

**Minutes of Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 24th February 2014 at 8pm.**

At the start of the meeting Toby Taylor from the RSPB addressed the meeting on the subject of the management of Harpford and Aylesbeare commons. He explained the working relationship between interested parties and the Pebble bed heaths, it was noted that they had received the highest designation and were the crème de crème in the field of management. It was also stated that in respect of the fencing in, it had taken 14 months to gain approval. Toby stated that all gates, styles etc were virtually now in place. In respect of stocking there were 14 Dartmoor ponies on 500 acres and that there would be 20-40 cattle, non-breeding, non-horned, in the summer months, grazing as well. They were all hired in and no bulls or calves would be present. Cllr Salter said it was all fantastic but there was barbed wire close to the footpath which could be a danger to walkers. He also referred to a water course that overflowed. Cllr Pearce questioned, what had happened to the commoners rights, Toby explained that there was now only one such person with Rights. On the question of the Lease to the RSPB, it was noted that it had run out but a rolling one was in place whilst the matter was sorted out, and a new Lease put in place. Toby was thanked for his attendance and information given; he was to look into the points raised.

Present: - Cllrs Sanders Chairman, Cole, Clarke, Cook, H.Jeffery, Pearce, Phillips, Salter, Slattery & Tillotson

Apologies: - Cllr D. Jeffery

In attendance: - Cllr Channon CC, Cllr Potter DC, D G Atkins (Clerk).

10/13/45 Minutes of the last meeting held on December 16th and January 27th – It was noted that the 16th December Minutes had been amended.

- Cllr Salter that they were still not in line with his points previously raised. He was asked to forward in writing his required wording.
- There was also a query raised in respect of 27th January under Reports/Chairman/Police in which Cllr Cook sought clarification in respect of whether under the police report, had anyone been fined in respect of speeding through the village. The Clerk advised he had asked for clarification but had not received a response.
- It was further noted that in respect of the Special DMC Meeting, no answer had been given as to why no-one attended to give an update on the Parish Council's observations in respect of King Alfred Way. The Chairman said it was not possible for him to attend and indeed it was only a request for the Chairman of Councils to attend and everyone had until 10th March 2014 to make their points to the District, to be taken into consideration when the village section of the District Plan was reviewed by Officers prior to its Examination by the Inspector.

10/13/46 Reports

A) Clerks

1. To receive the receipts re. Payment schedule and bank balance for January 2014. It was noted these had been given to the public in hard copy and the

Clerk read out the items therein, for Members (now attached to the main minutes and emailed to Members).

2. **Harpford Hall** – To up-date Members on the current position in respect of the Hall (Legal and operational). The Clerk was asked to read out two letters on the subject, one written to the Archdeacon and copied to Smiths Gore and Smiths Gore's response on behalf of the Diocese (copies attached to the main Minutes and filed). It was noted that the Diocese would not give any leeway on the matter of the lease and the requirement to keep the building in a good state of repair and maintenance and to carry out any defects during the 20 year period.

- Cllr Cole said he was most disappointed with the Diocese view as expressed by Mr Dixon of Smiths Gore and not from the Archdeacon.
- It was felt it was a Draconian lease. In general the Council was still supportive of the concept but it was considered the Council could not take on such a responsibility. The Chairman at this point closed the meeting to allow public comment.
- Mr Burhop put forward the idea of the Parish Council purchasing the property via a loan, the purchase to be a discounted consideration.
- Shan Merritt considered a purchase price of £20,000 could be considered. A Harpford resident mentioned that they had been offered the freehold for £30,000. However, it did come with some strict covenants regarding use etc.
- Haylor-Lass reminded the meeting of the point that the Hall came under the auspice of a charity and that it just can't be given away. A query was raised as to why Mark Ward had considered the Church would run it; there was also the question of Insurance. It was noted that at the rental proposed of £500 P.A. it equated to only £10 per week. It was considered that Mark Ward, the Press and Spotlight should be contacted.
- The Chairman re-opened the meeting and further debate took place resulting in the Clerk being instructed to write to Smiths Gore requesting if a sale could be considered on preferential terms to the Parish Council.
- Any other urgent matter.
- The Clerk referred to two matters requiring responses, one from Mrs Coppel and Ms Cameron-Webb which had not been received before the Agenda was produced. (Noted to be dealt with at the next meeting.)

B) County Cllr

1. Budget, Red Bridge, Harpford Hall Bridge, Quarry Lorries and Road Repairs, Roundabout (Meeting with Paul Downs) and Liaison Meeting at Woodbury Bridge A3052 to fields.

