

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2014 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: 16 th April 2014		Venue & Time: Village Hall Annexe, commencing at 7.00pm
Present: Gail Allen Geoff Allen Cllr. Gill Boyce Dist Cllr Paul Coulson Mrs Debbie Ede (Clerk to the Council & Minute taker)	Mrs Heather Gillard Mr Rufus Gilbert Cllr. Kathy Harrod Cllr. Ann Kendall Cllr. Keith Makepiece Cllr. Lucinda Pedrick Cllr. Paul Pedrick Cllr. Kevin Yeoman Cllr. John Yeoman (in the Chair)	Apologies: PCSO D Gibson Mrs Jane Greaves Tony Lyle PC Jo Pengilly Roger Rendle

Ref	Minutes	Action
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- The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2013 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.

2014-1 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Rufus Gilbert presented his report to the meeting. He reports: It has been an interesting 1st year with lots of challenges not least the huge area of County Hall itself, having visited a new wing even today! Financial challenges too with a £1m per week budget reduction. His catchment covers 13 parishes and 4 districts so is itself a logistical challenge. DCC have had a large back log of work exacerbated by the severe winter with a lot of email contact about potholes. He sits on a number of committees: Health & Well Being, Scrutiny, PROW (public rights of way) and investment & pensions. He is the newly appointed Chair of the latter overseeing a budget of £3bn and responsible for 80,000 peoples' pensions. He sits on the Personnel Committee which has a complex workload with many employment tribunals. He also sits on the Highways Committee which covers the South Hams (HATOC). W.r.t. flood damage and potholes; it has been a very wet and challenging year resulting in appalling damage. Fears of a late freeze proved unfounded. However severe coastal and highway damage has resulted, especially at Thurlestone and South Milton and the coast path. Highways are catching up with 31 crews deployed (the norm is 13). DCC are about to start their annual programme of surface dressing with 1000km targeted per annum. Westville Road (Kingsbridge) is due to be restructured and Totnes Cross will be fully repaired. Highways maps have been distributed re road classification. DCC is undergoing boundary review (which has just started). Only two changes are planned, Teignbridge District Council area is set to lose one councillor as is the South Hams so DCC will reduce from 62 to 60. The rules are that new divisions must comply with District Council wards. Rufus highlights he has 13 pubs in my division and 'loves them all' plus all the hotels and restaurants - this results in a very busy and very enjoyable tourist division! Finally Cllr Gilbert highlighted the ongoing libraries review. He surmises that Malborough is probably served by Kingsbridge outside of the mobile service and there are no proposals to close or reduce hours in Kingsbridge although some cost efficiencies will be required. Salcombe Library however is under review. Re. the Day Centre Review - the results of the consultation and review are due out on May 15th following an Executive Meeting. Rufus reports that he has enjoyed his year, it has been very different from District work as the scale is huge both geographically and financially. District is fun as more hands on/closer to the electorate; County is a challenge but a step back. He hopes he is 'doing a reasonable job for you all, and will continue for another 3 years until there is an election for you to decide on'. Jane Greaves thanked Rufus, on behalf of the schools, for looking after them so well. Cllr J Yeoman remarked that Malborough had considered the DCC road map and have sent off proposed road category changes to DCC.

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Cllr J yeoman queried what the upcoming review of the Childrens' Centres would mean for Malborough (re the Kingsbridge Childrens Centre). Rufus replied that he had no news or position statement on this as yet.

After giving his report Cllr Gilbert left the meeting (to attend another Parishes' annual meeting)

2014-2 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Dist Cllr Paul Coulson took the meeting through the year.....

