

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2017 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: 19 th April 2017		Venue & Time: Village Hall Annexe, commencing at 7.00pm
Present: Gail Allen Cllr. Gill Boyce Mrs Debbie Ede (Clerk to the Council & Minute taker) David Ford NT County Cllr. Rufus Gilbert (part meeting) Sgt David Green Cllr. Kathy Harrod Cllr. Ann Kendall Cllr. Keith Makepeace	Dist. Cllr. Judy Pearce Cllr. Paul Pedrick Emma Reece NT Cllr. John Sampson Dist Cllr Simon Wright Cllr. Kevin Yeoman Cllr. John Yeoman (in the Chair)	Apologies: Cllr. Lucinda Goodhead Jane Greaves PC Jo Pengilly

Ref Minutes Action

2017-1 THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 20th April 2016 had already been agreed and signed as a true record. 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.

2017-2 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

District Councillors Judy Pearce and Simon Wright took the meeting through key issues of note in the year. These included, as outlined by Cllr Wright:

- SHDC have 447 staff, a gross budget of £43.9m and a net budget of £8.4m. The Council were aiming to get to a nil contributions position from Central Government by 2020, however this has been brought forward to 2018/19 meaning that they are facing a £600k shortfall in the coming year
- The transformation process – T18 – already saves £3.9m per annum but more is required – the alternative being to cut front line services. However the Leader of the Council says this is NOT an option
- 143 Affordable homes have been built and let in the year
- Ideas re. the start-up of a Locally Owned Company LOC (or Locally Accountable Company LAC) have been abandoned; however the preparatory work and findings have been banked for another day with the information being drawn down in future as required.
- There have been 2.2 million individual household waste collections
- 1200 Environmental health inspections
- 95 events supported
- 18,000 tons of household waste recycled
- 2.5m website page views and 170,000 calls handled
- 375,000 passenger journeys on the Dartmouth ferry

Cllr Wright's take on the future is that SHDC will need to continue with the rollout of reforms. The £600k shortfall is 'challenging' and a long term financial strategy is needed. Aspirations to retain 100% of the locally collected business rates are unrealistic; only 6p in the pound is kept now. Whilst SHDC currently collect and keep 40% the Government then top slice elsewhere according to need. Unfortunately, with property prices used to inform need, the perceived wealth of community is inflated. Cllr Wright believes SHDC need to hold the statutory services to account more. For example SWW and the sewerage service – there were 2 major leaks over Easter in Salcombe.

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Cllr Pearce continued, saying that SHDC were:

- Named as Council of the Year by iESE ('Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise')
- Handling 17% more online transactions
- Reducing the time taken to process Housing Benefits from 42 to 19 days with further improvements to come.
- Call volumes down by 25%
- 98% of minor planning applications achieving processed within their target time
- 50% fewer missed waste collections than target
- Progress on the Joint Local Plan expecting it to be adopted early 2018
- Formation/revision of the medium term financial strategy. This covers a 5 year period and is iterative and changes over time. The finances present a 'huge challenge' – major savings are still required and new revenue streams need to be created
- The asset management plan sees a limited program of residential development. Underperforming assets will be sold off to create capital to assist house build programme
- 300 new affordable homes are planned in addition to the 143 above
- A £1.8m allocation has been received to fund community led housing initiatives
- 313 homes have been approved at Sherford and the build has started
- A new homeless strategy has been adopted (5 year lifespan)
- An infrastructure plan has been produced to accompany the Joint Local Plan, in conjunction with DCC
- Waste, street cleaning and grounds maintenance have all undergone reviews - the successes of which remain to be seen.
- For communities – additional monies have been available for bidding by parishes, towns etc ie: the reinvestment fund, TAP funds, Sustainable Communities Fund – all of which have delivered for projects in our wards. We are urged to keep applying (we will!)
- Salcombe is re-affirmed as a successful and busy eco-port
- She was the COP (Code of Practice) lead for planning; and could arrange a meeting for us with the planners as required, others had been successful.
- Major coastal defensive works totaling more than £390 have taken place at Beesands and Slapton.

