

Harberton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9th April 2019, Harbertonford CE Primary School

Parish Councillors in attendance: Cllrs Beamish, Bowley, Davidson, J.Hockings, Janes, McDonnell, Waite, Williams. D.Cllr Tucker.

Parish Councillor apologies: S.Hockings

Parish Councillors absent: Camp, White.

Members of the public in attendance: Liz and Martin Fearn, Frances Harvey,

Members of the public apologies: Phil Sheardown, Flip Williams, Guinevere Wearne, Hazel Willis, Jean Blackler, Lizzie Lethbridge.

Clerk: Ms Cat Radford

Agenda

1. **Apologies** were received 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. **Harberton Playing Field Association** *Written report provided by Flip Williams, Secretary*

The HPFA committee meets every 6 weeks. It continues to comprise few members but was pleased to have its numbers swollen by the addition of Steve Hocking as HPC liaison rep.

The 6 apple trees planted on the Playing Field in early 2018 have survived the long hot summer, thanks to a watering rota, and all appear healthy. Several committee members received hands-on pruning tuition from Gill Gairdner in February.

A second light-weight portable football goal has been purchased by HPFA. Both are well used for ad hoc ball games and can be easily moved aside when field car-parking is required.

The safety matting around most items of play equipment is in a poor state of repair, which is repeatedly flagged up in Playground Safety Inspections as needing attention. The work of obtaining quotes for new safety matting and its installation, together with resurfacing the basketball 'D' with tarmac, and replacing the basketball pole and fittings has been completed, and an application for financial assistance made to the Community Fund.

Fund-raising

The 2019 Panto Raffles and Snowdrop Walk together raised over £750. Harberton Playing Field continues to host the annual Dog Show in August and receives a generous donation for use of the venue. A private group of ex-Harbertonians hold an annual croquet tournament and make a donation.

Looking Forward

HPFA is hopeful that the very necessary renewal of the surfaces in the Childrens' Play area is able to go ahead. Wildcat Girls Football training sessions are due to take place on the field from May. A Brownie pack will be indoor camping in HPH in May and using the field for activities.

2.2. **Harbertonford Playground Committee** *No report.*

2.3. **Harbertonford Allotment Society** *Written report provided by Guin Wearne, Chair*

Jeremy and Hilary ended their report last year with the words "Hopefully we will not have to withstand the ravages of deep snow...". Looking back these words seem all too portentous. Having taken delivery, far too early, of some asparagus crowns, I was faced with the choice of leaving them to moulder in their packaging above ground or without their packaging below ground. The snow it did fall thick and even shortly after choosing the latter option. It fell again even thicker on the day that I met the Young Farmers (18 March) with their delivery of dung for some of our plots. We got very hot as we shifted the heavy sacks over a rapidly deepening covering of snow. We were the only ones to receive our manure that day.

What with that and the spring and summer weather that followed it has been a year of great contrasts. I think that it was a fortnight after the second snowfall that children were splashing in the river in their swimsuits and May said to me "It was snowing a couple of weeks ago." Which meant that we had to carry a lot of watering cans and exclaim about the heat and worry about drought (but not much about slugs, although something continued to eat things as they came up; perhaps it was the voles or the moles which appear to love it up there). At least it meant that it didn't matter so much that the lawnmower was out of action for some time when the cable drive broke.

This was also the year that we had a delivery of manure, thanks to Hilary and Jeremy (and James Skevington). I've put some on my asparagus in the hope that it will make the sadly stunted plants forget the disastrous start they had in life and come up vigorously and sturdy in the new year.

