

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Monday 29th July 2013 at 8.00pm**

Present:-

Cllrs Sanders - (Chairman)
Cole - (Vice Chairman & Planning Chair)
Clarke
Cook
H Jeffery
D Jeffery
Pearce
Phillips
Slattery
Salter
Tillotson

In attendance:-

David Atkins (Clerk & RFO).
Cllr Potter (DC)
Cllr Channon (CC) - Later
57 Members of the Public

Before the meeting commenced , the chairman introduced Jane from the Ottery St Mary Help Scheme and Parishes together. Jane said it was a local charity based in Ottery and helps parishes adjacent with various forms of support. Please see her comments below:-

A little bit about the Help Scheme and what we do??

The Help Scheme helps many people, in Ottery and the surrounding Parishes, some of you may know us well, some of you may only know about a part of what we do:

- Transport to and from medical appointments
- Bereavement Support
- Memory Café
- Visiting/Befriending
- Sitting for carers
- Tuesday Group – supporting isolated people to build up friendships with others
- Voluntary Nail Cutting Services
- Wheelchair hire
- Many other individual requests for help

Referrals for service are by the individual themselves, their families, GP's and other Health & Social Care professionals

Ottery Help Scheme has enormous potential to support more people in the community of Ottery and surrounding villages. We want to reach out to everyone one and 'give a little help when its needed most'.

The reason we have not able to do more is that we do not have the capacity to do so:

The Parish Together Fund initiated by DCC and East Devon. Parishes working together to agree a project to fund, to benefit the parishes.

Ottery Help Scheme supported by Ottery Town Council (lead) and surrounding Parishes.

Agreed project to fund ‘Spotlight on Ottery Help Scheme’ - – a short term 12 month project aimed at creating awareness

To promote Ottery help Scheme across the parishes to

- Increase awareness – reaching out to those who need support
- Increase volunteers to support the increase in requests for services
- Increase awareness of funding needs and hopefully encourage further donations and local giving from businesses and the community.

The three go together, awareness of services, volunteers & funding, we need all three to make this work
Helping to build stronger communities and sustain the charity into the next 12 months and beyond.

The Help Scheme will work with the Parishes and community groups within each parish as appropriate. We plan to hold or be part of events planned for the parish. Each Parish is very individual and I will need to be asking the people of the parish how best to reach out to people who may need help, wish to volunteer or donate.

Ask NP for help with distributing leaflets and information on local groups.

New Leaflets funded by Parish Together fund currently being distributed via parish/church magazine.

So how will the money be spent??

The Parish Together Grant will be spent on a temporary increase of staff time to promote the scheme, increase funding opportunities, follow through new requests for help and recruit volunteers; a laptop, projector, screen and display board, the cost of leaflets, posters and flyers to support publicity and awareness; and the general additional expenses and costs for volunteers.

Questions –

Regulatory body? Answer – Charity Commission, recently become incorporated charity (Company Ltd by Guarantee).

Volunteers working outside of NP – Volunteers choose what suits them as an individual

No's of people supported in NP - Guesstimate figures, no data base for stats at present, but hoping to have this in place in near future.

3 people visited, 15 transport, 6 volunteers. Over 300 people supported some three times a week some twice a year. Over 90 volunteers some once a month, some 3 days a week. Lots of flexibility within services and support – works well. (David, having reflected on the figures I realise there are more people we help in the area, we visit 5 people, a couple of people are supported in Memory Café, 3 bereavement support, and probably a few with Voluntary Nail Cutting)

Ottery Help Scheme: As from 1st April we have become an incorporated Charity & Company Lt by Guarantee

A question was asked as to the charge for the service from the village to Ottery St Mary per person. Jane replied it was £10 each.

Apologies:- None.

10/13/15 Declarations of Interest:- None.

Cllr Cook questioned the position over Pecuniary Interest in general especially Property Values.

10/13/16 Cllr Salter again queried the 13th May Minutes in that they were still wrong and in his opinion the vote on King Alfred Way was unanimous. 9 in favour, 2 abstentions had members considered this was not correct in that a vote on the amendment proposed by Cllr Cook had resulted in the motion by Cllr Cole being amended was 5 for it with 4 against with the 2 abstentions. The Clerk pointed out that the response to EDDC was that "The Council did not support the proposal due to the removed of the Hall Site and too many houses". Thus the majority was against.

On 24th June Minutes, Cllr Salter raised a point on the AONB and highlighted the policies laid out in various documents "That development in the AONB is not allowed". It was considered that if there were special reasons, development could take place provided certain conditions were met.

