

# NEWTON POPPLEFORD AND HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of **Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council** which took place at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford commencing at 7.15pm on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Present: Cllrs. Carpenter, Harrison, Hughes, Malawana, Tribble (Chair) and Walker.  
 County Cllr. Jessica Bailey  
 District Cllr. Chris Burhop  
 Ted Swan, Parish Footpath Warden  
 Rebecca Burdus, MUGA Working Party  
 4 members of the public

**Chair outlined the Fire Regulations and Evacuation Procedure and reminded those present that meetings are recorded by Council.**

## Public Forum

- a) Neighbourhood Policing report:  
No representation and no report received.
- b) County Councillor report: Cllr. Jessica Bailey  
Cllr Bailey confirmed that DCC has approved expenditure on the Venn Ottery flood alleviation project and work is planned to commence in the summer. The water leak at Metcombe is still to be resolved. Cllr. Hughes suggested that the water be tested to confirm its source. Plans for the installation of rock armour near the Red Bridge are ongoing and DCC has now applied for a permit from the EA. Work cannot be carried out until the ground conditions improve. Finally, Cllr Bailey advised that the EA will be carrying out a feasibility study of the Back Brook later this year.
- c) District Councillor report: Cllr. Chris Burhop  
Cllr. Burhop reported on the March meeting of EDDC’s Housing Review Board. Repairs to EDDC housing stock are now being completed more quickly and the number of void (empty) properties is falling. Unfortunately, there are nearly 6,000 people on the EDDC waiting list and completing repairs more quickly will not solve the issue of the lack of social housing. EDDC has passed a vote of “no confidence” in SWW and is investigating whether development can be curtailed or even stopped on the grounds of the failing sewerage infrastructure. Emergency repairs are being carried out to Exmouth sea wall which will cost in excess of £4m and repairs have also been carried out at Seaton after a crack was discovered in the cliffs above the promenade was. Both are indications of the effects of climate change. Cllr. Burhop also drew attention to changes to dog controls on local beaches.
- d) Report from Ted Swan, Parish Footpath Warden  
It was agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended to allow Mr Swan to give his report at Agenda item 23/116.
- e) Report from the Climate Change Group  
A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- f) Report from the MUGA Working Party  
See Agenda item 23/120(D)
- g) Questions and representations from residents/parishioners:  
Chair noted that some members of the public present wished to speak on planning matters and advised that they would be able to do so at the appropriate place on the agenda.

## Business of the meeting:

|        |   | Action: |
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| 23/109 | <b>To consider apologies for absence and approve if accepted:</b> |         |





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|        |   | place. Evaluation work will now proceed and Cllr. Bailey confirmed that Harpford will be included in this project.   |              |
|        |   | <p><b>c) Back Brook – de-silting</b><br/>Noted that the EA will be carrying out further de-silting works in the summer.</p>  |              |
| 23/118 |   | <b>Planning Matters:</b>   |              |
|        |   | <p><b>a) To consider planning applications received prior to publication:</b><br/> <b>24/0455/FUL – 6 Parsons Close, NP</b><br/> <b>Construction of a single storey garden building</b><br/> Councillors would have preferred a more “traditional” structure but acknowledged that the proposed composite material is more practical and hard-wearing. <b>Cllr. Carpenter proposed that Council should support this application on the condition that the surrounding hedge is retained. Seconded by Cllr. Harrison and resolved unanimously.</b><br/> <b>24/0316/FUL – Fen Equestrian, Venn Ottery</b><br/> <b>Dog day care business and associated building</b><br/> <b>Chair proposed that Council object to this application on the grounds that the application contravenes the East Devon Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. Seconded by Cllr. Walker and unanimously resolved.</b><br/> <b>24/0371/FUL – Bridgend, Newton Poppleford</b><br/> <b>Removal of caravan and conversion of barn to dwelling</b><br/> Councillors noted that there were arguments in favour of this proposed development but also areas of concern. After some discussion <b>Cllr. Malawana proposed that Council should, on balance, support this application. Seconded by Cllr. Harrison and resolved with 4 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.</b><br/> <b>24/0525/COU – Land opposite Grange Farm, Southerton</b><br/> <b>Change of Use of Agricultural Land to Residential Garden</b><br/> Members of the public present expressed concern about this application, anomalies in the application form and the long-term intentions of the applicant. Noted that the land is Grade 1 Agricultural, outside the BUAB and is of archaeological interest. A Change of Use would set a precedent for surrounding land. Concern was also expressed that work on converting this land to a “residential garden” has already commenced. <b>Chair proposed that Council object to this planning application for the reasons stated. Seconded by Cllr. Hughes and resolved unanimously.</b><br/> <b>Clerk to note and upload all comments to the Planning Portal.</b></p> | <b>Clerk</b> |
|        |   | <p><b>b) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication:</b><br/>None received within the time limit.</p>   |              |
|        |   | <p><b>c) Planning determinations/decisions advised:</b><br/> 22/1812/FUL - Podbury’s Cottage, Harpford - refused<br/> 23/2429/FUL – Brookside Cottage, NP – approved with conditions</p>   |              |
|        |   | <p><b>d) To note and respond to Planning Consultations received:</b><br/> <b>Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan Consultation</b><br/> Council resolved not to respond to this consultation.</p>  |              |
|        |   | <p><b>e) To consider Council’s Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Report:</b><br/> Update circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.</p>  |              |
|        |   | <b>As Standing Orders remained suspended, Chair brought forward discussion of Agenda item 23/120.</b>  |              |
| 23/120 |   | <b>BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED:</b>  |              |
|        | A | <b>To receive an update on matters pertaining to the Public WC:</b>  |              |

