

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday 5th February 2013 at 8.00pm**

Present: - Cllrs Jeffery (in the Chair)
Cole
Cook
Clark
Pearce
Sanders
Simmonds
Phillips
David Atkins (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Potter DC, 21 Members of the Public.

Election of Chairman for the meeting: It was agreed that Cllr Jeffery preside as he had been briefed.

Apologies: - Cllrs. Slattery (previous engagement), Cllr Channon CC (on County business), David Wallace - Police.

11/12/56 Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th January 2013 to be approved and signed. Cllr Cook raised the matter that had been omitted, it referred to the Clerk to the Governors of the Primary School. Mrs Pinney had been appointed as the Community Governor.

The Minutes were then approved subject to the above addition appearing on these minutes (The Clerk said he had no recollection of the matter).

Proposed Cllr Phillips

Seconded Cllr Pearce

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11/12/57 **Declarations of Interest:-** None at this time.

11/12/58 Consideration of creating Chair of Council. The Chairman decided to take item 6 before item 5:- To consider co-option of the following interested people. Hazel Jeffery from Southerton, Ben McGowan from Newton Poppleford and Graham Salter from Newton Poppleford.

At this point Cllr Potter questioned as to why no election / poll was taking place. The Clerk responded that due to the vacancies having been since the last poll, it was agreed that co-option was in order (members having the vote).

Each candidate was given 2 minutes to explain their reason for putting themselves forward.

Hazel Jeffery advised the meeting of her wide ranging interests and work appointments. She lived in Southerton and worked from home and considered she would like to have an input in the place where she lived with her partner, daughter and stepson. She is an Environmental Analyst having worked in many places.

Ben McGowan said he worked in the Education Field all over the south west, he had lived in Newton Poppleford for 3 ½ years and whilst being outspoken, he had the village at heart with a keen interest in current matters.

Graham Salter referred to his company operating in Sidmouth that of Financial Services. He had lived in the area for many years and was brought up in Colaton Raleigh therefore he had the understanding of the village and its surrounds foremost in his wish to serve.

A secret ballot of members was carried out and was scrutinised by Cllr Potter DC. In the first round a tie occurred between Ben and Graham. On the second round Graham Salter won. The Clerk said he would be supplying the necessary papers for reading and signing the next day to the successful candidates. Ben McGowan was thanked for his interest and coming forward.

Return to the creation of a Chairman for either a 6 month or 3 month term. Members considered that if the Committee system was re-created then members would have the load spread and then one member would be more likely to be persuaded to take on the role. It being noted that some members were going to be away for the next few weeks.

11/12/59

Reports

A) Chairman

1. Police. The Clerk read the report sent via email for the month of January, noting the apologies of P C Wallace. There were four crimes reported during the month. This is an increase of two on the previous month's figures. There were a total of 14 incidents reported to the Police during the month, this is a decrease of 2 on the previous month's figures.
2. Any other urgent matters. None.

B) Clerks

1. Income, expenditure, balance of current account - January 2013. The Clerk reported that the bank statement had not arrived in time to complete thereport. He would send same by email and report to the next meeting. Noted. Agreed.
2. To agree new meeting venue and day of month of main meeting. The Clerk had recommended the second Tuesday in the month for an interim if required and the last Monday in the month, main Council, in the village hall.

Cllr D Jeffery explained the reasoning behind this move. It was to increase the use of the building and thus income. The Clerk further advised that the interim meeting would either be held at Woodleys Cabin or the back room of the Village Hall. Members of the public would be advised by the normal procedure of notices on boards and the web site. Members via email and hard copy.

Members accepted the situation by a majority vote.

Proposed Cllr Cole

3. To receive the addendum in respect of SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) results referred to at the last meeting by members of the public (noted).
4. To note receipt of the grant aid from the County Council in respect of the Aid to the Pavilion £1000.00 with sincere thanks to Cllr Channon, noting also the users thanks in respect of the removal of the echo problem.
5. Reply from the Prime Minister's Office, re. loss of land and river maintenance. The Clerk advised that the response was that the letter was being forwarded to Eric Pickles and Defra for their direct response in due course.

Any other not to hand. None.

C) County Cllr

Cllr Channon had sent an email to Cllr Cole advising that there was to be a meeting in the Parish on Monday 11th January, no other detail was attached.

She also referred to the School and had now acknowledged that it was to be a rebuild on site, this was confirmed by Mrs Pinney and Ben McGowan.

In respect of the Liaison Meeting in respect of Half Way House improvement works, Cllr Potter as Vice Chairman of the Committee updated the meeting on the current position when it is hoped that work would soon commence, these had been delayed as the advisors to the Quarry Company had overlooked Health and Safety requirements and new ones had been appointed (note subsequent to this an update report had been received and emailed to members for information).

D) District Cllr Potter on District Matters

Cllr Potter advised that information from Sir Merrick Cockle, Chair of the LGA (Local Government Association), that by 2020 Councils may only be able to deal with the elderly and collect rubbish after that date.

He continued that East Devon was very wealthy at one time, the reserves would however be gone within two years, he further acknowledged that the Government could change in two years time which might make a dramatic change.

He then referred to the 5 year land supply to 2026 and the very vulnerable position the District Authority found itself in at this time. The problem would not be solved until the new Plan was adopted or not after the Inspectors review. He said that 15,000 houses was the District's preferred number but this might have to rise to 17,000 because of Government Dictat. There had been a debate at Development Control that very afternoon with a full house.

