

Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 10th October 2023

11. Correspondence

- 11.1. 20230913 Data Protection fee - Reminder to renew *For information* Cllrs are informed that the annual data protection renewal fee is due. Organisations that process personal data are subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Under the Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018 (the Regulations) they must also pay an annual data protection fee, unless they are exempt. The Parish Council must pay an annual fee of £40. As the Parish Council has a direct debit in place, registration will be renewed automatically, and a £5 reduction is in place. The fee will be collected on or around 25th October 2023.
- 11.2. 20230919 Abandoned Land Rover at Harberton Parish Hall *For consideration* Cllrs are informed that a Spanish Land Rover has been parked in the Parish Hall car park all summer. It is presumed dumped, although a steering lock and wheel clamp are installed. Messages via the village email has evoked no response. The committee asked if South Hams should be contacted, or what the legal position would be if the vehicle was removed privately.
- 11.3. 20230920 Invitation to South Hams CVS AGM *For information* Cllrs are invited to attend the South Hams CVS AGM at Follaton House in Totnes on Tuesday 17 October from 12 noon to 2pm. In addition to learning about South Hams CVS recent work and future plans there will be guest presentations on 'Enabling healthy communities in the South Hams' with the Assistant Director for Health and Social Care in West Devon, Devon County Council and Livewell, and 'Working together with our Communities' with the Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Community Development at South Hams District Council. After the AGM there will be a networking lunch. Cllrs wishing to attend should RSVP.
- 11.4. 20230921 District Council invests in more housing *For information* The Parish Council has been informed by press release that a top priority for the new administration is that the District Council boosts its stock of homes to address the district's immediate and future housing needs. New investment in the council's housing supply is supported by the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF). LAHF is a government grant offered to councils to help with the pressures around placement breakdown for Homes for Ukraine guests and to support Afghan families stuck in bridging hotels. Under the first phase of funding earlier in the year, the Council bought seven properties in Sherford, on the outskirts of Plymouth, and will welcome its new tenants in December 2023. Due to an underspend in the project, the Council has agreed to buy one more property. The location of the new home is still to be decided. The Council has also agreed to put £475,000 towards buying three properties under the second phase of funding which will be available before spring 2024. By the end of the project, the Council will own 11 homes through the LAHF scheme.
- 11.5. 20230921 Plans Shape Up for Future Talks *For information* The Parish Council is informed via press release that the Executive Committee of South Hams District Council has set out its draft aims and ambitions for the next four years in their proposed Corporate Strategy for 2024-2028. The draft corporate strategy has been developed in response to known challenges, such as the lack of truly affordable housing for local people and the climate and biodiversity crisis. A series of 'Let's Talk' consultations with local people will take place between 25th September – 20th October and will include an online survey on the full strategy, a series of 'short polls' available through social media, conversations with key partners, including town and parish councils, public consultation sessions across the District and a paper survey for those who are not online.
- 11.6. 20230921 District Council finances are in a good position moving forwards *For information* The Parish Council has been informed by press release that the Council has published its draft accounts for 2022/23 which show there was a small surplus of just £57,000 (0.5%) against a net budget of £10.464m for 2022/23. In 2022/23 the Council faced additional costs and a shortfall of income of £1.9m. Many of these costs were a result of the current economic climate with high inflation and the cost of living crisis. The extra costs came from inflation pressures, utility, IT and extra insurance, the local government pay award and a shortfall in planning income. These extra costs and shortfall in income were balanced by the Council generating additional investment income. This income of over £1m, taking advantage of high interest rates, came from the careful planning and management of the Council's cash funds. The Council also received more income of £0.9m from its car parks and the Dartmouth Lower Ferry, along with income from its business units.
- 11.7. 20230921 Consultation Agreed for Support Scheme for Vulnerable Residents *For information* The Parish Council has been informed by press release that the District Council will consult on its Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25. The scheme is reviewed each year to provide support for residents on a low income with paying their council tax. With the ongoing cost of living crisis the District Council is firm in its aims to offer an extra helping hand to those residents who need it across the District. The targeted consultation will run from Monday 2 October 2023 to Sunday 12 November 2023.
- 11.8. 20230921 Council working to improve frontline services for residents *For information* The Parish Council is informed by press release that littering, dog fouling and fly tip enforcement are to get a renewed focus from South Hams District Council. Enforcement of individual offences relating to littering, dog fouling and

fly tip enforcement have proven to be notoriously difficult. The Council has pledged to use Community Protection Notices more widely for persistent offences. This is an additional tool for the Council in the fight against littering and dog fouling. At the same time the Council will look to work with community and voluntary groups and parish and town councils to keep the South Hams looking and feeling as tidy as possible.

- 11.9. **20230925 Memorial plaque for John Horswill** *For consideration* Following the death of John Horswill earlier this year. For many years John (with the help of his son Lee and friend Paul Westlake) had organised the village Christmas tree which sits outside the village church on the green behind the bus stop. Lee will be again arranging the village Christmas tree in memory of his late father. As the tradition of organising the village tree has been in the Horswill family for many years and was one of the things that John was known for in the community, the family would like to have a permanent plaque made professionally and have it installed either on the green by the tree, or on the back of the village bus stop wall. The Parish Council is therefore asked if this is something that can be given permission to do. If granted permission, the family would go ahead and arrange for a plaque to be made in time for it to be installed in December at the same time as the Christmas tree is erected.
- 11.10. **20230927 Halloween Event at Tigley Cross** *For information* Cllrs were informed that a member of the public had been in touch by telephone to inform the Parish Council that a resident a Tigley Cross who has been served a notice banning him from playing loud music on site is advertising a Halloween event there. Neighbours understand that there are plans for there to be loud music playing throughout the night and into the following day. Concerns were also raised that toilets and showers have been installed on site without planning permission, and there are people living on site.
- 11.11. **20231004 #42 2023 DALC E-bulletin** *For information* Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin advertises dates for the 'Being a Good Councillor' courses should any cllrs wish to book.
- 11.12. **20231005 Proposed road closure - Harberton, South Hams** *For information* Cllrs are informed that Devon Tree Services is applying to Devon County Council for a temporary road closure between Little Grove Farm and Westridge House (close to Tigley) on 8th January to carry out tree works on behalf of Airband. As the road closure is on a dead end lane, operatives will allow access for residents and emergency vehicles.