- The year has been largely one of financial introspection - managing to stay within the years' budget (just). SHDC have decided to decline the Government offer of a subsidy again if do not increase the Council Tax and those that have accepted are now facing inflationary pressures as the subsidy was never index linked. SHDC have to find another 30% of cuts over the next 4 years - this is radical. SHDC are in the final phases of TAT - transformational changes by 2018. West Devon & SHDC are consolidating their headquarters at Follaton generating 30% cuts in middle and senior management whilst protecting the front line services. No changes should be noticed in the front line. All changes rely on IT solutions, no desks - planners for example expected to be out in the community, major administration savings. Despite public sector record re IT innovations - not inventing from scratch, will use commercially available software and pathfinders in other Councils.
- The year saw a boundary review - through this now - the aim was to try and equalize the ward sizes as some, especially those around Plymouth, were expanding. Salcombe itself was shrinking re voters despite the fact that 2nd home owners are increasing and cause additional work. For Malborough that means that the present ward will be doubled in size to include Thurlestone and West Alvington with two councillors. The preferred and originally promised solution was one councillor per ward but this was overruled.
- The waste review nearing its end with contracts being prepared - looked long and hard at trying to find better and more cost effective ways of collecting waste - but outcome is very little change - it is working now. Some slight improvements - wider range of plastic recycling, better sorting in the lorries, bottles not cost effective. Hope no one will be inconvenienced.
- Sad illness and now death of John Carter has impacted on workload - by-election will be on 22nd May and hope we will have a choice of candidates: the conservative candidate has been selected.
- Floods and wild weather is of note but Malborough, despite the altitude and high winds has escaped relatively lightly. Pumping station at Salcombe was very vulnerable and compromised. 3 successive storms meant the culvert was damaged and blocked with high pressure pumps deployed. A large digger hit by wave and shifted across the width of the road, and smashed against the wall with the 3 HP pumps thrown across the car park all due to the power of the waves.
- Alston Gate has also been on the agenda through the year - in planning terms it is now very difficult to say no to any development: SHDC do not have sufficient land supply thus no grounds to refuse. It will be interesting to see the first inspectorate report on any challenge to a planning decision. Still have housing problems across this ward and Affordable Housing still a very real issue as is affordable employment in Salcombe where trying to retain employment land alongside the creek for employment units as local craftsmen having to locate in outlying villages as being priced out of the area. Means the harbour is not viable without these services. Biggest worry is that young people flocking out of the south hams due to lack of employment opportunities.
- Rating issues just hitting home - farmers diversifying using their surplus buildings (including boat storage) are liable for business rates and some material demands now being made including 4 years arrears. The Valuation Officer is reviewing all the buildings and classifying a basic barn at the same as a dedicated fully serviced work unit. Cllr P Pedrick asked, as a business why should they get cheaper rates than a normal business/garage etc? Cllr Coulson replied that it is done on rateable value, a bolt form the blue, negotiation required, the back

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dated demands an issue with some six figure sums due. Cllr J yeoman remarked that some rates had to be charged or the zero rating on ordinary farmers would be revoked.

- Cllr Coulson informed the meeting that Lidstones got their permission today to put their potato business, grading and handling facility on the Bantham Cross roundabout. This would be almost invisible on the skyline and dug in, an agro-industrial development. This meant that far fewer huge lorries and tractors would be passing through Malborough.
- In summary an in interesting and long year.....

2014-3 POLICE REPORT: Jo had submitted her report for the month and the year whilst tending her apologies.

....”The crime figures for 1st April 2013 - 1st April 2014 is 41 recorded offences which is higher than the year before which is 28, this shows an increase in crime. However for some of these you have to take into consideration that a lot of the offences have been generated by Officers patrolling the area and finding people in possession of drugs or an offensive weapon.

It does not highlight any cause for alarm. If you take out the self-generated crimes it would probably be slightly more but not much at all. I will be happy to get these broken down for the next meeting”

And

....”For the month, the crime recorded for the past four weeks for Malborough are as follows:
2 X CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLES - SCRATCHES CAUSED TO CARS IN LOWER TOWN
1 X COMMON ASSAULT - LOWER TOWN

At this time the Criminal damage is undetected however the Common Assault will be finalised as detected shortly.

It has been a good month for Malborough so far, with the evenings now getting lighter and more visitors in the area we will be patrolling the local parks etc regularly and the beauty spots. The road safety drive this month is SPEED so if you see us parked up on the A381 then we will be monitoring speed however we will still be looking at other driving offences.

At this time we are investigating another dangerous drive incident that happened close to Malborough on the A381 yesterday and have appealed for witnesses on the Kingsbridge Police Facebook page.

Also please all attend the Marine Awareness day the poster is in the Co-op Garage, many emergency services and agencies will be participating and it would really be good to meet you there. The date is 22nd APRIL 2014 0900 - 1600 hours Whitestrand Salcombe.....”

2014-4 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT; John Yeoman’s 2014 report (Chairman of Malborough Parish Council) is reproduced in full below:

...”I must start this report by paying tribute to those friends of the Council we have lost this year. Firstly John Carter who served for many years as our District Councillor, representing us at Follaton and helping this council to achieve our projects. Not forgetting his input to other Parish affairs, the pantomime in particular. This will mean there will be a byelection on 22nd of May, the last in this ward before the full election next year when the larger ward will go to Thurlestone and West Alvington. Also this year Alan Boyce and the Rev Kirby Haye who both helped this council and contributed to the village in so many ways.