Cllr Pearce concluded that it has been a busy year with T18 bedding down. More processes are now available online which we are all urged to use if possible. The LOC initiative, which took up an inordinate amount of Senior Management time, was not viable, finally thwarted by pension scheme complications. Investigations are on-going into commercial property investment to produce new revenue streams. However Cllr Pearce judged these as risky and feared they may have 'missed the boat' in her view. More work needed to be done re streamlining the Council's work to produce fund and efficiency savings. There is still a perceived lack of expertise in the Planning department which is not helped by recruitment issues and a shortfall of planning staff nationally. Financially there is a £600k shortfall in the coming year. Cllr Pearce apologized for the "hiccups" we faced from SHDC in supporting our Neighbourhood Plan. Locally Cllr Pearce felt that, apart from enforcement problems, planning applications had progressed acceptably with no major issues – any delays had been the agreement of the applicant as iterative discussions had taken place.

- Keith Makepeace asked what the preparatory work for the LAC had cost. Cllr Wright replied c. £57k to date although there was one large bill outstanding.
- Cllr J Yeoman asked whether the commercial property initiative was 'dead'. Cllr Pearce said no but advised that there were some worrying articles out there and suggested we research/google "Local Authorities buying commercial properties".
- Cllr J Yeoman complained about the 50:50 shared ownership and rented split for Affordable Housing in the emerging Joint Local Plan and bemoaned the reduction of the AH target to just 30% of a scheme.

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2017-3 POLICE REPORT

Sgt Dave Green (Kingsbridge) gave his report as follows: ".....The crime figures for Malborough for the year 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017 are:

Total crimes 01/04/16 -31/03/17 = 20

Same period previous year = 23

Total number of incidents dealt with during the year within Malborough parish = 102

Therefore crime only makes up a relatively small proportion of what police deal with. The remainder is accounted for by such things as vulnerable missing persons, child protection issues, neighbour disputes, road traffic incidents, unexplained deaths etc. Included within the crimes for the parish were:

- Nil burglaries
- 1 minor assault
- 2 sexual assaults (one of which was committed approx. 40 years ago)
- 6 thefts
- 4 criminal damages
- 3 abusive behaviour over social media
- 1 threatening behaviour
- 2 dogs out of control
- 1 drink drive

PCSO Dave Gibson has had his starting date for police constable training postponed until June, so he has temporarily returned to his old patch here at Salcombe as PCSO....."

So with 20 crimes (23 in the previous year) Malborough is bucking the trend as nationally crimes are generally creeping up. Furthermore we have had no burglaries – which is quite an achievement (the 1st thing people fear is being burgled) so for a Parish of this size this is really good news. There was only 1 crime of violence – within a family setting and minor in nature and re the sexual assaults – one occurred in 1977 which came to light in course of other investigations. The other was within a family setting. All but one of the criminal damages involved scratches to parked cars suggesting parking disputes within local communities.

Sgt Green reported that PCSO Dave Gibson is temporarily back and with PCSO Paul O'Dwyer also covering there will probably be an unplanned overlap for 2 months. Paul hopes to attend a meeting shortly to introduce himself.

Re PCSO's; over the next 4 years Devon & Cornwall Police are reducing PCSO numbers from 335 to 150, >50% reduction. The rationale is to secure funding for more 100 police officers – who are promised for front line – but what that means remains to be seen. There is also no information yet as to where the reductions will take place – currently there are 4 PCSO's in Kingsbridge, dropping to 3 in June. Sgt Greet has no idea whether this is a permanent reduction or whether it will reduce further. In rural areas – the PCSO is, for most people the named local 'go to' person – they are the visible face of policing in rural communities. In busier more urban areas PCSO's are focused on more crime ridden and vulnerable communities. Which takes priority? Conversations on-going. The Parish and individuals are welcome to express their views; Sgt Green said that, at the last general election, he was struck by the lack of talk about policing nationally – whilst it is reassuring that it does not need to be a political issue the funding of the service and its share of resources is high profile. Interesting times are ahead...

