

## HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Harberton Parish Council 7.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Harbertonford CE Primary School.

Present: Cllrs Beamish, Camp, Clayton, J. Hockings, S. Hockings, Janes, Padfield, Trott, Williams, County Cllr Vint

Apologies: Cllrs Broom, Hoddinott, Wynne, District Cllr Steer

Members of the Public: 4

Clerk: Ms Radford

### **Public Session**

- The Parish Council were asked for clarity on the process of negotiating Community Benefit with developers, particularly in light of the 'Community Infrastructure Levy' coming into force. The Chairman responded that the Parish has only received benefit from the two solar farms in the Parish to date, for which the payments were offered and accepted with no negotiation. It was commented that the Parish Council is mindful of potential accusations of bribery and delayed negotiation until after recommendation, however the Leader of the District Council has now suggested that Parish Councils should negotiate early, before recommendation. It was commented that any agreement on Community Benefit will be between the Planning Authority and the developer, the Parish Council may only give a recommendation. In response to the suggestion that Community Benefit is given to the Parish Council, Cllrs made the correction that Community Benefit is given to the community and administered by the Parish Council through the Community Benefit Fund.
- The Parish Council were asked to confirm the status of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and whether it is a committee of the Parish Council and therefore subject to the Standing Orders. This was resolved later in the meeting.
- The Parish Council was requested to approach Luscombe Farm regarding the mud on the public highway. **It was resolved** that C.Cllr Vint would approach Highways to intervene, subject to receiving full information from the Clerk.

### **Agenda**

1. **Apologies** Were received and accepted from Cllrs Broom, Hoddinott, Wynne and D.Cllr Steer. Cllr J. Hockings took the Chair in Cllr Broom's absence.
2. **Reports from County and District Councillors** for information.
  - C.Cllr Vint tabled his written report that included references to Rushbrook's open day on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Youth Club, the proposed zebra crossing at The Grove School, broadband installation in the Narrows (Totnes), DCC management committee has approved the Devon Waster Plan and that the County Council's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy is being recommended to the cabinet for approval.
  - Cllr Vint reported that the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) debated approval of the Old Toll House Cyclepath at length as the costs have escalated significantly due a telecommunications box on route. It was agreed to negotiate with owners of the Old Toll House regarding the boundary for a final time and if unsuccessful, proceed with the plan. C.Cllr Vint was praised for this result.
  - C.Cllr Vint proposed a joint TAP fund bid for access to youth services. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would request information from KEVICC on students of the correct age residing in the Parish for the Totnes Town Clerk's application.
3. **Minutes** Draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 11/11/14 were approved and signed as an accurate recording of the meeting.
4. **Report Matters Arising from the Minutes** for information only
  - Malcolm Elliott had replied to the invitation to attend a meeting of the Parish Council by suggesting to include use of planning conditions in a Parish Council workshop with the Planning Authority in the new year.
  - There was no news on the TPO requests in Watery Lane.
  - It was reported that the Ring and Ride is not widely used in the Parish and therefore it was agreed that the Parish Council would not provide funds to the service.
  - The Clerk reported that road safety at Gerston Cross would be put to Totnes Town Council in January.
  - It was noted that the complaint regarding incorrect grid references on Planning Applications was due to an anomaly in South Hams District Council software.

## 5. Planning

It was **RESOLVED** to make 'no comment' on planning application 16/2926/14/F Erection of wind turbine (225kw) with 31.9 meter hub height, 45.4 meter tip height and associated infrastructure. At: Field at SX737633, Well Park Farm, Dean Prior

There were no planning decisions made since the last meeting to report.

## 6. Works to trees in a conservation area

It was **RESOLVED** to support Application number: 23/2917/14/TCA Fell Fir At: The Old Forge, Harberton, TQ9 7SL.

## 7. Monthly reports for information

**Finance Committee update.** There had been no meetings and therefore nothing to report.

**Neighbourhood Plan update.** The Chairman read out Cllr Wynne's email to the Parish Council following the open meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December to convene a new Steering Group which referenced the formation of task groups on housing, sustainable energy, website and communications/engagement and tourism and that the steering group is looking to recruit more members from Harbertonford particularly.

- It was **RESOLVED** that for the avoidance of doubt, the Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is a committee of the Parish Council.
- It was **RESOLVED** to ratify membership of the Steering Group at the February meeting of the Parish Council.
- It was **RESOLVED** to pay the Parish Clerk 4 hours per month to be secretary to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group until the end of the precept, at which point this time allocation may be reviewed.

**Community Land Trust update.** Both solicitors are communicating with one another. In the meantime the CLT have been reporting use of grant funding and are in discussion with South Hams regarding their loan fund.

**TAP Fund 2013** Announcement of arrangements for the Toll House Cyclepath is expected in January.

**Clerk's update.** No update necessary.

## 8. TAP fund proposals 2014

Councillors considered applications to the 2014 TAP fund.

- It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the School Playground Wall Painting Application drafted by Cllr Padfield on behalf of Harberton Parish Council and supported by Ashprington Parish Council.
- It was **RESOLVED** not to support Ashprington Parish Council's application for weed spraying. The clerk agreed to write a letter stating that the TAP fund is not intended for maintenance projects.
- It was **RESOLVED** to support applications from South Brent Parish Council for a new fitness centre and an application from Totnes Town Council for youth services outreach in principle, subject to full applications being forwarded to the Chairman.

