

# MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr J T Pennington – Chairman, Cllr S Veasey – Vice-Chairman,  
Cllr J A Clarke, Cllr R C Joinson, Cllr M Oliphant, Cllr G Page, Cllr F Palk,  
Cllr D Sutton, Cllr D G Webber.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 5 members of the public and Clerk to the Parish Council,  
Mrs T J T Rowe.

Before the meeting started members of the public had the opportunity to air any concerns and ask questions, which would be noted by members and if necessary raised during the meeting.

- A) A member of the public reported rubbish left by Devon County Council workers following the mending of a pothole in Pembroke Park over a month previously. Cllr Hawkins asked the gentleman to contact him and he would take this up with the County Highways Officer Lisa Edmonds.
- B) Cllr Palk asked Cllr Hawkins what South Hams District Council were planning to do with the £18m they were reportedly planning on borrowing. Cllr Pennington explained that this had not been decided as yet but the District Council was considering borrowing to invest. Cllr Hawkins added that West Devon Borough had borrowed £25m.

Cllr Pennington welcomed Mrs Tracy Rowe as the new Clerk to Marldon Parish Council.

**1. (8.17) APOLOGIES.**  
Cllr R Thorp.

**2. (8.17) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 meeting.**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Palk and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **3. (8.17) CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR.**

Two candidates had applied for the vacancy on Marldon Parish Council, Mr Mike Morrison and Mrs Mary Oliphant. It was reported that Mr Morrison had withdrawn but a ballot was held and Mrs Oliphant was duly co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Marldon.

### **4. (8.17) MATTERS ARISING.**

#### **a) Car Parking around Church & Village Hall**

The Clerk read out details from an email from Chris Tar (10<sup>th</sup> January 2017) concerning parking on the area adjacent to the Linhay at the bottom of the allotments. Mr Tar did not feel that this was an appropriate area for a permanent village car park.

#### **b) Dangerous trees at Compton narrows**

Cllr Pennington told the meeting that this had been reported by Mr B Simpson. It concerned a tree that was part of the stone wall. Cllr Oliphant would take pictures, as it was not believed to be dangerous.

#### **c) Village Hall Council joint meeting re room booking**

Cllr Sutton would bring this matter up at the next Village Hall meeting. The new Clerk would ask Mrs Owen for a copy of the email on this matter. There was a standing agreement that the Parish Council did not pay for meeting rooms of which Cllr Pennington held a copy.

#### **d) Scout Hut**

The Clerk would contact the Scouts re use of the Scout Hut for the Youth Club when they met again in September. It was believed that Mrs Owen had already written to the scouts on this matter. It was proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Page that another letter be sent to the scouts; Cllr Pennington would draft a letter. Cllr Oliphant would supply the contact details.

#### **e) Dog Bin Compton**

A new dog bin had yet to be installed. Cllr Pennington had received approval for the new bin from the District Council. It was noted that a large green wheeled bin had appeared in the turning bay. The Clerk would contact Emma Widdicombe at South Hams District Council to chase this.

### **5. (8.17) POLICE MATTERS.**

Nothing to report.

## 6. (8.17) FINANCE.

The following payments were approved:-

<u>Payments – Main Account:</u>		£
Clerk net salary and expenses (J Owen)	July	384.16
Clerk PAYE		74.20
Law Electrical Services		<u>190.00</u>
		£648.36

### Bank Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Main Account:	£22,409.78
P3 Account:	£734.18
Environment Account:	£434.96

NS&I Investment Account Balance as at 31/12/2016: £20,920.14  
(gross interest per annum =£124.94)

The Clerk would send a bill to the Apple Pie Fair organisers for £190.00 for the electrical works.

It was noted that the bank signatories were currently Cllrs Pennington and Webber. Cllr Page, Veasey and Clarke would be added – the Clerk would obtain forms from the bank.

## 7. (8.17) REPORTS:

### County Council

Cllr Hawkins reported that he would be meeting with Neil Oxton and Mike Jones from Devon County Council on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 but the officers were not very supportive of a traffic calming scheme in the village. Cllrs Sutton and Oliphant had met with Cllr Hawkins to discuss the extension of the 20mph speed restrictions. Cllr Pennington would also be attending the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September. A speed survey would be carried out again in the village after the roads had been agreed. Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that Devon County Council had no money for a new scheme; a zebra crossing would cost £50 - £60,000. Cllr Veasey asked for a breakdown of the cost.

Cllr Hawkins reported that he hoped there would be Section 106 monies available for traffic calming measures, although he had been informed that there were none specifically ear marked for Highways issues.

Cllr Pennington was looking into the fund for communities at the District Council. Cllr Hawkins suggested that the Parish Council look at future developments and press for Highways contributions.