We have had retirements this year, Sir Simon Day retired and we welcomed Rufus Gilbert in his place as County Councillor. Barry Sweetman has moved to Kingsbridge and stepped down from the Council to be replaced by Keith Makepeace. Eva Bond has handed the baton of tree warden to Allan Benstead. Steve Mullen retired as our Beat Manager after a very long time and we asked him to open the last

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part of the playground at the Village Fete and ambushed him with a presentation of inscribed glasses and the libations to put in them!! All these long term links are important for the village and this council and they ensure the local community quietly functions seamlessly.

This year we have tarmaced the path to the Church by the Pound in partnership with the Church. This has done away with the slippery slate stones and made a much better path for the Church and for the village.

The last section of the playground as I mentioned was completed in the summer with the roundabout and the twizzler. As reported last year we had most of the money for this and it was topped up with a donation from Joel Caddy from Salcombe Rugby Club and a grant from Paul Coulson's Community Fund to fully meet the cost. Wickstead put the yellow lines in the wrong place and have now put a second one in the right place, so we now have double yellow lines so no parking on the roundabout. Geoff Allen's pressure on the County Council finally paid off this year when they replaced the fence between cycle track and the playground.

Talking of double yellow lines, the Council decided to ask for the lines on the section from the entrance to the hall and the bus shelter in Collaton Road. This was done in response to the accident when a small child ran into the road between parked cars from the playing field. We were able to go through the Traffic Order stages more cheaply working with other councils. This was consulted on and there were no objections, indeed there were comments asking for more yellow lines on that side of the road. It is something the village must keep an eye on, but it has to be done with agreement from the village.

Those of you that use Shute Well will have seen the new signs. No one is sure where the springs that serve the well come from and because of that the District Council will no longer test the water, hence the new signs. The water remains the same as always, but risks have to be underlined.

As I have mentioned we work closely with our District and County Councillors, Cllr Gilbert has helped us deal with highways over the classification of the roads to ensure as far as can be afforded that maintenance is carried out. He is also helping us from his Community Budget to pay for minor repairs to the War Memorial and for the memorial in the Church to the Czech bomber crew that were killed near the village. Also on a Remembrance theme the National Trust have successfully moved the plaque on the airfield at Soar, much to my relief, and they will erect more information boards there now the remodelling is complete.

The Council decided to increase the precept to allow enough funds to carry out what the village wants in the face of reductions of grant and extra expenses. This worked out at an extra 10p per week per household. One of the things budgeted for was the toilets, to save money the District Council are closing them for three months next winter. We are still waiting for the final negotiations over the details and costs but we have decided to keep them open all year round. Grass cutting has been a bit problematical around the village and the cycle track, but this year Devon is doing it and we will monitor how they get on. We could possibly take it on as a Council but only if the funds from DCC are adequate.

The Council continues to maintain the graveyard and contributes towards the grass cutting for the village hall, especially for the playground. The Council maintains the playground and is indebted to Geoff Allen for looking after it and doing many of the small repairs.

Grants from the Council are made to the Horticultural Society, CAB, WRVS and the Hope Cove Lifeboat.

The Council put forward two bids to the TAP fund, set up by DCC and SHDC for small grants. We were successful in getting 95% of what we wanted, to help the Playgroup with their sensory garden and for safety improvements to the cycle track. The Parish will be contributing as well to both schemes.

Zumba which is run by the Council has again had a popular run, it is a shame we cannot keep it going for 12 months of the year, but again booking congestion has been a problem. On the bright side all the small profits help towards the grass cutting and maintenance of the playground.

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At present there is one allotment vacant so if anyone feels fit, apply to Debbie or Tony Lyle. The Oak tree donated by Luscombe Maye has been planted in the wood together with its smart plaque, we picked a sheltered spot so it should flourish.

A well supported First Aid course was run by Steve Mullen and the Estuary Rotary Club and we are hoping to have a refresher course for the defibrillator. At the moment staff changes in the Ambulance service have stalled this. Since last year the lock on the cabinet is disabled making it quicker and easier to access the machine, so far it has not been used.

Planning remains one of the important functions of the Council, although there have only been 19 applications this year which is the lowest since I have been on the Council. All these have been approved by SHDC and this council has had the same view.