John Yeoman, on behalf of the Parish, said that we will miss Dave Gibson – he is the local face of policing and a quiet word from the PCSO solves the problem before it gets out of hand. Sgt Green was adamant that this neighbourhood style of policing, the old fashioned bobby on his bike, was his preferred style and one that he wants to retain at Kingsbridge.

There were no questions from the floor but John Yeoman thanked the Police, saying that we do appreciate all the work that is done. Sgt Green left the meeting at 19.45.

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2017-4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Rufus Gilbert gave his report taking the meeting through the highlights of the DCC year. However the announcement of the General Election has, even in the last 24 hours, meant events are changing.

- A. Schools; the Government has used a new funding formula to determine budget allocations – this new formula was supposed to increase funding for the County but the education budget has actually fallen so the formula has gone ‘horribly wrong’. Cllr Gilbert urged Malborough to lobby our MP to get this sorted! The Election provides an opportunity to rectify this too. DCC have **not** cut the budget although £30/child has been vired to disabled children.
- B. Care in Community – up to 24hours ago this was seen as a serious issue with 1 in 5 of Devon’s population more than 65 years of age. This rises to 1 in 4 by 2020. It is a service that is ‘haemorrhaging money’. People unfortunately move to Devon in their retirement and at an age when they start costing the community money. Again Cllr Gilbert urges Malborough to contact our MP and stress that the Government must find a way of funding elderly care
- C. Broadband has improved across the County and the phase 2 roll out has been successful. The coverage is still patchy but getting better.
- D. Re. the roads; the A381 from Halwell to Totnes Cross is being closed for major repairs tomorrow night and will be completely re-jigged on in the year. Cllr Gilbert advised, that whilst the funding has been agreed and in place for several months, delays have occurred because of Scansa taking over Highways maintenance for DCC. The schedule of works is now determined.
- E. Nursing homes; it was the right decision to close them – they were of poor quality and the private sector can do a better job at lesser cost.
- F. Libraries – the changes are seen as a great success – in that they are now run as an externalised limited company, none have been closed and 2 new ones are planned to be opened next year.
- G. Ivybridge has a new recycling centre – seen as almost state of the art and impressive with the skips below ground and the layout such that you can drive the car up above the skips and empty straight into them.
- H. Cllr Gilbert concluded that, with the local election looming there is ‘lots going on’ - further confused by the recently announced General Election. Cllr Gilbert remarked he had enjoyed serving DCC for four years and hoped to be re-elected! His portfolio as Chairman of the £3.5bn Pension funds was seen as especially rewarding as was sitting on the footpaths’ committee which is an important part of our infrastructure.

With no questions from the floor John Yeoman thanked Cllr Gilbert for all his help in moving forward issues of importance to the village.

2017-5 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

John Yeoman’s 2017 report (Chairman of Malborough Parish Council) is reproduced in full below: “The Parish Council has had another busy year dealing with the Neighbourhood Plan as well as general affairs.

After the Annual Meeting last year Malcolm Wesley decided to concentrate on his other interests and left the Council and John Sampson was co-opted in his place. John was already an active member of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Also as we have heard Dave Gibson is leaving us as PCSO to become a ‘real policeman’!! The council thanks Dave for all his support over the years as the face of policing in the village and for the quiet word in the right ear which sorted problems out simply. We wish him well. In his place we welcome Paul O’Dwyer as our new PCSO working with Jo Pengilly in Salcombe.

