

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of the Marldon Parish Council held on Monday 8th June, 2009 at 7.15pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs: Benney; Veasey, Joinson, Thorp, Palk; Danby, Mrs Cox; Mrs Clarke; Webber

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk to the Council: David Eeles; and 17 members of the public

The Vice - Chairman assumed the Chair in the absence of Cllr Pennington and invited members of the public to speak before the meeting opened. Their queries and comments were duly noted, these would be taken into account in the Council's deliberations of the matters raised.

1(6.09) APOLOGIES

Cllr Pennington, who attended from item 3

2(6.09) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the meeting of 11-5-2009 were approved after some minor alterations.

3(6.09) MATTERS ARISING

11(5.09) Report on Communities and Public Grounds sub- Committee meeting: Cllr Webber made it clear that he had offered his apologies for the meeting and Cllr Benney said Cllr Pennington had offered them when he explained that he would be the Chair for the meeting; Cllr Clarke apologised for this oversight in her report.

11(5.09) Dog ban on Great Broomhill: Clerk agreed to follow up his request for this to SHDC

14(5.09) Dangerous reversing at the school: clerk reported on the police response but added that he had not yet contacted the Education Authority in case the members wished to inform the Headteacher first as the police had suggested. Cllr Benney said he had raised the matter with the Headteacher already, who had said that the van driver was new to deliveries in the area, but he still felt that DCC should be informed; this was AGREED by members.

14(5.09) Signage at top of Vicarage Hill: clerk reported no response yet but would follow it up.

12(5.09) Cllr Greenslades' letter re potholes: clerk read Cllr Greenslades response.

4. (6.09) POLICE MATTERS

Clerk read the crime report for May from PC Pearce:

1. Fuel theft from Marldon Service Station
2. Burglary at isolated rural property
3. Vehicle on Moorview had index plates stolen

Members discussed the dangerous parking of vehicles at the top of Moorview but it was established that parking close to a junction, whilst against the Highway Code, was not an offence the police could deal with unless it was causing an obstruction. Nevertheless it was AGREED to take it up with the police and to request double yellow lines at the top of Moorview by the junction on the pavement side.

5.(6.09) REPORTS

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Acting Chair Cllr Benney congratulated Cllr Pennington on retaining his seat on Devon County Council with a substantially increased majority. Cllr Pennington replied thanking those in the room who had given excellent support, particularly Cllrs Joinson ,Thorp, Benney (and Mrs Benney), Veasey, Danby, Cox and Webber.

Acting Chair also congratulated Mr Harrington for obtaining around 300 votes.

C. Cllr Pennington said that he had no reports to make other than that Devon County Council was now Conservative controlled with 41 Conservative councillors.

MEG:

Cllr Cox reported:

1. Grass cuttings had been dumped onto Peters Field
2. The dog bin adjacent to Pembroke Park entrance had not been emptied over holiday period causing unpleasantness
3. Mr Bagget had once again been active clearing up dog faeces, his time someone had smeared it all over the gate near the bridlepath, and members shared his disbelief at the nature of some people.
4. Unfortunately weeds were growing at the shop forecourt and Cllr Cox regretted he was no longer fit enough to deal with the problem and she feared that this and waning enthusiasm generally would mean a poor result from the best kept village competition this year.
5. The handle of the phone box at Furzegood was missing rendering the box unusable.

6 (6.09) DOG FOULING

Cllr Cox reiterated her concern about this and wished for quicker progress in getting a dog order to prevent dogs from access to Great Broomhill. Cllr Clarke asked if it was too late to improve things for the competition inspectors, Cllr Cox said the first visit was in June, with subsequent ones if that was successful in July and the final in August. The state of the Churchyard was also discussed.

7 (6.09) PLANNING

0864/09/F resubmission for erection of house land North of Kiln Cross.

Members found NO OBJECTION to these plans.

As usual Cllr Pennington took no part in the debate or vote in order to preserve his impartiality at the District Council stage.

Cllr. Joinson noted that the second Beacon Hill transmitter had not yet been removed despite the promise of it being a temporary structure while digital transfer took place. Clerk to enquire with Torbay on whose land it was.

Cllr Pennington reported that 10, Marlton Cross Hill should have been debated at the last meeting of the Planning and Control Committee at SHDC but it was removed as the Chief Planning Officer was not happy with the report- it will have to be resubmitted. Cllr Cox noted that the house next door was now for sale and felt sorry for the young family that had effectively been driven out by the inconsiderate behaviour of those next door.

