

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2015 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: 15 th April 2015		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) PCSO D Gibson Mr Rufus Gilbert Cllr. Lucinda Goodhead Police Sgt Dave Green	Cllr. Kathy Harrod Cllr. Ann Kendall Cllr. Keith Makepeace Cllr. Paul Pedrick PC Jo Pengilly Emma Reece (NT) Cllr. Kevin Yeoman Cllr. John Yeoman (in the Chair)	Apologies: Mrs Jane Greaves Cllr. Roger Rendle

Ref Minutes Action

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2014 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.

2015-1 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Rufus Gilbert presented his report to the meeting. He reports:

Overall the year has been a tough one re the budget which is being pared back, year on year, leading to the Tough Choices agenda. In recent years the budget has shrunk from >£1bn to c. £750m in the next fiscal year. The Council Tax was put up for 2015/16 by the maximum allowed of 1.96%. Despite these financial challenges the Lollipop service was saved and the Library review is going well with a Trust being formed and savings of up to £0.5 million being made from a rate review. Each Library will now act as an independent body accountable to the Trust. Much of Cllr Gilbert's work involves the DCC Pension Scheme and its investments (he chairs the working party); overall it is a well run scheme with the work focusing on protecting the benefits and returns. Devon schools feature in the top ten in the country which is a remarkable achievement given the budget is less than half of metropolitan boroughs. The review of the bus service is underway with Kingsbridge collating the responses. The roads budget has taken a hard hit but, through consultation, the gritting service and the refilling of the salt bins has been maintained. Locally, there have been several footpath slips, including another one some ten days ago. Given that Devon County Council is now responsible for the Health and Well Being agenda, Cllr Gilbert highlighted some NHS points of interest:

- The per capita spend £1,200 which is equivalent to national average
- Life expectancy in the County is 88 years for women and 82 for men.
- There were 27,000 bed blocks in the year which is a real problem so discharge arrangements need improving
- 2 out of 3 hospitals in Devon are running a deficit; currently there is a £27m hole Devon wide
- There are 'Flat cash budgets' next year. ie the cash is protected but there is no growth

Kingsbridge Childrens' centre was saved during the year but the centre at Belle Cross Road is now under strain (this focuses on the maternal role and assisting Mums) and under review; the service may be relocated.

Overall Cllr Gilbert thought it had been a 'good year' and thanked the Council for its' co-operation since he started two years ago. He stated that he thought we were a 'good Parish Council' with known direction and momentum. Finally he reported that the Police speed watch is currently underway in the village, the camera is up on the A381 and data is being collected and will be summarised by the hour. The new SLOW markings are also in place on the cycle track

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John Yeoman thanked Cllr Gilbert for all his help in moving forward issues of importance to the village and for his help with funding for the Village Hall roof, the war memorial and dedication plaque. *After giving his report Cllr Gilbert left the meeting (to attend another Parish annual meeting) at 7.15pm*

2015-2 POLICE REPORT: PS Green took the meeting through the year highlighting the involvement of Jo Pengilly and David Gibson;

Key statistics are:

Total Crime reported for the parish 01/04/14 to 31/03/15 inclusive = 26 v. 37 in the same period in previous year. This represents 29% decrease in crime.

The 26 reported in 2014/15 include:

- 2 x assaults (both with minor injury, and both resulting in a male being arrested and charged)
- 1 x attempted burglary to an outbuilding
- No dwelling burglaries
- 7 x criminal damages (4 of which were scratches to car paintwork)
- 7 x miscellaneous thefts
- 2 x drink drivers (both arrested and charged)

Of these crimes, 5 people were arrested and charged, 1 person summonsed to court, and 3 crimes dealt with by local Community Resolution.

In addition to crime work, local police activity included:

- Safeguarding vulnerable people, both adults and children
- Working with partners to reduce and resolve community issues such as neighbour disputes
- Road safety work
- Schools visits
- Dealing with road accidents and other policing emergencies that arise
- Missing persons

Sgt Green highlighted that, like DCC, there is a squeeze on budgets with funding cuts but there are few promises/headline figures about police budgets which makes it difficult to plan. Whilst crime figures are apparently falling the police are coping with a growing safeguarding agenda especially w.r.t. senior mental health issues which do not reflect in the crime figures but take up considerable resource. Road safety and community resolution with partner agencies is also a growing agenda, again outside of the reported statistics.