We've had some wonderful work days this year! Although I can't remember the 25th of February work day ... Was I there? I know from looking at the list of tasks that useful things were done, including clearing the top gate for the manure delivery, laying the southern hedge and marking out the plots for new members Carol and Rachel. I can remember the Open Day on the 14th July though; an extremely enjoyable day with around 20 visitors braving the intense heat. Cakes melted in the sun, people sought shade (would you believe), produce was bought – raising £56.60 for HAS funds – and a bit of work was done; spreading bark chipping around the picnic tables, sanding the tables and painting the HAS shed. Two of the visitors to the Open Day have since become members, taking over the plot vacated by John Webber. Welcome to Phil and Cathy. Then there was the autumn work day which had to be postponed for a week due to just about the only rainfall of the year. This was a truly lovely day of working together to clear the top hedge and bottom path, followed by a very successful barbeque.

During the year there have been other changes to our list of plot holders; Jimmy and Liz Swindles took over Plot 9B1 from Lauren and Kate. Plot 9A2 has gone through 2 changes, first with Simon and Pilar and now Krystyna and John. Also this autumn we are sorry to see Maureen go but look forward to seeing who will be the next lucky tenant of Plot 6B. Welcome to all new plot holders.

2.4. St. Peter's Church *Hazel Willis, Churchwarden*

This year has been very challenging for us all as we found our congregation diminishing, we now find our self's on some Sundays with a very small congregation and because of this we are now down to two services a month, which if we aren't to careful could be down to one.

The grass has been well cut by Chris Reeves who has now passed it over to Paul Weslake, would like to thank you on behalf of the PCC for the grant we received it goes a long way in helping us pay for the grass cutting.

We just had our APCM on the 3rd of April and we are back to two churchwardens again. First thing that you see as you drive in to Harberton.

2.5. St. Andrew's Church *No report*

2.6. Harbertonford Village Hall *Written report provided by Jean Blackler, Secretary*

The Village Hall is continuing to flourish. Regular users include Youth Club, Parkour, Flower Arrangers and a Sewing Group amongst others who continue to make use of the hall together with adult and children's parties, bingo evenings and skittles.

The Village Show has filled the hall to capacity in the last few years and I would like to bring to your attention that this year will be the 50th anniversary of the show – August 3rd 2019. If you have any suggestions as to how we make this special please contact the committee. Following closure of the Maltsters in October the village hall committee agreed to open the hall/bar on a Friday night – now staffed by volunteers. Live music is being explored for these nights.

Ongoing projects include outside painting and re polishing of the floor in the next couple of months together with resurfacing of the car park later in the year when further funding has been secured.

Whilst the committee is small we are a hard working group – more support is always welcome to keep the hall a necessary village asset.

2.7. Harberton Parish Hall *Report given by Liz Fearn, Committee Chairman*

There were no changes to the Executive of the Hall Committee in 2018, but three committee members retired. Two new people joined us and have proved to be very active and full of good ideas. Brian Ganter continues to complete a general maintenance and safety check every month and completes many of the small tasks which he identifies. We are very grateful to him for helping us to keep the Hall in a good state of repair. In addition, a sub-committee has completed a very detailed fire risk assessment and maintenance list which we are working through to ensure we reach the highest possible standard.

Our main improvement project for the past year was to do with the car park. We have erected new signs which clarify the private status of the car park and posted leaflets in every house in the village reminding residents of the conditions which apply to anyone who leaves a vehicle on our land. We have had the steps between the upper and lower car parks replaced in concrete and we are extremely grateful to the Community Benefit Fund administered by the Parish Council for the generous grant of £1,960.00 to cover the cost. These steps are for the benefit of the whole community and village visitors who use the top car park, not just hall users, and we very much appreciate that this fact was recognised when the grant was considered. We are now about to replace the fire escape steps in the same way but, thanks to the grant, we are in a good position to pay for these without further help. We have also placed low energy, bollard lights controlled by a light sensitive sensor on the steps which greatly improve their safety, and placed an additional light on the disabled fire escape route. Our annual Pantomime, Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood, was once again very successful and involved a large cast and crew from far beyond the confines of the village. The surplus was over £2,000.

Bookings for the hall remain very healthy, but in order to keep abreast of rising costs, we are increasing our hire rate by 50p per hour. Our assets at the end of February stood at £16,976.28. Over the coming year we plan to replace the fire escape steps, as mentioned above and also have work done on deteriorating window frames. We are also hoping to complete a number of maintenance and enhancement tasks by having a monthly Task Force of volunteers.