Cllr Sutton suggested that it might be possible to use part of the £309,000 in the education fund. Cllr Hawkins agreed and suggested that the Head teacher at the Primary School be contacted to give support.

### **District Council**

Cllr Pennington reported that the main topic over the last month had been the proposal for a merger of South Hams District Council with West Devon Borough Council.

This was debated at a Special South Hams District Council meeting on 27th July 2017; West Devon Borough Council had already voted in favour.

The report presented to South Hams District Council drawn up by a small group of District Councillors and Officers, many Councillors including Cllr Pennington, considered it to be highly slanted in favour of the merger and did not give a balanced view. Many of the disadvantages of a merger did not appear to have been given in depth consideration, including no positive provision for consultation with Town and Parish Councils, which Cllr Pennington pointed out at the meeting.

The issue of a merger had arisen following forecasts of District Council budget gaps over the next 5 years in both Councils, arising from Central Government reductions to District Councils in Revenue Support Grants. In the financial year 2018/19 the gap for South Hams District Council was forecast at £585,000. The idea of a merger was to make savings by further integration of resources. If the merger was agreed South Hams District Council taxpayers at Band D would be faced with an increase of an extra £63.00 per year, to bring it up to the same level as West Devon! An increase of 16.2%.

Cllr Pennington had moved an amendment to the proposal to go out to consultation with the public and businesses, which was to have a referendum of all South Hams residents but the amendment was not agreed and the proposed motion only to go out to consultation in August and September with a final decision in October 2017 was agreed with the addition of consultation with Parish Councils.

Cllr Pennington's arguments which he voiced at the meeting and which he continued to hold were:-

- 1) The merger would be undemocratic as it would double the size of the District Council and make contact problems for taxpayers and Councillors who would be reduced in number and Councillors would need to cover greatly enlarged wards.

2) The savings in District Council spending could be made by mainly spending on only (a) Essential Statutory Services e.g. planning, refuse collection, highways etc. (b) By reducing what might be desirable functions in the present circumstances and devolving some of these to Parish and Town Councils.

Cllr Pennington had been carefully through some of these in both:- (1) The Discretionary Grant Fund and (2) The Community Re-investment Projects Fund amongst other budgets.

The above two mentioned budgets together amounted to £373,233 which amounted to 64% of the 2018/19 predicted budget gap.

Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that as many people as possible should write to the District Council to state that this was not the right way forward. Cllr Hawkins did not believe that South Hams residents should be burdened with West Devon Borough Council debts. Cllr Sutton questioned whether South Hams District Council had a financial plan to sell Follaton House that was forcing this issue. Cllr Hawkins explained that following the T18 transformation of the District Council a large number of experienced officers had been lost. Following a question from Cllr Palk, Cllr Hawkins explained that the District Council had made reductions following Central Government cuts; Cllr Pennington suggested this could be recompensed through the business rates.

Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that everyone should lobby their MP against the merger.

The Clerk would let the members of the Parish Council know when the District Council went out to consultation on the merger. Councillors discussed methods for consulting residents through flyers and an internet vote.

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Pennington that a letter would be sent to the District Council at the end of the month asking when and how the proposals would be publicised and stating that all Town and Parish Councils should be informed as soon as possible.

Cllr Pennington had also reported the rubble left in Compton from adjacent to the highway from a crashed car near Compton Mill and had been promised that it would be collected.

Cllr Webber had tried to contact the Highways officer, Cathy Aubertin concerning Lower Westerlands.

## **M.E.G.**

Marldon Environmental report – work carried out in July 2017 report by Cllr Page.

12<sup>th</sup> July – three members went to the underpass on Preston Down Road and started to clip back the side vegetation. The grass verge on Vicarage Road was also partly cut back. One member mowed the pathways round Broomhill Meadow. One member litter picked down Vicarage Hill and road to Churston. Steve Holley cut the roadside verges on Churston Road down to the roundabout.

19<sup>th</sup> July – Three members went to footpath 5 and mowed the land down to Cooper's farm. One member mowed the Bridle path and one member litter picked.

26<sup>th</sup> July – Six Members went back to complete the tidying up of the underpass, strimmed both sides of Preston Down Road to Vicarage Hill, completed mowing the grass verge on Vicarage Road and tidied the east side verge. One member litter picked the same area. Steve Holley strimmed by the seat on Vicarage Road, strimmed the verges on Vicarage Hill between Nether Meadow and past Parkfield Close and the grass verge in Parkfield Close. All the work was done with regard to the Apple Pie Fair Day the following Saturday.

2<sup>nd</sup> August – Heavy rain stopped play.