The minutes of both meetings, were agreed by vote.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded ??

Vote 9-1.

10/13/17 Reports

A Chairman

1. **Police** - Apologies had been received from P C Wallace and the report was received by the Clerk. It was noted that there were 5 crimes reported during the month. There were a total of 18 incidents reported to the police during the month. The full report is attached to the main minutes and filed. Cllr Salter referred to the police being in the village with the speed gun also referred to at the previous meeting by the Clerk.

2. To receive the motion from the Parish meeting called by six residents and held in the Cannon Inn on Monday 22nd July at 8pm under the Chairmanship of Mr Ben McGowan. The Clerk read the statement to the meeting which was that a vote of a 'no confidence in the Chair and Vice Chair had been unanimously agreed'. This was noted without comment. (Note The full motion is attached to the main minutes and was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.)

B Clerks

1. Receipts and payments and current account balance to end of June (filed).

2. To report further on the matter of the water main replacement. It was noted that some residents had not yet received the letter from the Water Authority Contractors

explaining the works timetable. The Clerk said he would contact the company to enquire.

3. To report on the water installation re. Church and Old Cemetery. The Clerk had contacted South West Water who advised him that a surveyor was already booked to make a visit in due course. Mr Slade said this was not his understanding and that a fee had to be paid first and a requirement form filled out.

C) County Cllr - Cllr Channon referred to the fact of improvement of Farthings Lane from the Tolle House to King Alfred Way, the funding of which had been approved and included in the budget. There would also be two low level lights included for the dark nights. The scheme was to assist the pedestrians not having to walk past the Southern Cross area of the A3052. It was noted that the Community Council of Devon had been given a contract under the new health watch scheme which could go ahead in October. Note, see Cllr Channon's comments below:-

Response. Re. Parsons Paddock and Footpath creation. Cllr Channon had discussed this with Helen Selby from DCC who had questioned why this had not been completed when Parsons Paddock had been developed. The Clerk had given her the information that it had not been thought of at that time. Cllr Channon had established the grass was owned by the County Council. The Officer agreed to ask her line manager, Paul Downes, for funding to complete the path. If this cannot be found it may be necessary to return to a self-help scheme. Cllr Slattery asked how long might it take for an answer which Cllr Channon replied that she would keep on following it up.

Cllr Channon then referred to the matter of the development proposal at King Alfred Way and her concerns over increased vehicles on the A3052, she referred to an invitation from Clinton Devon Estates to discuss various matters in the area and in particular traffic flow through the village. In reply she had invited Mr Varley from Clinton Devon Estates to attend with her to view the traffic flow for an hour at peak time. Cllr Channon then returned to the question of the Doctors Surgery and Health provision throughout the area under the Wakeley Commissioning area which included the Coleridge Medical Centre at Ottery St Mary. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Doctors had for some years required improved facilities and had been looking for a new site, she considered that the whole provision was a matter for wider consideration and consultation. A debate ensued with many points being made regarding particular need. It was stated that the Sidmouth practice was to be relocated which could have an impact. It being further noted that both Ottery and Sidmouth Practices were at present at full capacity. It was further stated that discussions should take place in respect of Ottery area with the Whateley group. Cllr Salter asked if the Sidmouth Practice had room to expand as this was best for village patients. Cllr Cook then raised the matter of one Sidmouth patient being told to go to Ottery which it was felt was unfair.

Cllr D Jefferey raised the matter of traffic speed on Venn Ottery Road, especially during the last closure of the A3052 with water main bursts and the field fire and the traffic jam that had occurred with two way traffic and large vehicles, which would again take place when the water main was replaced. It was agreed to raise this point at the open meeting on the 21st August.

Cllr Cole referred to the Parish Plan and the views expressed that an improved facility was required which would save people having to travel to Sidmouth and Ottery, Cllr Tillotson

pointed out that at least 2 rooms were now needed to meet the Health and Safety requirements. Cllr Slattery reminded everyone that over the last 23 years the Parish had expanded and improved services were needed.

D District Cllr - Cllr Potter raised the matter of the open meeting to be held in the village between 4pm and 7pm on the 21st August in respect of the water main replacement and the bus service by Stagecoach (note the Clerk has since received a draft plan forwarded to Members) for information. Cllr Potter advised the meeting that the Local Plan had been deposited that very day with the Inspectorate at Bristol. He then referred to the Knowle headquarters of the EDDC saying that it was not now fit for purpose and that Knowle Offices were not a viable option as the costs of running it are out of proportion (East Devon Extra News refers). He confirmed that EDDC would be debating the King Alfred Way application on the 20th August.