Taking questions, John Yeoman clarified that the current speed watch exercise targets drivers heading from Salcombe approaching the zebra crossing. The Council would also like the exercise repeated with the recorder placed opposite Alston Gate to give information to DCC Highways re the new builds and impacts of as it is known Highways need hard evidence to act. Geoff Allen said there is also a speeding problem with drivers exiting the village and asked whether it is possible to locate the recorder on the other side of the road too? Sgt Green believed the system was currently recording data in both directions. The meeting queried whether the data will be fed back to the village? We will need to ask DCC but, given it is public information, both the police and District Councillors could not see any reason why it should not be disclosed, especially as it will inform local decisions. The Parish Council undertook to follow this up.

John Yeoman concluded this section but thanking the Officers, saying that we do appreciate all the work that is done behind the scenes, the police tending to provide a more varied service in rural areas and it is recognised and appreciated. *Sgt Green and his colleagues left the meeting at 19.45hrs.*

2015-3 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Dist Cllr Paul Coulson took the meeting through key issues of note:

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Firstly, looking forward, he urged as many parishioners as possible to come long to the appeal hearing on Tuesday 21st April stressing that it really does matter; if the local community shows a high and pro-active profile and shows engagement it can influence the Inspectors decisions.

Paul said, as it's his last meeting, that he very much enjoyed working with this Council and the community, more so in recent years since the loss of his much missed colleague and friend, larger than life character John Carter. Cllr Coulson reckoned we were "a jolly good bunch to work with!" He went on to praise the Clerk and urge the meeting to cherish her and to wish Malborough every success for the future, whatever that is. He believes that T18 will/is having a dramatic impact with the Planning Department especially under severe strain coping with temporary staff and a high staff turnover; hence life will be difficult. Also Cllr Coulson remarked that he does not think we have seen the last of the Government cuts at a local level so he suspects more services will be devolved to Malborough. He concluded by thanking everyone very much indeed. In turn Cllr John Yeoman thanked Paul for his kind words and remarked that, whilst working together for quite a while we have achieved a lot! The meeting wished him well for the future and urged him to stay in touch.

Cllr Pearce then added her comments re T18 saying that whilst the District Council has a miniscule budget compared to DCC in 2020 it will receive no government grant at all. This will mean the District Council will have to evolve to have a more commercial focus hence the re-organisation (T18) currently underway. She hopes that we are at the point of most pain and that the gains will start to filter through, trying to change/turn round an organization is not easy. Like Cllr Coulson, Cllr Pearce believes that the Planning Department are taking the brunt where continuity and case histories are suffering. She is doing what she can to chase up and expedite decisions, omissions etc. Parishioners were again urged to turn up at the Alston gate appeal hearing on Tuesday. Cllr Pearce said she was glad Malborough had done so well on the grant front this year for lots of different things, both from TAP and Locality funds, and that she had enjoyed her first year. She thanked everyone for their help and patience whilst she learnt 'on the job', no induction having been available. She said she had been re-elected, unopposed, so will be with us after 7th May.

There were no questions for our District Councillors from the floor

Dist Cllr Paul Coulson gave his apologies as he had to leave the meeting due to personal reasons.

2015-4 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT; John Yeoman's 2015 report (Chairman of Malborough Parish Council) is reproduced in full below:

....."I thought we had had a fairly quiet year until I went through the minute book and I almost came over all faint at what we as a Council and Team Malborough had achieved.

