

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on Monday July 11th 2011 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs: Pennington, Benney, Joinson, Mrs Cox, Mrs Clarke, Thorp, Danby, Palk, Veasey and
Clerk to the Council: David Eeles

ALSO PRESENT: 11 members of the public

Before the meeting started members of the public had the opportunity to raise any issues they had and these were duly noted by members and taken account of during the meeting.

1(7.11) APOLOGIES

Cllr Webber.

2(7.11) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After a small amendment to the effect that the debate on Council Letting Policy be deferred until next month because of the small number of Councillors present not because of Cllr Danby's absence, it was unanimously **AGREED** that the June 2011 meeting minutes be approved as a true record and was accordingly signed off by the Chairman.

3(7.11) MATTERS ARISING

6(3.11) Royal Wedding mugs: Cllr Mrs Cox reported that she had forwarded a cheque to the clerk for mugs sold to the public. There were now 14 left which would be sold at the Apple Pie Fair.

12(5.11) Vicarage Road rubbish dumping: this has been inspected by an SHDC street scene inspector but unfortunately the evidence of dumping has been obscured by growth and he was unable to see it.

12(5.11) Highway matters: Lisa Corston has commented on the visibility problems caused by the hedges at the top of Vicarage Hill and will discuss with Jim Morrison and write to residents. The pavement outside nos. 3 and 15 Bampton Close has been repaired. It was also noted that the potholes had all been dealt with.

5(6.11) Travellers: The Coast and Countryside Trust have placed a piece of machinery across the field at Vicarage Road. The episode cost them £2,000. Cllr Park said this was too much.

9(6.11) Fence damage in cemetery: Clerk reported that he had found who was responsible for the damage and was awaiting a response from the Plymouth depot of the Co-Op. He had also

been in contact with Mr Bow and passed on to him the message from Cllr Joinson that he was to proceed with the job as outlined by the Councillor.

Bank damage in Meadow: Cllr Pennington proposed that a local farmer be asked to help by replacing the soil on the bank with some stone This was seconded by Cllr Cox and duly CARRIED unanimously. It was also AGREED that the clerk should write to the offender and warn him that he would be billed for the cost of this if any further damage was done to the bank.

Bus service: The clerk had contacted Dial-a-Bus who were responsible for the service from Paignton to the Willows via Occombe about the suggestion the service go down Vicarage Road and had been told that this service was sponsored by Torbay Council so it might be difficult. The new Country Bus service also phoned in response to say that they already provided a service to the Willows from Marldon.

4(7.11) POLICE MATTERS

Members noted the response from both Totnes Neighbourhood Sergeant Sally Craxford who apologised for the lack of contact and evinced a determination to improve, and accordingly a report was received from PCSO Frain which included two assaults, criminal damage to a vehicle, a driving offence and a cheque fraud. She also apologised for lack of communication and explained that the Monday evening commitment that prevented their attendance at meetings was still continuing as it involved 999 cadets which is for 13-18 year olds 3 of which are from the Marldon area. She invited members to come and observe at the Totnes Fire Station Community building.

The Chairman recounted the difficulty he had encountered trying to report an event and finding his call diverted to Cambourne because Totnes station was closed. Cllr Cox recounted the problems of young teenagers spraying cars at the top shops recently, when again a quick response to a phone call was not forthcoming.

5.(7.11) REPORTS

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

C. Cllr Pennington reported that:

1. DCC were making available either a towable or hand powered salt spreaders to Parishes so that they could deal with roads not salted by the DCC spreaders at £1475 and £603 respectively. It was suggested that they could be kept by the allotments with NT permission. Salt would also need to be stockpiled. Cllr Joinson the "Snowman" and members were urged to think about this, inspect the machinery and report to the next meeting.

2. The Kingskerswell by-pass was up for determination on Wednesday.
3. Regarding Occombe House the Torbay Development Agency in discussion with S. Hams Council has proposed three possibilities none of which he approves of; however he has had a letter from Gordon Oliver (Torbay Mayor) to arrange a meeting with A. Farnsworth, Chief Executive of the Care Trust , the Parish Council and DCC with regard to preserving Occombe House and increasing its capacity to take residents as well as maintaining and improving the facilities for those existing families that wish to stay. Accordingly it was AGREED to make contact and invite Mr Farnsworth to the next meeting.

MEG

Cllr. Mrs Cox reported

1. Robin Cox has had to have a further operation and will have to spend about £30 on timber for f/p 17. This led to short debate on the limit of petty cash spending that was allowed under the financial regulations which will be looked into by Cllr Benney before the next meeting.
2. Volunteers and a local farmer will do their best to deal with the vegetation growth in Village Road that was raised in the public session before the meeting.
3. Meg needs supplies of weed killer but these were only available in quantities that were too large to be feasible. However an opportunity has arisen to buy a smaller quantity for about £30-£40 from a local resident at a fair price and it was AGREED that this should be done.

6. (7.11) LETTING POLICY FOR COUNCIL MEADOWS

Cllr Benney, proposing acceptance of the new policy, noted that everyone has now had time to read the document which was necessary for legal reasons. Cllr Thorp felt the document was very professional and seconded the motion. Cllr Cox asked if the cricket and football clubs had been consulted and was told that the document had been in the village magazine and that the charging element would not come into force until January 2012. Cllr Benney noted that the figures suggested in the document were similar to those charged by similar Parishes with similar facilities. Cllr Cox asked if the charges would apply for the period a marquee had to be erected to when it was dismantled, which could be three or four days, and was told by Cllr Benney the charge would only apply to the day of the event. The new policy was duly adopted UNANIMOUSLY.

