

**Amended Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 8.00pm**

**Present: -** Cllrs Cole  
Clarke  
D Jeffery  
Sanders  
Slattery  
Salter  
Phillips  
David Atkins (Clerk)

In attendance Cllr Potter DC

**Election of Chairman for the meeting and to the next Annual Parish Council Meeting: Cllr Sanders**

Proposed	Cllr Cole
Seconded	Cllr Jeffery

Vote 5-2. Cllr Sanders accepted the post and duly signed the acceptance of office declaration.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Cook (Holiday), Simmonds (Illness), Pearce (Illness), H Jeffery (Illness) and C Channon (Prior appointment at Budleigh Salterton Town Council).

**11/12/64** Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were approved and signed.

Proposed	Cllr Phillips	
Seconded	Cllr Slattery	Nem Con

B) Notes of the meeting held in respect of King Alfred Way to be agreed and signed. Cllr D Jeffery reviewed the note in respect of the Village Hall and considered it was not a true reflection of what he said. The Clerk agreed to include a new sentence in these minutes pending advice from Cllr Jeffery. **Amended to** “ The management committee may decide to sell the hall, but a vote by the people of the village is required before they can do so. The proceeds of the sale may be used for purposes in the village, but the management committee decides what that might be”. (As received from Cllr D. Jeffery).

Proposed Acceptance	Cllr Cole	
Seconded	Cllr Slattery	Vote 6-1.

**11/12/65** **Declarations of Interest: (if any) -** None at this time.

**11/12/66** **Harpford Hall -** Rev. Mark Ward Vicar and Mr Michael Taylor (Church Warden) were in attendance to discuss further the future possibilities in respect of the Hall (the Clerk had indicated that it had been established that the District Council had supplied funds to the Hall under Rural Aid, amounting to over £11,000).

Mr Taylor indicated that the Diocese had battled very hard to save the situation.

Rev. Mark Ward, as vicar, gave a history of its management as a church hall, where a group of local interested people was set up to run the facility reporting to the PCC. There was concern as to whether it was a church hall or parish hall. When the Vicar arrived and the fire had occurred at St Lukes Church Hall, the Vicar enquired as to the position in respect of insurance value of Harpford Hall. He highlighted the fact that a new sign had been placed over the doorway covering the old description of the buildings past.

It was noted that a lot of discussion had been held over the ownership with the Diocese. The Hall Committee was eventually asked if it would take on the building at either a peppercorn rent for 25 years or full repairing lease at £5.00 per annum or otherwise outright purchase for the sum of £30,000. It was further noted that in the late Mrs Webber's time on the Committee and Church Council, she always reported to the PCC. The Vicar continued and added no accounts had been presented recently, nor an A.G.M held. It was further stated that bookings and accounts had been requested by the Archdeacon to establish usage, costs and income.

The Parish Council having been made aware of the position had instructed the Clerk to establish the position, as it was considered the Hall was a feature of parish life.

The Vicar said he was concerned to learn that the Glebe Committee, under whose control the hall lay, was now asking £2000 per annum, from the Parish Council and full repairing lease instead of the £5.00 peppercorn payment offered to the local committee. The Vicar raised a point, that various chattels had been removed from the hall and their whereabouts were unknown to him. He then made it clear that the PCC had never requested or received any funding for repairs and maintenance of the hall.

Further discussion continued and it was agreed that Mark Ward and Mr Taylor would try to persuade the Glebe Committee and the Archdeacon to reconsider the way forward. He further stated that he hoped a volunteer group could be persuaded to operate the facility under the auspices of the Church, as a sub committee. It was established that only one permanent booking had been in place, that of the Probus Club. It was noted that Rural Aid Funds had been received by the Parish Council and spent on Hall improvements (these are filed with the Clerk):- (At the close of the meeting Mrs Pinney sought information as to who had received the rental charge for the use of the hall by the Parish Council. The Clerk stated a sum of £140.00 had been passed to Cllr Simmonds in full payment).

**11/12/67**

## **Reports**

### **1. Chairman's.**

**A) Police** - The Clerk reported the last Police report, which had been received for January stating, that there were 4 crimes committed during the month, an increase of two on December's figures.

There were 14 incidents reported, a decrease of 2 on the previous month (full response attached to main minutes and filed).