There were the inspiring things like the Dedication of the Plaque in the Church to the Czech bomber crew as part of the Remembrance service. I must thank Brian Taylor for the research he put into finding out the details of the crash and creating the display in the Church so we could learn about it. It was good that the school took children over to see it, their local history. I must also thank Father Stephen Ball for the dedication. We also made good the lettering on the War memorial, and in both these endeavours we were helped by funding from our County Councillor Rufus Gilbert. Also at that time of the year it is good to see the increasing band of hardy souls that attend the November 11th service at the airfield plaque. Inspiring in different ways was the Scarecrow trail which was run successfully in May. Also again in a different field was the defibrillator course run by the Ambulance Service and First Responders when 20 people stepped forward to be trained to react to a crisis. The lock on the cabinet is removed now, so when needed, the machine can be accessed quickly.

All the time the routine work of the Council carries on; from making sure that the Code of Conduct is up to date with the latest changes to negotiating about the winter toilet closure. This has been the first winter of the new toilet regime, where we pay for the three winter months to keep the toilets open. It seems to have worked quite well.

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Planning has been busy this year with Alston Gate taking up a lot of time. We informed the Planners last May that the houses being built were in the wrong place. They in turn told the builders that they were proceeding at their own risk, which they proceeded to do, completing the build and then applying retrospectively to put things right. After a site meeting the South Hams turned down their application which has led to the Appeal on 21st of this month. In the meantime the developers applied for the second phase for another 16 houses in the next part of the site. This, the Parish gave conditional approval for provided that the worries of the village about access both pedestrian and vehicular were addressed at the same time. Unfortunately it was passed without these problems being addressed.

In refusing the retrospective application the District Council sited that Plots 1-5 and the roadside retaining wall are unduly overbearing on the street scene and visually intrusive in the AONB as the reason for refusal. So when the application came in for plots 6-17 there was no planning reason to refuse even though they were wrong as well but the Parish felt this would help the local people involved in the affordable part of the development. I know this all seems academic and complicated but it should be remedied by the Appeal. We did try to get the hearing moved to the village but we did not succeed, so all who wish to go should be at Follaton House by 10am on the 21st.

Fortunately most applications this year have been straight forward and one in particular, the redevelopment of Yarde Gate Nursery, was one the Council was keen to support. This development provided things highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire as desirable.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues slowly, the questionnaire was completed and provided an evidence base against which options and policies are being worked out ready for more consultation with the parish. We have also put out a call for sites for development over the next 20 years. This is not planning permission or any guarantee but a chance for options to be considered and be put out for consultation. The group is getting smaller so volunteers are very welcome.

Finance is an important part of our function as a Parish Council and in order to cope with changes to services that we will have to take over and to be able to get matched funding the Precept has been raised by just over £6 a year for the average household, or 12p per week. We look for savings in our costs where possible and this year major savings were made in insurance and maintenance of the Messenger printer.

This year we have given grants to organizations that operate in and around the Parish, the Horticultural Society, CAB and WRVS and the Haig fund. We also support Hope Cove Lifeboat and the school and preschool, contributing to their TAP fund bids with the help of contributions from Cllr Pearce's Locality fund. Last year we obtained TAP fund money for safety improvements at Churchill Gate, and despite the efforts of Cllr Gilbert, Highways would not let us do what we wanted there, putting up extra signage instead. This left us with the money shared with Salcombe. With the help of our District Councilors we were able to retain it for cycle track maintenance. This year again with help from Cllr Pearce we have obtained grants for the outside area at the school and for a salt spreader. This will be used with salt from the snow warden scheme to cover parts of Malborough and South Huish not salted at present and to cope with any future cuts to service.

Working closely with the Village Hall committee and our District Councilors we have been awarded a grant of £30,000 to renew the roof of the village hall. This has been added to by £3000 from Cllr Gilbert's Locality Fund. We have engaged a contractor after competitive tendering and they start on site on May 11th. The Parish Council is doing the work so that the VAT can be reclaimed, another saving for the Village.

The allotments are well used but at the moment there are three large and two small plots available for anyone feeling active. Dogs continue to cause problems in the village, mainly for what they leave behind. Parishioners should remember that dogs are not allowed on the playing field, after all who would want to meet what the dog had left behind when doing a dramatic sliding tackle or trying to stop a boundary.

