**MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on

Monday 9th October 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 F Palk, Cllr D Sutton and Cllr D G Webber.

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Cllr J Hawkins, 3 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.

Mrs Bolster from Cobblestones raised the need for traffic calming in Westerlands following a recent increase in traffic and the current new homes being built. There had been a bad accident in October 2016 when a bus had been hit by a car at 5pm on a Friday in the wet. Mrs Bolster asked if speed cameras or speed bumps could be installed.

Cllr Pennington explained that meetings had been held at County Hall and the Highways and Traffic Order Committee (HATOC) had discussed the introduction of 20 mph speed limits but it was noted that at present these could not be enforced.

Cllr Sutton added that HATOC agreed with the introduction of 20mph limits but these would need a traffic order; it was not possible to enforce something that wasn’t in place.

Devon County Highways would be placing black boxes around the village to monitor the average speed at various locations over a 24 hour period.

Cllr Oliphant had been trained to use a speed camera but this was not allowed unless it was used at designated locations and there was a police officer present.

The meeting noted that the local PCSO Kirsty Powell lived in Compton and therefore might be available to help with this.

Cllr Sutton promised that the Parish Council would continue to ask the County Council to take action on speed reduction.

A member of the public voiced thanks to Westerways for cutting back hedges and vegetation on the bridle path at the rear of Pembroke Park.

Cllr Pennington thanked everyone who had attended the public meeting on the proposed merger between South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council.

**1. (10.17) APOLOGIES**.

Cllr R Thorp and Cllr G Page.

**2. (10.17) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.

**3. (10.17) APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 11th September 2017 meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th September 2017 were proposed by Cllr Veasey and seconded by Cllr Palk and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. (10.17)**  **MATTERS ARISING**.

a) **Dangerous trees at Compton narrows.**

This was awaiting a report from the Tree Warden. Cllr Oliphant told the meeting that there was a meeting planned with the National Trust in Compton on Friday 13th October 2017.

b) **Village Hall Council joint meeting re room booking**.

The Clerk read out an email from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee stating that he had spoken to Cllr Pennington concerning Councillor Sutton representing the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee. As the request for a new Parish Council representative had not been met, Mr Gue did not feel a meeting was appropriate at this time. However it was proposed by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr Veasey that the Parish Council considers that there should be a joint meeting between the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council, together with the Reverend Jones and Kerry Mc Cabe from the Youth Service, to discuss bookings of the Village Hall.

c) **Dog Bin Compton**

Cllr Pennington would contact Neil Greenhalgh and Emma Widdecombe at the District Council to chase this matter.

f) **Additional Bank signatories.**

The Clerk had transferred the address for the bank accounts but the Bank of Ireland had advised that they would be closing all there UK mainland business accounts in 2 months time. The Clerk would seek to open new accounts for the Parish Council with National Westminster bank.

**5. (10.17) POLICE MATTERS**.

Nothing to report.

**6. (10.17) FINANCE.**

The following payments were approved:-

**Payments- Main a/c:**  £ Clerk – Mrs T Rowe net salary September 2017 296.75 Expenses – Mrs T Rowe - September Stationery 6.99 303.74

Clerk PAYE to HMRC 74.00

Lengthsman – Stephen Holley (7th June – 16th August 2017) 639.16

**BANK ACCOUNTS as at 29th September 2017**

Main Account: £27362.62

P3 Account: £734.30

Environment Account : £435.03

NS&I Investment Account Balance at 31.12.2016: £20,920.14

(gross interest p.a.=£124.94)

**7. (10.17)**  **REPORTS:**

**County Council.**

Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report but urged members of the public and Councillors to contact him by email if they had any issues.

**District Council.**

Cllr Pennington reported on the public meeting held on 26th September 2017 to consult with residents on the proposed merger between South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council.

The meeting had been attended by 40 Marldon residents and also by District Councillor John Tucker the Leader of South Hams District Council and had been chaired by Cllr Pennington.

District Councillors Tucker and Wright both gave an address to the meeting and responded to questions from members of the public. Following this a vote was taken and 37 residents voted against the proposal for a merger. There were no votes in favour and 3 abstentions. The Parish Councillors present did not vote but at a Special Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2017 they voted unanimously against the merger. The public meeting was also attended by South Hams District Councillors Bramble and Birch.

Cllr Pennington went onto explain that the District Council had gone out to consultation via a variety of methods including email, Facebook and telephone questionnaires. This consultation had been supposed to close at midnight on Sunday 8th October 2017 but South Hams District Council systems had been overloaded with replies. District Council members were meant to have the results of the consultation by Thursday 12th October for their Overview and Scrutiny meeting. There had been no consultation with the District Council Audit Committee even though 5 members of the Audit Committee had requested a meeting on this matter. Cllr Pennington had looked into the District Council constitution and the Audit Committee had the right to examine this subject.

Cllr Sutton suggested that a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State as South Hams District Council had not allowed due process. Cllr Pennington told the meeting that there would be a Full Council meeting at Follaton House on Thursday 12th October at 10am and everyone could attend if they wished.

Cllr Pennington and the Chair of the District Council’s Audit Committee Cllr Pearce had done work on the District Council’s budget figures and could find at least £3m of savings going forward.

Cllr Sutton reported that a reply had been received from the MP Dr Sarah Wollaston concerning complaints about the merger. This stated that she realised that members of the public were unhappy about how the consultation had been carried out and recommended that the public should contact their local Councillors.

Cllr Veasey suggested a vote of no confidence in the Leader of the District Council but Cllr Pennington did not believe that this would be helpful at this stage.

