

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.* The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all Parish affairs and pass resolutions about them

Date: 17 th April 2019		Venue & Time: Village Hall Annexe, commencing at 7.00pm
Present: Cllr Lucinda Goodhead Cllr Ann Kendall Cllr Paul Pedrick Cllr Hayley Rutherford Cllr John Sampson Cllr John Yeoman (in the chair) Cllr Kevin Yeoman	In Attendance: Mrs Katharine Harrod – Clerk & Minute taker Dist. Cllr Simon Wright County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Emma Reece - NT Ranger	Apologies: Cllr Gill Boyce Cllr Keith Makepeace Dist. Cllr Judy Pearce Jane Greaves PC Jo Pengilly PCSO Paul O'Dwyer

Ref	Minutes	Action
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2019-1	THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 18 th April 2018 had already been agreed and signed as a true record.	
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Cllr John Yeoman, in the Chair and Chairman of Malborough Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting of the Parish, highlighting the fact that it was an opportunity for everyone to hear reports and comment on how the Officers of the village are doing and highlight any areas of concern or aspiration.

2019-2 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

District Councilor Simon Wright took the meeting through key issues of note in the year. These included:

Much has been said about the Authorities transition programme reducing costs while maintaining front line services. Storm Emma provided the opportunity to test the programme. The result demonstrated the Authorities ability to run normally with officers all working from home. This included the call centre working for both SHDC and WDBC . National recognition came with a Bronze award at the annual Local authority awards ceremony.

The new Corporate Strategy was confirmed. our priorities :

- Our Environment
- Council sustainable financial future
- Employment
- Homes
- Communities
- Wellbeing

Due credit must be given to the Joint Local Plan . An enormous amount of work resulted in an adopted Joint Local Plan with West Devon and Plymouth. This was ground breaking work to have an agreed plan for two district Councils and a unitary.

With the successful roll out of T18 it was time to start challenging staff and residents with how they felt we were performing. We now see an improved level of staff satisfaction but some additional work still to be done. The senior Leadership Team have been rolling out several initiatives to provide improvements. Residents were then requested to report their satisfaction. This provided surprisingly good results although improvements were identified, these are now being addressed.

We then invited the Local Government Association to conduct a Peer review. Senior Officers and Members from other Authorities spent a week looking at the way we do business and hearing from partners and residents their thoughts. The new Council will grasp the resulting report and start implementing the highlighted areas that should be addressed.

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The way we have been consulting has changed enormously. Re the Engagement portal & join the conversation site, 28 consultation documents shared, consultation with Businesses and residents over the draft Annual Budget and development consultations have all been rewarding. Not perhaps sometimes as expected, an example being Kingsbridge the original proposals were withdrawn and now replaced by a Community Land Trust and a budget hotel .

The Governments policy for Business rate relief on the rental of second homes has been challenged and brought to the attention of our local MP's, the Local Government Association and Central Government Ministers have all been lobbied and will continue to be so.

The waste service underwent a two-year review which resulted in Members agreeing to partner with a third party. 1st April saw FCC (the UK branch of a Spanish owned company) take over the waste service. We will see a financial saving while delivering an enhanced service. Next year you will see roadside recycling being rolled out.

Commercial investment has been seriously considered but unlike many authorities Members agreed not to invest outside the District but invest within provided it also demonstrates a benefit to our communities such as the Dartmouth Health and Wellbeing Hub, additional parking in Salcombe and a hotel in Kingsbridge.

With the £1.8 million given to us from the increase in stamp duty in recognition for our proportionally high second home numbers we have started to actively support several Land Trusts. We have a target of 50 truly affordable homes being built next year. These homes will be based on build costs only and have some very strict local occupancy criteria. We have agreed to borrow up to £8.5 million to cover phase 1 and 2.

Finally , but by no means least, mention must be made of the Neighbourhood Plans . Judy and I are delighted our Ward now has two adopted Plans and a further four in various stages of development. These plans provide the ability to shape your own future.