This week the application for the further development at Alston Gate has been lodged with S Hams. This was the subject of the pre-application process run by the applicants a few weeks ago. Now we have a full application the council is keen to have the views of the village, so they can be properly represented to the planners.

Neighbourhood Planning as outlined last year and in the Messenger is proceeding, the steering group have almost finalised the questionnaires that will go out to the parishioners to gather their views. These will be out at the beginning of June and back at the beginning of July and they will form the basis of drop in meetings and further consultations. So keep your eyes open for them, we cannot stop development but hopefully we can have it where we prefer in the parish. The steering group meets on the first Monday of each month, anyone interested should contact Debbie or any councillor.

The Messenger has had yet another good year and as a village we must thank Ann Kendall and her team for all their hard work and dedication. Without it the village would be a poorer and less connected place.

I must thank Debbie and all the council for their work and support through the year. I thought we had had a quiet year but when you sit down and review it all it is surprising what has been done. The Scarecrow Trail and other events May Bank Holiday weekend is the next big village event.

For information about the Council or opinions on what we do please contact me or any of the Councillors and your views will be taken on board..."

2014-5 PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT; Jane Greaves took the meeting through her report, the full text of which is reproduced below.

“At present the school have 85 on role, 39 boys and 46 girls

Attendance in the school as from 16/03/2014 is 95.3% this continues to be a top focus for the school to improve. Head teachers are confined by a statutory law introduced last September and cannot authorise "holiday in term time" so as a school we are really finding things tricky with parents requesting to take their children out of school to go on a family holiday, it's more difficult when a lot of our families are involved in the holiday trade.

In September 2013 Modbury County Primary School joined the South Hams Federation, making our federation a four school federation with nearly 500 pupils. We have one single budget for all four schools. Being part of a bigger organisation has given Malborough the security that being a stand-alone school would not have. The children and the staff all benefit from being part of a bigger family. We did not expect a phone call from Ofsted on January 28th as the school only last year had a full English inspection, which was judged as good, with many outstanding features and our last full inspection was in September 2011, once again the school was judged to be a good school. Anyway, the children as always were a credit to our school, the Inspector was in school for two days, talking to parents, children and Governors, inspecting the children's books, listening to them read and watching all the teachers teach and enjoyed being part of our school family, He judged the school as Good, it's not yet judged to be Outstanding for two reasons, 1. Despite the schools efforts to improve the pupils' attendance, attendance has been well below average in recent years. 2. The outdoor learning

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environment does not provide sufficient resources to further develop pupils' learning, this we are hoping to address. A school cannot be judged as outstanding, under the new Government Ofsted Framework if attendance is below the national average, although as a school we continue to monitor this issue, we cannot stop parents taking their children out of school during term time for holidays etc. Also we cannot predict that children will be poorly. But saying all of that we are delighted with the outcome. The Inspectors comments read, " The children are very polite, well behaved and clearly enjoy coming to school, they demonstrate a desire to learn in all subjects and have a good relationship with their teachers and the older children set a good example to the younger children" Would he send his son to Malborough? Most certainly. That says it all.

We have had all new windows fitted during the Easter holidays to the main building of the school and a new porch.

We have had some tree work carried out, Last month with the help from Alan Benstead, who very kindly helped us with our application to the Council.

In the summer holiday we are having major kitchen works carried out in readiness for the increase of free school meals to children age 4-7 years of age. Another new Government initiative, which as a school we have had to fund this ourselves. Our Kitchen Manager already cooks over a 100 meals a day, as she also cooks for Loddiswell School and the lunches are transported over, so we shall wait and see what the up take will be.

We are making excellent use of the PE provision that every Primary School has been allocated on the back of the successful 2012 London Olympics and have been lucky enough to have employed a full time PE specialist across the federation. The children are now taking part in many more sporting activities both in school and after school clubs; this can only be a good thing.

Just some of the visits and activities the children have taken part in this year include:-

- Swimarathon gala for Rotary
- Life Skills and fire safety talk
- Harvest Festival
- Trip to Paignton Zoo
- Christmas Fair, Christmas production. Father Christmas and carols around the tree.
- East Soar Farm
- Owl visit, from The Barn Owl Trust
- Multi Skills Challenge at Kingsbridge Sports Centre
- Walk to Burton Farm House, to learn about being a farmer
- Singing workshops, maths challenge, gifted and talented year six mornings and science days at Kingsbridge Community College
- Netball, hockey, tag rugby and cross country tournaments
- Residentials
- Monthly church services All Saint Church and the Baptist Church
- Coffee mornings and open afternoon's
- Gym and Dance Festival
- Making posies for Mothering Sunday
- Easter Service in School and the annual Eggstravaganza.