Cllr Pennington explained that the agenda for the District Council meeting on Thursday would discuss the One Council Consultation process and a company called “Marketing Means” from Ashburton had drawn up statistics from the consultation as an analysis of the responses. Cllr Pennington told the meeting that the employment of this company had not been agreed by any of the Councillors at South Hams District Council, nor had the employment of “The Campaign Company” the specialist independent advisor to review the consultation, been sanctioned by members. The costs of both these consultants were unknown. The proposal for the merger had been drawn up by a steering group of just 5 members.

**M.E.G.**

In his absence Cllr Page’s MEG report had been circulated to members.

Work carried out this month: September 2017

13th September -

Three members went to the roundabout at Five Lanes Road and planted spring bulbs in the surrounding verges. Rain forced an early end to the planned work.

Steve Holly cut half of the grass verge on Vicarage Road.

20th September -

Three members went to Compton Mill Lane and cut and trimmed the extensive side growth back. The work was not completed and would be returned to when possible. *See below*. One member cleared the dead weeds on Parkfield Close to Village Road which were sprayed several weeks ago and also litter picked the area. One member mowed the Broomhill bridle path.

Steve Holley completed the grass verge in Vicarage Road and cut the verges on Vicarage Hill.

27th September -

Three members went to the old quarry on Ipplepen Road to bag up gravel in preparation for its removal to a more secure site. One member trimmed bramble and overgrowth on the approach to the Village Hall, the bottom of Church Hill and in Tor Field and the top of Slip Hill.

4th October – to be included in next month’s report.

Due to lack of volunteers it had not been possible to cover all of the footpaths/green lanes in the parish as often as would be required to keep them all in good condition. Priorities would have to be set to keep the most used pathways in good condition and lesser used paths as and when time was available. Compton Mill Lane was used only by trail bikers, horse riders and a few hardy dog walkers. Interest group users such as trial bike and horse riders should be encouraged to raise working parties to clear the green lanes themselves if necessary.

There were 24hrs of voluntary work completed to date this month.

**8. (10.17)**  **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING.**

Cllr Sutton told the meeting that the minutes of the last Neighbourhood Plan group meeting had been sent out with the minutes of the Parish Council meeting. Andrew Field had carried out a digital survey and a £80,000 costing for a multi-use games area had been produced. This would be taken to a meeting with the District Council at Follaton House on 11th October 2017 to discuss the use of Section 106 monies for the project. Martin Parkes from Devon Communities would be coming to the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan group to talk about grant applications.

**9. (10.17) SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT AND WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCILS CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CREATE ONE COUNCIL.**

This item had been discussed under minute 7. (10.17) District Councillor’s Report.

**10. (10.17) PLANNING.**

**3161/17/TPO** – T1: Beech – Fell due to the continuous falling of debris from the tree onto the property and road entrance – **Churscombe Lodge, Churscombe Green, Marldon.**

This application had been passed to the Tree Warden for comment.

**2930/17/FUL** – Change of use of land from agricultural to allow holiday accommodation, one shepherd’s hut, one safari tent and one cedar yurt – **Compton Holt, Compton Pool Cross to Compton, Marldon.**

**Recommend Approval.**

**2516/17/HHO** – Side extension, extend rear dormer and add front dormer – 15 Nether Meadow, Marldon.

**Recommend Approval.**

**11. (10.17) CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was none.

**12. (10.17) LEISURE AND PUBLIC GROUNDS.**

Play Equipment Tor Field

The Clerk had circulated the South Hams District Council report on the play equipment at Tor Field to members.

Cllr Veasey suggested that the slide was not worth repairing and should be replaced. The Clerk would ask the District Council to quote for the repairs and the replacement of the slide.

Cemetery

Cllr Joinson reported on problems that had recently occurred at the Cemetery with a funeral hearse that had pulled in too far and had been unable to turn. Cllrs Veasey and Joinson had previously investigated the possibility of getting the extra ground at the cemetery consecrated but this had not been taken forward.

Cllr Veasey suggested that the extra ground up to the first fence be donated to the church so that they could be responsible for all burials as at present.

Cllr Palk said that the church warden Stephanie Webb should be contacted to see if this would be acceptable.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Clerk would contact the contracts manager at Thulborns as the Parish Council felt the contract should be reviewed and the number of grass cuts should be specified.

Youth Group meetings

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that the issue of provision of a meeting room for the Youth group in Marldon needed to be resolved. Currently they were only able to hold one meeting per month in a small room. Cllr Clarke would be attending the meeting at the District Council on 11th October to discuss the use of the Section 106 monies for Youth provision; other groups in the village were vying to use this windfall money and it must be put to good use.

Mr Moore’s letter had mentioned plans to extend a basketball pitch but the cost of the installation of this was £13,000 -£16,000. He had also suggested more play equipment for young children but Cllr Clarke suggested that equipment for older children was needed more.

There had not been a reply yet from the developer at Moorview concerning the play equipment to be installed there.

Cllr Sutton told the meeting that she had thanked Mr Moore for his letter and had suggested that he speak to the Reverend Jones concerning Youth provision. Mr Moore had been delighted with the proposals for the Broomhill project.

**13. (10.17) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE.**

The Clerk would ask Devon Highways to make the re-painting of the double yellow lines at Moorview a matter of priority, as there could be a serious accident at this junction.

The meeting noted that the overhanging branches in Moles Lane might be the responsibility of Torbay not Devon County Council.

The road at Westerlands had not been cleaned for at least 8 months – the Clerk would report this.

Cllr Oliphant would pass details of the property with overgrown hedges in Compton to the Clerk.

Cllr Palk reported that the allotments hedge on the left hand side was very overgrown. This would be reported to Cllr Page.

**14. (10.17) MATTERS UNDER REVIEW.**

There were none.

**15. (10.17) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR** – None.

**16. (10.17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Monday 13th November 2017.

**17. (10.17) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS** – None.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm