

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of the Annual Meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on Monday 10-5-2010 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs: Pennington; Benney; Palk; Joinson; Veasey, Thorp
Also: Clerk to the Council: David Eeles

ALSO PRESENT: 18 members of the public

The Chairman 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(5.10) APOLOGIES

Cllrs Clarke, Danby and Webber, Cox (late)

2(5.10) ELECTION of OFFICERS.

2-5 (5.10) ELECTION of CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN and COMMITTEE MEMBERS (note Chairman and Vice-Chairman are de facto members of all Committees):

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Second	Voting
Chairman	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Cllr Palk	Unanimous
Vice- Chairman	Cllr Benney	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Thorp	Unanimous
Finance Cttee Chairman	Cllr Benney	Cllr Cox	Cllr Palk	Unanimous
Finance Cttee Members	Cllr Veasey Cllr Webber Cllr Joinson	Cllr Benney	Cllr Pennington	Unanimous
Planning Cttee Chairman	Cllr Joinson	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Unanimous
Note- all Councillors are members of the Planning Committee				
Environment Chairman	Cllr Cox	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Unanimous
Public Grounds and Community Cttee Chairman	Cllr Danby	Cllr Benney	Cllr Thorp	

Public Grounds and Community Cttee members.	Cllr Mrs Clarke Cllr Veasey Cllr Palk	Cllr Palk	Cllr Joinson	Unanimous
Allotments Cttee Chairman	Cllr Palk	Cllr Clarke	Cllr Thorp	Unanimous
Allotment Cttee members	Cllr Thorpe Cllr Cox	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Unanimous
Cemetary Cttee Chairman	Cllr Joinson	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Palk	Unanimous
Cemetary Cttee members	Cllr Veasey Cllr Thorp	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Unanimous
Footpath Cttee Chair	Cllr Mrs Cox	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Unanimous
Footpath Cttee Members	Cllr Veasey Cllr Danby Co-opted; R. Cox	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Benney	Unanimous
Marldon Land Charity Trustee:	Cllr Joinson	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Cox	Unanimous
War Memorial	Cllr Benney	Cllr Thorp	Cllr Cox	Unanimous
Road Safety Cttee	Cllr Webber Cllr Thorp	Cllr Joinson	Cllr Palk	Unanimous
Emergency and Parish Plan	tbn			

6(5.10) Other Representative Positions agreed by members:

Stoneycombe Quarry Consultative Group: Cllr Palk

Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Cox,

Tree Warden: Cllr Cox

South Hams Council Development and Control Users Group: Cllr Clarke

Village Hall Council: Cllr Cox

7(5.10) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

12th April 2010: Unanimously approved

8(5.10) MATTERS ARISING

8(2.10) Dislodged stone in Church Hill: SHDC are coming to inspect.

7(3.10) Visit by CEO's to monitor school parking- AGREED to ask again for details

7(3.10) Broken sign: DCC are having to cast a new one- in hand

7(4.10) Quarry owned by charity trustees in Kiln Road: Cllr Joinson confirmed this has now been let.

7(4.10) The ramp at Broomhill Meadow is in hand and a decision will be made at a Leisure and Community sub-committee meeting in the next two weeks

7(4.10) Fencing at Tor Field; Chairman requested once again that members investigate this and report back

8(4.10) The potholes in Furzegood have been attended to, but not in Millmans and Kiln Road yet, nor have Bumps in Compton been repainted; no news on the manhole covers outside the Xmas Tree Farm or the road markings at Preston Down roundabout.

The Chairman noted that there was a proposal to drop the kerbs at various places to allow wheelchair access to the school and this included the pavement outside the Post Office which might solve the parking problem there.

9. (5.10) POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from John Livingstone, Inspector for S. Hams East, asking for advice on when Totnes Police Station should be open now that the hours have been reduced to 25 hrs per week (3.56 per day on average). After a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Palk, seconded by Cllr Thorp, that the reduction in hours was not acceptable, duly CARRIED nem com. Members were also concerned that there had not been a police attendance recently although they appreciated the visit of both local police to the Annual Meeting and that PC Pearse has been transferred.

11.(5.10) REPORTS

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Devon County Councillor Trevor Pennington reported that:

1. Local Govt. review; the County Council has mounted a Judicial Review Action in the High Court against the Gov. decision to grant Exeter Unitary status.
2. Council Tax & DCC Budget 2010/11- net increase in Budget= £9,937,000 from £525,554,000 to £539,256,000. Band D Council Tax increase = £21.69 from £1,094 to £1,116= +1.98%- the lowest in 30 years.
3. County Highways budget= £62.8 million an increase of £3.9m on the previous year. DCC Highway superintendents now carrying out programmed safety inspections across entire road and footway network over next 6 months and orders for repair of safety defects to be carried out by South West Highways. Pothole repair gangs will "scout" the network on a rolling programme two weeks in advance of safety inspections. A

further recent Gov. grant of £3.63m for roads and repairs has been made. Brian George, Chief Area Highway Officer South has reported that because highways budgets have been under-funded for 20 years, bitumen begins to oxidise and becomes "friable"- one of the causes of poor repairs to potholes.

4. Other budget details: £250,000 support for flood prevention; £20,000 further support for Citizens Advice Bureau.
5. The County is making efficiency savings eg) streamlining and merging departments; vacant posts not being filled- 300 such held vacant; forming partnerships with District Councils on procurement to save money; Gov. revenue support likely to be reduced in future years.
6. Work schedule resurfacing 2010/11 includes Red Post to Knaves Ash C.