Members expressed frustration that the planning authorities had not been able to do more to deal with retrospective applications like this.

8 (6.09) CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised correspondence received.

Acting Chairman reported that he had received an e-mail from a young person suggesting that the Parish Council had been involved in the disappearance of skateboard grind box from the public car park. Members strenuously denied this though one member did say it would be helpful if the equipment could be put away after use. It was AGREED to reply to the effect that the Council had not been involved.

9 (6.09) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

Members drew attention to:

1. Cllr Thorp noted there was still no progress on the provisions of timetables on the bus stops at Marldon Cross Hill
2. Cllr Thorp also noted that the 30mph sign on the Totnes Road into Marldon was in danger of being obscured by overhanging vegetation. Cllr Webber agreed to deal with this.
3. Cllr Webber reported that despite the work done in Westerland Lane when there was a downpour recently the road was flooded and impassable. Also the surfacing work had only extended to the first few metres despite gritting signs remaining along most of the lane. He suspected that only digging up the road would reveal the drainage problem. It was AGREED to ask Devon Highways for another meeting to discuss the failure of measures taken so far.
4. Cllr Cox reported that cars parking at the top of Belfield Avenue at the junction with Marldon Cross Hill were causing motorists difficulty in the same way as was happening in Moorview. However members did not agree that more signs were needed although double yellow lines might help.
5. Cllr Benney reported that police had suggested that to stop cars parking on at bus stops by the school signs prohibiting that were needed, without which no action could be taken by the police. However members again voted not to erect more signs.
6. Cllr Danby asked what the situation regarding lighting in the cut-through now was and Cllr Pennington replied that they were looking into the provision of lit bollards.

Clerk to deal with above

10 (6.09) PUBLIC GROUNDS

1. Cllr Danby as Chairman of the sub-Committee sought to arrange a meeting of the committee to discuss the work needed at Great Broomhill and the money for recreational facilities available. This was fixed for Tuesday 16th June at his house at 7pm. Cllr Pennington gave his apologies for that meeting and asked that the members also discuss broken fencing opposite the slipway and the vegetation cleared as if for a path into the field.
2. Cllr Joinson referred to Mr Egan's earlier offer from a local farmer to survey the trees around the meadow, and it was AGREED to accept this kind offer. Cllr Cox noted a dead horse chestnut that could possibly be dealt with at the same time.
3. Cllr Joinson referred to the failure of the graveyard wall contractor to start the wall repairs within the deadline given and members AGREED unanimously to formally relinquish that agreement and seek another contractor to do the work.
4. It was noted that some rubbish had been dumped in lower Westland by the old farmhouse.

5. Members enquired about progress with Downalong but Cllr Pennington explained that position remained as previously with the owner being told to rectify the situation or the Council would do it for them , charge them and let the house.
6. Cllr Thorp noted that the Meadow needs mowing and this reminded members to ask if the Cricket Club had been able to help the Village Hall Committee with its need for more storage space; the answer was in the positive.
7. Cllr Veasey noted that there were many plants growing in the wall around the meadow and these would cause damage to the wall if not dealt with soon.

11(6.09) FINANCE

The following payments were AGREED:

Payments- Main a/c:

Clerk salary and expenses May.	£308.00
KJ Thulborn 1 cut Tor Field and Peters Field	£62.31

BANK ACCOUNTS as at 29/5/09

Main Account:	£41,323.67
P3 Account:	£23.80
Environment Account :	£353.57

Members noted that the annual contribution from DCC for the P3 account had not yet arrived and asked the clerk to enquire about this.

The Clerk presented the annual audit return for approval and explained that the balances were unusually in credit as the moment thanks mainly to the receipt of a large cheque from DCC for use in fencing Great Broomhill field. He praised the work the internal auditor had done as he had last year, not only checking all the figures but offering constructive criticism, and was pleased to be able to report that all was in order. In view of the time the internal auditor had spent on this work the clerk asked if there was the possibility of offering him some remuneration for this, although he doubted if it would be accepted. Members AGREED unanimously that £50 could be offered as remuneration if needed, the Chairman of the Finance Committee complimented the auditor on his work. He had also checked the books and the system seemed to be working well. The clerk noted that it was required that members considered any exposure to risk the Council may have, but as the reserves were held in a protected bank and the post Office, and would be used soon, it was not recommended that any change be made. He felt the rigorous budgetary procedures followed prior to recommending the precept by the Finance Committee showed that all risks were being taken

