

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on Monday 12-September 2011 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs: Pennington, Benney, Joinson, Mrs Cox, Mrs Clarke, Thorp, Palk, Veasey and guest Mr Anthony Farnsworth, Chief Executive of Torbay Care Trust (and Director of Adult Social Services for Torbay) who have responsibility for operating Occombe House Centre for people with a learning disability.

Clerk to the Council: David Eeles

ALSO PRESENT: 14 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.

The Chairman then offered the floor to Mr Farnsworth who had been invited to update members and the public on the situation with regard to Occombe House.

After giving a brief resume of the history of the Centre, he said that in view of the lack of progress they had made in respect of trying to move on from the Centre being a residential home, perhaps by introducing the idea of supported accommodation, he had taken personal charge of the process some months ago when he realised they were not carrying the relatives with them. At present there is a "best interest" process in place of evaluating each of the residents' ability to live in a different type of supported environment and it was also being taken into account that this group, who had been together for a long time, had a "family" attachment to each other. This process would end at the end of September when recommendations would be made to Torbay Council. He was at pains to stress that as far as he was aware there was no "hidden agenda" or ulterior motive to these plans, such as redevelopment of the site. They were simply trying to find a way forward for these 7 people. Cllr Thorp said the process reminded him of the lamentable one that had led to the closure of Manor House, and asked what expertise the people making these decisions had. Mr Farnsworth said the Care Trust was an NHS body with a board comprising non- executive members with a wide variety of relevant knowledge and experience and a minority of executive directors. Both he and the Chair had a background of working as social workers. Cllr Cox recalled the close links there had been between the residents and the village including church attendance which unfortunately had been stopped due to health and safety concerns. She asked who had started this process which was proving so disruptive for the residents and their families. Mr Farnsworth replied that there had been a Government

White Paper which had suggested that choice and independence for people in care should be maximized.

He was then asked if the proposals would save money, but in reply he stressed that this was not the principal motivation and that while the cost of re-provision might be slightly less they don't know exactly.

Mr Baggett asked whether in view of the fact that there had been as many as 20 residents in the past but were now only 7 the facility was being deliberately run down. Mr Farnsworth replied that there were constraints on the building even though they have spent money on it. He said that many such people did prefer independent living so there was less demand.

Other points made by members of the public and Councillors included: the need to take into account the increasing ages of the residents which meant they would need more support not less and may need each other more as their parents are able to offer less; the needs the residents have are those of very young children which may not be met in a less caring environment; they were also unable to recognise the importance of such things as individual bathrooms; the impact of stress in their lives if put in a new environment could be fatal; worry that the ultimate decision will be made by social workers who don't really know the residents; the need to take into account emotional wellbeing as well as physical and mental; the opportunity to turn Occombe house into a national centre of excellence. In response to the latter Mr Farnsworth said that this was not something the Care Trust wants to do but the Council might. He also admitted that this process had taken far too long but hoped it would be resolved satisfactorily soon. Finally the Chairman said if more money was to be spent on refurbishing the facility he would try to help with funds from the Devon County Council.

Cllr Pennington and the members thanked Mr Farnsworth for taking the trouble to come to the meeting and be so forthcoming.

1(9.11) APOLOGIES

None.

2.(9.11) RESIGNATION of CHAIRMAN

Cllr Pennington said that as a result of doctors' advice after being unwell and having undergone a serious operation he had to reduce his his commitments and so was resigning as Chairman of the Parish Council with immediate effect, although he hoped this might only be a temporary measure. He recounted that he had been Chairman for 28 years, although he was not the longest serving Chairman the Parish had ever had: the Rev. Trevalwyn had been Chairman for 31 years in the 1920's, 30's and 40's.

Accordingly members were asked to nominate a new Chairman and Cllr Benney was proposed by Cllr Palk and seconded by Cllr Thorp. There were no other nominees and Cllr Benney was duly elected as Chairman UNANIMOUSLY.

The new Chairman thanked members for putting a lot of confidence in him and said that he had a hard act to follow. Cllr Thorp on behalf of the members thanked Cllr Pennington for his outstanding service to the community who owe him so much over so many years.

The Chairman then invited nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman which he had just vacated. Cllr Cox was nominated but declined. The Chairman proposed Cllr Veasey and this was seconded by Cllr Palk; Cllr Joinson nominated Cllr Webber and this was seconded by Cllr Thorp. A secret ballot was held and Cllr Webber duly elected as Vice Chairman.

3(9.11) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was proposed by Cllr Thorp, seconded by Cllr Joinson and unanimously **AGREED** that the August 2011 meeting minutes be approved as a true record and was accordingly signed off by the Chairman.

4(9.11) MATTERS ARISING

9(6.11) Fence damage in cemetery: Clerk reported that he had sent a letter to the co-op but had yet to receive a reply.