1. Cricket Club request for grant aid for the coming season. The Clerk advised that the grass cutting contract had increased in respect of the cutting of the outfield over and above the normal cuts, therefore the Council Tax payer could be said to be supporting cricket etc. Members noted that a meeting with all field users was to take place the next night. The outcome could form the basis of a Council decision.

11/12/61 Matters Raised by Members

Notified before the meeting Cllr Cook - Allotments. Cllr Cook questioned the matter of the creation of the raised beds for disabled use and the planting of Apple Trees on a spare piece of land. The Clerk again said this matter had been decided by the Allotment Holders and had not been discussed with him. It was agreed to remind those persons that all matter must be cleared by the council by report to the Clerk of the Council.

11/12/62 Planning Applications Received

A) 13/0187/FUL Springfield House
Back Lane

Proposal: Construction of new Implement shed and Byre.

Observations: Site Inspection (after the inspection no objections were raised).

B) 13/0145/FUL High Willows
Millmoor Lane

Proposal: Construction of detached garage.

Observations: Support - no objections.

C) 13/0182/FUL Southerton Park
Southerton

Proposal: Garage / Bedroom extension.

Observations: Support - no objections.

D) Late Arrival 13/0177/FUL 31 Lark rise

Proposal: Construction of single storey side extension.

Observations: site meeting (after inspection - Support - no objections).

- Planning Decisions Notified - the Clerk explained there had not been time to assemble these as they were no longer notified by hard copy. Cllr Cole advised that Waterleat had been refused -overdevelopment, flood plain on part of the site.
- To consider any action to be taken in respect of the closure of Harpford Hall, in view of the position of ownership and the public funds put into the building over a number of years (Rural Aid in particular).

- It was noted that a response was awaited from the Archdeacon in respect of the meeting of the Glebe Committee in due course. Cllr Cole voiced his concerns over the matter and said the Council must pursue this with vigour as it cannot be lost to the Community as it had been regularly used and well maintained by the Community. The Clerk gave a potted history of the situation in respect of Rural Aid support.

11/12/63

Closure - the Chairman closed the Council meeting.

Open Session - Mrs Pinney referred to the Clerks comments in respect of Harpford Hall and said that the late Mrs D Webber was Chair of the Committee for a number of years and as a Church Council Member, she knew exactly that it was a Church Hall as opposed to a Village Hall.

Mr Burhop questioned aspects of the two previous Village surveys quoting from the large one from over two years ago and the more recent one in respect of SHLAA. Cllr Cole responded that the Council had considered that due to the perceived need for a new Surgery as required by the Ottery Doctors and the future needs of the expanding community, a larger community hall was required, backed up by responses from the public. Under the SHLAA proposals any landowner was able to put forward land in this ownership for consideration. This was then analysed by the SHLAA team of Officers and Members and sites that might - other things being equal - be acceptable would be considered. The District Council had been persuaded to allow developments in villages with a perceived need and a formula. The Clerk advised a figure of around 40 being considered in Newton Poppleford and Harpford. The matter of CDE and King Alfred Way was evaluated as the best site for any such community use as it was more central and in line with previous views of the Council, that the Village Centre could be moved away from the main traffic flow (a concept put forward by Bryan Woodley at one time). Cllr Cole also referred to the need to improve Infrastructure such as the replacing of the water main through the mainstreet.

Ben McGowan referred to the Democratic process which he considered had not been adhered to, others considered the notice of the SHLAA Open Meeting had not been advertised sufficiently. The Clerk responded it had been advertised in the Sidmouth Herald put on all the notice boards and on the Website.

(Footnote at a previous meeting the Clerk had said that of the 3 Councils he had connections with they had all had the same percentages of respondents).

It was noted that an application for CDE was about to be lodged. There was also discussions on the Devon and Cornwall Housing Association wishing to meet the Parish Council in private to discuss the site at Down Close for Affordable Housing. Members had made it quite clear that the meeting could not be held in private and could form part of the Council meeting in March. This had been agreed with the Association.

Mr Burhop then asked how many times had there been a meeting with CDE. The Clerk responded three with one or so Councillors attending with himself.

Mr Geoff Tenny raised the matter of the dried out Begonias tubours which he had returned to the Council, voicing his great concern that the Council had had to go cap in hand to Sidmouth Garden Centre to seek assistance for the supply of wallflowers. Members explained the

situation on which it appeared a misunderstanding had occurred by someone saying that wallflower plants would cost £450, Cllr Cole apologised on behalf of the Council, Mr Tenny indicated he could have supplied them for £100.00.

A lady then reported problems with play equipment. It was pointed out that SMP had been very difficult to deal with. The Clerk also responded stating that the Digley Company who inspected the equipment on a quarterly basis had pointed out the faults. The Clerk said he would provide Cllr Pearce and Sanders with the full report so that they could address the problems.

Cllr Salter raised a further point in respect of the Appendix to the SHLAA Questionnaire where he said he also raised queries in respect of questions 2 & 3. In that respect he had spoken to someone in East Devon who said that they too thought something was not correct. Members responded in that both Cllr Sanders and Mr Swann had again visited the whole set of returns and stood by their analysis which they had agreed in respect of question 6 which needed a little adjustment and this had been forwarded to the District Policy Unit.

Cllr Salter said he had been assured the matter would not be taken forward until a review had taken place. The Clerk said he would meet with the Officers when next in the Office.

Chairman

Date