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|        | In the absence of members of the WC Working Party discussion deferred to the April Council meeting.  |       |
| B      | <p><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve Tree and Hedge Planting proposals submitted by the Climate Change Group:</b></p> <p>Councillors considered the request received from the Climate Change Group. It was considered that there were sufficient trees on and around the playing field and Councillors did not support the planting of 3 silver birches near to the playground. <b>Cllr. Harrison proposed that Council give permission for the following:</b></p> <p><b>6 Aspen to be planted in Webbers Meadow south field.</b></p> <p><b>20 metres of hedging at Venn Ottery village green.</b></p> <p><b>75 metres of hedging at the allotments.</b></p> <p><b>Expenditure of £80 to purchase mulch.</b></p> <p><b>3 Silver Birches may be planted elsewhere in the parish but not on the playing field.</b></p> <p><b>Proposal was seconded by Cllr. Malawana and was resolved with 5 votes in favour, 1 against.</b></p>   |       |
| C      | <p><b>To consider a request from the Ward Councillor that Council should express support for the Otter Trail Project and write to EDDC asking that CiL and S106 funds held by EDDC (not ordinarily available to NPHPC) be put towards this project:</b></p> <p>Information provided by the Ward Councillor has been circulated in advance of the meeting. <b>Chair proposed that Council write to EDDC accordingly. Seconded by Cllr. Malawana and resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to liaise with Ward Councillor and draft letter.</b></p>  | Clerk |
| D      | <p><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve advertising and sponsorship proposals submitted by the MUGA Working Party:</b></p> <p>Rebecca Burdus reported that the MUGA was being used on a regular basis and the focus of the Working Party is now on fundraising for the floodlights. The NPPFF is organising a Bingo night and a dinner dance and the MUGA WP is planning to hold a family event later in the year. In the meantime, the MUGA WP seeks permission to proceed with plans to sell advertising to raise funds towards floodlights and maintenance. The proposal is for mesh weatherproof banners 2400cm x 700cm to be sited on the MUGA fencing facing outwards. Advertising packages would be sold to appropriate local businesses on a 2, 3 or 5 year term. Fees would start at £300 for a 2-year minimum term and rise to £500 for a 5-year term.</p> <p>Cllr. Burhop suggested that planning permission may be required if the banners are to be permanent and agreed to investigate and report back. Councillors generally supported this proposal but agreed that there should be some consultation with local residents who may object.</p> <p><b>Chair to include in the next issue of the PCC magazine and place on the Agenda for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.</b></p> | Chair |
| E      | <p><b>To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024:</b></p> <p>It was agreed that Council should promote community engagement and encourage attendance at what is a meeting for residents (it is not a Parish Council meeting). It was considered too late to organise a speaker for the event, but it was agreed to provide refreshments. Chair and Cllr. Malawana will discuss the 2025 event with the headmaster at their meeting in May.</p> <p><b>Clerk to discuss the possibility of live streaming with AI Findlay.</b></p> <p><b>Chair proposed that Standing Orders be reinstated to preclude any further public participation. Seconded by Cllr. Hughes and resolved unanimously.</b></p>  | Clerk |
| 23/119 | <b>Financial Matters:</b>  |       |

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|        | <p>a) To consider and review Financial Reports to the end of February 2024 as per documents previously circulated to members and published on-line:</p> <p>b) To consider and, if thought fit, approve payments for March as per documents previously circulated to members and published on-line:<br/> <b>Cllr. Walker proposed that invoices totalling £4,526.16 be approved for payment. Seconded by Cllr. Harrison and resolved unanimously.</b><br/> <b>Clerk to make payments on the due dates.</b></p> <p>c) Questions to RFO from members of Council relating to the financial reports.<br/> None raised.</p> | Clerk |
| 23/121 | <p><b>To consider matters viewed as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only:</b><br/> None so considered.<br/> Cllr. Walker requested that the Surgery building be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>   |       |
| 23/122 | <p><b>Date of next Ordinary Meeting:</b><br/> Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>   |       |
| 23/123 | <p><b>It is proposed that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.</b><br/> Proposal not made as there were no confidential matters to discuss.</p>  |       |
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With no further business to consider, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.