9<sup>th</sup> August – Five members went to Footpath 13 to mow and strim the pathway and cut back vegetation covering the drainage channel on the Pembroke Park side hedging to allow the channel to be cleaned out. Gravel was laid on the footpath to improve the surface. One member mowed Broomhill Meadow and another litter picked around the Village. Steve Holley started clearing the buddle holes in Westerland Lane.

This month approximately 50 hours of voluntary work had been completed.

Cllr Pennington asked that Steve Holley look at the state of weeds and undergrowth in the gutters particularly at the top of Moorview and Bellfield Avenue.

The meeting thanked the M.E.G. for all their hard work.

## **8. (8.17) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING.**

Cllr Sutton told the meeting that she had visited Ipplepen Play Park on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 to focus on Leisure and Recreation and to view the facilities provided there.

Section 106 monies were being considered for provision of equipment including Basketball pitches. Cllr Oliphant would report from a meeting with Mr Clements at the school when the Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils had been consulted about what they wanted in the Parish.

Cllr Sutton had consulted Martin Parkes from Devon Communities who would attend Neighbourhood Plan meetings in September or October.

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan group would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Sutton thanked the Parish Council for their support.

## **9. (8.17) PLANNING.**

**2059/17/FUL** - Erection of 6 (Use Class C3) units of tourism accommodation (shepherd cabins) and associated parking and landscaping.

**Compton Pool Farm.**

**Approved.**

**2102/17/HHO** – Proposed rear extension and loft conversion.

**9 Belfield Avenue.**

**Approved.**

**2279/17/HHO** – Two storey extension to rear and side of property.

**21 West View Road.**

**Approved.**

**2062/17/FUL** – Expansion and redevelopment of existing established garden centre and nursery incorporating the removal of existing polytunnels/greenhouses, construction of new garden centre building, retention of existing buildings for nursery/horticultural use, associated car parking and landscaping.

**Styles Garden Leisure Centre, Moles Lane.**

**Request that consideration of this application be delayed until a meeting had been held with Compton residents to address local concerns vis a vis the implementation of flood arrangements being adhered to.**

**It was noted that this application had originally been referred to Teignbridge District Council in error.**

Cllr Pennington would contact the planning officer Wendy Ormsby and ask that this application should not be considered under delegated authority and not be considered by the Development Control meeting until 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

#### **10. (8.17) CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was none.

#### **11. (8.17) LEISURE AND PUBLIC GROUNDS.**

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that she had also attended the visit to the Ipplepen play area and had been impressed by the range of play equipment and the fact that no dogs were allowed in the children's area. Cllr Clarke had visited Broomhill Meadow to see what equipment could be put there and had written to Linden Homes to enquire as to what play equipment would be installed at Moorview. Cllr Clarke suggested that following the recent anniversary of Nathan Wood's death, the Parish Council consider naming the new recreation area after Nathan.

It was proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Palk that Kerry McCabe the Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) officer be invited to the next Parish Council meeting.

South Hams District Council's Locality officer Gemma Carey had been contacted and the meeting awaited confirmation that the car crash rubbish left near Compton Mill had been cleared.

Cllr Joinson told the meeting about national plans for the lighting of beacons to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I; the Clerk would obtain details.

Cllr Page told the meeting that the church had agreed to fly the red ensign for Merchant Navy Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 if the Parish Council would purchase the flag. It was proposed by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr Sutton that a red ensign be purchased. Cllr Page passed a quotation for a flag 229cm x 114cm to the Clerk for action.

#### **12. (8.17) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE.**

The meeting noted that the road at Lower Westerlands , from the Old Farmhouse to the Torbay Boundary had not been cleaned; a letter would be sent



again to Cathy Aubertin at South Hams District Council; Cllr Pennington would also raise this matter. The buddle holes had been cleared by Steve Holley.

Cllr Veasey told the meeting that the road gullies in Churston Road needed cleaning; the main pipe on the pavement side on the right hand side going down the road was blocked. Although Highways had visited to clean they needed to be made aware of the blocked pipe.

There were potholes in Five Lanes Road and in the main road at Westerland on the Totnes Road.

There was a nasty depression in the entrance gateway at Tor Field on the Ipplepen Road at Slip Hill. Cllr Page would contact Steve Holley to ask him to obtain 5 bags of tarmac to address this.

Cllr Clarke raised concerns re large vehicles parking at the top of Moor View.

Cllr Sutton asked that the contract for the maintenance of Tor Field should be reviewed to ascertain the number of cuts required; this would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**13. (8.17) MATTERS UNDER REVIEW.**

There were none.

**14. (8.17) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.**

There was none.

**15. (8.17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**16. (8.17) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS.**

There were none.