**MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on

Monday 11th February 2019 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr J T Pennington – Chairman, Cllr S Veasey – Vice-Chairman, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr M Oliphant, Cllr G Page, Cllr F Palk, Cllr D Sutton,

Cllr R Thorp and Cllr D Webber.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 6 members of the public, Mr Kevin Gue and

Dr Ray Harrison from the Marldon Village Hall Committee, Mrs Julie Haines and Mrs Helen Burns from Marldon Preschool 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 member of the public asked that when planning applications were considered by the Parish Council, that the addresses of the properties were clearly announced.

The owner of a property on Church Hill told the meeting that the fence to his property had been damaged on numerous occasions. The sign at the foot of the hill stated that there was a 25% gradient and that it was unsuitable for large vehicles. He had measured the width of the road and this was only 7ft wide in places. The length of vehicles was the cause of their getting stuck and he suggested that the sign be amended to state that the road was unsuitable for long vehicles.

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee told the meeting that following reports of a rock having fallen from the quarry face at the rear of the Village Hall, the Village Hall Committee had paid to have scaffolding installed and the quarry face cleared of foliage and rubble to be able assess the risk. So far this had cost the Village Hall Committee approximately £10,000.

In the course of this work it had become clear that further work of approximately £23,000 would need to be done to stabilise the rock face, and in addition to this, work needed to be done to rectify issues with the retaining wall between Tor Field and the quarry.

The Village Hall did not have sufficient funds to meet these costs, having a current bank balance of £12,000 and were approaching the Parish Council to seek help.

The consequences of not securing help in this matter were outlined to the Parish Council and these included the Village Hall closing and the Apple Pie Fair being cancelled (as this cost £3,000-£5,000 per annum to run). Mr Gue told the meeting that the Village Hall Committee would not have sufficient funds to meet commitments for the day to day running of the hall or to pay out initial costs for the Apple Pie Fair.

It was stressed that this matter was urgent as bookings, events and planning for the coming year were all affected and because important safety work needed to be done now to prevent a rock slide damaging the Village Hall or causing injury to a member of the public.

The Parish Council agreed that urgent meetings needed to be arranged that involved members of the Parish Council, representatives of Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, A. Robin Hood & Associates (the engineers employed by the Village Hall Committee to carry out the work) and members of the Village Hall Committee. It was acknowledged that this may take a little time depending on availability of those involved. The Parish Council acknowledged that the survival of the Village Hall was very important to the whole community.

In the meantime the Parish Council stated that they would discuss this matter at their next meeting and it was agreed that the Village Hall Treasurer would meet the next day with Cllr Page to look at the situation vis-a-vis Tor Field. It was noted that the owner of an adjoining property had denied access to the contractor working at the Village Hall despite concerns for the collapse of their wall. A copy of the contractor’s report was circulated to the meeting and would be sent to the Village Hall’s insurers.

The Clerk would contact County Councillor Hawkins to ask if Devon County Council had any funds available.

**1. (02.19) APOLOGIES**.

Apologies were received from Cllr N Stevens and County Cllr J Hawkins.

**2. (02.19) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**.

There were none.

**3. (02.19) MARLDON PRESCHOOL – NEW SITE.**

Julie Haines explained that the continuing use of the Village Hall would not meet the future requirements of the Pre-school.

Cllr Sutton commented that if the Pre-school left the Village Hall this would cause additional funding problems for the Village Hall Committee.

Members of the Parish Council explained that sites owned by the Parish Council all had covenants preventing building or the running of businesses on them.

Helen Burn the Manager of the Pre-school told the meeting that they had been looking for a new site for a number of years; they had been in touch with the District Council and the primary school. Unfortunately the primary school was not an option as there were problems of secure access.

As the village was growing there were more and more children wanting to attend; the pre-school could at present offer 3 full days but were unable to use the hall on a Thursday and Friday. Their main reason for wanting another site was the lack of an outside area at the hall. They wanted an area within the village to allow parents and children to walk to the pre-school; they had 38 children on their books at present and their most recent Ofsted inspection had rated them as good. Sectioning an area of Tor Field was suggested but this would pose problems in the adult/child ratio for going outside the hall.

Councillors suggested the area of land in Preston Down Road which was owned by Torbay for a possible new site and the pre-school staff agreed to investigate this.

**4. (02.19) APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 14th January 2019 meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January were proposed by Cllr Veasey and seconded by Cllr Sutton, agreed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**5. (02.19) MATTERS ARISING**.

**a) Extension of the Churchyard.**

Cllr Veasey reported that the diocese had requested a meeting on Saturday 16th February at 3pm at St John’s in Totnes; Cllrs Veasey and Pennington would attend.

**b) Empty Properties - Downalong House and Pembroke Park.**

There had still been no reply from David Sexton the Empty Homes officer from the District Council. The Clerk would contact him again and make him aware that there were people in Downalong at present.

**c) Community Payback Scheme.**

The Clerk had again chased for this work to be carried out in Compton under this scheme but was still awaiting a reply and would chase again.

**d) Parish Council Deeds.**

The Chairman still had to pass the deeds for Broomhill Meadow and Jubilee Meadow to the Clerk in order that they could be held by the Parish Council’s solicitors. The meeting noted that it was very important that the Parish Council view the deeds of the Village Hall.

**e) Church Hill Width Restriction.**

Following comments from the public, the Parish Council would request that the sign at the bottom of Church Hill be amended to include a vehicle length restriction.

Cllr Pennington proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Thorp and agreed by the meeting that another meeting be requested at the site with the Highways Officer which could be attended by interested members of the public.

**6. (02.19) POLICE MATTERS**.

Cllr Oliphant told the meeting that there had been a break in at an empty property in Compton in the last week. Cllr Palk reported problems with repeated fly tipping just outside the border of the Parish with Torbay.

**7. (02.19) FINANCE.**

The following payments were approved by the meeting:-

**Payments- Main a/c:**  £ Clerk – Mrs T Rowe net salary January 2019 305.99

Printing Neighbourhood Plan Leaflets 88.50

Office Allowance January 2019 12.00

406.49

H.M.R.C. –January 2019 76.40

Marldon Village Hall Council – extra meeting 19th December 2018 9.00

Opus Energy – Electricity Jubilee Meadow 112.72

**BANK ACCOUNTS as at 31st January 2019**

Main Account: £25,653.17

P3 Account: £413.28

Environment Account: £370.12

NS&I Investment Account Balance at 31.12.2017: £21,018.72

(gross interest p.a. for 2017 =£98.58)

Total Balance held by Marldon Parish Council £47,455.29

The Clerk would pursue the matter of additional bank signatories.

The meeting considered a grant to Torbay Hospital Radio and Cllr Thorp told members that the service was provided 24 hours a day 7 days a week by volunteers. Cllr Thorp proposed a grant of £200.00 to Torbay Hospital Radio this was seconded by Cllr Oliphant and agreed by the meeting. Cllr Thorp would confirm the correct details for the cheque to the Clerk.

The Chairman had received a request for a grant from Marldon Community Choir, he had provided a grant of £100.00 from his District Council Community Fund and he proposed that the Parish Council make a grant of £100.00. This was seconded by Cllr Palk and agreed by the meeting.

**8. (02.19)**  **REPORTS:**

**District Council Report.**

Cllr Pennington told the meeting that the District Council Executive had met that day to discuss the budget which would go before Full Council on 21st February 2019.

Proposals included:-

1. An increase in Council tax by £5 bringing the Council tax for a Band D property to £165.42 or 3.12% increase and this equated to the District Council’s tax requirement of £6,315,689.
2. A contribution to earmarked reserves of £714,300.
3. Proposed savings of £1,067,226.
4. Use of £500,000 of the New Homes Bonus to balance the revenue budget.
5. The Council Tax Support Grant paid to Town and Parish Councils to be reduced by 9.85% = £74,473.
6. Net expenditure of £8,832,752
7. Minimum level of un-earmarked revenue reserves of £1,500,000.

**M.E.G.**

Marldon Environmental Group Report

Work carried out in this month: January 2019

16th January

Two members went to Broomhill to remove part of the memorial seat to Mr Say to enable a new memorial plaque to be fitted in memory of Mrs Say. They then went to the allotments to assess and measure up for the work to restore the entrance steps. One member was shown the task of bush removal from around the wall at the back of the Village Hall and down the side behind the Old School House in preparation for the work of rebuilding and rendering the wall secure for the future. This will be an ongoing task over the next few months; he then cleared the verge on Village Road of mud, grit and weeds and cleared the road drains. Two members litter picked down Vicarage Hill, Vicarage Road and round the entrance to the bridleway.

23rd January

Eighteen members and helpers attended the annual lunch and a drink at the Smokie Inn. This function was held every year to thank volunteers for their efforts over the past year and to look forward to a successful season to come.

30th January

Due to prior commitments a formal meeting was not organised this day. However several members went out to litter pick and clean up various sites around the village.

6th February

Three members went to the allotments to make a start on refurbishing the steps up to the site. Despite it being very wet and muddy five step risers were replaced and four steps surfaced with gravel. The remaining steps would be replaced and gravelled in the next week. Two members went to start a work survey of Marldon and Compton green lanes not surveyed as part of the P3 scheme.

Steve Holley started to clear the excessive growth of bramble and ivy behind the walls onto Jubilee Meadow and would cut down the self-seeded trees which were threatening to damage the wall.

