscaping and planting of shrubs on the front bank, clearing of debris and cutting of hedge and trees to the rear of the hall, painting of gates and rails, purchase of materials for new fencing, purchase of new signage.

Various groups meet regularly, including the Sunday skittles club, youth club, St Peter's Church coffee mornings and the martial arts club. Harbertonford Sports and Social Group (HSSG) also hold regular events to enrich the village community. The committee also hosts regular Bingo evenings to raise funds. There has been some interest from other user groups, however lack of numbers has meant that they have not continued.

Local events such as the Flower Show, Christmas craft fair, Open Studios weekend, Sunday brunches and 'Villages in Action' shows are regular bookings. The hall is also used for private parties from wedding receptions to funerals.

Thanks were given to all committee members and village residents who work extremely hard to keep the hall maintained as a wonderful resource for the village and neighbouring communities.

2.10. Totnes and Rural Community Bus Association

There was no report from the service operators, but councillors reported that the Harbourne Shuttle had merged with Bob the Bus. An additional service has been added through Harberton and Harbertonford, which has not had much uptake as yet so would benefit from further word of mouth about the service.

2.11. Harberton Cricket Club (HCC)

A report was received from HCC Chairman, Barry Goldsmith, read by the Chairman and summarised for the minutes:

After the disappointment of having to disband the under 14 junior team due to lack of numbers, the club decided to start from a younger base to attract local 5-11 year olds with the hope to develop their cricketing skills a progress into junior league cricket and eventually into the senior team.

The club arranged through the Devon Cricket Board for Chance to Shine coaches to go into Harbertonford School. Wednesday afternoon coaching sessions are run for year 5 and 6 pupils by members of HCC, 18 youngsters attended an open day on Saturday 9th May and since then two Friday evening sessions have been run at the ground. The club laid on a BBQ for parents and children. Parents have also been encouraged to take part in cricketing activities. It is early days but the attendance and feedback from children and parents has been encouraging.

If the programme continues to do well, it is planned to use the £500 Community Benefit Fund grant to buy cricket equipment and send a couple of younger club members to train as coaches to develop youth cricket further into the future.

HCC is also running a series of events to help raise funds for the club and the Harberton Playing Field Association. ON 18th July, the New Rope String Band will be performing at the Parish Hall in the evening. A second Dog show is planned for Sunday 16th August 11 – 4 at the Playing Field. The annual Ladies v Gentlemen of Harberton cricket match takes place on Sat 13th June at the Stonehills ground starting at 3pm.

Thanks was given to the Parish Council for support.

3. Harberton Parish Council Chair's report

The chair reported that it has been a relatively quiet year with insufficient business for an August Meeting.

The main controversial planning items were the Belsford Solar Farm and Foales Leigh wind turbine, both likely to be turned down. Development in the Parish has included seven barn conversions at Hernaforde now complete, work has commenced on the conversion of the Mill buildings in Harbertonford to create a further seven dwellings, foundation work has begun on two new houses in Harbertonford. Parish success in attracting Town and Parish Funds enabled completion of the Toll House Cyclepath and to decorate the school playground wall.

The Community Benefit Fund was launched with four applications approved so far and £1600 dispersed.

There are some changes in the council with District Councillor Robert Steer replaced by District Councillor John Tucker due to new ward boundaries, and the stepping down of three long standing Parish Councillors, but welcoming two new members.

The Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) will be a major topic for the coming year, providing a great opportunity for widespread involvement of the local community.

4. AOB – None

Meeting closed at 8.30PM