### **2. Clerks.**

A) Income, Expenditure and current account balance, January and February 2013.

A query was raised as to a heading 'Woolly Sheep'. It was explained this referred to the Company that had supplied the Acoustic Clouds in the pavilion which it was noted were working very well. Good reports had been received. The Clerk advised that the normal finance analysis would be forthcoming from Cllr Simmonds in due course for Members.

B) Report on site meeting with the EA Officer, Tom Walling in respect of flooding with Cllr Simmonds. (See below).

1. Back Brook (SY 08949-89889) - There is a prominent meander at the location with extensive bank erosion and deposition of shingle. The river is likely to cut-through the bank to isolate the former bend in the relatively near future. Mr Atkins suggested artificially straightening the channel, but considering that this will occur through natural processes it was not considered a valuable option, particularly as the surrounding land is solely parish amenity land on both banks.
2. River Otter (SY 08994-89871) - There is an area of scour on the right-hand bank down stream of the main river channel, immediately downstream of the confluence with the Back Brook. The scour is compounded by a collapsed section of block stone revetment at the downstream end of the erosion. We agreed that removal of the failed block stone and placement in the in the scour hole could be undertaken without formal flood defence consent from ourselves, but more extensive works, where additional material would be imported, would require consent.
3. River Otter (SY 08866-90260) - There is an extensive area of erosion on the right-hand bank of the river, compounded by a large amount of in-channel woody debris at the downstream end (I.e. fallen trees and trapped material). The erosion is impacting upon the line of the current footpath. The landowner is understood not to be concerned about the matter. Tom Walling agreed to approach DCC footpaths officers to discuss the matter further.
4. River Otter (SY 08946-90302) - The river channel is migrating in a south-easterly direction, with active erosion being evident adjacent to the public footpath. This is of significant concern to the local residents, whilst the landowner is showing no interest. There is an exposed redundant water main in the channel along with several more pipes/ducts having recently become exposed. Tom Walling agreed to approach DCC footpaths and May Gurney to discuss the matter further.

The meeting concluded with Tom Walling agreeing to write a summary of the meeting and circulate it to those present.

**3. County Councillor.** The Clerk read from an email he had received from Cllr Channon stating:- *"I have been in contact with James Lamb from Devon County Council, who attended the DCC site meeting at Lower Way with Cllr Simmonds, the Clerk and members of the public (concerned resident). He in turn has been in contact with CDE and a site visit to Harpford Woods has been arranged for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 am. Venue to be decided". The road works at Halfway House are indicated to start on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Cllr*

*Channon will attend the planning meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April regarding the King Alfred Way planning application. Cllr Channon gave her apologies (as above).”*

Cllr Cole reminded the meeting of a previous request to Meg Booth for surfacing of the footpath across the field from Harpford to Back Lane. It was suggested that a further letter be written to the EA and County in respect of the protection of the said path and red bridge which needed urgent attention to stop the Otter cutting its use off. This also had an impact on the East Devon Way and to this end, Mr Richard Spurway should be notified.

**4. District Councillor.** Cllr Potter referred to the resignation of Cllr G Brown who represented Feniton and Buckerell he considered his alleged actions had brought the EDDC into disrepute and that a new forum for business would need to be created. He also referred to the refusal of planning permission for the Knowle, the headquarters of the district. This was only put forward to establish the value placed on the site. He highlighted the need to redress the imbalance of funding, rural to urban. He mentioned that there was great interest in the matter of the King Alfred Way planning application which was to be considered by the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

It was also noted that the footbridge washed out below the old butchers shop leading to the Bovis Estate would be replaced in due course as it was a very complex matter to deal with and was not a high priority as other means of getting across were available and it could be 2 years away from replacement.

It was noted that the County Council Elections will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.

Mrs Pinney sought information as to the approval given to Mr Coles at the Farm Shop on top of Four Elms Hill, as the site could be seen from various vantage points in the A.O.N.B. Cllr Potter said he would discuss the matter privately with her.

**5. Grants -** Cllr Phillips stated that no up-date had been received for March. In respect of a query regarding the Football changing room expansion, Mr Zirker responded from the floor that the FA would only provide funding if a long lease or outright ownership was in place. The Vikings had lost interest, he considered a sum of thirty to forty thousand pounds would be required.