2019-3 POLICE REPORT

NO REPORT RECEIVED

Note: The police rely on you to pass information and any suspicious behaviour or report any anti-social behaviour problems that may arise – especially now the lighter evenings are approaching us.

2019-4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Gilbert provided the following information:

1. Highways – the sinkhole has been repaired at Townsend Cross. The VAS sign noted as looking very good, it's both accurate and eye-catching. A lot of catch up Highways work has been undertaken; the winter was favourable which has also eased the situation. Work on gullies has been stepped up and the road to Plymouth is largely flood free.
2. Broadband fibre to premises update – this is still being rolled out but there have been some further delays, this will not directly affect Malborough but will cause issues for outlying properties.
3. Council tax increase 4% band D £100 – most going into adult social care.
4. Cllr Gilbert has now completed his first year as Cabinet Member for Economy.
5. Devon's economy: there is full employment in the county which is very positive. Although it should be noted that there is both a skills and labour shortage in the county.
6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund – This fund replaces the EU structural and Investment Funds after Brexit. It will tackle inequalities between communities, by (for example) raising productivity. It will be the main source of funding to support the heart of South West
7. Farming in Devon accounts for 17,000 jobs (5.5%) which is twice the UK average.
8. Tourism in Devon is worth £2billion.

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9. Fishing in Devon is heavily reliant on the European Maritime Fishing Fund and it will have to rely on the above UKSPF fund after Brexit. DCC supports the call for English fisheries to have a seat at UK decision table.
10. Flybe will now only fly routes that are self-funded. Wolf Minerals has closed. Ambrosia has been saved. British Ceramic Tiles also looks like it's due to be saved.
11. Appledore shipyard: There are three lots of interest to take on the yard which is good news. DCC now await the outcome and the economic effects.
12. Brexit and DCC: Brexit is a challenge, there are contingency plans, but no one really knows what will happen.
13. Cllr Gilbert is stepping back from his SHDC role to focus on DCC, this is effective from May 2nd.

2019-5 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT & MALBOROUGH'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

John Yeoman's 2019 report (Chairman of Malborough Parish Council) is reproduced in full below:

I commented last year in this report that we had had an interesting year, well it does seem to get worse or more interesting depending on your view. At least in Malborough we managed to have a referendum that came up with a sensible result. Our hope is that the result will be implemented better than our politicians can manage.

The new gritter to serve the two parishes is here and has worked very well on the few occasions it was needed this year. The gritter is made in Yorkshire and it was good to deal with the Wilson family, farmers who have diversified into engineering. I suppose it was almost inevitable we would have a mild winter now we were prepared for it and the salt was delivered. We obtained the new machine as a joint effort with S Huish and with help from our District Councillors and our County Councillor. We also had help from Hope Cove Weekend, the people of Hope as well as Malborough do appreciate what is done for them.

Our small dedicated team of Paul Pedrick, Kevin Yeoman and Dave Illingworth do a sterling job and together with Graham Hocking for storing the gritter and the salt, they deserve our thanks. I have been pressed into service for the odd occasion, but they must be very desperate to have asked for my assistance.

They also keep the gritter in tip top condition and wash it off after every outing so it should last at least twenty years which was how old the previous machine was, this one is of better construction so it should last longer.

The money from the speed light that did not work properly was refunded to the Council so after a little delay we have obtained two new ones. These are the French and are used extensively in France, Canada and the US, so all the problems should be ironed out unlike the previous one that seemed always to be a work in progress. We were able to get the two new lights with solar panels so there is no need to charge batteries which will make the maintenance a lot easier and safer. Two lights and all for less than the cost of the previous one. John Sampson and I erected them last month and they do seem to be having a positive effect on the traffic speeds. We must thank John for sorting it all out with the company, but I don't know if his French is improved as a result. Above all they are very polite and thank drivers who are below the 30 limits.

Highways matters are a large part of our workload and we are grateful to the help given by Cllr Gilbert and Adam Keay the Highways officer. I was quite pleased recently when I reported three potholes on the website and they were all filled within 48 hours, obviously beginners' luck. Adam has got the 30 mph roundels painted on the road at each end of the village. Hopefully this will back up the 30mph signs and the speed lights in time for the summer visitors. The hole in the road at Townsend Cross has finally been done properly. Hopefully it will last but it is right where lorries turn.

