**MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Marldon Parish Council held on

Monday 8th April 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 N Stevens,

Cllr R Thorp and Cllr D 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 member of the public from Westerland queried the siting of a planning notice opposite her house on a narrow part of the road where, because of the traffic, it was almost impossible for it to be read. This notice concerned application 0443/19/VAR for the removal or variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 1251/16/FUL to allow for a change to the design of the Holiday Lodges at Marldon Christmas Tree Farm and she asked the Parish Council what condition 2 involved. Cllr Veasey explained that this was only concerned with the design of the holiday chalets.

A member of the public referred to the term “white elephant” being used in the March minutes in relation to Broomhill Meadow and added that it was well used by walkers and dog walkers. Cllr Clarke explained that the term had been used in relation to Broomhill Meadow’s designation as a nature reserve.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received a letter of resignation from the Parish Clerk and her last day would be 30th April 2019. The Clerk would ensure that an advertisement was placed on the notice board and on the Devon Association of Local Councils website.

**1. (04.19) APOLOGIES**.

Apologies were received from Cllr Sutton.

**2. (04.19) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**.

There were none.

**3. (04.19) APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 11th March 2019 meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March were proposed by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr Thorp, agreed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record with the following amendment: - Cllr Thorp was present at the meeting.

**4. (04.19) MARLDON VILLAGE HALL.**

1. **To consider financial assistance to the Village Hall Council towards costs for works to the wall at the rear of the building.**

Cllr Pennington told the meeting that this matter was on-going and various discussions and meetings were taking place.

1. **Work to the Parish Council owned wall at the rear of the Village Hall.**

Cllr Veasey had that day missed a call from the contractor who had worked on the wall at the rear of the Village Hall, concerning a quotation for work to the Parish Council wall at the top of the slope. Cllr Veasey had received various quotes but Robin Hood Associates were the only contractors with the requisite insurance for this work.

1. **Marldon Apple Pie Fair - Saturday 27th July.  Request for the Parish Councils permission to hold the Fair on Jubilee Meadow and also to use Tor Field for Stallholders parking.**

Cllr Page raised concerns following a statement by the Village Hall Treasurer at a previous Parish Council meeting that there were insufficient funds to run the Apple Pie Fair this year. The Clerk had received an application from the Apple Pie Fair Committee and

Cllr Thorp told the meeting that he had spoken to the Committee and they were going ahead as planned. The use of Jubilee Meadow and Tor Field by the Apple Pie Fair were proposed by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr Page and agreed by the meeting.

**5. (04.19) MATTERS ARISING**.

**a) Extension of the Churchyard.**

Contact from the Diocese was still awaited on this matter.

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

Nothing to report at present. The District Council’s Empty Homes Officer had left and a new officer had yet to be appointed.

**c) Community Payback Scheme.**

The Clerk had again chased for this work to be carried out in Compton under this scheme but had been told there was not currently any supervision available in the area; contact would be made when staff were available.

**d) Parish Council Deeds.**

Copies of a covenant for the Village Hall had been laid round the table at the Chairman’s request.

**e) Church Hill Width Restriction.**

Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that Neil Oxton from Devon County Highways had suggested “Not suitable for Motor Vehicles” signs would be added at the bottom of the hill. Cllr Hawkins would chase these as necessary.

**f) Street light in the Bowling Green car park.**

Devon Street lighting had advised that this light was not a County Council responsibility but in fact was owned by LiveWest; the Clerk would report this to LiveWest.

**g) Site inspection at The Linhay, Lower Westerland Barns.**

The Chairman reported that a site inspection had taken place by Parish Councillors but no decision had been taken on this matter at present.

**6. (04.19) POLICE MATTERS**.

There was no Police report.

**7. (04.19) FINANCE.**

The following payments were approved by the meeting:-

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

Paper 9.69

Copier ink 8.94

Office Allowance March 2019 12.00

336.62

H.M.R.C. – March 2019 76.40

Opus Energy – Electricity Jubilee Meadow 27.93

Plandscape – grass cut on 28th March 2019 119.70

Devon Tree Services - works to Trees at Jubilee Meadow 1,008.00

Marldon Cricket Club – Sept 18 to March 2019 550.00

Stephen Holley – 23/01 to 13/03/19 195.00

South West Water Business 21.41

South Hams District Council – Payroll Services 120.00

TRAYE – Grant 1,000.00

Torbay Hospital Radio – Grant 200.00

Marldon Community Choir – Grant 100.00

Devon Association of Local Councils 524.42

**BANK ACCOUNTS as at 29th March 2019**

Main Account: £25,405.74

P3 Account: £580.55

Environment Account: £172.80

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 £47,177.81

Cllr Page told the meeting that the works to two trees at Jubilee Meadow by Devon Tree Services had been agreed by himself and the Chairman as they needed urgent attention to protect the public using the field.

