MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 7.30pm**.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs. Pennington, Veasey, Mrs Cox, Mrs Clarke, Thorp, Joinson. Page, Palk.

C. Cllr Rowe

**ALSO PRESENT**: Clerk to the Parish Council David Eeles, and 49 members of the public.

Apologies were received from: Cllrs Webber, Smith

**1 (apm.16)**. **WELCOME and Address by Police representative P.C. Geoff Foster**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Trevor Pennington, welcomed members of the public, the police, Parish and County Councillors, Volunteers and the guest speakers to the meeting.

P.C. Foster, who lives in the village, was standing in for his colleagues who had been unable to attend. He said that the neighbourhood team on Marldon is PG Gary Addelsee and PCSO Kirsty Powell supervised by PS Helen Gerig. The team is based in Totnes. The response to spontaneous incidents in Maldon primarily comes from Totnes but will officers from Torbay will be deployed to serious incidents if their attendance will be more timely.

**Total crimes within the Maldon beat code**:

01/04/15 to 31/03/16~56

For the same period last year 90.

56 crimes over this period equates to under five per month.

**In relation to the reported crimes**

* 13 relates to an on going neighbour disputes.

**Assaults**

There were seven assaults in total

* Common assault how are pulling on a school bus.
* ABH. Juvenile assaulted by a related juvenile in the park.
* GBH. Mail assaulted by a work colleague.
* Common assault. Domestic violence.
* ABH male have a scooter pushed into his leg. Part of the neighbourhood disputes.
* Common assault. Female punched by a male. Part of the neighbourhood dispute.
* ABH. Male rammed with a wheelbarrow. Part of the neighbourhood dispute.

**Burglary dwelling**

Three offences in total:

* House entered and video equipment stolen. Part of the neighbourhood dispute.
* Theft by a foster child from part of the house they were not allowed into.
* Jewellery found to be missing from a house over the period of a month. No indication of how or when it went.

**Burglary other**

* Theft of items from a shed.

As with previous years the risk of becoming a victim of crime as a resident of Marldon is low and the risk of being a victim of serious crime is it extremely low.

**Questions**:

Ms Oliphant asked about the 20mph limit and the speeding problems especially during the morning and afternoon rush hours. PC Foster said that if they have they have the officers and equipment they will mount surveillance.

The Chairman explained that the request to the Highways’s HATOC committee for a village-wide 20mph limit had been successful thanks to the Chairman’s casting vote but this is only a recommendation and the matter now goes to the DCC cabinet. The local MP has expressed her support for the project. Norman Wilkinson said school parents were parking in backstreets to deliver or pick up children. Hugh Lienster said that if there weren’t so many children from outside the catchment area thee wouldn’t be such a problem with traffic for the school.

**2 (apm16) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- Guest speaker Mr Alan Storah, with Graham Sweet, both from SHDC Planning.**

The Chairman introduced Mr Storah who is the new dedicated Planning Support person who has been appointed by SHDC to be the contact with all NDP groups. He made the following points:

1. The neighbourhood plan should not promote less development than the local plan however the local plan has not been formulated yet and is now being done via both SHDC and West Devon councils together.
2. He is now the new recruit supporting neighbourhood planning group is working at arm’s-length from the council.
3. The new joint local plan with West Devon Plymouth and the National Park will have a duty to cooperate.
4. The strategy has not yet been decided the future needs are not known but it does allow Parish Council is to say no to development provided there is evidence why this should be the case.
5. At the moment if Parish Council is say no the developers may challenge this and could win the appeal because there is no five year plan for housing in place yet.
6. The local development plan still exists and that will have equal status with the neighbourhood plan.
7. Neighbourhood plans must address development and the use of land but need not to deal with all types of land use.
8. He said an alternative do to the neighbourhood plan might be the Parish Council trying to influence the new our plan with a vision for future parish community design statements and the supplementary planning document.
9. You should ask the question what is it you want to achieve and whether the neighbourhood plan is the best way of doing this.
10. A neighbourhood plan without a local plan with up-to-date policies will be more challenging.
11. If the plans are not produce the government will commission consultants.

