

**Minutes of the Meeting of Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council held on Monday 27
July 2015 @ 8.00 pm in the Village Hall**

Present: - Cllrs Zirker – In Chair - welcomed everyone to the meeting, Clarke, Kemp, Ranger, Lipzynski, Tillotson, Coppell, Downen, Murchison and Burhop.

Apologies: - Cllrs Jeffery & Channon (CC)

In attendance: - D G Atkins (Clerk & RFO), The Police x 2 and 10 members of the public.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

- Shan Merritt notified those present of a campaign to ask for fairer funding for Devon and Cornwall Police. She circulated a petition for all councilors to sign. The petition can also be signed online: [Fair Funding petition · Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commission](#)
- Judy Cullip asked if the dates of all the Parish Council forthcoming meetings could be posted on the notice boards to help inform the general public as not everyone is aware they take place on the last Monday of each month.

20/15/16 Further public speaking

Resolved – Following discussion by the parish council the public present were in agreement that in future meetings Standing Orders could be suspended at points throughout the agenda to allow the public to comment if they wished, after councillors had discussed each item and before voting.

14/15/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2015 were approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Clarke
Seconded Cllr Ranger 7-3

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2015 were approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Burhop
Seconded Cllr Coppell 7-3

15/15/16 Declarations of Interest – None.

Police Report

- Steve Lee reported that he lived in the village
- It was reported there were 2 crimes in May (dog out of control and Public Order offences).
- 12 reported crimes in the year to date as opposed to 21 last year.
- In June there were 3 reported including a theft of lead from Popplefords roof.
- Speed check on 16th July with VOSA, HMRC and Traffic Officers: 69 people were stopped , 13 vehicles pronounced unroadworthy, 2 were immobilized, 7 fixed penalty tickets issued, 1 red diesel and an illegal LPG gas conversion.
- 21 July - outside school. 1 stopped for speeding.
- 22nd Back Lane – 2 speeding tickets 42 mpg and 43 mpg. 6 spoken to re seat belts, 3 or 4 travelling between 30 and 40 mph and a couple re use of phones.

- It was noted crimes were down 50%. AK asked if this was due to non reporting or for example because there is no public police station to report to. The police stated that evidence had proved the police enquiry office in Sidmouth was barely used and officers were better employed on the beat.

Speed in the village

- Members of the public raised questions. VR/MD/AM enquired as to whether monitoring took place at Four Elms Hill as it is a black spot with known casualties from Harpford, after leaving the bridge at Lower Way vehicles speed up for the climb up Four Elms Hill making egress from Higher Way and Lower Way very dangerous. The mirror is often covered in condensation. The police stated it was difficult to monitor speed in that area as you have to be able to have a line of sight from some distance away and stand in a safe place.
- Community Speed Watch (CSW) using a speed gun – This would need 6 volunteers to each have 3 training sessions. The police explained CSWs are notoriously unwieldy to set up. It has to be proved there is a problem; this must be done via data capture sheets. If we had a VAS camera, we could use this for evidence. The data must meet a threshold in order to have monitoring strips laid on the road to further measure speed. The results of this produce a score with recommended action from simply monitoring as is happening up to major engineering works. The process could take about 18 months. The last major project was done about two years ago and the results were that simple police monitoring was appropriate. Cllr Coppell reported that in his experience there is a major speeding problem through the village overnight.
- The police stated that if the public have concerns, contact them and they will come and monitor the situation.

The officers were thanked for their attendance.

16/15/16 Matters raised at previous meeting taken forward:

A Dog Poo Bins – Cllr Coppell

- The clerk confirmed there are currently 5 bins in the area (Burrow triangle, Lark Rise, Pavilion car park, dog field plus one more)
- The Clerk will bring a map of the locations to the next meeting
- The Clerk advised each new bin (with a mounting post) costs £160 including fitting.
- Emptying each bin costs £300 per year
- Cllr Ranger commented it is worth challenging owners who don't pick up dog poo.
- Dog fouling is a particular issue on the footpath that runs parallel with the High Street from burrow to Lark Rise, and also on Hunger Hill.
- Resolved to pass to Finance Committee to consider buying more bins – the location of these to be based on public consultation.

B Paperless Working – Cllr Coppell

It was noted not everyone has the resources for paperless working. The clerk added he had reduced the numbers of printed items by 15 copies.

Resolved Pass to Policy & Personnel Committee for review of the policy.

C **Magazine/Newsletter**

The parish council asked if it would be possible to have a regular page in the parish magazine. This will be considered in September by those involved in producing the magazine.

D **Neighbourhood Plans - Emma Coppell reported on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group summarizing matters:**

- Questionnaires are now being drafted for the 5 themes.
- Community day confirmed as 27th September 2015.
- A working party is arranging the Funday day which will include stalls by local businesses and residents, live music, dog show etc
- Meetings are being held weekly to arrange this event and to continue moving forward with the Neighbourhood Plan

E **Action List Appendix A updated** (including cheque signatories agreed as Cllrs Clarke, Zirker, Jeffery & Burhop).

F **Ring & Ride (Exmouth Community Transport)**

Barry Easter did not wish to continue as PC representative. It was agreed a member of the parish council should attend meetings as the PC donates £300 per year to this service. Historically they meet on a Tuesday evening four times a year. There are 7 regular users of the service in the parish. Volunteer drivers are needed.