**8. (04.19)**  **REPORTS:**

**County Council Report.**

Cllr Hawkins reported that he hoped that Neil Oxton from Devon Highways would be arranging for signs to be put up at Church Hill in the next couple of months.

Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Oliphant had recently walked Compton to look at issues there and had reported trees in the narrows to Devon County Council. However these had later been inspected by Devon Highways and were deemed safe.

Drains in Compton that had been blocked had also been cleared.

Cllr Hawkins had again raised the issue of the extension of the 20mph zones in Marldon Parish with Devon Highways.

Cllr Hawkins thanked the Clerk for her work in the Parish and also thanked

Cllr Sutton who he noted was not standing again for the Parish Council and would be a great loss.

Cllr Palk noted that there was a branch hanging down near the bend in Compton and Cllr Oliphant agreed to check its location later; this would be the responsibility of the landowner.

**District Council Report.**

Cllr Pennington told the meeting that there was not much to report this month as the elections would shortly be taking place. He noted however that following the failure of the merger between South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council in 2017, there had been recently been discussions between South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council over the merger of the two District Council’s headquarters and the sale of Follaton House

**M.E.G.**

Marldon Environmental Group Report

Work carried out in this month: March 2019

13th March

Five members went to the Parish car park to clear the sides back and to trim overgrowing vegetation and to clear both sides of Love Lane of leaf mould up to Marldon House gates. One member cut back tree branches on Broomhill bridle path at the back of the Old Vicarage. This was to enable the grass cutting tractor to get closer to the edge of the bridle path verge. Steve Holley cut the grass verges on Vicarage Road and on Vicarage Hill between Nether Meadow and Meadow Park Road and around the village seat on Village Road.

20th March

Six members went to Footpath 13 to cut back bramble and to clear out the drainage ditches. One member went litter picking around the village.

Steve Holley cleared six dumpy bags of leaf litter generated from the Love Lane clean-up in the previous week, cut back shrubbery from around the Village Hall and cut the grass around Churscombe roundabout.

27th March

Four members went to the underpass on Preston Down Road to cut back the overgrowth down each side. Two members replaced a fence post to the big gate onto Broomhill Meadow. One member cut the grass on the bridleway footpath and seating area and one member litter picked round the village. For the first time, the tool shed was used as a meeting point from where members collected and returned equipment. It all went very smoothly and Robin Cox was to be congratulated on how well he had organised the equipment in the storage container.

3rd April

Six members went to Preston Down Road and the underpass to complete the clearance of overgrowth that was started the previous week. The verges from Mayfield College up to Vicarage Lane were all cleaned back and mown.

The two trees in Jubilee Meadow which were uprooted by the windy weather earlier in the month had now been taken down and the wood removed. There was a little tidying up to be done, which MEG would do over the next couple of weeks. Devon Tree Services did a very good job in safely removing a tree in a very difficult situation.

MEG has received, again, complaints about the condition of the footpath from Peters Crescent up to Peters Field. This footpath was badly broken up and was a safety hazard. Both this and the bottom step from Church Walk onto Church Hill required tarmac resurfacing, a job which MEG or the lengthsman would be overstretched to do. Cllr Page asked the meeting for permission for estimates to be obtained from outside contractors for the work on Peters Crescent footpath and the Church Walk step so that this work could be carried out; this was proposed by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Clarke and agreed by the meeting.

This month approximately 50 voluntary hours had been completed by MEG.

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that Marldon was very fortunate to have the MEG volunteers doing so much for the Parish.

**9. (04.19)**  **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING.**

Cllr Stevens told members that he was awaiting documents from Cllr Sutton before he could get the Neighbourhood Plan back on track. He had looked online at completed Neighbourhood Plans from other South Hams Parishes to see what was involved and what could be included.