Bank damage in Meadow: Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Mr Boyle, the Tor homes manager, and he was liaising with the householder, who had claimed the reason for the gap being made was to allow a piece of machinery to be used on the garden. As this would involve it crossing the meadow members were against this and reiterated strongly that the bank must be restored. The clerk would continue to seek this with Mr Boyle's assistance.

7(7.11) ex-BT phonebox: The clerk reported that as a result of correspondence with BT he had discovered that the purchase of this box had not in fact been finalized because South Hams Council had not given approval. Unfortunately neither BT nor S. Hams had seen fit to notify the council, and the operative responsible had now left the service of S. Hams. However he had managed to talk to a lady at South Hams who had said she would contact BT to withdraw their opposition so that the box could be bought. Cllr Cox reiterated her opposition to this.

Litter Bin on Peters Field: Clerk reported that he has passed on this request and was still awaiting a response.

5(8.11) 147 bus: Cllr Cox reported that she had found out from Country Bus that the 147 service is not stopping and that the timetable has been reviewed from 16th Sept. She urged continued use of the bus service. Cllr Pennington said that there was a resolution about this that would go to HATOC County Council meeting this coming Wednesday and the gossip about the 149 service was just idle rumour.

Footpath 18 stile: Cllr Joinson asked about this and was assured the Council had had 3 quotes for the work at Farthing lane and had accepted the cheapest by far. Cllr Pennington would give Cllr Cox a locality budget form to pay for this work.

8(8.11) Use of Jubilee Meadow: Cllr Pennington reported that he had found the deeds for the meadow from the National Trust and they had put a covenant on the Meadow that it could "not be used for any purpose other than as a recreation field and a village green". In the light of this the Leisure and Public Grounds committee would have to reconsider going ahead with a booking form.

9(8.11) Slipway at Belfields had now been repaired.

5(9.11) POLICE MATTERS

Clerk read out the police report for August. There had been a theft of a cheque by an employee, two making off without payment from the garage, the theft of a sat nav from a car in Compton involving breaking the windows, and a drink-driving offence in Marlton. PC Talbot also reported that the non-emergency phone number for the police had now changed to a more memorable number- 101

He had also checked a vehicle parked in Curscombe Road in response to complaints from members of the public but the vehicle concerned had a valid license on display at the time; he will notify members should this change. Members lamented the increasing number of cars parked for sale but there appeared to be little that could be done about this.

Cllr Cox reported that Neighbourhood Watch now has a facebook page.

6.(9.11) REPORTS

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

C. Cllr. Pennington reported that:

1. He has deposited more documents in the filing cabinet upstairs in the Village Hall.
2. He felt the Village Council should be approached regarding another filing cabinet upstairs as the first was nearly full; it was AGREED to find the cost of a new cabinet for the next meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

D. Cllr Pennington reported:

1. He has had complaints from 2 people about the proerty at 16, Bantham Close which has been empty for many years and was starting to pose problems for neighbours. SHDC officer Drew Powell and found that this property was not registered with the Land Registry. He

proposed the matter be taken up with Drew Powell, this was seconded by Cllr Benney and duly CARRIED unanimously.

2. He updated members of the Snow Warden situation whereby a Warden could go on a course and receive some insurance in the execution of his duties. However members were not satisfied with the clarity and comprehensiveness of this protection and Cllr Pennington agreed to report back on this for the next meeting. He also said he support the purchase of salt spreading machines if a Snow Warden was in place and the DCC would make available 5 tons of salt. It was AGREED to advertise in the parish magazine for area reps as volunteers to help the Snow Warden and the matter would be considered again in the light of this.

MEG

Cllr. Mrs Cox reported

1. In her role as Tree Warden, the leylandii at the rear of 10, Branscombe close had received consent to be reduced to 4.2 meters above ground level which was in line with her (and the Council's) recommendation.
2. A beech tree had been damaged in gales in hedge adjacent to the new burial ground- to be discussed under public grounds
3. As Village Hall rep. she reported that new cupboards had been fitted in the room they were in which had come from the kitchen which had been completely refurbished, for the first time since it had been completed 19 years ago.

MEG:

1. A new lady volunteer is joining in December
2. Timber steps on F/p 17 near stone walling project underway
3. Dog fouling sign has been refurbished and replaced
4. The village came 3rd in the Best Kept Village competition. Although a disappointing result lots of good things were said in the report about the village. With 2 exceptions all the gardens were well maintained. Little sign of litter. Friendly, good community spirit- village rated highly. Phone booth, scout hut and some verges let side down. She thanked everyone who did anything to help,

Members discussed the beech tree in the hedge by the burial ground, which needs a 30% trim to restore balance which could cost £2,500-£3,000. It was thought that this was on Miss Treeby's land, however it was AGREED that the Chair would check this on the deeds held by Bynes. It was also AGREED that Cllr Pennington would contact Simon Putt about putting up more warning tape.

