

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council held on  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 in the Village Hall at 8.00pm**

**Present: - Cllrs** H Jeffery – Chairman, Cole, Cook, Clarke, Phillips, Tillotson, Pearce, Ranger, & Slattery.

**Apologies: - Cllrs** D Jeffery, Clarke, Channon (CC).

**In attendance: -** D G Atkins (Clerk & RFO), Cllr Potter (DC) and 7 members of the public.

**Note** – The proceedings are now recorded.

**Open Session**

Mrs Swan raised the matter of the netting & poles being stored in the passageway of the Pavilion obstructing the access to the disabled toilet. It was agreed to move them up to the old Wooden Shed. The Clerk agreed to arrange.

Mrs Swan then produced her written evaluation of the wild flowers growing in Webbers Meadow, saying she considered too many cuts would be detrimental to the bugs etc that rely on such flora & fauna. (Mrs Swan’s observations are appended at Appendix 1.) It was noted that more information would follow. Resolved to place the information on the website. Mrs Swan was reassured that the Parish Council was **not** increasing the number of cuts to the meadow area, but was increasing the number of cuts to the pathways and picnic area in Webber’s Meadow.

Mr Frank Ward from KAW sought information as to when the development was to commence in KAW close. He also raised the matter of Egress from side roads onto KAW and considered lines on those were essential, to avoid an accident. Cllr Cole suggested members visit the area to view the position.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**10.13.127** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were approved and signed with two amendments.

Proposed Cllr Cole.

Seconded Cllr Phillips

Nem con

**10.13.128** **Declarations of Interest** – None.

**10.13.129** **Reports**

**A) Chairman’s**

1) Police - No report available.

2) Update on Neighbourhood Plan – Dr Coppell gave an update in which it was noted that the questionnaire results from the Parish Plan would be used. (Full report attached to main minutes Appendix 2). It was further noted that terms of

reference had been adopted. Five working groups had been set up and the next meeting was to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> in the pavilion at 8pm.

- 3) Current actions list review and updates made. It was also noted that some matters outstanding needed the attention of the Chairman and Clerk.

Cemetery action – Proposal to improve the Old Cemetery by levelling off grave mounds (as should have happened previously). This would allow easier maintenance and quicker grass cutting, Appropriate notices to be posted on the gates to the cemetery, notice boards, website and a public notice in the Sidmouth Herald. Providing 6 months notice to the community.  
Clerk to put the matter in motion.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Cook

Unan.

Need to consider the costing of a new notice board for the cemetery. Action for the Clerk to bring costings back to the Council.

- 4) Report from Cllr Salter re. Webbers Meadow Maintenance Contract (held over from last meeting). It was agreed to remove the item. The Chairman indicated that it had not thrown up anything that was not already being dealt with.
- 5) Any other urgent matter. None.

## **B) Clerks**

1) Monthly receipts and payments spread sheets. Full analysis to date. Cllr Slattery as Finance Chairman asked if everyone considered the new presentation to be an improvement, the answer was yes. He then highlighted various items throughout, pointing out the cost of maintenance of the old cemetery. Field rents and VAT income were expected by the end of the financial year.

2) To agree or otherwise the recommendations of the Finance committee re. the budget for the year 2015/16, commencing on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015 (referred from the previous meeting Appendix 3). Cllr Slattery went through the receipts and payments. The Parish Council precept remains the same. The Council resolved to pay off £10k of the land purchase loan on a quarterly basis. It was resolved to agree the Budget.

Proposed Cllr Slattery

Seconded Cllr Phillips

Unan.

- 3) 106 funding update - Cllr Phillips referred to the current position which members considered was unsatisfactory. (The full report is attached to the main

minutes at Appendix 4). It was pointed out that any schemes promoted from April 2015 would have a more flexible approach, but would still require the support of a public meeting. Next Council meeting to consider the process for ideas for spending current 106 funding.

4) Cllr Ranger enquired as to the position of provision of a picnic table at Venn Ottery Green, reminding the meeting of the previous discussion of moving one from Webbers Meadow. It was pointed out this had not been agreed. The Clerk advised that a seat was still to be placed on the said green. The Contractor and the chair of VOSRA and the Clerk are due to meet to decide on siting the seat. It may well be that a table is not required. In respect of 106 funds they could only be used for play equipment if considered necessary on Venn Ottery Green.

