

Newton Popleford and Harpford Annual Parish Meeting notes held in the Pavilion, Back Lane on Thursday 21st May 2015 at 8pm under the Chairmanship of Cllr H Jeffery

Note – Members were given a pre-introduction and completed their acceptance of office declarations prior to the commencement of the above meeting.

Present: - Cllrs Jeffery, Burhop, Clarke, Coppell, Downen, Kemp, Murchison, Ranger, Tillotson, and Zirker and Cllr Channon and 12 members of the public.

Apologies: - Cllr Lipczynski (Holiday)

The Chairman thanked all retired members and Cllr Potter for their previous activities. At this point the members introduced themselves and gave a brief resume of their background and interests.

The Chairman then advised everyone that they also were Trustees of the Playing Field Foundation Charity where David Zirker manages the Pavilion and the Council the field maintenance contract with the contractor. The Chairman then referred to the Code of conduct and the booklet “The Good Cllrs Guide” she highlighted the position re. public money, transparency and working together, influencing people, she considered that yet again there were two district cllrs involved locally and Cllr Channon as county cllr. The Chairman confirmed the hours of work for the clerk being 16 ½ per week. Cllr Channon gave an overview of her service to the County Council being the first female leader of the County Council, she had now served 22 years thereon and was this year Chairman of the County Council.

The Parish Council Annual report was read to the meeting and is attached as Appendix 1. It highlights the many activities dealt with during the year not least that of the KAW outline planning application and the agreement to repay £10,000 off the PWLB loan during the year.

Playing Field Foundation, Cllr Zirker presented the report for the Pavilion as Manager, highlighting the fact that a loss had occurred due to repairs required to the central heating under floor pipes. He publicly thanked Cllr Burhop for the use of his company’s detector of leaks. It appeared that this one was an unsoldered joint. Full report attached as Appendix 2.

In respect of the field, the clerk gave an overview of the rental income and charges for grass cutting, insurance, maintenance etc. this is attached as Appendix 3.

Village Hall Management Committee Annual report and copy of year end accounts noted attached as Appendix 4.

Presentation of the Parish Council’s Accounts for the year to 31st March 2014 audited and to receive the year end to 31 March 2015 prior to audit including the audit statement and governance statements previously presented and overviewed by the last Council. Note this matter is usually dealt with at budget production.

County Cllr observations – Cllr Channon referred to the year of the pot holes and explained that if there were areas still outstanding they would be dealt with in due course, these can be reported on line. The footpath on Exeter Road had been extended. Venn Ottery Quarry and the heavy lorries and the road break up had been temporarily repaired but on completion of the mineral extraction a full repair would be carried out. She highlighted the flooding problem in Venn Ottery and what further action was being taken at the Quarry to address this.

The school was again highlighted in respect of the pre school building, it was hoped a facility would be incorporated in the new build. It was further hoped to extend the age range being accommodated.

In respect of the Harpford Ditch and cleaning and the realignment of the River Otter this was now in the hands of Stuart Hughes. It appears a scheme under the flood defence committee is being considered.

Farthings Lane Metalled area re-surfaced other area awaiting outcome of the KAW development.

District – No report at this time due to change of Cllr.

Complaint re. grass cutting in the area of Lark Rise. Cllr Channon said this was not now being done by the County Council and was the responsibility of the Parish Council. The clerk made the point that he had not been notified of the change to date.

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

A short break was taken to distribute the APCM documents to the public.