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Speed of traffic is an ongoing cause of concern, and at present the main road is monitored to obtain information that Highways can act upon. Parking in Collaton Road is still a problem, and the Council is looking to extend the double yellow lines. We are waiting for a Traffic Order that we can be part of for this to be carried forward, both these are with the help of our County Councillor.

Finally the Jubilee bus shelter, The Monkey House, we are running a competition to brighten up this iconic building and improve the look of the entrance to the village. There is a prize for the best entry so get thinking.

As a Council we rely on support both inside and beyond the Parish. We must thank our County Councillor Rufus and our district Councillors Judy and Paul for their help and advice through the year, particularly Paul Coulson who is stepping down as our District Councillor this month. Thank you Paul for being very tolerant of our shortcomings over the years, for sorting out our problems and helping us to plot a sensible course.

Ann Kendall has had another very successful year with the Messenger; after all without it none of us would know what we had done or what we will be doing. Another stalwart is Geoff Allen who looks after the new playground on behalf of the Council and the Village Hall and his efforts are much appreciated.

Election fever does not seem to have seeped as far as Malborough yet, Judy Pearce and Simon Wright have been elected, unopposed, as our District Councillors and we congratulate them both.

The Parish Council is also returned unopposed; either people are happy with us or afraid to join the madhouse. We do need a volunteer as we are one councillor short, so we must co-opt someone. Roger Rendle is standing down this time and we must thank Roger for all his years on the Council. I must thank all our Councillors for what they do for the Council and especially Debbie who keeps us on the straight and narrow and practices her bid writing skills.

And finally finally, it is not every year one of the Council gets married, so we congratulate Lucinda on her wedding last Saturday and wish her and Philip well for the future.....”

Geoff Allen thanked the Council for the huge amount of help given in getting the grants for the new roof for the hall; hopefully we shall soon have a new roof (work starts on 11th May).

2015-5 PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT; Jane Greaves had sent in her report, the full text of which is reproduced below.

.....”Malborough PC AGM Report from the Chair of Governors for Malborough with South Hush C of E Primary School

Malborough remains part of The South Hams Federation, Stokenham, Loddiswell and Modbury Primary Schools. The executive Head Teacher Mrs Sue Jezard has become a National Educational Leader and the Chair to Governors has become a National Lead Governor. These two rolls bring extra funding into our school budget. At present we have 84 children on roll: 42 Boys, 42 Girls

With a lot of hard work and support from the parents our attendance is just above the National average at 95.5%

It has been another busy year for the children at Malborough School, both inside the classroom and outside. We said a sad farewell to our long serving caretaker Mrs Heather Gillard, we are lucky to have Heather still involved in the school and she sits on the School’s Ethos Committee, her knowledge of the school is still very much welcomed. We have a new Caretaker, Mr Mark Hill, who soon settled into the role and is very much part of the school team.

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Last summer the school had major refurbishment and building works carried out to improve the school kitchen in readiness for the free school meals for children seven and under in September 2014, we created a new classroom to accommodate our increasing number of children on role and appointed new teaching/mealtime assistants.

We have, with the help of a National Lottery Grant, developed some areas outside of the classroom and created a spiritual and quiet area, with other plans to improve the outside space for our Reception Class, and hopefully we can also improve other areas in school to make a better environment for our children to play, we are however always seeking extra funding. Over the Easter holidays we are creating a new entrance to Pre School and having work carried out on the school roof that is leaking!