## 9. Parish Council Communications

The Parish Council discussed protocol for information exchange and email use within the Parish Council and between Parish Councillors. It was discussed that Councillors should come to meetings well informed but that discussion should be reserved for meetings and not be conducted via email. The Clerk reminded councillors of the notice deadline for meetings, requesting that any information councillors wish to circulate in advance of a meeting is sent to her before the first Thursday of the month to allow her to process and circulate this. After this deadline, any new issues or comments should be tabled at meetings at the discretion of the Chairman.

## 10. Finance

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

Chq		Inv	Detail	Amount before VAT	VAT	Total
651	Cat Radford	n/a	Clerk Salary (December)	£224.38	n/a	£224.38
652	J Horswill	20	Harbertonford Village Green. As per quote. 9 cuts at £28.00 per cut.	£252.00	n/a	£252.00
653	Cat Radford		Reimbursement for Caboodle order for office supplies: Transfer Files 2 x £9.89 HP 301 Black ink cartridge 1 x 12.14 Kodak 3 black ink cartridge 1 x £9.36	Awaiting VAT receipt		£41.28

- It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk purchase a duplex laser printer at a cost of up to £250.00.

- The Letter of Intention to open a new bank account with Nationwide for the Community Benefit Fund was signed by the Chairman. **It was RESOLVED** that Cllrs Beamish, Broom J. Hockings, and Janes would be bank account officials.

#### 11. Parish Council relationship with Highways

**It was RESOLVED** that discussion on this item would be delayed until the next ordinary meeting.

#### 12. Road Maintenance

Parish Councillors discussed the new Community Road Warden and Community Self Help scheme that would see community volunteers undertaking works from weed clearance and sign cleaning to finger post repairs and pothole and small surface defect repairs under guidelines and training by the County Council. There was strong opposition to the proposals on the grounds that the condition of the public highway is the legal responsibility of the County Council and a volunteer should not be asked to take on the level of responsibility proposed.

**It was RESOLVED** not to participate in the proposed Road Warden Scheme and leave all responsibilities with the County Council. C. Cllr Vint was asked to convey the Parish Council's refusal to HATOC and to the County Council following a letter confirming the resolution drafted by the Clerk.

#### 13. Ground Markings at Harbertonford Bottle Bank

**It was RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask the Highways to reinstate the 'KEEP CLEAR' ground markings to the entrance of the car park in Harbertonford to enable access by the bottle bank lorry.

#### 14. Connecting Devon & Somerset's community outreach program.

**It was RESOLVED** to approve proposals by Cllr Williams to liaise with John Culf and Andrew Hockings to arrange an outreach programme coffee morning to discuss superfast broadband, software and hardware issues.

#### 15. 2015/16 Precept

An opportunity for councillors to make proposals for new projects for consideration. It was reported that the Finance Committee would be meeting in January to propose the 2015/16 precept. Councillors were asked to make proposals for consideration.

- A new southbound bus shelter was proposed for Harbertonford, at an estimated cost of £2500. C.Cllr Vint pledged £1000 funds from the Locality Fund. It was suggested an application for contribution could be made to the Community Benefit Fund.
- Investment in broadband infrastructure was also suggested.

#### 16. Correspondence

- It was reported that from November 2014, the Environment Agency will stop promoting 0845 988 1188 and 0345 988 1188 will be promoted as the one and only number for Floodline.
- A letter from John Culf to Highways was read out, concerning dangerous holes cut on roads outside Harberton and left overnight with poor signage. **It was RESOLVED** to pass the letter on to Darren Cole with a copy to Robert Vint, copying John Culf, and to thank John Culf for his letter.
- **It was RESOLVED** to read HSSG AGM Chair's report received at the Annual Meeting.
- It was reported that the Parish Council has been asked to consider submitting feedback to the Parish and Town Council Conference – Highways. There was no resolution.
- It was reported that Devon Crimebeat funding has been made available to prevent crime and promote community safety. **It was RESOLVED** that the Clerk forward information to the Football Club and the Youth Club.
- It was reported that the 2015 Register of Electors has been published. Notices will be posted in the Parish and the Parish Council will receive an electronic copy.

#### 17. E-Circulars

including Rural Services Network, Devon Home Choice, Devon County Council Community News Round-up, Public Sector Executive are available to councillors. Cllr Clayton requested to be forwarded the Rural Services Network newsletters.

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

- It was reported that customers of the Church House Inn have made complaints on the lack of lighting on the top level of the Parish Hall Car Park. It was suggested that the Publican apply to the Community Benefit fund and petition the Parish Hall Committee (via Cllr J Hockings) to contribute funds for the installation of Solar powered LED floodlights.
- **It was RESOLVED** that the Clerk draw highways attention to the poor quality of the road surface between Tristford Farm and the bus stop which needs resurfacing and the back road from Maryland to Bowden Pillars which is dangerous to walkers, cyclist and soon cars.

- Devon County is reviewing bus services in the County and the Harberton bus service is at risk. It was requested to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting and suggested that Harberton Councillors have a month to discuss this with their neighbours prior to the next meeting.
- It was reported that on questioning, the Planning Authority had confirmed that its guidance on sustainable energy was not going to change, even though it is lacking in local detail. As the Local Plan does not have a complete housing section, the Neighbourhood Plan faces the problem of needing to accord with aspects of a Local Plan that do not exist.
- It was reported that the Local Plan, 'Our Plan' has issued two consultation documents, one on energy and one on history, the deadline for responses is in early January. It was suggested that it would be worth individual Councillors responding.
- It was commented that concerns had been raised about a tree at risk of falling in Harberton. Cllr Camp reported that the relevant individuals have been spoken to and it is likely that the tree will be removed within 24 hours.

Meeting closed at 10:00pm

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015