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Highway matters have been in the forefront again this year. I reported last year that the Council was considering buying a Vehicle Activated Speed sign to try and slow traffic on the main road. This we have done after a few false starts, with the help of a grant from Cllr Gilbert's Locality Fund for half of the cost. Devon Highways put in the three sockets, outside Hillcrest and opposite Great Lane on the main road and the third by Great Park. It will be moved between the three sites periodically. The speed on the sign was set at 33mph but it gets a little excited at times and flashes more often. John Sampson has reset it but there has been a problem with the laptop that came with it which has had to be returned to the company so it may misbehave a little longer before we can reset it properly. Despite it's over exuberance the speed of the traffic does seem more in line with the 30mph limit.

Road signs have also been spruced up, the Council has had Fine Shine to wash off all the signs around the village. We do have a problem with missing arms on the signposts in the parish. I have been around with Highways to assess it but unfortunately there is no budget for them to replace them. As a Council we will look at ways we can do it ourselves as soon as the new highways company have got their sign making up and running. Hopefully not too many people will get lost in the meantime. Highways spurred on by our County Councillor do look after us quite well with potholes filled and Barton Lane and Southdown Lane repaired, so compared with many other parishes we have fared well.

Devon County Council extended the double yellow lines in Higher Town. This will aid the flow of traffic lessening the congestion on Townsend Cross and allow larger vehicles to pass in the wider part of the street. Yes it has reduced the parking but it does seem to be working at the moment and we will monitor during the summer.

Parking is at a premium in the village made worse by the success of the football and other events in the village. That is the trouble with successful things there can be a downside. The Parish Council is working with the Village Hall Committee to see how the car parking can be increased there. We are hoping to obtain funding for it from 106 monies and the Community Reinvestment fund.

Working closely with the Village Hall has enabled the Village to become a night landing site for the Air Ambulance. The Parish Council had decided to fund it but then we received a 50% grant from Salcombe Rotary Club out of the profits of last year's Crabfest. This enabled the light to be erected and the site to be operational. We have since learned from Devon Air Ambulance that they have received funds from the Government, the Libor fines that were levied on the bankers for their misdemeanours, and we will get a further grant from that.

Again working with Village Hall and as a result of our successful bid to the TAP fund last year the Access for All path around the wood from Cumber Close to the cycle track was completed this year. It is proving popular with dog walkers. We will get Jack Stone to run through the path to cut off a few stubs when he does the cycle track next and then bark can be put in any wet parts.

The Parish Council is continuing to get the cycle track cut when necessary using Jack Stone which has kept it really tidy. The Council has obtained a grant of £700 from the Devon County Community Enhancement Fund to cover these costs.

In response to the questionnaire involved with the Neighbourhood Plan the Council decided to proceed with the outdoor fitness equipment. We had set funds aside for it and together with Locality grants from

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County Cllr Gilbert and District Cllrs Pearce and Wright and another TAP fund bid we had sufficient funds. The equipment has been ordered and will be installed on the 3rd of May, and due to some hard bargaining by the Clerk will come in on budget.

Also another defibrillator will be put in the Village Hall porch to serve the eastern end of the village and the playing field in particular. The Council is collecting funds for it, from the TAP fund again and with donations from the Co-op and the Village Hall who will also supply the electricity.

Another project to brighten the village has been the painting of the Jubilee seat, Monkey house, by Alison Lees and her helpers. They have made a really special job of it bringing in local history. I do have to do a double take when driving by to see who is sitting in there only to find it is the picture.

Despite all these extra things the general work of the Council goes on. The allotments are now full and looking well. The Burial ground is thankfully not full but is also nice and tidy. Jonathon Hawtin keeps the grass cut and Rodney Stidston has tidied up the bottom end recently. This winter Paul Pedrick and Kevin Yeoman spread salt on the few nights that we had a frost. It is a great help for us that Graham Hocking keeps the salt and the spreader in a barn.

We have maintained the dog bins around the Village with two new ones on the Access for All path and a replacement one in the square that Derek Jarvis has erected for us.

It was a shame that the trees on the main road were severely pruned without the Council being consulted. If we had been a tree surgeon could have done the job less brutally.

Managing the Parish Council's finances is important and as I have shown the Council does try and get funds when and where they are available.

