

**Minutes of Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 25th November 2013 in the Village Hall at 8pm**

Present: - Cllrs Sanders (Chairman), Cole (Vice Chairman), Cooke, H Jeffery, D Jeffery, Pearce, Phillips, Salter, Slattery, Tillotson

Apologies: - Cllrs Clarke and C Channon (CC).

10/13/27 **Declarations of Interest: -** None at this time.

10/13/28 **Reports**

1. Chairman's

A) Police – Apologies were again received from the Police but 3 emailed reports were read, in respect of August, September and October 2013.

1. August – There were 3 crimes reported, a decrease of five on the previous months figures. There were a total of 21 incidents reported, a decrease of 2 on last month.
2. September – There were four crimes reported during the month an increase of one on the previous month. There were a total of 10 incidents reported during the month, a decrease of 11 on the previous month.
3. October – There were 6 crimes reported during the month, a decrease of two on last month. There were a total of 25 incidents reported during the month, an increase of 15 on the previous month. It was noted that this increase was solely down to complaints relating to the one way systems in Back Lane and Dotton Lane. 20 violations were dealt with by the Police (Reports filed).

B) **Complaint in respect of the process of establishing vacancies for Councillors**

Cllr Salter raised the matter in response to a complaint from Ms Val Ranger from Harpford and asked why no answer had been forthcoming after 6 months. A letter from ex Cllr D. Simmonds was read to the meeting, the outcome of which Cllr Salter considered supported the complainant's question. Cllr Salter continued that "It is a serious allegation against the Clerk" and needs further investigation.

It was agreed to further review the whole matter, it being pointed out by Shan Merritt that there was a procedural note in the new newsletter. It was also noted that the Chairman was to make a full reply in due course.

2. Clerks

- A) Receipts, Payments and Balances on the current account to end of October. (Previously copied to Members and placed on seats for the public). Noted and filed.
- B) Landscape sheets of current position against budget and year end probable (tabled and placed on seats for the public). Noted and filed.

- C) To receive the notes on the open meeting held to consider the creation of a neighbourhood plan. The Clerk pointed out that Matt Dickins had made a response which was included in the notes. It was further noted that whilst no Officer could attend upon the Council at this time (due to work commitments, there was a possibility of a new appointment at EDDC to deal entirely with such matters). The Clerk added that the Champion from Lymptone was prepared to come and give an overview at the next meeting, which it was noted would be arranged for January 2014. Cllr Cole and H Jeffery considered that EDDC arrange an open meeting for all Parish and Town Councils to meet, discuss and advise on the matter.

Proposed Cllr Cole

- D) To update the meeting on the Harpford Hall current position. The Clerk advised that a structural survey of the building was to take place on Wednesday 27th at a cost of £300 plus VAT as opposed to a previous respondent at £800 plus VAT. Members noted the position and made it clear that on receipt of the report, a further decision could be made. The Clerk also referred to the fact that he had received an undertaking to pay 50% of the charge from the Harpford Social Club. It was also noted that the residents are all most supportive of the actions taken by the Parish Council. (Indeed, since the meeting I have had 3 phone calls to establish the current position).

Cllr Phillips questioned the previously held view that the Council should not become involved in the day to day running of the complex, but Val Ranger from the floor said she considered the matter could be resolved. The Clerk said he had advised Smiths-Gore, the Agents for the Diocese that it was better to move the matter forward, as opposed to doing nothing and losing the opportunity.

- E) To receive the Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on the 5th February 2013, omitted previously. The Clerk pointed out this had been brought to his attention by Cllr Salter who had wished to know who was in attendance.

- F) Date of the next Meeting

The Clerk sought guidance as to the next meeting date due to the Christmas period. It was agreed to meet on the 16th December at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

3 County, Cllr Channon. Had sent an E Mail set out below.

I visited the Burrow bus stop today and looked at the footpath. I have now asked Meg Booth to get the lengthsman to tidy it up as soon as possible. There is a path along this route but it has simply become overgrown and neglected. If trimmed to the path area I consider that it should be able to take the width of a wheel chair.

With regard to the replacement bridge over Back Brook, the matter is under further investigation once Officers are available.

4 District

Cllr Potter referred to further savings that the District Council had to make as the Government Grant was being further reduced by 43%. It was a very serious situation. He then referred to the Local Plan which was now with the Inspectorate and said it was hoped that the matter would receive endorsement in the Autumn of 2014.

In respect of the move from Knowle of EDDC, four sites were now actively under scrutiny. The move was estimated to save £500,000 per year on running costs.

He further pointed out his support for a Neighbourhood Plan where he considered the information from the Village Plan would assist. He also made it clear that the questions asked in respect of the Village Plan had been taken from information from the Community Council of Devon.