The resurfacing of Higher Town that was put off because of bad weather that never came is becoming more necessary and we continue to press for it to be done all the way to Vicarage corner.

In order to stop vehicles getting stuck in Higher Barton lane we have erected a sign which, provided the drivers can read, should help, so far so good. It was very much appreciated that some of the residents gave Ann Kendall a donation towards the cost of the sign.

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Also, on highways, the Salcombe View Residents Association have approached the Parish Council for support for measures to make the parking better. Their worry is that emergency vehicles would not be able to get through. The Council is supportive of what they want to do and will put it forward to Devon County.

We are continuing to obtain funding from DCC for the grass cutting. We have cut the cycle track and strengthened the fence between the track and the wood, we have cut the Collaton road bank and it will be done again when the flowers have died down. We also keep the Access for All path cut so that the weeds do not get walkers do not get wet knees.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Village Hall and with the redevelopment of the shower room the Parish has a room of its own. All the filing cabinets, printer and all the records can be in one place. This will make it easier for Kathy as she will have easy access and not need to keep so much at home.

The Council must thank Geoff Allen for all he does in keeping the Playground maintained. Geoff has put new bearings in the Rock and bowl equipment with Paul Pedrick at a fraction of the cost quoted by the suppliers. Also, he has kept the roundabout turning, cleaning and greasing the bearing but we will need a new bearing for it which he has tracked down, again at half the cost we were quoted. On top of this he keeps an eye on the skatepark and picks up the rubbish. We are also going to replace the chicane at the entrance to the Village Hall from Townsend Cross and again Geoff is the main man, Thank you Geoff for all your help.

The Council and the Village Hall are still trying to find a way to increase the parking for the Village Hall in a way that will satisfy Fields in Trust and maintain a green surface. Also, the Dog Orders for dogs on the playing field have been an ongoing problem. There was a misunderstanding in SHDC when the Dog Orders were drawn up last time which put the playing fields as open for dogs. This was despite the Village Hall and the Council objecting and wanting to keep the status quo. But now we may be able to alter it, but not until a general review of dog orders later next year.

The Parish has been offered the toilets in the Square by SHDC as an alternative to them being shut. The Council has agreed to take them over because we consider them an essential asset for the village. The legal process is underway for the transfer to take place and South Hams are meeting the legal costs. At the same time Mrs Rossiter has approached the Council to see whether part of the toilets could be transferred to the Post Office in order to make it more viable to survive in the future with new owners. The Council is prepared to look at this, and to have one revamped unisex toilet in the front and put the rest in as part of the Post Office. Once it has been transferred to us, we can have proper discussions and work out the details. We will do our best to keep both assets going for the Village.

SHDC have also offered to transfer the play area in Malborough Park to the Parish. Again, the Council was keen to take it on because it has been neglected of late by SHDC. Funds would accompany the transfer to maintain and improve it. Also, there is 106 agreement money allocated to it from the Portlemore development. This is in the early stages now and the Council will consult with Village over what play equipment they would like to see put there.

This year has been quite a quiet year on the planning front with only 29 applications. Most of them have been reasonably straight forward. We have the Portlemore development going on and we have had some further applications from that.

One was to return the mix of three- and four-bedroom houses to what was first agreed. This involved the replacement of three four beds with six three beds which we hope will be more of a price that locals can afford. This was achieved without losing any parking spaces. To be fair to the developers so far, they have taken on board any worries we have had such as the road junction towards the farm and the slippery tarmac which they have agreed to remedy. The affordable houses to rent will be managed by Teign Housing and will be ready later this year. Anyone interested should register with Devon Home Choice and they will be available to applicants in Bands A to E with a Malborough connection which includes those that are already renting in the village.

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Managing the Council's finances is an important part of our duties and Kathy our clerk does a great job as responsible financial officer keeping them in order.

She had a major tussle with South West Water over the allotment water which resulted in the bill they sent for £3500(wrong) being reduced to £32!!