C) District Cllr

1. Cllr Potter referred to the next Quarry Liaison Meeting and that he would be able to take anyone interested to attend with him. On the matter of EDDC's Council Tax there was no increase attributed to EDDC but Police and Fire were up by 1.99% each and also it was a balanced budget for the 3rd year running. The EDDC Local Plan is being reviewed by the Inspector at this moment. He also mentioned that the Village section of the Plan comments to be received by EDDC by 10th March 2014 at 12 noon which would then be reviewed by Officers before going to the Inspector. He was also very pleased to announce that the pig farm appeal at Venn Ottery had been dismissed. He then referred to the move from the Knowle to Skypark, pointing out it was to be finally decided in July after further costings etc had been received.

D) Grants – Cllr Phillips

1. Cllr Phillips referred to the possibility of obtaining a grant of £10,000; he had had two responses to his request from the newsletter, both from people on the Parish Council. It was agreed to discuss them at a future meeting.

E) Neighbourhood Plan Consideration

- To agree to support the creation of a steering group to carry the concept put forward as proposed by the open meeting held in the pavilion on 31st January 2014. It was also noted that the Clerk had received three names of interested parties to join the group.
- The Clerk advised that Cllr Longhurst had indicated at that meeting that the next move was to get an approval of commitment from the Parish Council and to establish a steering group with at least two Parish Council Members appointed, thus keeping to the concept that the P C must keep control of the matter.
- General discussion ensued with comments allowed from the floor, from which it was agreed to hold a further meeting in the Pavilion on March 20th at 8pm (advertised on the web and leaflets distributed throughout the parish as before) to collect names of interested parties with two named Cllrs and to then notify the District Council of the intention of declaring that Newton Popleford and Harpford wished to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- It was agreed by resolution that the PC supports the creation of a Neighbourhood plan in principal. With the hope that the entire village community will get behind it and support and participate in its creation.

Proposed Cllr Salter
Seconded Cllr Slattery to take the matter forward Vote 7-2-1

F) Sale of Land at Venn Ottery Green

1. Under the buttresses – To sign the Plan on authorisation of the Council by a resolution and date thereof inserted. It was resolved to approve that the Clerk as responsible officer, sign the necessary documents as provided by Every's

Solicitors and the signature be witnessed by the Chairman of the Council.
Copy filed and attached to main minutes for future reference.

10/13/47 Matters raised by Members

Cllr Cole – re. Venn Ottery Green – To receive a request from the Residents Association for a seat and a picnic table to be placed on the Village Green. It would be a welcome additional amenity.

- It was suggested that the spare jubilee seat would be erected on the said Green along with the picnic table situated in the tree area at Webbers Meadow being transferred to Venn Ottery.
- Members debated this aspect but considered it was more important to move it from its present position to a new one in the same area as the other one, but to keep them apart as families would perhaps be happier than putting them together. It was resolved that the Clerk carry out further investigation in respect of purchasing a lighter version for use at Venn Ottery, including an estimate of cost of moving the Webbers Meadow one and re-fixing and a price for fixing the seat and table type at Venn Ottery.

2. Cllr Slattery

Re-tenders received in respect of the website (previously circulated to Members via email) - It was resolved that a review of the specification and costs be carried out by Cllr Slattery, H Jeffery and Shan Merritt and a report be brought back to a future meeting. Cllr Slattery was thanked for his efforts.

- 3. To consider further traffic etc in the main village street** - Overview and suggestion of a further meeting with all interested parties. Cllr Channon agreed to seek the indulgence of the Officers concerned and seek a day and time for such a meeting, to cover all the aspects of the previously discussed items when the last meeting took place.

- 4. Cllr Clarke re. Carnival continuance and the further meeting to be held in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 10th April 2014** - If no-one comes forward to assist that will be the end of the carnival because once stopped it will not be restarted.

5. Cllr Salter on three items (not notified to the Chair or Clerk prior to the meeting).

1. Update on potential SHLAA fraud. Spoke to Action Fraud who has advised that on the information they were given that it could be corruption. Cllr Salter was meeting with CID the next day.
2. On the matter of the alleged DPI, he had been advised that there was no intention to prosecute. Cllr Salter then asked the Chairman why he had made statements saying that he had admitted having a DPI. As the

Chairman was not in receipt of the paperwork that Cllr Salter was quoting from he was unable to comment. Cllr Cole pointed out that the final report made by Mr Darlsey the Investigator in respect of the Personal Interest Investigation was not yet available to be made public as advised by the EDDC monitoring officer, who is also the legal officer. Cllr Salter disagreed as he was told by Mr Darlsey that any document produced by him was available to be put in the public domain. He also confirmed that he had spoken and met with the monitoring officer. Cllr. Salter made some further comments concerning the Monitoring Office. A number of people pointed out that what Cllr Salter had said was inappropriate but he advised that he had told her as much to her face and put it in writing.