After reviewing the financial position at the end of the year and budgeting for the year ahead taking into account commitments and inflation the Council concluded they needed to increase the precept. The average Band D household will pay £47.08 or 91p per week, which is an increase of 10p per week compared to last year. This will mean our budget increases by £2817 allowing us to fund the cost of more services devolved from County or District and support more local projects and match fund grant applications. One major project as I mentioned will be the drive to improve the parking in the Village Hall; the Council has set aside £1500 to pump prime this initiative.

Planning is still a major part of the Council's work and we have dealt with over thirty applications this year. Most applications were straight forward but a few are controversial.

We now have the outline application for houses on Portlemore Down. The agents for the landowners were talking to South Hams while we were working on the Neighbourhood Plan and it had to be incorporated into it. Fortunately it was in a place that the Council had long thought the most suitable for development. Discussions were had between the Neighbourhood Planning Group, SHDC and the agents for the landowners. They listened and did reduce the number of houses and improved the layout so that it was more in line with what the plan was trying to achieve. We did not get all we asked for, so our job now is to ensure that the plan as shown to the Village at the last consultation and in the supporting documents with this application is what is built.

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The links to the Village need to be agreed with SHDC and the Guinness Trust and the parking in the existing estates needs to be safeguarded for their residents. The junction with Collaton Road needs to have good visibility and the parking on the road needs to be designed by DCC to control the speed without compromising visibility.

The Council would like to see the Affordable houses to be for Malborough residents because the housing need in the village as shown in the last survey is used to justify the size of the development. Indeed we would like to see the market houses priced so the locals can afford them. Hopefully if all parties work together we can achieve a development that works, enhances the village without disadvantaging villagers.

The Village runs on team work with County, District and Parish Councillors, the Village Hall committee, the Police, Geoff Allen looking after the playground, Ann Kendall and her team at the Messenger and Debbie as the Clerk. As you have seen from the recent adverts Debbie is retiring soon, so we give her an extra thank you as it is her last Annual Meeting as Clerk."

2017-6 MALBOROUGH'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This was put on this agenda to give another opportunity for questions. Cllr Yeoman reported that : " It was at this meeting four years ago that the Council's decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish was put to the community. Discussion took place at this meeting on the Plan Area Designate and generic issues for the coastal fringe. This led to South Hams confirming the designated area as the Parish in December 2013 and we were up and running.

A lot of work on the plan has been done since that, there have been a number of consultation meetings and regular updates in the Messenger. A draft plan has been created and was put to the village and all interested organisations. Apart from the comments we received from the village, we received comments from a wide range from the Police to English Heritage and many in between. These have all been addressed and the plan is being adapted to reflect these comments.

We were then told by SHDC that they would screen our plan to see whether a Strategic Environment Assessment and a Habitat Regulation Assessment would be necessary. We were told that the SEA screening would be done last December, then January then we received an email in mid March advising us to apply for technical support to get it done, which we have done. The screening for the HRA is still going on.

This is more than sad as these should have been consulted on along side the plan and this will delay the process further.

So we have to deal with the Portlemore planning in the best way, with only a draft plan, without making the whole plan irrelevant.

We will keep the village abreast of developments and consult again when these are available."

2017-7 PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Jane Greaves had sent in her report, the full text of which is reproduced below. "**.....Malborough with South Huish Primary School** Is part of the South Hams Federation (with Stokenham, Loddiswell and Modbury) [Numbers](#)

We have 91 children on role at present we have a waiting list for places at school. The Federation totals 565 children.

[Classes Structure](#)

We are running 4 classes – Foundation stage, Year 1 & 2 Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6

[Staffing](#)

- We have 4 class teachers; one teacher will be returning back to part time work after maternity leave
- We have 4 Teaching Assistants with one Teaching Assistant returning back after maternity leave.

