

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council.

Date: 15th November 2023		Venue & Time: Village Hall Annex, 19.00hrs
Present: Cllr Sharon Anniss Cllr Madge Bailey Cllr Vanessa Harris Cllr Ann Kendall (Chairman) Cllr Dave Perkins Cllr Sarah Prowse Cllr Jamie Rundle Cllr John Sampson	In Attendance: Katharine Harrod - Parish Clerk Dist. Cllr Samantha Dennis Dist. Cllr Mark Long County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Parishioners/Guests Present: 2	Apologies: Cllr Ed Hill

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

246 OPEN FORUM:

There were posts on social media regarding wildlife in the woodpile for the fireworks bonfire, we have also been advised that different plastics and roofing felt were added to the fire and were not all removed prior to lighting although the Village Hall Chairman was able to remove some of it. It has been stated that this is a regular occurrence at this site and was further noted that a young boy crawled into the woodpile last year, got stuck and had to be helped out. Councillors were in agreement that the size of the fire was particularly large and still burning the following day. A request was made that we communicate with the Hall Committee to request a smaller and better managed woodpile in future years, to ensure no toxic materials are added. The woodpile could be surrounded with temporary security fencing or limited timings given for the drop off of materials for the fire. This would help reduce the liability issues surrounding the provision of this event each year.

NT Ranger, Emma Reece:

- The new bridleway has now been open for a few months, it has been well received and is hopefully the first stage of more routes in and around the East Soar and Bolberry area.
- Steward applications for East Soar Farm and Bolberry Tail area are now taking place in a similar vein to that at South Down Farm. At East Soar there will also be wetland restoration - part of this relies on funding.
- To promote diversity of the grasslands, the National Trust are starting to grow their own seed on their farms, this increases diversity for invertebrates which, in turn, benefits other wildlife species.
- 68 pairs of ciril buntings have been breeding in the area – this equates to 5% of total UK population
- Wildlife cameras have been sited at South Down Farm, sightings include foxes, hares, plenty of mice and other small creatures as well as rare birds etc.
- East Soar Farm is looking to commence use of No Fence Collars – this technology is highly used on grazing areas, prevents the requirement for stock fencing in beautiful locations and also benefits by enabling tenants to track exactly where the stock is.
- They are looking to increase land access to a multitude of users, this includes walking, cycling and riding.
- A request was made for a map of the new bridleway to be included in the next edition of the Malborough Messenger.
- Cllr Harris mentioned the gate into Lower Soar has broken and fallen off. Emma will arrange for repair.

Emma Gray, SMASH Representative: Community Compost Scheme update

Emma first agreed to look into the viability of a community compost scheme in October 2022. Since then she has visited other local schemes, notably South Brent and Ashprington.

The conclusions drawn from this were as follows:

1. Need a site of approx. 300m²
2. 3 open-sided compost bins
3. Storage facility for tools, volunteer stuff – small storage container
4. Space for larger compostable material for SHDC to come and break down every 2-3mths
5. Reasonable access for cars to bring material to site and for SHDC tractor and chipper to come in and out

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council.

Timeline since May 2023:

May 2023 – Registration of Interest completed on SHDC website

June 2023 – put in grant application to Co-op – a response is due regarding success of the application.

7th June – Ben Bryant (SusSH and Devon Community Compost Network) attended SMASH meeting to explain next steps for a community compost scheme

June-July 2023 – questionnaires sent out to both South Huish and Malborough parishes via post offices and both newsletters. 30 responses were received– example of some of the results:

- 52% signed up for brown bin collection in 2023 – same as SHDC wide
- 100% said compost scheme would be useful
- 81% said they would use it
- 55% would volunteer
- 70% would bring compostable material to site

October 2023 – Home Compost Roadshow postponed because of very poor weather conditions – rebooked for Saturday 2nd March 1-4pm.

November 2023 – 8th Nov – Sustainable South Hams Change Makers meeting re community compost schemes.

Next steps/indication of timings:

- Nov '23 – May '24 – Find and secure a site
- May – Oct – work with Ben Bryant and SHDC to secure funding. Form a working party.
- Nov '24 – Jan '25 – Recruit volunteers, set-up scheme in situ
- April '25 – open scheme to the two parishes

Emma was thanked for all her hard work, the councillors are very supportive of the proposed scheme and her efforts to bring this to fruition are applauded.

247 Devon County Council & South Hams District Council Reports:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk

1. Devon County Council have confirmed a balance of £4,950 re the committed footpath works. MPC will provide bank details for payment.
2. Modbury road closure for 6 weeks commences on 8th January, light traffic will be deviated internally, heavy traffic will be required to follow another, longer, diversion route.
3. The Malborough Higher Town road closure has been delayed until January.
4. Re missing white lines these can be reported online, Cllr Gilbert confirmed the teams are catching up with outstanding works.
5. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme.