3. Cllr Salter then referred to the Village Plan and a further response to EDDC re. 10th March 2014 for further responses to be communicated to the District Council for review before the matter is put to the Inspector under the villages section of the Plan. Much discussion took place. It became clear that Cllr Salter and others had misread the document and thought that it referred to the PC support of the application when in fact the document referred to the PC response regarding the sustainability appraisal and the results of the open meeting that were fed back to EDDC. Members agreed that the question at this time only referred to the response on the SHLAA sites responses with particular reference to the sustainability issue.

It was finally resolved to respond to the matter by the 10 March, with a suggestion put forward to remove the first 3 lines in the document provided by EDDC under the heading of Summary of Site Evaluation reference no. 12.130, Parish Feedback and Preferred Choice, page 139. It was agreed the Clerk would circulate a revised response to Councillors for consideration.

At this point the Chairman raised a matter in respect of the Girl Guides. He advised that as a group they were struggling to afford to continue and could not pay for the use of the Pavilion for their meetings. He sought the indulgence of the meeting to consider a grant of £200 to help towards their costs. It was resolved to support this request.

Proposed	Cllr	Cole	
Seconded	Cllr	H Jeffery	Unan.

Cllr Phillips asked if they did fund raising? And Mr Zirker as Manager of the Pavilion said he would support a coffee morning as a fund raiser at no charge.

10/13/48 **Communications**

- A) **Outreach Services meeting 13th March 2014 in the Council Chamber at Knowle at 6pm for 6.30pm - No Members indicated they wished to attend.**

- B) **Farringdon Parish Council, re. Parishes Together Fund** – Request for consideration of funding in conjunction with them of providing bus shelters on the A3052 at Farringdon.

Resolved to not support them as the parish itself needs more of them.

- C) **Sounding Board** – Request to join. Agreed not to do so.
- D) **World War 1** – Consideration of ideas for commemoration. Shan Merritt had forwarded suggestions and the Clerk had put forward the idea of a Church Service. It was resolved to consider further after placing notes on the matter in the parish magazine and council newsletter and website.

10/13/49 **Planning Decisions and notification of an Appeal**

1. 14/006/LBC 1 Church Green

Approved with conditions – Pc Supported.

2. 14/1868/FUL Former Coal Yard, Back Lane
Refused – PC could not support as on flood plain).

3. 13/2754/LBC The Shippon, Hoppins, Southerton

Approved, no conditions – PC supported.

Appeal notified – Land adjacent to Little Orchard (adj to Badger Close), Exmouth Road. It was noted this Appeal was to be conducted by way of an ‘Informal Hearing’. It was noted that any further correspondence on the matter had to be communicated to the Inspectorate at Bristol by 20th March. It appeared that no date, time or place had been communicated to EDDC at this time. It was agreed that no further representations be made as it was noted all such matters are forwarded to the Inspectorate by EDDC.

A discussion was had about the PC’s policy going forward with regard to making representations at appeals and hearings. It was agreed for consistence and fairness that in future the PC would only make representation in writing. A vote was taken.

Proposed Cllr Cole
Seconded Cllr Philips agreed 6-3-1

The Chairman closed the meeting

Open Session

Mrs Marchant owner of the Coal Yard sought information from the Council as to why they had not supported the planning application in respect of the Coal Yard for residential properties. Cllr Cole responded that it was due to the site being in the flood plain. Mrs Marchant pointed out “So was the site adjacent which had an approval by EDDC and was not supported by the Parish Council”. It was noted that the refusal of the Coal Yard was that it was considered to be an Industrial Site and should be considered for this for the future.

Barry Easter spoke on the Appeal position as a past Planning Officer at EDDC and elsewhere pointing out the formula used for appeals.

A lady pointed out that children enjoy Webber's meadow particularly at the end of school terms.

Chris Burhop asked why his questions had not been added to the last minutes. It was agreed if he sent over the exact wording they would be.

On behalf of Mr Nancekievill, Ms Cameron-Webb mentioned some questions regarding the local plan why it was not attended and why other councillors were not informed of it. The Clerk was going to respond directly. The Clerk also pointed out that the meeting was for the Chairman only.

Mr McGowan asked about the code of conduct complaints procedure, re his previous e-mails. It was pointed out that the council use the complaints procedure provided by the body that it is associated too and that the new website has been specified to have a code of conduct section.

A lady mentioned that Farthings Lane was blocked by diggers doing work in the field at the top of King Alfred Way the other day. It was advised in the first instance to write to Clinton Devon Estates who should take note.

DRAFT