We understand as a Parish, the Council has been granted some money to go towards Community Projects, we are fully aware of the 106 funding that with new builds, a certain amount is allocated to Educational provision. This money is given direct to County, not to the local school. The school does not benefit from this money. We have some funding that the PTFA at Malborough have raised to go towards improving our outside areas in school, but we would very much look to the Parish Council to seriously think about allocating the school £5,000.00 to help to improve the Foundation area and an area for the older children. Our school is very limited for space, especially, outside for the children to

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be undercover when it's raining or when we have lots of sunshine, as there is very limited shady places for the children or quiet area for the children to read and have quiet time.

We have once again had a very hectic, but also a very exciting and successful year and as usual we would like to thank the community of Malborough for being so supportive of our school.

Jane Greaves - Chair of Governors”

Jane added that the school have some surplus bird boxes which would be nice to put up in the village with the year 6's. She will liaise with the VH and Tony Lyle re siting these in the woods.

Cllr P Pedrick asked Jane if the school had a plan and a budget re the wish to improve the outside space provision for the foundation children. There is an outline plan.
Cllr J Yeoman understands that the Great Park monies went to Kingsbridge Community College. However because Malborough School is not full they are unlikely to get any of the Alston gate educational monies as KCC is in need of the money. It was suggested we ask the Alston Gate developers how their educational element is being deployed. Cllr P Pedrick asked whether the SHDC element of the community s106 could be vired to Malborough school but Cllrs Yeoman and Coulson replied that we are not allowed to supplement education funding, it could only be used if badged as grants to fund open spaces or facility land. A new intake of 20 is expected in September with a lot of outlying families trying to access Malborough and the pre-school.

The Chair thanked Jane for her report and efforts.

2014-6 FEOFFEES REPORT; Cllr Boyce gave her report - “....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. In 2012/13 (their financial year based on the student terms) our work included the award of grants to 6 students in higher education (after 6th form) for their travel costs and emergency lifeline alarms for 19 elderly local residents....” 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.

Cllr Makepiece asked whether part time courses would be considered - Gill replied each case is considered on its' merits.

2014-7 TREE WARDENS REPORT; Allan Benstead had kindly sent in his report for the year as tree warden for the Parish, reproduced below. He writes:

...“A generally quiet year.

In June I was contacted regarding the felling of trees around the tennis court. I was unable to influence this matter.

We have a fir tree in our parish which the owner would like to fell because it is causing structural damage to his house and lifting the road surface in the highway. The council (SHDC) have turned down the request. *(Dist Cllr Coulson said the extension to the house had been built too near to the tree and there was no real justification to chop down a healthy tree)*

In September a parishioner advised me of a dead tree in the churchyard, this has been removed by the council (SHDC).

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In January I was invited to the school to discuss management of the trees. I made several recommendations and wrote a full report and sent it to Simon Putt at SHDC.

With kind regards,

Allan Benstead.....”

Cllr Boyce mentioned another tree on the burial ground is causing a problem, it is angled and demolishing the graveyard wall. The Church is trying to liaise with the owner of the tree to get it removed. It is a yew tree but the costs of removal are likely to be an issue.

2014-8 OPEN FORUM AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH AFFAIRS

Heather Gillard reported the 2 lights on Collaton Road are still not repaired - having been reported twice. We will ask Rufus to expedite.

Cllr J Yeoman asked whether Dist Cllr Coulson had clarified whether the new homes bonus could be pursued for the village hall roof. Cllr Coulson would chase up a response.

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

AT 20.25 the Chair, Cllr John Yeoman, closed the meeting with thanks to all those that had attended.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Distribution List

Cllrs Boyce, Harrod, Kendall, Makepiece, L Pedrick, P Pedrick, Rendle, J Yeoman, K Yeoman
For Information: e-circulation to: District Cllr. Paul Coulson, County Cllr R Gilbert, Mr Tony Lyle (allotment rep), Mr E Putt, Salcombe Police Station, Mr Allan Benstead (Tree Warden), Mrs E. Bond (Asst. Tree Warden), Reverend T Skillman, Malborough Parish Council Notice Boards (2), Malborough Primary School, Malborough Village Hall Committee: Mr A Morgan, Mrs Gail Allen, Mr A Purchase, National Trust, SVRA