**3(apm.16) N.P. Forum**

**Questions:**

* Councillor Clarke asked about retrospective plans as more of these were being received and she felt that there should be extra charges to discourage such breeches of the procedure. Mr Storah said that retrospective planning applications must be treated as if the building was not there and the council has enforcement powers to force the demolition or removal of such developments if necessary. It is not possible to charge more at local level for such applications.
* Mr Leinster suggested that it was possible that areas of the Marldon Christmas Tree Farm could be developed. However the owners said there were no plans for this.
* There was a debate about the meaning of “affordable” housing involving Mr Roger Sibley, who had presented a paper on this and the N.P. to members of the Council at the start of the meeting. Graham Sweet said such housing was not necessarily affordable to everyone, but will be at a cost which is less than that of the open market so allowing more possible buyers access to the market. They are usually provided through Housing Associations. Generally 70% is for rent, 30% shared ownership. Self-build schemes are unfortunately not attractive to landowners.
* Richard Albert asked if Marldon will be vulnerable if there is no N.P. This will depend on whether the Local Plan specifies that there should be more housing in Marldon.
* Cllr Veasey asked if joining with W. Devon will take the pressure off SHDC for housing. Mr Sweet said the release of MOD land at Plymouth had reduced the pressure to make more “Sherfords”. Cllr Veasey also asked about the advisability of new towns as they did at least ensure the infrastructure was there for the new houses. Mr Sweet said there was a huge time-scale for new towns but he agrees that many towns and villages had reached their “natural boundaries” and that greenfield sites might be better.

**4(apm.16) APPROVAL OF MINUTES of 2016 meeting**– Unanimously approved

**4(apm.16) 4MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**5(apm.16) PARISH COUNCIL TREASURERS REPORT**

Cllr Pennington reported that the Parish Council finances are in a very healthy state. Our main account has £22,178 in the reserves the PIII account £293 and the environment account £481 which is one of the largest amongst South Hams Parish Councils.

We were also able to produce for 2016/17 the lowest Parish Council increase in Council Tax – just 86p on a band D property which represents and increase of just nought .7% equivalent to 1 1/2p per week giving a Council Tax of £12.90 p on a band D property.

**7(apm.14) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT (incorporating Parish, District and**

Chairmans’ Report- Parish Council by Cllr T. Pennington.

Thanks to all parish councillors for voluntarily representing the parish and its requirements over the year. The councils work covers the consideration of various planning applications and making representations to the South Hams council, leisure and recreation facilities and their improvement, environmental improvements and keeping all our rural footpaths neat and tidy in partnership with the hard-working volunteers on the Marldon Environment Group (MEG) who do fantastic work in the village. I am sure there may be yet more volunteers forthcoming if anyone is interested and willing then contact one of the MEG members Robin Cox, Councillor Angela Cox, Councillor Gordon Page, Michael Baggett to name just a view. Similarly we hope to produce a new Marldon neighbourhood plan as previously explained to include future planning, recreational and social issues, and recreational facilities which will be the blueprint for Marldon over the coming years.

The Parish Council strongly opposed the development for 37 new houses at Westerland Green, Moorview as an unsuitable site but it was approved by S. Hams and DCC due to central Government NPPF regulations.

We have sent every villager a questionnaire on connection with the neighbourhood plan to give an opportunity to express an opinion of your views an what and how the village should progress in the future. All views expressed will be carefully analysed by the NP team which is a partnership comprising Parish Councillors Veasey, Clarke, Page and Pennington together with five residents- Mary Oliphant of iompton, Roger Sibley of Moorview, Delyth Sutton of Ipplepen Road, Hilary Williams of Five Lanes and David Cooke of Brockhurst Park. We invite other villagers to join the team, please let us know. The Council does support the “20 is plenty” campaign led by Michael Morrison, Mary Olophant, Delyth Sutton , Robin Cox, Derek Hore and David Cooke and at the South Hams Council Highway and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) on which I sit I was seconded by our County Councillor Rosemary Rowe to secure agreement for this but it willstill need the full support of Devon County Council.