5) Venn Ottery Quarry - water run off further update - It was noted that the clerk was still awaiting to arrange a meeting with Mr Chris Down in respect of the lane bed and scouring in his fields.

6) To note date and time of next council meeting being Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. At this point the clerk raised the matter of the April meeting being so close to the Elections. He was to find out if that had any implications in respect of Electoral procedures which could also have an impact on the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **C) County**

The Clerk having reported the apology from Cllr Channon gave a verbal report in respect of Red Bridge and the River Otter. Cllr Bowden DCC was not now chairman of the appropriate committee but Cllr Stuart Hughes has had this responsibility passed to him, it being understood he was keen to get things sorted.

In respect of Back Lane, Northmostown, DCC were about to commence repair commencing at the top of Four Elms hill and working down as funds permitted. On a query Cllr Ranger as to how funds could be expended on this path and not on the Harpford area. Cllr Cole said the difference was that it was classed as a county road for the relief of the hill for cyclists, pedestrians and farming activities, whereas the Otter area was the responsibility of the Riparian owners with county and district councils.

In respect of Farthings Lane this was being resurfaced as far as Little Shule from the roundabout now and, once King Alfred Close was developed a further section to join up to the development would take place, thus allowing pedestrians access through the estate.

## **D) District**

Cllr Potter referred to the fact that EDDC had again kept its Council Tax at the same level as the last six years with no loss of services, whereas the County Council, Fire Authority and Police had increased their charge by 1.99%. He

referred to the May elections and advised that he was not standing again for the District.

In respect of the Local Plan this was still not yet complete. Information in respect of the SHMA? was awaited from Mid Devon District Council in respect of their calculations on housing numbers. He concluded by assuring the meeting that all Planning Applications are dealt with at EDDC on their individual merit based on the NPPF.

**E) Harpford Hall**

Cllr Ranger gave a brief update in respect to the current position. It was stated that it had recently been discovered that the registration document was not in order and that it appeared a neighbour had ownership of part of the site. The matter is the subject of discussion with all parties involved.

**F) Mr T Swan re P3 matters**

Mr Swan advised that the annual survey of the 12.5 miles of paths etc was under way and that there appeared only minor issues. He referred to Red Bridge where he indicated no works were in any programme. On FP11 work was due to start in April. Balsam project. Howard Hughes the grower at Venn Ottery had been contacted with regards to the fast growing willow which, if planted, could out do any balsam and give stabilization to the river or brook banks, growth could be 14ft PA. Hoppins Lane was highlighted as an area badly affected. Cllr Slattery offered his help along with others in respect of planting.

**10.13.130 Communications**

1. Commonwealth Day 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Knowle re. flag raising. Cllr H. Jeffery would attend.

2. At this point the Chairman raised a matter brought to her attention by Shan Merritt, that of the budget of the NHS and the County re proposition of a certain amount of co-operation after the current problems. It was noted any comments were required by the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**10.13.131 Planning Applications received.**

15/0318/LBC Parsons Farm, Exeter Road, Newton Poppleford

Proposal: - Conversion, extension and alterations to outbuildings to forms single storey dwelling.

Observations: - Support no objections.

15/0265/FUL Coal Yard, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford

Proposal: - Demolition of buildings and redevelopment of the site with 2 no. dwellings and detached garages, including raising of ground levels.

Observations: - Still cannot support. Flood plain. No sequential test. Overlooking.

14/2622/FUL Barns at Little Northmostown, Northmostown

Proposal: - Change of use and alterations to barns to create one dwelling with ancillary home office and store and construction of car port.

Observations: - The amended plan was noted. Observations to be returned by 6 January!! However Members still cannot support the proposals as previously given.

At this point the clerk raised the matter of the new gate from Webber's Meadow to the A3052 including a pedestrian inclusion. Cllr Cole said he was able to get the gate through Richard Spurway and arrange delivery of it.

Cllr Cole raised the fact that a criticism had been raised previously in respect of his enthusiasm to complete projects of self help and therefore he was a little reluctant to move the matter forwards.

#### **10.13.132 Closure**

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Chairman**

**Date**