10/13/29 Grants – Cllr Phillips

It was noted that ‘Awards for All’ was a way that could support areas for fixed equipment. To this end suggestions were again made, such as netting to prevent cricket balls entering the Children’s Play Area, especially if league cricket was allegedly to be played. It was noted that the Public had to be involved in all matters of Grant Aid.

Mr Zirker spoke on the matter of use of the field and grass cutting, he again said in his view the grass cutting was not satisfactory as clods of grass caused the balls to slow down so that runs could not be fully exploited. It was agreed that the whole matter should be discussed at the meeting of the Trustees which had not yet taken place. It would be held in the beginning of December (Now arranged for Thursday 12th December at 8.00pm).

10/13/30 Correspondence

A) East Devon District Council

1. Towns and Parish Council’s ‘Viewpoint Survey’. The Clerk started to state the questions but was stopped. He was asked to forward them to Members by email so that they could all answer and respond to the Clerk for a composite response. Cllr Salter said it should be thrown away.
2. Treasurer’s advice note re. Precept for next financial year. It was noted that the government had not yet decided whether there would be a 2% cap on any increase in Council Tax applied to Parish and Town Councils and the advice given was to produce two budgets, one with no restriction and one with only a maximum of 2% increase if required. The meeting noted that Government Grant Aid that was given last year to assist Parish and Town Councils to overcome the introduction of a new formula of support was to be reduced by 14% on last year (last years support was £2,800 to this parish).

10/13/31 Matters Raised by Members

1. Cllr Salter raised the matter of the Village Carnival and the need for support by the Parish Council, he considered that if nothing was done there would be no more Carnivals held in the village. It was noted that it costs in the region of three and a half to four thousand pounds to put on, he hoped people would attend the AGM so that the Committee could be supported. Cllr Salter considered that a financial contribution should be made. Shan Merritt advised that something could be put together to put on the website. It being further considered that the younger people were not now interested. David Zirker added that for the last few years it had been said that it was the last year.

Cllr Salter proposed that £500 be given to assist, this did not receive a seconder but that further consideration could be given after further talks and information on the matter had taken place. It was also noted that some of the current committee were resigning and replacements were needed.

2. Cllr Salter then raised the matter of the review of the SHLAA process which was minuted from the last meeting to have been put on this Agenda. As this had been overlooked it was requested it be put on the next Agenda for the 16th December. Agreed.
3. The matter of the Councils computer was then raised with a question as to why the offer from Mr Coppell had subsequently not been taken up. Cllr Salter considered the minute was inaccurate. Members however responded that as the machine had not been operating satisfactorily, the Clerk had discussed it further and it was decided to move to a lap top machine as this was considered on balance to be able to be moved around (It was also noted that with EDDC going paperless in the near future and that Planning Applications would then not be in paper form, this could be more useful with a projector and screen presentation).

10/13/32 Planning Applications Received

13/2408/FUL

Littledown Farm, Littledown Lane

Proposal: Garage and store (partially retrospective) revised design and layout to previous application 09/1951/FUL.

Members were updated with the detail as to the proposal being part retrospective and part as firstly approved. It was considered that a site inspection be carried out on Saturday morning at 9.00am (it was noted that only Cllr Cook, Tillotson and Cole could attend).

10/13/33 Closure

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Open Session

On the matter of the Neighbourhood Plan meeting it was stated that a note was to be produced and put through all the properties in the parish to notify residents of the

concept and meeting date. Cllr Cook made the point that it had to be a few to each volunteer to deliver.

Mr Burhop raised various queries in respect of the Accounting procedure and considered that the system previously adopted needed to be changed so that monthly values of property etc could be noted by persons who did not regularly attend. It was suggested by Cllr H Jeffery that perhaps Mr Burhop would like to advise on this approach. Cllr D. Jeffery referred to the fact that he had on previous occasions suggested that Mr Burhop consider joining the Council. The Clerk said everything was done to the requirement of the auditors on the prescribed forms. In respect of the query on the Village Hall figures, this matter would be reviewed in light of the query (In the event Members could not see where the question arose). He also referred to the subscription charges. The Clerk said they referred to the DALC Sub and the Clerks Association Membership fee. On the matter of the other Council the Clerk was involved with, did they pay towards that. The Clerk responded it was under consideration, but the Association had sent a separate membership request. On the question of who had paid for the lap top the Clerk said he had as it would assist his working.

An outburst from a member of the public was noted during the meeting and an apology given and accepted. This was in respect of the Chairman allowing other members of the Public to speak and not the complainant.

Chairman

Date