The Mobile Boost scheme ran from February 2021 to March 2023 and funded over 1,700 installations across the region, helping small businesses and homeworkers with poor indoor mobile coverage.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) are delighted to share that the scheme has recently been successful in securing additional funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) and will be re-opening to applications on Monday 8th January 2024. Funding is limited and they have forecast that the scheme will run for six months from January to June 2024, subject to demand. See news release on additional funding [South West communities receive funding boost to improve mobile connectivity - Connecting Devon and Somerset](#)

REPORT IT:

Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

1. South Hams District Council will be sending out canvassers to all properties within the council area who are required but have not yet returned a Canvass Form with regard to Electoral Registration. This is an annual process. The Canvassers will be trying to make contact with those households who have not supplied information that we have requested under Electoral Registration legislation. The canvassers will be carrying ID and will be delivering forms and not taking information at the doorstep, unless it is offered to them. This statutory process needs to be completed in advance of publishing the new Electoral Register on the 1st December.
2. Devon aligned service for waste collections - the final changes are now being made, all residents will have the same service which commences on 20th November. There will be an impact on most people either in the way they present their waste or residents will find their collection date may change. If there are any issues with collections please report online at the earliest convenience.
3. Notifications have been received from the police regarding burglaries at farms and rural locations – quad bikes and tools have been targeted.
4. A number of consultations are on the SHDC website, including the Corporate Strategy, Council Tax and dog control orders.
5. A number of different grants are currently available including one to support the resilience of local communities for items such as village halls – the grants are between £2k and £10k and need to be match funded.
6. Cllrs Dennis & Long are part of a Task & Finish group in respect of Enforcement, a number of issues have been raised and there will be more communications coming out to the parishes regarding the Enforcement process.
7. Cllr Dennis contributed £500 to the new heating system in the Annex, the new heating has made a significant difference.
8. The new planning IT system is coming into force at the end of the month. Between 22nd Nov and 29th November there will be delays to the processing of applications.
9. A question was raised re brown bin collections for bins without stickers. Cllr Long will investigate.

It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful.

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>

Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged or Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

The meeting convened.

248 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

249 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 18th October 2023, these were then signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

250 Declarations of Interests and amendments to Members' Registers of Interests:

Cllr Kendall declared a pecuniary interest in respect of finance and withdrew from the discussion regarding payments to be made.

251 CLERKS REPORT –

1. Monthly Checks: In hand (Allotment water meter reading outstanding).

2. Vehicle Activated Signage: New signage is due to be erected in the parish having been purchased from Evolis. Councillors were asked to provide their preferred locations for the new signs.
3. Planters: The final two planters have now been filled and will be planted shortly.
4. The Salcombe Rotary have provided us with a large number of crocus bulbs which will be planted for spring blooms.
5. SMASH Update: We are in touch with the Men's Shed regarding new beach feet, Emma Gray is continuing with the composting project and is speaking with South West Water regarding a potential site. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather the composting event had to be postponed and is now due to take place in March 2024.
6. We await a response from the Hiscox underwriters regarding gritting liability.
7. The Post Office have confirmed that there is an issue with deliveries in the local area, all they can say is that they are working hard on resolving the issue and apologise for any inconvenience caused.
8. MP Anthony Mangnall has received confirmation that the replacement post box on Collaton Road has been authorised, they will endeavour to install the new one within 12 – 16 weeks. Cllr Dennis is also thanked for her assistance with this matter.
9. South Hams District Council Election Fees have been confirmed at £213.78, this amount will be invoiced early in the new financial year.
10. Door Stickers – no uninvited callers, we have received a number of door stickers to deter uninvited callers, a supply will be left in the Post Office.
11. Cllr Perkins is now the Councillor Advocate, this being the liaison between the police and the parish. More details to be provided at a future meeting.
12. **Higher Town Works are now due to take place between 22nd – 26th January.**
13. Planning Training was deferred due to reasons outside our control. It will be rearranged in the New Year. In the meantime a refresher document has been forwarded to Councillors with a basic overview of what to consider when reviewing planning applications.
14. Burial Ground Communication re WW1 burials, a communication wanting to highlight WWI graves in the burial ground has been forwarded to admin@seasidebenefice.org. We have received no response.
15. Details of the following have been forwarded to the Councillors: Salcombe Harbour Board Agenda, Energy Fair 18th November (Kingsbridge), Fire Service Consultation open to 30th November
<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/769bb7ae-a2f9-44ef-a38a-39451587d1f4> .