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- Mrs. Moore continues to deliver Forest Schools on a Tuesday morning, at the Playing Field.
- Mrs. Jackie Heath is still the Head of School and Mrs. Sue Jezard the Executive Head
- We currently share across the Federation a full time Special Educational Needs Coordinator and a full time Sports Specialist.
- The full time Kitchen Manager continues to cook for both the children at Malborough and Loddiswell, with the help from three Meal Time Assistants; we are in the third year of the government's initiative to provide free school meals for all Key Stage One children. With school meals proving very popular.

Clubs and Activities

- We run various afterschool and lunch time clubs and are always looking for something different and exciting, some of the clubs we run are - choir, football, yoga, netball, cooking, recorder, ukulele, keyboard, colouring, games, drum, multi skills, Knitting, swimming (summer term only) and Wake and Shake on a Monday morning. To name but a few.

Residentials

2016 & 2017

- Yr3 –Forest and Beach, Beeson for a night of camping
- Yr4 – East Soar Farm, for a night of camping
- Yr5 – Heatree, Dartmoor for great outdoor activities
- Yr6 – Grenville House, Brixham for lots of exciting water activities.

Extra Curricular Activities

- Junior Life Skills
- Year Six transition to KCC, mathematic & science challenges
- Remembrance Service and Poppy Appeal
- Theatre group Alter Ego
- Kingsbridge Food Bank, donations from Harvest Festival
- Visits to East Soar Farm throughout the year
- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal
- Children in Need
- Themed Weeks
- Eden Project
- Theatre Alibi
- Trip to The Cookworthy Museum
- E Safety for children and parents, delivered by the Kingsbridge Police
- Trips to Tesco
- Big cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support
- Fire Safety
- Primary Singing
- Sports Relief
- World Book Day
- Prickly Ball Farm
- Pennywell Farm
- RNLI
- Donkeys
- Tennis
- Wow Days
- Hatching of chicks from the incubator
- Fair Trade Fortnight
- Parents Consultation evenings
- Red Nose Day
- Celebration Assemblies and open afternoons for parents/carers and friends of Malborough to visit school
- Trip to Salcombe Town and Church. SS Ferry, plus beach days at South and North Sands

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- Buckfast Abbey Threads for Easter Celebrations Day
- Bikeability
- SAT's Week
- Fuel for Food morning
- Trip to Fire Station
- Pre School Transition Days
- Sports Day

PTFA Fund Raising

Halloween Disco

Christmas Party

Bingo

Scholastic Book

Easter Raffle

Easter Day at East Soar Farm

Movie Nights

Church Involvement

School leavers 2016

Harvest Festival

Remembrance Service

Christmas whole school performance

Christingle Service, the school children made 150 Christingles

The Children made the Mothering Sunday posies

Easter Service

Monthly services held on the 1st Wednesday of every month

Ethos Committee meet once a term

Trevor Backer comes into school once a week and teaches the children singing

Visits from Father Daniel

Support and Bible Club from St Peters Foundation, Ed, Jonny and Lewis, coming into school once a fortnight, plus lots of other support.

School display board in Church, which reflects the work the children are doing in school currently.

Communion lessons for the year six children

Termly Governor awards are given out to both Key Stage one and Key Stage two children who have been kind, caring and supportive to others.

Church Inspection, SIAMS rated Good.

Awards

Ofsted report 2014 Good, the school continues to be a Good School

Gold Mark for RE

School Games Mark Silver Award

Sports.

We attend many competitions, tournaments and festivals and for a small school, compared to others in our area, we do incredibly well.

- Hockey
- Netball
- Gym and Dance show
- Swimming Gala and Swimathon
- Cross Country
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Football

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- Tag Rugby
- Surfing
- Rounders
- Tri-Golf
- Cricket
- Multi Sports
- Sports Day

Building works 2016 -2017

- New fencing around class three
- New gutters
- Internal decorations
- Rendering
- Pruning of trees

Challenges facing Malborough School this year?