In respect of 106 Funds, these stood at £15,000 but were time barred, a question was asked if a breakdown of the formula was available, Cllr Phillips responded the Parish Council had had the full detail. The problem was that the money allocated had to serve a sporting facility. It was again reiterated that we must not lose the money. A suggestion was made that as a table tennis club had been formed, some funds might be able to be used. Mr Zirker then referred to the need of the tennis club for a small spectator gallery placed next to the courts subject to siting and planning permission being formally obtained. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

**6. Correspondence -** E-mail or written. Part A and Part B.

Part A

1) **EDDC**

- A) Notification of Spring and Summer Event.
- B) Car Park and toilet block.

Request for a meeting with EDDC to consider taking over the village car park and toilet block. It was agreed that the Clerk establish a convenient date to meet and report to Members (Note the Officer concerned was contacted and stated that she only expected the Chairman and Clerk to meet with her, then report back). The meeting to take place at EDDC headquarters at 3.30pm on either 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> April (confirmed 17<sup>th</sup> April).

2) C) Stuart Nancekievill. He wished his statement to be read to the meeting, see below:-

*To the Clerk Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council.*

*I wish the following statement to be read out at the Parish Council meeting on the 25th March 2013 since **I am unable to attend this important meeting.***

*Although I live in King Alfred Way I continue to hold a balanced view with respect to the proposed development at this location.*

*What is important is that due process is adhered to **and that the voice of the community is heard and acted upon.***

*I am concerned with respect to the way the Parish Council has been conducting itself.*

*As the Clerk it is part of your (remunerated) duties to ensure that members of the Council are made aware of procedure and paramount amongst these processes is **TRANSPARENCY** of decision making.*

*Recent history has exposed a number of instances where correct procedure has not been followed.*

*I note from the Agenda of the meeting to be held 25/3/13 that an objection has been made regarding Cllr. Salter's Chairmanship at the last meeting.*

*It is my view that "on balance" he did an **EXCELLENT** job.*

*I wish this to be formally registered.*

.....  
*I have previously asked that you provide me with the process to be used regarding the selection of a Chairman for this and subsequent meetings.*

*I wish to register that any process used to challenge Cllr Salter from continuing to Chair the **Council should be held in OPEN forum.***

*Cllr. Salter was appointed following an objection to Cllr. Cole as Chairman with no other Council members showing interest.*

***Cllr. Salter, as a new Council member, offered to Chair as the only person willing to do so and was subsequently appointed.***

*Whereas Cllr. Salter may have a potential pecuniary interest (negative impact on his property) this fact is already in the Public domain.*

*It should also be noted that the Parish Council are not deciding whether to accept or reject this planning application from Clinton Devon Estates, but to advise EDDC on the views of the community.*

*Cllr. Salter (+ one other new member's who's name I cannot remember) are the only members of the Council not to have taken part in the ill advised discussions with Clinton Devon Estates and as such would appear to be the best available Chairman.*

*I request your confirmation / response of this request.*

The Clerk advised he had responded as requested.

(The above views are those of a private individual and noted by the council).

3) **Devon County Council**

**New Sidmouth Recycling Centre Carriageway works.** It was noted that work will commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 with a 10mph convoy system in operation for safety reasons. There will be a complete closure on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April with more carriageway work in November. A signed diversion route will be via Ottery St Mary, the B3174 and B3180 and the A3052 will operate.

4) Later Life Forum noted (nobody wished to attend).

**11/12/68 Matters raised by Members.** Part B item Cllr Cole and Salter.

**11/12/69 Planning Applications received:-**

**A) 13/0370/FUL Down-a-long**

**Proposal:-** Ground floor front infill extension and roof extension to raise ridge height to provide accommodation in the roof.

**Observations:-** Agreed site inspection take place.

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**B) 13/0039/FUL & 13/0038/LBC Houghton Farm, Northmostown**

**Proposal:** **FULL** - Erection of Timber fence.  
**LBC** - Proposed replacement doors, installation of vents, alterations and reduction in height and size of chimney and erection of fencing, over boarding of windows and replacement doors to adjacent barn.

**Observations:** Agreed site inspections. It was agreed to meet at 9.00am on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March and note (the agents were contacted with particular reference to Down-a-long where it was requested the site meeting take place on the Friday. In respect of Houghton Farm the Agent could not see why a site meeting was required).