252 PLANNING:

- a. **Applications** received by the Parish Council and under discussion and consideration for the last period. Any recommendation by the Parish Council to the Planning Department is noted after the application details. Those without comment remain under discussion.
 1. 3077/23/FUL, Collaton Road, Installation of a 2nd 20ft shipping container next to an existing. 16/11 **Support.**
 2. 3365/23/HHO, Brook Cottage, Malborough, alteration & extension including replacement garage 16/11 **Support.**
 3. 2883/23/CLE, Alston Gate, READVERTISED (revised site location plan) Certificate of lawfulness existing use as commercial horticultural nursery & garden centre(Use Class E) - formerly known as 'Alston Nursery' 17/11. **Support.**
- b. **South Hams District Council Decisions**
 1. 3332/21/HHO, Townsend Cottage, Secretary of State Appeal. **No decision yet.**
 2. 1111/23/HHO, Townsend Cottage, Secretary of State Appeal. **No decision yet.**
 3. 3953/22/FUL, Horsecombe Farm, Secretary of State Appeal. **No decision yet.**
 4. 2470/23/PAT, Land at Weymouth Farm, Collaton Road. **No decision yet.**
 5. Devon County Council /4366/2023, South West Water expansion of existing plant, Malborough Waste Water Treatment Works, TQ7 3DD. **No decision yet.**
 6. 2822/23/FUL, Hope Barton Barns, Erection of small ground mounted solar array 26/10. **Conditional Approval.**
- c. **Enforcement issues:**

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council.

Please note that the Enforcement Lists are confidential and) issues concerning Enforcement cannot be discussed at a public meeting.

South Hams District Council are responsible for the enforcement of all planning breaches, the Parish Council have no authority to deal with issues of this nature.

Please will all parishioners continue to report full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported to Enforcement via www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach

253 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED:

- a) Cllrs Anniss, Prowse, Rundle and the Parish Clerk are due to meet at the Salcombe Youth Centre on 28th November. Cllr Anniss is speaking with the current youth group leaders in the parish to ascertain a mutually agreeable solution to the offering of a regular youth group. It was noted the existing youth group have stated on social media that unless more young people attend the Baptist Church Group it will likely disband until after Christmas. We will speak with Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement. A proposal regarding dates/venue/management etc will be brought to the next meeting.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve additional burial ground fencing at a cost of £1,375.
- c) Project updates:
We aim to have estimated costs for the updates to the MUGA and addition of a boules area next to the planned car parking area by January 2024.
- d) Village Hall Minutes are available on the parish website.
 - The old heaters in the annex will be removed, the new heating system works well.
 - The hedge has been cut back alongside the road.
 - The annex is due to be repainted.
 - The bonfire night and fireworks were a great success.
 - A new Christmas tree has been obtained for the main hall.
 - A request has been made for a pickleball net costing £130, this will be added to the next agenda.

254 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

- a) The accounts for 2023/24 month 8 were received.
Accounts to Pay:
Accounts to pay: Evolis £4,798.80, Royal British Legion £75, South West Water £127.21 SSE Business £171.99, Cllr Kendall £39.56, Post Office £4.80, Clive Wrangles Handyman £160, Jewson £101.64,
Standing orders: Clerk Salary & HMRC, Dave Bawden MVH £275, SHEPS Burial Ground £190 , Do It All Services Malb Park £173.73 , Clive Wrangles Public Toilets £459.33, Hugo Fox £11.99,
The Council RESOLVED to accept all payments.
- b) **Governance**
 - 1. Unity Bank: Cllr Bailey has now signed the documents, we await the new bank account details.
 - 2. A first draft of the proposed 2024/25 budget was shared with Councillors, final decisions regarding the level of precept for the next year will be made at the January meeting.

255 MEETING ENDS 20:55 Hrs

The Council then went into closed session to discuss confidential staffing information at which time it was **RESOLVED** to approve the NALC pay increase at spinal point 25 (£17.64 per hour) effective from 1st April 2023 for council staff. Proposed: Cllr Sampson, seconded by Cllr Perkins and approved unanimously.

Ends 21.06 Hrs

Items for next agenda:

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council.

- Closed session: Enforcement issues.
- Purchase of a pickleball net.

DATES FOR THE DIARY: 17th Jan, 21st Feb, Mar TBC, 17th Apr, 15th May, 19th Jun, 17th Jul, 18th Sept, 16th Oct, 20th Nov, venue Village Hall Annex, 19.00 hrs.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please could these be submitted to Mrs Katharine Harrod by the 1st Wednesday in the month to ensure time for inclusion, circulation and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to Mrs Katharine Harrod for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: All current Parish Councillors

For Information: e-circulation to: County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Ward Councillors, Malborough Primary School, Malborough Village Hall Committee, National Trust, SVRA