Once again, thanks to the Parish Council for your ongoing support. Thanks were given to the voluntary committee who create a great hub for the centre of the village.

2.8. Harberton Feofees *Verbal report given by John Hockings, Vice Chair of Harberton Feofees.* It was reported that the Feofees has not had a very busy year. The group has lost three members in the last 12 months. Following a tenure of 30 years, the chairman has now resigned due to ill health and a new chairman will be elected in September. The Vice Chairman is currently in charge. The Feofees give benefit to the older people in the villages and approx.. 15 people from each village received £20 each in supermarket vouchers at Christmas 2018. There has been no request for donations this year, which could be due to people not knowing what Feofees is, or how it works. Members of the Feofees invest donations and make small grants to those in need from the earned interest. Interest on investments is getting smaller and it is getting more difficult to invest for any meaningful return. The Feofees has nine members who consider distribution of funds, two from the Parish Council who know the villages of Harberton and Harbertonford, three from the church and four co-opted members..

2.9. Harbertonford CE Primary School *Written report given by Lizzie Lethbridge, Academy Head* We have had a very busy spring term, not least because we have had both SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and Ofsted inspections. Both were exceptionally positive and resulted in 'good' outcomes. In summary, Ofsted said: "As a team, you promote the school's values of 'live, learn and flourish' by providing a nurturing, caring and inclusive family ethos." And SIAMS similarly noted that: "In accordance with its Christian vision, this school is nurturing, caring and has a strongly inclusive, family ethos." Our pupils were, as always, an absolute credit to our school and we greatly appreciate the fantastic, ongoing support from our parents and families. Please see our website for the full reports.

Our mosaic project started in January and has resulted in three beautiful panels that are to be displayed on the front of our school. Every child and some parents laid tiles, and all had an input into its design. Another project underway is a sensory garden, which is being created by our prolific and supportive PTFA. It will be a calm, sensory space at the front of the playground for pupils to use if they don't want to be part of more energetic play.

Our pupils continue to enjoy a wide range of fantastic experiences, building lovely memories. Sporting adventures have included dance, tennis and multi-skills, and we have had some new clubs this term, such as Tri-Golf, Gymnastics and Football with Torquay United. Archery club starts after Easter! We had an inspirational visit from local ladies Helen Symons and Chloe Harvey who recently returned from the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge - a 45 day row across the Atlantic Ocean raising money for Devon Air Ambulance. Other visitors include PC Vaughn and Dr Nute who visited us to talk about 'people who help us'. Our winter disco and Bedtime Story after-school events always prove popular. KS2 children are looking forward to residential visits to Heatree and Start Bay next term.

2.10. Harbertonford Youth Club *No report*

2.11. Harberton Church Community Fund *Written report provided by Annie and Alex Williams*

St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival

The Harberton Church Community Fund (HCCF, a registered charity) received a grant from the Harberton Parish Community Fund for the amount of £450. This enabled HCCF to purchase a number of sets of battery-powered Christmas Tree lights and batteries, which resulted in each of the 40 trees at the Festival (held over the five days of 28 November to 2 December) to have identical lighting. This event was our second and has become our best fundraiser, being thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended from the Parish and further afield. It included a daily pop-up cafe serving cakes, tea, coffee, wine and bread and soup. This was kindly provided by the villagers and proved a great success, as did Community Carol singing on Sunday night. The grant also allowed HCCF to eliminate the need to provide 80 sockets and attendant wiring which had proved complicated and inadequate, whilst also causing trip hazards and overloading the church electrical circuit.

After expenses, the net figure raised from the Festival was £3,455 of which £858 was paid to the PCC for their expenses such as oil and electricity. Following the event a number of the organisations involved from Harberton, Harbertonford and Diptford were loaned the sets of lights. We have offered, and expect, them to be used on many occasions by these and other groups in the locality over the years to come. The Charity is very appreciative of the grant received from the Community Benefit Fund.

