

**Minutes of the Meeting of Newton Popleford and Harpford Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in the Village Hall at 8.00pm.**

**Present: -** Cllrs:- H Jeffery (Chairman), D Jefferey, Cook, Pearce, Phillips, Ranger, Slattery, Tillotson.

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Member for Harpford Ward, Cllr Ranger whom she considered would bring wide knowledge of subjects to the Council.

**Apologies: -** Cllr Salter, Cole, Clarke and Channon (CC).

**In attendance: -** Cllr Potter (DC) and David Atkins (Clerk & RFO), 17 Members of the public.

**Declarations of Interest : -** None at this time.

**10/13/59** Minutes of the meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The Clerk referred to the fact that the last page had not come through the system and that he had updated the 31<sup>st</sup> March Minutes by a long hand note in respect of the query raised by Mr Nancekievill. The Minutes were then agreed and signed.

31 <sup>st</sup> March	Proposed	Cllr	D Jeffery	
	Seconded	Cllr	Tillotson	8-0
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Proposed	Cllr	Phillips	
	Seconded	Cllr	Tillotson	5-3-2

At this point the Chairman invited Donna Best from EDDC to make further points in respect of the car park, referred from 17<sup>th</sup> April meeting, corrected figures were presented in respect of rates in that 2010 = £714,15, 2011 = £746.93, 2012 = £776.25, 2013 = £746.93. It was noted that other car parks costings had been included in the original information.

Further debate and questions ensued. The Clerk referred to the letter that had been sent to the District clearly setting out the Council's position. Donna was unable to shed much more light on the situation as EDDC were not in a position with their records to advise on this.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow the public present to make their observations.

Which were basically against the parish taking on the burden, it was however made clear if this did not happen the car park would be closed and an alternative use considered. A further point was raised that as requested before, the area should be resurfaced and lined so that some years would elapse to build up a fund.

- It was resolved that further information was required with further discussion needed.
- A question was raised by Mr Burhop as to 'Who made the decision to pass over the car park'. It was EDDC's Cabinet, faced with the savings required.

10/13/60

## Reports

### A) Chairmans

- 1) **Police** – No report.
- 2) **Harpford Hall Up-date** – Noted the position and the Press Statement.
- 3) **Neighbourhood Plan Meeting** – The Clerk set out the timetable of events in respect of notification of neighbouring Councils and the 6 week period allowed for comments. He had to have further talks with the Officer and then a meeting of the Steering Group arranged. A date suggested was the Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, the 22<sup>nd</sup> being the Euro polling day.

### B) Clerks

- 1 & 2. Receipts and Payments included in the landscape sheets presented to the 17<sup>th</sup> April meeting for those present and tabled for the public. The Clerk advised that the balance figure was as stated £39,000. These figures form the basis of the Audit Statement to be prepared.

It was also noted that £2,100 previously paid to the Council's Solicitors for Harpford Hall matters had now been repaid and banked and a further £700 VAT had been claimed but not yet received.

3. Public Works Loan Board –Consideration of part repayment (brought forward from 17<sup>th</sup> April meeting). Further discussion took place but in view of the car park position, it was resolved to consider further in due course . Cllr Slattery requested sight of the contract details. The Chairman considered that “Councillors start to draw up a list of items of Expenditure that might need to be made during the year (excluding ongoing expenditure). Councillors will start to prepare this by E-Mail so that the PC plans ahead”.
4. To report the purchase of a Strimmer for use at the allotments in the sum of £295.93 net of VAT. It was noted this had been added to the insurance of the Council. Resolved noted.
5. Dispensation Policy – The Clerk advised he was still awaiting guidance on the matter from the District Council.

### E) County – None.

- ### F) District
- Cllr Potter stated he was Chairman of the District Audit Committee and that he would be requesting further information from the Treasurer in respect of the car park figures. He referred to the District Local Plan and housing numbers allied to the Inspectors decision to require further information and facts. It appeared that Central Government required 18,000 houses and EDDC had worked on 15,000. It looked like the Government would win.

He also referred to the fact that the KAW application was to be dealt with on the 8<sup>th</sup> May as a first item on the Agenda of applications. The meeting commenced at 10am. On a question from the public in respect of persons registered for housing, it was noted many were on more than one area list.

Mr Burhop asked the question of Cllr Potter as to whether he had changed his mind in respect of support for KAW. Cllr Potter responded no, referring to the need for social housing, footpaths up-grade and the surgery.

- G)** Grant – Cllr Phillips. This would be considered during the open session. Resolved – Noted. Agreed.
- H)** Website – Cllr Slattery. It was noted that the FOI request from one tenderer was now cleared and was fair and robust, therefore this matter was closed. Cllr Slattery was to contact the company providing the service to discuss further in a few days. Resolved – Noted.

Cllr Ranger raised the matter of the recording of meetings. The Clerk responded that he was pursuing the matter and that he was seeking advice on a radio system. 1 mike between two members and one for the Chair and Clerk, plus one for the public.

**10/13/61** **Matters Raised by Members** – Cllr Cole – Venn Ottery Green – water egress. The Clerk reported that works had been carried out but due to Easter early closing of the Quarry could not be completed but would be dealt with in due course.

**10/13/62** **Communications** – None.

**10/13/63** **Planning Applications Received**

14/0954/FUL South View, Exmouth Road

Proposal: Replacement dwelling and alterations to planning consent  
13/1419/FUL.

It was agreed to have a further site meeting.

**Closure** – The Chairman Closed the meeting.

**Open Session**

1. Cllr Phillips re. Safety Fencing Play Area. Vote – 12 in favour, 0 against.

Gym equipment 9 in favour, 0 against.

Length of netting agreed at 36 metres length 3m high.

It was further resolved that in the meantime a notice is erected saying

“Beware Loose Cricket Balls”.

Other matters: Footpath from the Bovis Estate to Venn Ottery Road flooded near the gate; 1 ½ metres around the gate was the worst area. Back Brook Bridge to be done by the end of April, agreed to alert Cllr Channon by email.

Mr Burhop – Playing Field Grass overgrown near Tennis Courts and near the Brookside. He considered the contractor had fallen short of his job. Clerk to speak to the Contractor.

On the matter of repayment on the loan, he considered it was a difficult decision but suggested a quarterly payment review.

Red Bridge – No up-date other than funds had to be earmarked. It was noted that works were in hand at Tipton St John. Mr Swann raised the matter of the corner of Back Lane and flood water from road not clearing. Noted. Lengthsman not available yet until potholes completed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.