7(9.11). RESIGNATION OF CLLR. DANBY FROM MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL AND PROCEDURE FOR REPLACEMENT

Cllr Pennington proposed a letter of thanks for all the work Cllr Danby had done on the Council, especially his work on the Leisure and Public Grounds Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Benney and CARRIED unanimously.

It was AGREED to advertise for a replacement Councillor on the noticeboards and in the parish magazine and to inform the electoral register officer Liz Tucker.

It was also noted that the election of Cllr Benney as Chairman had left a vacancy for the Chair of the Finance Committee. Cllr Benney, seconded by Cllr Webber, proposed Cllr Pennington and this was CARRIED unanimously.

Next a new Chair of Leisure and Public Grounds to replace Cllr Danby was elected: Cllr Palk proposed Cllr Clarke who seconded this proposal and Cllr Clarke was duly ELECTED unanimously.

8(9.11). NEW STANDING ORDERS

The clerk explained that new model standings were now available, Part 2 was electronic and could therefore easily be copied for new members. Part 1, which carried general advice and information, had to be bought for £25 from DALC and he sought permission from members to do this. Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Veasey proposed the purchase of the Part 1 book and this was CARRIED unanimously.

It was AGREED that members should look at the copies of Part 2 which had been circulated with a view to them being adopted as new standing orders at the next meeting.

9(9.11) PLANNING

34/2147/11/F Little Acres

Cllr Palk proposed, seconded by Cllr Cox, that NO OBJECTION be found to these plans and this was CARRIED unanimously with the exception of Cllr Pennington who did not vote or participate in order not to prejudice his subsequent involvement at SHDC.

10(9.11) CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised correspondence received.

1. A letter had been received from the Westerland Management Committee asking for the council to support and pay for a grit bin to be situated in Brockhurst Park, at a location already agreed with DCC Highways. Agreement to this was proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Palk and CARRIED. Cllr. Pennington offered to pay for this out of his locality budget.

11(9.11) PUBLIC GROUNDS

1. Members noted that Thulborns cutting at Tor Field and Peters Field had been allowing the border growth to encroach on the meadows and it was AGREED to write to them to rectify this.
2. Cllr Clarke agreed to address the issue of the play park report which had been circulated to members at the next meeting of the Leisure and Public Grounds Committee.
3. Mr AJ Field had written complaining about a sycamore and ash tree in Tor Field which he felt the council should take action about; it was AGREED that Cllr Cox and one other would go and have a look at these trees.
4. Cllr Joinson said his attention had been drawn to the new(ish) handrail on the footpath from Tor field to Church Hill which unfortunately finished at the point where there were some steep steps. Members remembered that the reason for this was that it had been thought that to continue the handrail would have involved fixing it to someones garden wall. Again it was AGREED that the Leisure Committee should look at this with a view to seeking a quote for an extension of the handrail.
5. It was reported that the drainpipe under the hedge at the top of Church Hill was blocked and needed cleaning out.

12 (9.11) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

1. Cllr. Thorp proposed, seconded by Cllr Webber, that Lisa Corstone be asked to examine the possibility of "20 is Plenty" signs being fixed on telegraph posts at the top and bottom of Marldon Cross Hill to try and prevent speeding down this stretch of road outside the school. This was CARRIED.
2. Cllr Pennington read out a letter he had received from Niel Oxtan regarding the options for preventing parking on the white line by the dropped kerb outside the Post Office. He suggested as a first stage putting up a Do Not Park Here sign on the telegraph pole and members AGREED to this proposal.
3. The footpath between Nether Meadow and Belfield Way has been flooded by water from a SWW manhole and it was AGREED to inform them of this.

13(9.11) FINANCE

The following payments were AGREED:

£	
<u>Payments- Main a/c:</u>	£
Clerk net salary and expenses August	356.23
Clerk PAYE	66.40
Thulborn (2x cuts)	149.54

Ricoh photocopier (60%)	48.8
Winner Trophies plaque for picnic table- M. Danby	38.00
South West Grounds Maintenance (2X cuts)	108.00
Mr Wolgar for cutting path in Broomhill meadow	5.33
<u>MEG Account:</u>	
Mrs A Baggett, for weedkiller	35.00

BANK ACCOUNTS as at 31-8-2011

Main Account:	£3,571.15
P3 Account:	£344.20
Environment Account :	£610.69

It was noted that on the loss of Cllr Danby a new signatory was needed for the cheques and Cllr Webber was nominated, proposed and seconded for this role, clerk to action.

14(9.11) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

Cllr Palk proposed that Cllr Cox should receive a vote of thanks for her work in relation to the Best Kept Village award and this was enthusiastically endorsed by all members.

15(9.11) MATTERS UNDER REVIEW. None

16(9.11) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS(S/O No 66)

17 (9.11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING -Monday 10th October

Signed (Chairman Cllr. R. Benney) 10-10-2011