- Reduction to funding Nationally, this will have a big impact on our finances.
- Lack of space
- Pressures from the Regional Schools Commissioners Office to convert to a Multi Academy Trust

Thank you

To everyone who has helped the school this year, especially to Malborough Parish Council, Malborough Church, Trevor Becker, Father Daniel, Margaret Ellis, Heather Gillard, the boys from St Peters Foundation, East Soar Farm, Marijke and Schalk, Tesco and Sue Durrant, and to Malborough Village Hall Committee. Without the above support, this school would not be the amazing school it is today.

Mrs. Jane Greaves – Chair of Governors for the South Hams Federation.....”

The Chair thanked Jane for her report and efforts. No questions were forthcoming.

2017-8 FEOFFEE REPORT

Cllr Boyce gave her report: In 2015/16 the Feoffees have funded 13 emergency life lines and 10 higher education students within Malborough itself. 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.

2017-9 TREE WARDENS REPORT

Allan Benstead had submitted this report: “.....I am pleased to advise you that during the course of the year I have received several enquiries on tree matters, making my position quite worthwhile. It is also gratifying that I receive requests simply for advice.

On three occasions I have written to SHDC regarding trees; a diseased and now-dead ash tree, a dangerous fir tree in Malborough Park and a healthy but very large sycamore in Malborough Park. I have had no response on these matters.

I received a request from SHDC to report on two fir trees in Shute Park on which there are TPOs, I gave a suitable report.

A number of parishioners have contacted me, some quite unpleasantly, regarding the trees on the Kingsbridge Road. Some residents of Great Lane and the new houses have taken it upon themselves to cut down trees on the roadside verge. People should realize that these trees belong to the Parish and are there for the enjoyment of everyone and nobody has the right to cut them down because they feel they have the right to a view.

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With semi-retirement approaching I look forward to having more time to monitor and maintain our Parish trees.

Allan Benstead.....”

2017/10 NATIONAL TRUST

David Ford attended for the National Trust together with local ranger Emma Reece. David took the meeting through the Trust's rationale re. formalising parking at Bolberry Down. He explained that, nationally, the Trust is formalising parking charges at all NT properties – aiming to make all the properties sustainable (self-financing) in the future. At Bolberry it was planned to introduce a pay and display machine which would supercede the current honesty box. This despite warnings from the floor about the vulnerability of such machines to theft and vandalism (witness incidents on the Quay in Kingsbridge). Members would park for free – obtaining a scanable card for the machines, others would have to pay £3. This is happening across the South West with charges being introduced at 100 sites including Wembury and South Milton. The initiative would also provide the Trust with useful information – the scanable card allowing data collection and assisting communication. The aim was to make the management of the 100 acres at Bolberry sustainable – there is going to be a significant decrease in Central Government support for environmental projects and schemes such that conservation and access works need new funding flows. David admitted that this initiative was not going to be 'widely acceptable' but said that he thought c. 70-80% of visitors to Bolberry are already members of the NT and would therefore park for free. He asked the Parish and supporters to understand the need for funding conservation, access work, work on the SW coast path, drainage, levelling and the care of NT properties. He reminded the meeting of the value of this beautiful coast and how it underpins local economy – we all enjoy places that are looked after.

Paul Pedrick expressed 'absolute outrage' and said it was 'disgusting'. He said that the NT had been given the land back in the 1930's to enable local access in perpetuity. He voiced his opinion that the Trust's land management regime for Bolberry caused more problems than it solved and that this introduction of parking charges was a cynical way of forcing people to become members of the Trust. He warned that visitors will take to parking in the lanes, fields and gateways to avoid the charges and causing obstructions. He said that the Trust had proposed this once before historically but that the 'idea was chucked out' as it would not be workable.