We continue to support organisations that work in the Parish, CAB, RVS that used to be WRVS, Malborough Horticultural Society, Hope Cove Lifeboat and the Haig Fund. The Council will support other Parish organisations and last year we published our policy for donations, but we had no applications, we will remind them again of the opportunity. After considering what expenses the Council would have for the coming year including the running of the toilets the Councillors decided to raise the precept by £4.69 or 9p per week for a band D house. The Council will endeavour to get other funds when the opportunity presents itself and administer the 106 funds from the present developments.

Horse owners in the Parish have approached the Council to see whether there is any way that better access for safe off-road riding could be provided. The Council has been in touch with the National Trust and they are developing an access strategy for horses, so we await developments. We must thank Alan Rundle for cleaning out Horsey Pool. This was a joint effort between David Squire, who has part of the pond, and the Council and Alan did the work. Another Alan, Alan Benstead our tree warden and his assistant Eva Bond keep an eye on our trees and offer advice and support for those parishioners who have a problem.

This is Election season, there will be elections for the District Council and we have five candidates. We should have had Parish Council Elections as well. We did not have enough candidates standing for the Parish so we will need to co-opt two new Councillors. We will advertise the vacancies and we are looking for volunteers.

Keith Makepeace and Gill Boyce are standing down and they are owed our thanks for the service they have given the Council, especially Gill, who has served on the Council for 32 years and for a further 4 years before that as the Clerk.

I would like to thank all the Council and Kathy for the help and support which has kept the Council working for the last year. Also, all those in the Parish whose help to the Council keeps the show on the road.

Re the Neighbourhood Plan

There is not really a great deal to say. We had the referendum on the 27 February as you all know.

We had a turnout 34.7% which I am told is good, we did have a better turnout than some of the other Parishes counted on the same day. 96% of those who voted, voted in favour of the plan.

This means that the plan will form part of the planning policy for Malborough and will be used by South Hams to decide on planning. We did not get all we wanted; emphasis had changed from when we started. The Examiner knocked out some things that the Village would have liked but did not conform to the Joint Local Plan for SHDC and Plymouth, although some other examiners passed similar things in other plans. We did argue our case where we could, and I think the plan is broadly in line with what we wanted. One victory was the Principle Residence policy in that all new houses should be occupied and not become second homes.

The plan is on the Parish Council website and Kathy has hard copies of all the various documents if required.

Remember that it is a living document and will be revised at regular intervals to deal with changes in the needs of the village. So, there will be opportunities to get involved in drafting changes, fortunately it would only be a few sections altered at any one time so it will not be such a mammoth task.

The Parish should thank those that helped to draw up the plan under Debbie Ede's direction.

The Parish Council needs to ensure that planning decisions are in line with our Plan.

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2019-6 National Trust Report

Horse Riding Awareness – this hasn't progressed at present. The NT is writing a management plan for the entire Bolt Head area, this will be going to consultation in the summer. There are positive ideas to incorporate additional paths for horse riding. Further updates as/when available.

Over the last summer there were record numbers of the Silk Studded Blue – a local rare butterfly. There were also record numbers of overwintering birds on South Down Farm.

Through 2019 peak season the NT trailer will be on/off Bolberry with a member of staff.

Future events include:

- Dawn Chorus walk being started at East Soar
- Bug Hunts at Bolberry
- Farm Walk at South Down Farm

2019 – 7 PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

NO REPORT RECEIVED.

2019-8 FEOFFEEES REPORT

To recap, the monies distributed by Malborough Feoffees are the interest on investments made from the sale of properties originally owned by them from a charity founded in 1573 – one of the oldest in the country.

The meeting was reminded to contact Cllr Boyce if they know of anyone within the Parish (the old Parish of Malborough which includes Salcombe) qualifying and in need of these grants.

2019-9 TREE WARDENS REPORT

NO REPORT RECEIVED

2019-10 OPEN FORUM AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH AFFAIRS

AT 20.00hrs the Chair, Cllr John Yeoman, closed the meeting with thanks to all those that had attended.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____