E Cllr Phillips - Grants - Cllr Phillips reported that in respect of S106 funds there was £15,000 available to be used within 10 years, it was noted that the sum under individual Heads had to be spent on those items such as play equipment, land purchase, or cycle way provision. Cllr Salter suggested that could some not be used to repay the loan on the Webbers Meadow Land Purchase. Cllr Phillips was asked to investigate further with Sulina Tallack at EDDC.

F Cllr Cook - Re. Balsam Bashing - Cllr Cook said she had made contact with the quarry Manager and two people were available to help, she further advised that Mr Swan was organising the next two forays being Friday and Sunday that week meeting at Venn Ottery Road Bridge up to Goosemoor.

G Correspondence -

1. Smiths Gore - Re. Harpford Hall. Response from residents. The Clerk said that he had received over 40% response to the letter delivered to all Households in Old Harpford, fully supporting the Parish Council in its efforts to try to re. open the facility. The meeting noted that the Clerk had made contact with Mr Dixon of the Agents and suggested a meeting to take the matter forward was required. A survey was required on the bridge and he would seek the help of EDDC Building Control or an Engineer.

2. Letter from G Cameron-Webb in respect of observations on the first planning application for King Alfred Way (circulated to Members). The Clerk duly read the letter which was written in CAPs and was noted by members. It was agreed however that those reasons for not supporting the application should now be forwarded to the District. Cllr Salter pointed out that the Clerk had not done this at the time due to the police enquiry, but they had indicated to carry on as normal. It was further debated and agreed that they be forwarded to the District for attachment only to the first application as the second revised application had a completely different motion sent in response.

Any other - not to hand at time of printing the Agenda.

1. Letter from Linda Hunt in respect of support of Cllr Chris Cole's letter of reply to the minority Group of residents who met at the Cannon Inn on Monday 22nd July at 8 pm as referred to earlier (Note the letter is attached to the main Minutes and filed).

2. Letter signed by 32 residents in respect of thanking Cllrs for their voluntary work for the

whole parish “A thankless task”.

Medical Facilities - “Dire need of new medical facilities reducing need to travel to Ottery, including the expense this would incur.

3. Affordable Housing - “This is needed for the younger generation of villagers and more social housing for the elderly population, warden controlled flats or small bungalows.

4. Community Hall - “A new Community Hall is needed to improve sports facilities etc., the list could be endless”. It could become the Hub of the Community as the Halls at the moment lack space and parking. These matters were referred to in the Parish Plan. Many other matters were referred to in the letter culminating in support for the Chairman and Vice Chairman concluding with “We say let the Parish Council carry on working on our behalf for us all instead of condemning them, maybe even try helping them and please can they be noted in the July Minutes”. Signed by 32 Parishioners (Note the full letter is attached to the main minutes, filed and a copy forwarded to EDDC.)

Letters from Venn Ottery Residents Association signed by the Chairman Beryl Pym RGN.DMS. It was noted that they were supporting 40 houses in the parish and the inclusion of a new surgery and possible other community facilities if this aligns with a majority view of the residents of Newton Poppleford and Harpford. They did wish however that some thought be given to the access to the complex. The letter concluded with the offer of further help to the Council on the matter (Note the full letter is affixed to the main minutes and filed).

In response to the letter of the 11th June 2013 to the Planning Officer, Ed Freeman in respect of the development of land south of King Alfred Way and concerns raised with regard to statements in the applicants planning statement where it stated that the development had the parish councils explicit support he responded as follows:-

A planning statement is not in itself a legal document but applicants are required to be truthful and should not knowingly mislead the Planning Authority. He did not believe there was any intention to mislead or be untruthful in this case. He continued at the time it was written, the statement was not in his opinion an unreasonable understanding of the situation based on the information from the submitted SHLAA documents. He also added it would in his opinion be unreasonable for the District Council to require them to change their submission. It was further noted that their consideration of the views of the Parish Council were to be made entirely based on the parish councils written response to the application and not statements made by third parties. Noted.