Some of the highlights and celebrations this year have been:-

- The monthly church services
- Class One have enjoyed taking part in Forest Schools, they have been using the wooded area on the playing field, Class 1 walk to the woods every week, in (nearly!) all weathers to participate in Forest School. The children have been learning about how to keep themselves safe in a natural environment, how to look after and help maintain the woods by removing old plastic tree spirals, they have investigated insects, where they live and how to treat living creatures, they have learnt about their locality and directions, made dens and learnt about fire lighting. In the Summer term we will be learning about tree identification, bird surveys and noticing the changes within the woods from one season to the next.
- Our Leavers Service
- Year one and two:- visit to The Living Coast, Multi Skills learning at The Sports Centre in Kingsbridge, Bag Day - Send a Cow.
- Year three and four:- enjoyed a sports specialist coming into to teach various sports each morning.
- The Fire Brigade came in to visit the whole school.
- Year five and six went on a river trip for the day, studying estuaries and rivers. At Avon Mill and Bantham.
- The whole school celebrated World Book Day with stories from our Caretaker.
- Art Exhibition at the Harbour House, Kingsbridge, Totem Poles from the Spiritual Garden exhibited.
- Pond dipping, Primary singing day, Bake Off, talk and workshop from Child Line, visit to East Soar Farm team building day, Book Fair, Multi Skills afternoon at the Sports Centre, the whole school trip to Buckfast Abbey, various church celebrations, Harvest, Christmas, Christingles, all the children helped make 150 Christingles! Children in year five and six made Mothering Sunday posies for church, Red Nose Day, Kingsbridge Community College Science afternoon, Deputy Head at Kingsbridge Community College came to visit the year six children, Netball Festival, Tesco Easter Fun Day, and Easter Service as well as all the lunch time clubs and after school clubs, football, netball, hokey, gardening, bible and games clubs. Parent Consultations have also taken place.
- We have just purchased an air source heat pump for our swimming pool, so the children will be able to start using the pool earlier and hopefully the water will be a lot warmer.
- We have been very fortunate to have had Trevor Becker coming into school every Friday afternoon, Trevor is the church organist at Salcombe Church, but he has been coming in and working on the children's singing, what a difference he has made, we are also lucky to have Father Stephen Ball, who is supporting the school and has joined the Governing Body.

We are also lucky to have the use of the Federation Mini Bus and for the children to enjoy joint Residential's with our other three schools in the Federation. Once again we are very grateful for the Communities support for our school and we thank everyone for that continued support.

What's happening in the next few months? Well we will find out after the General Election, but sure is eggs are eggs, we will certainly not be bored!” Jane Greaves Chair of the South Hams Federation

The Chair thanked Jane for her report and efforts.

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2015-6 FEOFFEEES REPORT; Cllr Boyce gave her report

In 2013/14 the Feoffees have funded 15 emergency life lines and 5 higher education students within Malborough itself with other awards being made to Salcombe residents. 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.

2015-7 TREE WARDENS REPORT; No reports had been received from Allan Benstead or Eva Bond so we must assume a quiet year in the Parish for the trees! However, updating the Parish about work done by the National Trust, Emma Reece reported that:

- Extensive scrub cutting had taken place at Bolberry to reinstate important grasslands.
- There was now a new disabled access route at Bolberry although some re-work is required to improve the surfacing which is well used.
- The NT had taken on-board the Parish's concerns about dog mess in its car parks (Bolberry and Soar) and was undertaking a review as to how they deal with it, considering working with the dog warden, improved signage etc. Suggestions are welcome.
- More work remains to be done at Bolberry re signage and fencing both still work in progress.
- At East Soar, Emma thanked John Yeoman for his help with the history panel which has now been finalised and will be up within the next few months.
- The meeting noted that East Soar car park was very busy over Easter and the Trust was advised that overflow parking was spilling onto the lanes and verges. Visitors to Overbecks are now being encouraged, by the NT, to use the East Soar Car Park. However with fewer spaces now available this was causing the overflow.
- Emma praised their new Tuesday volunteer group initiative and said she found the new Malborough in Touch email system very helpful having attracted 7 new volunteers.
- Emma advised that the NT is talking to the local RNLi team about next year being the 100th anniversary of Bar disaster; some sort of memorial is being developed/planned near Sharpitor.
- Finally she said the NT was very happy to do anything they could to support the Neighbourhood Plan; please let them know.

There were no questions for Emma or the Trust and John Yeoman thanked her for her report.

2015-8 OPEN FORUM AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH AFFAIRS

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

AT 20.10 the Chair, Cllr John Yeoman, closed the meeting with thanks to all those that had attended.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____