The PC also allowed vehicular parking on Jubilee Meadow durng the Devon County High Sheriff Declaration Service in Marldon Church when Angela Gilbert of of Compton Castle was installed – a great honour for both herself and Marldon. We should all thank both our wardworking parish clerk David eeles and local farmer David Berlyn who religiously spends time cutting Broomhill Meadow grass and with MEG keeping it very tidy. Finally we said goodbye to former councillor Keith Bygraves of Farthing Lane who resigned from the Council following his recent move to St Marychurch. We welcome his replacement Gordon Page of Pembroke Park who has settled into his new role with vigour.

My thanks go to the team of Parish Councillors for all their efforts and work over the year.

South Hams District Council report

D. Cllr. Pennington reported that:

I must thank all electors for re-electing me to South Hams District Council last of May. I have now been on the council for 43 years coming from being the youngest to now a veteran. The ward now also consists of a Berry Pomeroy and Littlehempston and I regularly attend both the Parish Council meetings. I am a member of the overview and scrutiny committee, the strategic planning working group, the political structures working group and I am Chairman of the audit committee and I am pleased to report that Grant Thornton, our external auditors, praised South Hams for their economy efficiency and effectiveness in their examinations this year which is more than can be said for one very large multinational organisation on which the auditors have refused to sign off their accounts for over 20 years.

South Hams is working in partnership with West Devon and shares services and gains efficiencies. Since 2013 central government has reduced our revenues support to grant by over 40% but by sharing with West Devon we are delivering annual revenue savings of £33 million. Our revenue support grant was 1.4 million in 2015 to 16 and it is expected to be nil by 2020/21. Council Tax increase by £5 or to £150.42 p Band D (10 pence a week). Net expenditure was 8,751,072

**6(apm.16) MARLDON LAND CHARITY REPORT Cllr Joinson**

On behalf of my fellow trustee Tony should love and myself I am pleased to be able to present this report of the Marldon Parish lands charity to the Parish Council for the year ending 31st of March 2016.

Financially little has changed over the last year. It is still very difficult for small Charities such as ours to find institutions within the strict financial criteria imposed by the Charity Commission which can offer anything other than a negligible rate of interest for the charities funds. The bulk of the charities cash assets remain invested in a bond and which although very secure pays less than 2% interest.

With regard to grants made during the year, the trustees have been very happy to be able to assist are young lady student from the Parish, who has already obtained a B.SC in medicine from Exeter University and now wishes to gain experience in her chosen field by undertaking a two month course with the medical charity specialising in health care for women and children. After this course, she hopes during the next year, to obtain a further BSC degree which will enable her, hopefully before the end of next year, to be recognised with the General Medical Council as a doctor.

There has been some small change in connection with the charities dealings with the owner of the land in Knockersknowle Quarry are joining the charities land. Since our last report, the adjoining owner has had plans drawn up for a small development on his land, which have been approved by South Hams District Council and the Parish Council. The trustees are therefore more hopeful that this will result in some progress with the adjoining owner.

All of the above has meant that there is little change in the financial and day-to-day business of the charity since our report last year. Nevertheless the trustees are always anxious to hear of suitable deserving cases where we might be able to help parishioners or suitable village organisations with financial assistance.

.7 (apm16) County Councillor’s Report.

Cllr. Rosemary Rowe reported that she has now been a District Councillor for 21 years and a County Councillor for 3 years. She now covers Dartmouth with Marldon for the DCC. Her main concerns have been trying to help with Highways issues especially of course on the potholes.

8 (apm16) Any other business at Chairmans’ Discretion

None

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………………. April 2016 ( Chairman)