Other Fundraising Activities

We have had a busy and productive year with many other activities including: a Craft Fair, a Cello Concert, two days of Secret Gardens, illustrated talks on Raphael and on Secret India (along with Italian and Indian food respectively), Belshazzar's Feast concert, card sales and more. These have both raised funds and encouraged our community to come together in common cause and to have fun.

Tick Tock Appeal

This appeal for the repair of the Church Tower and Windows, including the Bells and restoration of the Clock, was launched by the HCCF with a lunch in the Churchyard in August. Through extremely generous support from a wide range of individuals, it had raised in just four months – by Christmas – £45,000. This is half of the funds needed for the works – to support the PCC's plan to raise the remaining 50% from grant sources. Of the £45,000 raised, £6,000 has now been gifted to the PCC to support emergency repairs to the Tower roof (£2,000) and full repairs to several windows (£4,000).

Current balance

As a result of all the above and the Gift Aid that can be added, the HCCF has just under £60,000 in the bank. Of this, up to £45,000 can be provided to match PCC-raised grant funds for the remaining Tower works (including bells and clock), with the rest available for other works as requested by the PCC. Two members of the HCCF Fundraising Group are also members of the PCC and this supports close and collaborative working between the two groups.

2.12 Warmheart Community Projects *Written report provided by Helen Sands*

The Gift of Christmas: Storytelling and Craft at St. Andrew's Church, Harberton

Posters were designed by Kate Kempton and displayed in Harberton, in Harbertonford Post Office, and on John Culf's Harberton news email. 100 A6 leaflets were distributed in every child's bookbag at Harbertonford Primary School a week before the event.

Between 6-10 children and a cluster of adults including some of the elders in our community, came to hear the four stories Mark and I told. The children sat on the carpet in front of the rood screen, and enjoyed the interactive stories immensely by making sounds and actions, and also the more quiet listening stories.

The Children then processed to an area set up by Helen and Sasha with materials to make a woodland crown and a Stick-Man's house. The creativity shown by the group was amazing, even very little children sticking shapes and jewels onto the headbands with great care. They were very pleased with their work and took it home with delight. All this happened alongside the activity round the café at the end of the church, and visitors looking at the trees. A real buzz of enjoyment. Overall a lovely event. We would have liked a bigger crowd of children, but maybe the bad weather and a proliferation of weekend December events worked against us.

2.13 Dashing Devon Dukes

The weekly after school sessions at Moreleigh Village Hall commenced in February 2019, following a successful application to Harberton Community Benefit Fund for six months of Hall Hire (every Monday, from 15.30 till 18.00).

Although initial numbers were low (2 local youngsters for the first 3 weeks), there are a growing number of regulars from within a two mile radius, from a number of South Hams Primary schools.

As part of the promotion of the Ukulele/Guitar Band, a Mothering Sunday Spring Concert was held at the end of March, to provide a platform for the youngsters to perform together in front of an audience, and to work collaboratively with others from further afield.

The group of 16 kids played a series of song medleys together in front of family members and friends, who also enjoyed a lunch while being entertained. Over £200 was taken in aid of DAAT.

Summer engagements 2019

The Dashing Devon Dukes have been growing supporters since 2014 when they first played together for Childrens' Hospice Southwest, one of their chosen charities. More recently, as their repertoire of songs has developed, there have been more opportunities for them to perform together, and at the same time gain valuable experience, and this has built the confidence of all players.

For the first time, the Dashing Devon Dukes have entered the Torbay Music Festival, which is held in early May, at Lupridge House, near Brixham. This formal music festival is in its 79th year and is run by a very committed and dedicated team of volunteers, and the many and varied classes that exist, mainly for individuals to perform with instruments or voice, allow the performers to be adjudicated, and given positive criticism of their performance.