**10. (04.19) PLANNING.**

**0443/19/VAR –** Application for removal or variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 1251/16/FUL to allow for a change to the design of the Holiday Lodges **– Marldon Christmas Tree Farm The North Pole, Road from Marldon Cross, TQ3 1RR**

**Recommend Approval.**

**0750/19/FUL –** Demolition of existing outbuilding; Erection of detached building to provide 2 bed annexe unit and closure of existing vehicular access and provision of new vehicular access – **Tuckers Hay, Compton Pool Cross, Compton, Marldon TQ3 1TB**

**Recommend Approval.**

**11. (04.19) CORRESPONDENCE.**

The following items of correspondence had been received:-

1. From South Hams District Council details of the Waste and Recycling Bank Holiday Dates.
2. From the Rural Services Network - details of their Time for a Rural Strategy Campaign.
3. Next Devon Community Resilience Forum - Thursday the 13th June at Bishops Nympton Parish Hall.
4. From South Hams District Council an explanation of Purdah - What it is and what you need to know!
5. From South Hams District Council a link to the Joint Local Plan Inspector’s report.
6. From South Hams District Council Monitoring Officer Advice for Parish and Town Councils - Standards, Codes and Registers for the new Council term.
7. From South Hams District Council details of their launch of a new website for Neighbourhood Planning Groups, designed to be more user friendly and informative.
8. From South Hams District Council Elections office details of a report indicating the persons who have been elected due to insufficient nominations being received for a poll to take place.  The elections office had noted that the persons elected in these circumstances do not take up office until four days after the day of election.
9. From CPRE their annual report 2018 and an invitation to attend their 2019 AGM at 2.30pm on Tuesday 16th April at the Manor House Dawlish.

**12. (04.19) LEISURE AND PUBLIC GROUNDS.**

Public Grounds Report from Cllr J Clarke:-

Cllr Clarke reported that there had been a Leisure and Public Grounds meeting on Wednesday 20th March to look at the replies received from Parishioners regarding proposed recreational facilities.

Cllr Veasey and Fiona Bailey attended and together they went through all the responses and collated them.

There were 77 replies and 52 of them were very positive responses to the Parish Councils’ proposals. 25 made comments about noisy unruly teenagers frequenting such a recreational facility and excess parking in their roads etc.

It was generally the people who lived nearby who did not want anything on Broomhill Meadow and who suggested that Broomhill Meadow with the main road running right alongside, with traffic roaring along it 24/7 should be kept as a peaceful Nature Reserve/dog walking field. This field had been bought for recreation for all age groups: humans as well as dogs and hopefully that was what it would become. The people who wanted it left as a field have had their way for many years and it had not worked. The teenagers and adults of the Parish needed more recreation in the village and at last there were monies available for the Parish Council to be able to provide some.

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that she had only one other thing to report and that was the brilliant news that Kerry McCabe, the Youth Worker had applied for a Lottery Grant to help keep the Youth Clubs in all 5 villages going and she had received an amazing £7,405. Kerry was a very dedicated Youth worker and Cllr Clarke hoped that all the people who had seen her film of the youngsters in their Youth Clubs and had heard their comments, enjoyed seeing them having such a great time and telling everyone how they felt about having somewhere they could go, out of their houses, to meet up with friends and have fun. Social interaction was such an important and valuable part of life and one that had been missing in the Marldon teenage community for many years. The young people also valued the fact that that they had someone they could turn to if they felt they needed to talk about their feelings and troubles.

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that the Parish Council would hold a public meeting before anything was decided concerning the recreational uses of Broomhill Meadow, nothing was set in stone.

There had been a lot of interest expressed in outdoor exercise machines but this would need research.

**13. (04.19) HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE.**

Cllr Thorp reported that he had spoken to the new Head Teacher at Marldon

C of E Primary School and had been told that the school would be writing to parents concerning the schools’ environmental policy and children would be encouraged to walk to school.

Cllr Thorp was aware that signs could be purchased to ask parents to turn car engines off when they were waiting outside the school. Cllr Hawkins agreed that these signs were available and would ask the officer at South Hams District Council, James Kershaw, to order some signs for Marldon after the District Council elections on 2nd May as they had been at the bus and coach dropping off points in Dartmouth.

It was proposed by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr Thorp that the Clerk should invite the new Head Teacher to a future Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Thorp told members that recent traffic delays had been due to gas works with the team making repairs called away to 2 separate leaks whilst working in Marldon.

Cllr Veasey told the meeting that the grass cutting contractors who currently cut Tor Field and Peters Field had quoted £100 per cut to cut the verges in Marldon; these cuts to take place every other month.

Members reported that there were potholes on the corner in Westerland and the kerb at the entrance to the bowling green was still to be repaired.

**14. (04.19) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR (for noting only)**.

There was none.

**15. (04.19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Monday 13th May 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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

Cllr T Pennington (Chairman) – 13th May 2019