10/13/18 Matters raised by Members

A) Doctors Surgery - Cllr Slattery

This item referred mainly to the matter of a letter that Cllr Salter had received from the Ottery Doctors and the Statement made by Cllr Salter that the Doctors had no funding available to even consider equipping a new surgery. He had promised to give a copy of the said communication to Cllr Slattery and later the Clerk. This had not occurred, Cllr Phillips had however received it and made it available. This appeared to give quite a different account of the situation “We support improved medical facilities for Newton Poppleford, we would not

look into funding before a planning decision is made”.

Cllr Salter in response said he had visited the Practice Manager and sat down and talked the matter through, he maintained he had not misled anyone on the fact as the Doctors had no budget, he was sorry if the Council felt misled. Members pointed out the letter in their opinion did not condemn the matter out of hand but made it clear “That until a planning decision is approved or refused, no funding can be considered. Members pointed out that the latest letter from the Doctor’s dated the 20th June 2013 and read to the previous meeting acknowledged that Clinton Devon Estates were now prepared to build and fit out the said building.

B) Cllr Cole - Breach of the Code of Conduct

Cllr Cole read from a prepared statement calling for a seconder to his proposal....

“I propose to ask the members of NPPC to vote on whether they consider Councillor Salter has breached the code of conduct. The breaches I believe that have occurred include but are not limited to the following.

1. He has deliberately misled the Parish Council and the wider community by saying he had received a letter from the Coleridge doctors stating they have not got the funds to furnish or equip the surgery, we now have the letter and it says nothing of the sort
2. On numerous occasions Councillor Salter has made representation and had discussions with officers of EDDC and the wider community purporting to represent the NPPC without a mandate from the NPPC. (examples Sue Stokes practice manager at Coleridge Medical Centre, CDE planning representative Leigh Rix, EDDC officer for policy SHLAA- Matt Dickins, EDDC head of planning - Ed Freeman).
3. He has disclosed private communications between Councillors in a flagrant attempt to bring the parish council into disrepute
4. After being advised by the EDDC monitoring officers that he has DPI he continued to speak and vote instead claiming he only has a personal interest, under the code of conduct anybody with a personal interest must not try to influence the outcome of the matter under discussion, voting is the ultimate attempt to influence.
5. Failure to complete his signed declaration of interests / code of conduct declaration in respect of land holdings and source of remuneration.
6. An overall failure to act as a member of the Parish Council

Could I have a seconder for my motion, which is: Councillor Salter has breached EDDC code of conduct which has been adopted in full by NPPC, his breaches include one or more of the list I have just read out but are not necessarily limited to this list.

This finding by the Parish Council will be put before the Local Government Monitoring Officer for determination of the consequences of the (Councillors) breach of the Code of Conduct.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr Phillips. Vote 9-1. Cllr Cook had left the meeting by the time of this vote.

10/13/19 - Planning Applications

A) 13/1419/FUL

South View
Exmouth Road

Proposal:- Construction of replacement detached bungalow.

Observations:- Site Inspection - Support, no objections.

B) 13/1564/FUL

14 Chestnut Way

Proposal:- Construction of single storey rear extension.

Observations:- Members support this application provided that the undertaking given by the applicant in that the measures to locate electrical sockets above normal level, plastic skirting, use of ceramic tiles are adhered to.

C) 13/1480/FUL

Vine Cottage
High Street

Proposal:- Erection of single storey side extension.

Observations:- Site Inspection - Members visited the site and support the proposal. It was noted that a SUD system was indicated to the front of the property and questioned if an attenuation sump could be incorporated in case of exceptional rainfall on the paved areas.

Report on the Site Inspection at Popplefords, Exeter Road - Cllr Cole gave an overview of the development which had already been carried out. He had with Cllr Pearce agreed that the main area of raised board area was acceptable as was the conversion of the building but that the meeting could not support the establishment of the Gazebo some 20 metres away from the main complex as this would extend into the AONB and be out of keeping.

Members noted the comments and accepted them confirming the response to the Planning Authority. At this point the Chairman drew the meeting to a close, thanking everyone for their attendance.

OPEN SESSION

1. Mrs Simmonds in respect of development on Exmouth Road considered there was a need to inspect the property at the rear as she considered it to be close to the neighbours in Littledown Orchard.
2. Mr Swan thanks Cllr Channon for her joined up thinking.
3. Mr Zirker re. Pre-school building on land forming part of the new school build expressing his concern that it could mean closure of the pre-school if provision is not made within the new set up. It was noted that no plans were yet available. Cllr Sanders responding to the request re. resignation, pointed out he did not want to be the Chair of the Council but considered that in the best interest of the Council he was prepared to carry out the task with dignity.