MEG REPORT: Cllr Mrs Cox reported

1. Mr Ecclestone of Pembroke Park is moving back to the Midlands for family reasons but wished to express his thanks to the Chairman and the Council for their service while he has been in Marlton.
2. Footpath work will be starting soon
3. Her attention had been drawn to a large oak tree near Vicarage Road opposite Singmore House, on land leased to the Coast and Countryside Trust which might be under threat from the proposed house building in this vicinity. Members AGREED to ask SHDC to review this tree with a view to a preservation order if one is not already in existence.
4. She has had to make a decision on the request by the householders of Weekaborough Close to have work done on two trees , a horse chestnut and an ash tree, which are not diseased but overhang on Churscombe Road / entrance to Poplar Drive. Adjacent residents who might be affected by leaf drop and shading had said they didn't want much work done, and accordingly she has objected to the amount of work proposed but has agreed some work could be done.
5. In Weekaborough Drive a large walnut tree has been a bone of contention with different neighbours for many years. The current owner likes the tree and it is healthy, but has to admit it has caused serious problems with her neighbours to the extent that 4 have moved away, and accordingly has reluctantly applied to fell the tree. A report indicated that pruning the tree would detract from the appearance of the cul-de-sac to the extent of questioning the continued existence of the tree. If permission were to be granted the tree would be replaced. With the benefit of hindsight the builders of the houses there should have taken into account the proximity of the house to this tree. SHDC officers supported felling followed by a replacement tree.
Some members agreed that the builders were originally to blame and that the tree has grown to the extent that it is a now the wrong tree in the wrong place. Cllr Palk

proposed, seconded by Cllr Thorp that no objection should be made to the felling proposal. Members voted 4 in favour and 2 against, the motion consequently CARRIED

6. Members discussed the quote from Mr Valentine to carry out various jobs to tidy up the village. Cllr Cox proposed Mr Valentine be asked to carry out two of the jobs initially, seconded by Cllr Palk and CARRIED five in favour with one abstention.

12(5.10) CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised correspondence received.

13(5.10) PLANNING

As usual Cllr Pennington did not participate in these discussions or vote in order to preserve his independence when dealt with by the planning committee at SHDC.

34/0668/10/CLP- Pennystone Farm: Members found NO OBJECTION to these plans

Chairman reminded members that they were now in the 6 week period of consultation for the Local Development Framework proposals. He proposed a Public Meeting on Tuesday 25th May, followed by a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 1st June, to discuss this matter. Cllr Cox seconded the motion and it was duly CARRIED nem. com.

14(5.10) PUBLIC GROUNDS

1. Regarding Jubilee Meadow, members now had copies of the covenants which forbade any buildings on this land without the permission of the National Trust. Cllr. Benney reported on the meeting he and Cllr Danby had had with the representatives of the National Trust, which he said had been positive and sympathetic, contrary to initial impressions. It was explained that the skateboarding proposals were likely to be far less intrusive than the complainants had assumed, and the N.T. representatives appeared amenable to the suggestions. The area of land beyond the fence was still designated as allotment land although it had not been officially used as such for more years than any Councillor could remember. Cllr Danby will be calling a meeting to discuss the issues arising. The NT representatives were supportive of the temporary shed the Village Hall Committee wished to erect in the meadow, to the extent of suggesting where it should go.

2. Cllr Danby has discussed the matter of playground equipment for Tor Field with SHDC and criteria have been agreed for releasing the money before September. The question of whether £10,000 would be enough to fund the play equipment needed; it could however be

used to pump-prime other grants. The Chairman stressed how hard the Committee was working but the processes involved were necessarily slow.

3. Cllr Palk said he was still investigating ways in which new allotments could possibly be sited in the new graveyard

4. Members discussed the issue of moles in the Jubilee Meadow which were giving problems to the Cricket Club when cutting the grass, and it was AGREED to seek advice from Ken Carter of SHDC.

15(5.10) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

1. The Chairman gave details of the dropped kerbs that would be installed to allow a child needing wheelchair access from Churscombe Road to the school
2. Members discussed the issue of double yellow lines at the top of Vicarage Hill which had been raised by a concerned resident before the meeting and he was assured that there had been no intention that these would extend beyond the corner of the roundabout to the frontage of the houses there.
3. Cllr Benney noted that a signpost near the entrance to Broomhill meadow had been obscured by undergrowth- Clerk to deal
4. Cllr Cox reported that she had met Emma Stamp in the Belfields and alerted her to the problems of the blind exit from Footpath 22, hopefully this will be resolved.
5. Cllr Joinson reported that potholes were reappearing at Beacon Hill on the Totnes Road, probably because the previous repairs had been onto soil.

16(5.10) FINANCE

The following payments were AGREED:

Payments- Main a/c:

Clerk salary and expenses April	325.55
K.J. Thulborn 2x cuts Tor & Peters Field @ 73.21	146.42
Devon Tree Services Ash in hedgerow (Peters Field)	188.00

Receipts- Main a/c: 1st install. precept 6110.00

BANK ACCOUNTS as at 30-4-2010

Main Account: £33,113.67
 P3 Account: £449.39
 Environment Account : £428.19

17(5.10) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR - None

18(5.10) MATTERS UNDER REVIEW. None

19(5.10) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS(S/O No 66)

Members discussed the two quotes that had been received for cutting the grass in Jubilee Meadow and it was proposed by Cllr Benney, seconded by Cllr Cox, that the Cricket Club be asked to continue with this task, CARRIED nem com. It was also AGREED to thank them for providing the detail they did and their appreciation of the difficulties of setting specific specifications for this work.

20(5.10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING -Monday 14th June 2010

Signed (Chairman Cllr. JT Pennington)