In addition to the above work around the village the task of clearing the area around the wall on Tor Field has been ongoing and contractors have started work on the rock face behind the Village Hall.

In all about 30 voluntary hours of work had been completed this month.

The meeting thanked MEG for their outstanding work on behalf of the local community.

**9. (02.19)**  **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING.**

Reported under Leisure and Recreation.

**10. (02.19) PLANNING.**

**0024/19/HHO** – Householder application for proposed single storey side-rear extension – **4 Bampton Close, Marldon TQ3 1NB**

**Recommend Approval.**

**11. (02.19) CORRESPONDENCE.**

The following items of correspondence had been received:-

1. Details from South Hams District Council of an open evening for anyone interested in becoming a District Councillor which was held at Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes on Wednesday 30th January at 6.30 p.m.
2. Details from South Hams District Council of changes to the recycling service with a survey for residents to give their views which closed on 11th February 2019.
3. From CPRE details of an important seminar which had been organised to take place on Friday 8th February 2019 (10am-1pm) at The Bedford Hotel, Tavistock asking if the scale of housing development was right for South West Devon and What really are South West Devon's housing needs.
4. An invitation to apply to become a member of the Devon Countryside Access Forum from the Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator at Devon County Council.
5. Devon Communities Together reported that the Government had moved to the next stage of the nuclear waste disposal site process and was running a series of events, one of which would be in Exeter on the 28th February.
6. Details from Keep Britain Tidy inviting Town and Parish Councils to join in on the Great British Spring Clean from 22nd March to 23rd April 2019.
7. The Citizens Advice South Hams Newsletter and a letter of thanks for the grant of £250.00 from the Parish Council. Also details of a vacancy for a new Trustee.
8. A letter of thanks from Marldon PCC for their grant of £100.00 from the Parish Council.
9. A resident asking if the Parish Council know of any land available for sale on which bees could be kept. The meeting suggested that this resident be offered a place on the waiting list for the allotments.
10. An offer from a resident to grass cut Jubilee Meadow on a voluntary basis – covered under Leisure and Public Grounds.
11. A complaint about hedges overgrowing the road next to Cox’s garage – the Clerk would report this to Devon highways.
12. Details of the Village Hall AGM on 19th February 2019.
13. From South Hams District Council – A new premises licence application - Brownscombe Luxury Glamping, Compton, Marldon TQ3 1TA - The application was for: sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, Monday to Friday from 8am to 9pm; Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 9pm.
14. An article from Cllr Sutton which was read out at the meeting concerning dog-fouling. The Clerk would add details of Ebay and Amazon to the article and publish this on the Village Notice Board.

**12. (02.19) LEISURE AND PUBLIC GROUNDS.**

Public Grounds Report from Cllr J Clarke:-

Cllr Clarke reported that due to the fact that she had been unable to attend the celebration evening marking the 3rd anniversary of the TRAYE Youth groups, Cllr Clarke had asked Kerry McCabe the Youth leader if she would come to the next Parish Council meeting and show the film of the young people’s journey so far –the was agreed.

The TRAYE AGM was to be held on Saturday 23rd February from 10-11.30am at Dartington Village Hall. Cllr Clarke would attend and would report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

Kerry McCabe and the Youth Club children had offered to help deliver the Neighbourhood Plan leaflets regarding the acquisition of more recreational facilities for the village using the Section 106 monies from the new estate at Moorview. We would of course still be looking to match fund as well.

Cllr Clarke thanked the Clerk for getting the leaflets printed. The Chairman had given Cllr Clarke a list of areas and numbers of houses in those areas so that the leaflet deliveries could start. Cllr Clarke had already received several offers of help and she asked those present at the meeting to volunteer to assist with the deliveries which it was hoped would start by the end of the week.

The Clerk would email the leaflet to Cllr Oliphant for distribution to Compton residents.

The meeting discussed the charges for the maintenance of Jubilee Meadow and the Clerk told the meeting that a resident had offered to carry out grounds maintenance on a voluntary basis but this was not thought to be suitable.

Cllr Pennington proposed that the current arrangements for the maintenance of Jubilee Meadow stayed the same but he would check on the amount of rent that should be charged to the Cricket Club and would inform the Clerk.

**13. (02.19) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE.**

Potholes at the corner of Westerland were reported at the meeting and a large pothole outside the Primary School.

Cllr Veasey reported that the loose kerbstone at the entrance to the Bowling Club had still not been repaired.

**14. (02.19) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR (for noting only)**.

The Clerk asked the meeting about the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and members agreed that this would take in place in May after the District and Parish elections.

**15. (02.19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Monday 11th March 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed By..................................................

Cllr T Pennington (Chairman) – 11th March 2019