John Sampson highlighted the parking chaos out at East Soar over Easter. The NT's 'improvement' of the carpark has East Soar had led to a net LOSS in spaces. The visitors overflowed the site and farmers were unable to access their fields. Here the Trust was charged with spending money to make things worse with parking reduced from 50 spaces to 35. Cllr Sampson said that with this evidence there is no doubt that the same thing will happen at Bolberry in that people will be pushed into the lanes and fields. David Ford for the Trust argued that most people prefer the landscaped (tidier/more pleasant) carpark, Paul Pedrick replied it was just 'urbanisation' and the locals did not prefer it!

Keith Makepeace queried whether the Trust, nationally, was short of funding? David Ford replied that the cost of caring for properties locally exceeds their income. Keith pursued this question saying that there is a perception that you, the National Trust, have an excess of funding nationally. David replied that, in terms of backlog work there is 15 x more than available funding. The reality is that it is more and more of a challenge as central monies – the stewardship and conservation funding streams – reduce.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2017 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

Cllr J Yeoman asked whether the parking will be monitored and what sanctions will exist for those that don't pay? David replied that the NT's hope is that people will pay and local supporters will understand the need. He added that, with acquisitions of parcels of land by the Trust existing supporters say it is appropriate to ask for contributions.

Paul Pedrick asked why charging is not being introduced at Snapes Point? David replied that the decision on which car parks to do is based on the scale of the car park. The initiative is about increasing the funding – to pay for what the tenant income does not cover.

Katherine Harrod asked whether the Trust has a long term (LT) development plan for the area? David Ford replied yes, there has been one in existence for some time which is revisited every 3-5 years and has a major emphasis on wildlife conservation. Katherine then queried how reducing parking places at Soar and introducing charges at Bolberry fits into this LT plan? Surely, she argued, it must be detrimental to enabling for local access. David Ford did not recognise that available parking spaces had reduced at Soar but admitted the Trust needed to respond to the complaints. Several people at the meeting then voiced their opinion that 'we told you so' at the time but 'you ignored us! So please listen to us now when we argue against the introduction of charges at Bolberry Down'.

The floor was adamant that there was 'no working with us and no real intent to do so' from the Trust. David Ford said it was a real challenge to give coverage but where the NT was felt to have created problems they have a duty to respond. From the floor came the opinion that, by charging at Bolberry, non-trust members are going to move to car parks where no charging regime is in place – thus making the overflows at Snape and Soar worse.

County and District Cllr Rufus Gilbert warned the Trust that SHDC have had 3 machines towed away by 4 WD so 'be warned – they are really expensive to replace'. He added that he both heard and understood the opinions voiced but that he 'can't take sides'. John Sampson asked Rufus if, in his opinion, Bolberry was more vulnerable to that sort of damage than central Kingsbridge is – which is in full public view? Rufus said yes he thought it would be and said that in many cases in the South Hams there was not enough revenue to offset the risk of the introduction of pay & display machines.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting at 20.20.

David Ford asked how, constructively, we can move this debate forward. He said he heard the strength of feeling but repeated that there is a wish, on behalf of the Trust nationally, to do this. The real challenge was about valuing and caring for the spaces but not delivering what you want and where you want at the moment. This had to be resolvable and the Trust had to be responsive- with road side parking for example we need to have a conversation about tackling this and share any resulting plan. John Yeoman replied that the problem at East Soar is exacerbated by it also being the carpark for Overbecks now and with the growing footfall through and the success of the East Soar Farm experience. There is thus a need for additional parking. He thanked Emma who, he said, always keeps us aware of what is going on but she can only tell us the party line. Ann Kendall invited David Ford to come and visit Bolberry Down; talk to us about what works and what is needed. For example – the new fence is not a success. David replied that he would really like to take this further, getting heads together and sharing long term plans and critical analysis; he is keen to encourage collaborative working and committed to doing so. Emma and Richard Snow will continue to do this day to day liaison.

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Cllr J Yeoman thanked David and Emma for attending and their input.

2017-11 OPEN FORUM AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH AFFAIRS

There were no other questions asked or issues raised other than those taken above

AT 20.35 the Chair, Cllr John Yeoman, closed the meeting with thanks to all those that had attended.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

DRAFT