In order to prepare for the Festival, it is proposed to run a Bank Holiday Monday workshop at Moreleigh Village Hall, between 09.30 and 11.00am. This workshop is open to all the youngsters from the South Hams (Stoke Fleming, East Allington, Stokenham, Blackawton and Harbertonford).

Monday May 6th.....Moreleigh Village Hall Guitar/Ukulele Workshop
Saturday May 11th.....Lupridge House 17.00 for 18.00 Torbay Music Festival
Saturday June 29th.....Dartmouth Art and Craft Festival (CHSW fundraising)
Saturday July 6th.....Stoke Fleming Village Hall Summer Fair (fund raising for Dartmouth Brownies)
Saturday July 13th.....Busking in Kingsbridge...11.00 am (Fundraising for the DDD Band)
Saturday July 20th.....Busking in Totnes....11.00am (fundraising for Harbertonford Play Area)

By the end of the summer, it is intended to bring a group of parents and supporters together to form a Body that could meet regularly, and thereby make it possible to approach other funding bodies for Grant support that would allow me to develop the resources we use for playing together, and bring more instruments into the mix (currently Guitars and Ukuleles) and allow the Band to work collaboratively with other community Groups in Torbay, and other parts of Devon.

3. Chair's report

We have lost an experienced councillor in Geoff Broom, who relocated to Somerset (was it something we said!) the Parish Magazine has ceased publication, and the Public House in Harbertonford has closed.

But it has not been all bad news, since we have achieved a lot in the year;

- The parish emergency plan has been completed, with thanks to all those involved in putting this together
- Planning permission has just been granted for the DAT night landing site on the playing field in Harberton, meaning as a Parish we now have two sites, one for each village - a much needed supplement to the regular NHS Ambulance service

- The replacement bus shelter in Harberton has been completed, and everybody, including school children, can at least wait in the dry and we have a serviceable notice board
- A repair to the surface of the small 'car park' area in Harbertonford has taken place, but we still have the repair to the wall to do
- The second training session for the defibrillators has been held and was very well attended
- We have also completed a successful trial of TRAYE in Harbertonford, and are hoping we can continue with this, even with the difficulties presented by funding, and are also very pleased to hear that the Chair of Rattery PC has agreed to take over the role of treasurer. However we still need volunteer support on the steering group of TRAYE, which would ideally be from a parent in the village. Unfortunately this highlights the age old problem we have of not enough man-power or volunteers from the community willing to step forward to help, and the CLT finally being granted planning permission for 12 houses in Harberton, 10 of which will be 'sweat equity', affordable properties for local people. On this point I would like to thank Nick for his herculean effort and determination, without which I am sure this project would not be in this position today. It will be good to see this project coming to fruition and making a difference to the families involved and very much hope this proves to be a positive model for other communities in the South Hams.

Apart from the day to day issues that come to the council we still have on-going initiatives such as

- The lengths-men survey - which will allow us so to look into to the feasibility of the PC taking on the provision of the services no longer provided by DCC - something pretty critical to the parish as we have many problems with flooding
- We'll also have the Community Speed watch initiative - a slow process
- On-going Harbertonford Playing field
- The review of Parish Council leases
- The management of the Community Benefit fund
- and finally of course the HNP - which will benefit from the JLP being finally completed, and is slowly moving to completion after which it will come before the parish council for approval

Hopefully there is nothing I have forgotten?

As I said earlier, the biggest problem we have as a council is not initiatives for the parish but more of how we manage to get them done - many need volunteers from the community in order to move forward as serving councillors already do many jobs that go unnoticed. Additional practical support from residents in the parish is desperately needed.

So Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank everybody for their time, commitment and hard work for the community and for stepping up and being Parish Councillors - it is an important job and of huge value - I really hope you will be standing again in the forthcoming elections on May 2nd. and hopefully working with you all in the future.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Cat for her dedication to the role of clerk, and for providing such competent support and dragging us into the 21st century - on a personal note I would also like to add my individual thanks, as without Cat I would find my role extremely difficult indeed. Thank you

4. Any other business None.

Meeting closed at 19:30