7. (7.11) TELEPHONE BOX AT FURZEGOOD

Cllr Cox recounted that the Council had agreed to buy this box (for a nominal £1) in 2009 but at the time she had expressed grave concerns that it would not be looked after and would

prove to be an unnecessary additional chore for the MEG volunteers. She had been assured that other volunteers would help but had to report that this has not happened and the unsavoury mess left in and behind the box, which has been used as a toilet among other things, had led to her volunteers refusing to be further involved. Glass has also been smashed and left in situ. As such the condition of the box was liable to deteriorate further and adversely effect the Best Kept Village entry, according she proposed that the box be disposed of in whatever manner was feasible. Cllr Veasey said he had had a quote for repainting the box which could be done for £100 + materials. It could also be locked. He was asked to obtain 2 more quotes. It was suggested that the street cleaners should be cleaning around the box. Cllr Danby seconded Cllr Cox's motion suggesting that it would only lead to more vandalism and broken glass, and Cllr Thorp felt it was unfair to expect such a committed group as MEG to clear up this sort of mess. There was no future in spending more money on this. Cllr Cox noted that unlike the other box in the village which was a listed building and worthy of preservation this one served no purpose. Cllr Joinson offered to see if the scouts would be interested in maintaining the box and the Chairman noted that Scorrington had voted to retain their box but lock it up. The motion was LOST four in favour and five against. Cllr Veasey proposed that the box be locked and painted and the scouts be approached as suggested by Cllr Joinson. This was seconded by Cllr Clarke and CARRIED 5 in favour , 3 against and 1 abstention.

8. (7.11) PLANNING

1. 34/1547/11/F- 13, Love Lane Close: side extension to form utility room: members found NO OBJECTION to these plans.
2. 34/1567/11/F- 15, Belfield Way: side extension to provide garage and first floor accommodation with dormer. Cllr Veasey proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Joinson Members felt this plan should be re-submitted to lessen the impact which was overpowering and almost up to the boundary, and accordingly OBJECTED on grounds of over-development and unneighbourly impact.
3. 34/1717/11/F- 52, Furzegood: convert property into 2 separate dwellings , change of use of garage to lounge and build new garage in grounds. Cllr Veasey declared in interest in this application and accordingly left the room and did not participate in this item. Cllr Danby proposed approval saying the changes made a minimal difference to the buildings being more a change of use. The motion was seconded and duly CARRIED- NO OBJECTION.
4. 34/1600/11/F- 12, Parkfield Close: single story extension. NO OBJECTION

9(7.11) CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised correspondence received.

1. The response of SHDC Chief Planning officer David Kenyon to the council's comments on application 34/1443/11/F was noted.
2. Commenting on the survey of the Council's play areas received from SHDC Cllr Danby noted that it was seriously out of date and most of the issues it raised had now been dealt with. Members were concerned that this survey which had been carried out in early December 2010 had taken over six months to reach them and the next one was now due. The survey gave a worse impression than was actually the case. The Clerk was asked to investigate this.

10(7.11) PUBLIC GROUNDS

1. Cllr Danby reported that regrettably the plaque embedded in the table at the play park had been prised out by someone who presumably thought it was brass although it wasn't. He has ordered a replacement.
2. 3 horsechestnut trees have been donated for Broomhill.
3. Cllr Cox asked if a bin could be placed in Peters Field at the Marldon Cross Hill end and this was AGREED.
4. Members discussed Mr Egans complaint about rabbits in Jubilee meadow causing problems for the sports fields, but members could not see any solution to this.
5. There will be a meeting of the Public Grounds committee on Friday 15th July at 7pm
6. Cllr Benney asked for an update on the possibility of National Trust land adjacent to Jubilee Meadow being used again for allotments but after Cllr Park reiterated his view that this land was not suitable for allotments it was AGREED not to pursue this option.

11 (7.11) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

1. Cllr Palk reported a serious pothole up Widdecombe Lane in Compton.
2. Cllr Thorp expressed concern at cars parking dangerously near Cox's garage.
3. A delegation of three disabled people have complained that the problem of cars parking on the white line in front of the Post Office meant that they couldn't safely move in this area. The clerk to chase up the Highways technicians (DCC) to find out what they had suggested.
4. Cllr Cox reported that progress in fitting a handrail at the Farthing Lane end of the footpath from Moorview was stalled due to the need to net permission from the landowner but the Chairman insisted that such permission was not needed as the footpath was not on Xmas Tree land and could go ahead- he also agreed to pay for it out of his locality budget.

12(7.11) FINANCE

The following payments were AGREED:

<u>Payments- Main a/c:</u>	£
South Hams D.C. : repairs under swing in playground	132.40
South Hams D.C. : Loan repayment £438.55/ interest £152.49	591.04
Clerk net salary and expenses June	288.60
Internal auditor D Chopping	60.00
Clerk PAYE	66.40

BANK ACCOUNTS as at 30-6-2011

Main Account:	£5,402.31
P3 Account:	£396.04
Environment Account :	£519.00

13(7.11) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

Cllr Cox reported from the Village Hall Council that the kitchen and main hall would be closed for refurbishments for one week shortly

14(7.11) MATTERS UNDER REVIEW. None**15(7.11) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS(S/O No 66)**

The Chairman noted that the condition of the West Lane green lane was deteriorating and proposed that the Council find out if anyone has registered ownership of this land from the Land Registry. Some members felt there were local landowners who would not be happy about this but it was seconded by Cllr Thorp and duly CARRIED 8 for and 1 against.

16 (7.11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING -Monday 8th August

Signed (Chairman Cllr. JT Pennington) 8-8-2011