Resolved: The Clerk should be the contact, and he would then inform parish councillors of meeting dates to ask who could attend.

G **Future format of Minutes and Agendas**

Agendas – Cllr Jeffery’s proposed revised table layout was fully supported

Resolved to adopt the layout.

H **DMC Representations**

It was agreed to reverse the previous Council decision to not have representations at DMC meetings.

Resolved that where appropriate a member of the Parish Council should attend DMC meetings make a representation.

Proposed Cllr Coppell

Seconded Cllr Lipczynski

Nem Com - 2 Abstentions

DMC – KAW on 4th August 2015, Cllr Kemp agreed to attend as she was neutral to the application and had not spoken at previous hearings

I **Webbers Meadow**

The system of sub-contracting the work and using volunteer cutters and clearers is not working and there have been complaints about the long grass and brambles. The Clerk gave a list of

reasons that the work had not been completed. It was noted that if weeds need to be spot sprayed, the meadow could be closed for a day. Cllr Ranger referred to an incident with a dog jumping on some people's picnic, the police were treating this as a public order offence due to the dog owner's response.

Resolved - the Finance Committee should review the contract and use of volunteers.

J **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Coppell queried whether we should have one of these. Uplyme has completed one which is considered a prime example by EDDC. There are templates available from EDDC. This would require a sub-Committee to produce and volunteers to run the plan. (Colaton Raleigh has recently published their emergency plan).

B) Clerk's Report

1) **Receipts, payments and balances to end of June** –noted and agreed.

2) To consider quotes for tree works in old cemetery and on the Green. Two more quotes Are awaited and a professional tree surgeon had produced advice. The Work asked for is:

Old Cemetery: Reduce tree branches of all trees to 2.5 meters from the ground, reduce leylandii height by 3 meters, remove plane tree in cemetery.

Village Green:

Oak tree - take advice on removal of damaged branches/lopping or removal. Consider the overhead lines. (The tall, straight trunk would have value if cut down).

Plane Tree – remove lower branches for safety.

It was agreed that if a tree is removed, another should be planted.

3) **Report on the meeting held at Woodley's Cabin re. Fete, November Bonfire and BBQ and Queens Birthday Celebrations in June 2016**

Fireworks with the bonfire and BBQ are being considered. Cllr Burhop reported that the HM at the school would assist with financial help.

Queen's birthday - June 2016 a table day at the playing field with some side shows etc and evening dance and marquee was suggested

Resolved: CB and DA to investigate insurance for fireworks and report back.

4) **Waste Bins in Play Areas**

The clerk and Cllr Ranger had made representations to EDDC on the subject. A phone call from EDDC confirmed that a new larger bin would be provided and that rather than the contractor emptying it, East Devon staff would do so in the future, at no charge.

5) Devon Association of Local Councils. The clerk had been appointed as one of the representatives on the County Committee.

C) **County Cllr** –unable to attend.

D) District Cllr – Cllr Ranger reported on:

- Review of electoral arrangements re. problems at May Elections.
- There will be a review of boundaries for EDDC next year - 2016.
- Badger Close Appeal - 26 houses and associated infrastructure – now going ahead, closing date for comments is 27th August 2015 by email or letter from those who have made previous representations. Full details on the EDDC Planning Portal.
- Blackhill Quarry Processing Plant – Planning application to consider operations for a further 5 years, under consideration. VR has written to DCC asking for Blackhill to be restored and attended a Chariman’s delegation at EDDC to ask for them to word their concerns very strongly .
- The Recycling trial is starting in Feniton and Exmouth (The Colony) to include Absorbent Hygiene Products. This will be reviewed before the new contract is signed in March 2016.

E) P3 – Mr Swan Re. the P3 Notice Board at the Green in need of some repairs

Mr Swan is now the coordinator for the parish.

FP11 work completed on the East Devon Way in Harpford Woods by County Council.

The County had performed one cut to all paths, that some are in need of a revisit. It was noted that the strimmer originally supplied by DCC was now not functioning as well as it should. Clinton Machinery had advised no parts are now available.

Resolved: Mr Swan could use the Parish Council Strimmer kept by Mr Tillotson. He should purchase the brush cutting head advised by Clinton Devon Machinery to use with it. Cost of attachment £180 - to be paid from P3 funds.

Vote 8-0-2

- F) Balsam** – sessions had been held with disappointing numbers of volunteers. CDE and Otter Valley had assisted at Goosemoor, with other helpers from outside the parish. Mr Swan was thanked for his efforts. It was suggested that the gardening club, cricket and tennis clubs all be approached next year to ask them for help with balsam clearance. Cllr Murchison said that volunteers at Harpford had been active but the amount of balsam this year is worse than ever.
- G)** Mrs Swan gave an update on the Willows at Back Brook, Meadow Drive.
- H)** VAS sign placements. A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 2pm with the County Officers. They will also discuss the possibility of a school sign on the A3052.

17/15/16 Planning Applications – None.

18/15/16 Communications – Email and Letter – None.

19/15/16 Matters Raised by Members – None.

Closure - The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 22:10 pm.