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**Footnote:-** The site meeting took place and comment and concern was expressed in respect of Houghton Farm. The Parish Council are unable to support the application as they consider the fencing and elevated paving inappropriate in the setting of Houghton Farm a listed building. The Parish Council would accept the boarding over the barn windows if it was painted black to match the other doors and windows of the barn.

The internal alterations were not viewed and the Parish Council suggest that the application in respect to the internal work carried out, is best dealt with by East Devon listed building department.

In respect of Down-a-long, members supported the proposal.

**C) 13/0475/FUL Holly Field, Back Lane**

**Proposal:-** Remove existing garage and add single storey side extension.

**Observations:-** Support, no objections.

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The Chairman closed the meeting.

## **OPEN SESSION**

It was reported that two street lights were not working in Back Lane and one on the Bovis Estate at Chestnut Way. Mr Ted Swan advised that they were on separate circuits. It was pointed out that the matter could be reported via the website with the number of the pole to aid detection. Shan Merritt advised that one of the grit boxes at Venn Ottery had been removed.

Mrs Pinney referred to the replacement grill in the car park and its cost to tax payers and had Cllr Cole looked at it. Cllr Cole said not yet as he had been away (subsequently looked at it on Friday with site inspections). A report will be forthcoming in due course.

Mr Ted Swan referred to Balsam Bashing 2013 and was hopeful that volunteers would again be available. He was advised to speak with Cllr Cook. Mr Swan considered a flyer should be delivered to all householders backing onto the Brook. Cllr Cole added 'and right up to Hawkerland'.

Ben McGowan raised the matter of his email to the Clerk in respect of "Quality of Minutes", he also considered that page 5 of the SHLAA analysis was not accurate.

Mr Burhop queried the Income, Expenditure and again considered that they should include property values. He also asked why the budget was not on the web. Cllr Cole responded that all that was required on a monthly basis was Income received and Expenditure made. Cllr Simmonds was responsible for a full analysis and all the figures are presented at the year end.

Mr Burhop wished to see a statement in respect of the Public Works Loan Board loan. It was also noted that Cllr Cole had stated that the Parish Council was the face of the community and he hoped this would be remembered in the future.

Mrs Swan queried why the grass under the playing fence was sprayed off, she considered it didn't matter if the grass grew. Cllr Cole responded it was better than brambles and weeds growing up, plus the fact that the EA having raised the fence along Back Lane on both sides were paying to keep it clear to allow flood water to flow into Webbers Meadow.

Cllr Salter stated and apologised for his previous statement that comments in respect of King Alfred Way closed in April, but he had since been informed this was extended to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2013.

It was agreed to add to the next Full Council Meeting an item for Cllr Salter to place his points in respect of the SHLAA matters of which he had eight, before the Council for consideration.

Shan Merritt referred to the newsletter now ready for collection from the boxes as previously agreed as to siting, she had added a resume of how to respond to planning applications.

It was further noted that the meeting for the Council to make its observations on the King Alfred Way application was to take place on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending.

The statutory notice in respect of Part B was referred to and the public left the room.

1. Letters of complaints in respect of the open meeting held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 in respect of King Alfred Way under the Chairmanship of Cllr Salter, from Mr M J Gorman and Shan Merritt and requested by Cllr Cole were read to the meeting by the Clerk. It was agreed to take these “in committee” due to the personal nature of the concerns. In depth discussion took place and an understanding of the position noted.

**As part of the meeting the Clerk advised the meeting that he had sought information from the District in respect of Pecuniary interests under the new law, he had been advised that a Pecuniary interest was now a matter that should be reported to the Police, but it was for the person concerned to consider their position, as it could be classed as a Criminal Offence.**

2. To consider the action to be taken in respect of an Appraisal of the Clerk’s working mandate aligned to his contract of employment and position as laid down by the Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of Local Councils “The Joint Body” requested by Cllr Salter.

It was agreed to set up a small sub committee to consider the matter further:-

Cllr Slattery, Cllr H Jeffery and D Jeffery were appointed.

The Clerk pointed out that most of the information was already in the hands of Cllr Slattery and the Clerk would be available to answer any questions. Whilst Cllr Salter had been appointed he stood down to allow the 3 Members above to carry out the exercise.

Chairman

Date