

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman welcomed all present and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Public Discussion

Police Report: PCSO Rowley reported that, since the last meeting, there had been 5 reported crimes. One was theft, two were burglaries, one was taking a car without consent and the other was criminal damage. There had also been 2 calls regarding ASB in the village. PCSO Rowley reported that this was his last meeting as Harrietsham's PCSO and thanked the Clerk and Community Warden for all of their support over the years. Cllr T Sams thanked PCSO Rowley, on behalf of the community, for his outstanding services. Cllr Powell thanked PCSO Rowley, on behalf of the Parish Council.

Community Warden: The Community Warden reported that the Kent Police open day had been well attended and had spoken to a resident from The Hollies about dangerous barbed wire on the development, which Martin has since had removed. The Community Warden reported on some fake Scottish £50 notes that are in circulation in the area. Martin also reported that it was vital that residents report any crimes in the village. Sometimes residents will report crimes to him, but he is unable to then report them to Kent Police on their behalf as the Police telephone operators on 101 will ask him questions that he will not be in a position to answer as he had not seen the crime committed first hand. He reminded all present that, if residents do not report incidents around the village, there will not be any police presence, as they will assume that there are no issues in the village. The Community Warden also reported on a website called "Who called me?" where you can check phone numbers to see whether they are legitimate. Over 7,600 complaints had been received for a computer scam. He added that, if people do not have access to the internet, he can assist residents by looking numbers up for them.

A resident asked for an update on the purchasing of defibrillators. The Clerk reported that, as Cllr Moore had given apologies, she would have to update the resident after the meeting, when she has had a chance to find out.

ACTION: Clerk

A representative from Harrietsham in Bloom (HIB) reported that there had been vandalism of the flower beds on the village green and asked that they be informed if residents are aware of any further issues.

A resident queried the affordable housing being offered in the village, as most people who are desperate do not meet the criteria to be added to the housing list (ie. where they currently live is not overcrowded). Cllr Powell stated that this is a national problem and that a meeting is being arranged, hopefully in September, between MBC and Prudential regarding future funding to try to alleviate the issue. Cllr T Sams added that he is aware of families that want to live in the village but The Hollies is the only site that had discussions with the Parish Council, and even then it had been difficult to actually housing people with local needs there. The Housing Associations in the other developments are not giving the Parish Council enough time or help to assist residents. It was noted that, following the discussion at the last meeting, the details of residents in need that had been forwarded to Circle Housing had all been rejected.

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr M Allardyce, Cllr T Griffiths, Community Warden M Sherwood, PCSO Dave Rowley and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.
4 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

RFO Mr M Cuerden, Cllr J Moore, County Cllr S Prendergast, Lenham Representative Cllr Ballard,

3 Decision to Discuss Agenda Item 17 Under Closed Session

It was agreed by all Councillors to discuss Agenda Item 17 (Administration Matters) in a Closed Session at the end of the meeting.

4 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 28th June 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

5 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

No changes to the Register of Interests were declared.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr J Sams declared an interest in Agenda Item 6.1 (Planning - Outstanding with MBC) if 17/502457 were to be discussed.

Cllr T Sams declared an interest in Agenda Item 6.1 (Planning - Outstanding with MBC) if 17/502457 were to be discussed.

The Clerk confirmed that this application would not be discussed at the meeting.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

6 Planning

- 6.1 The current planning applications were noted.
- 6.2 The approved applications were noted.
- 6.3 The refused applications were noted.
- 6.4 Other Planning Matters:
Cllr Powell reported that there was still no news regarding the Bell Farm South Appeal.

7 Communications

- 7.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:
There were no recommendations.
- 7.2 Other Communication Matters:
There were no matters to discuss.

8 Environmental

- 8.1 Minutes from the Meeting held 10th July 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Stanley (the only members of the Committee who were at the meeting)
- 8.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:
There were no recommendations.
- 8.3 Other Environmental Matters:
Cllr J Sams informed all present that the ragwort pull on Teers Meadow had been stopped as the Cinnabar caterpillar was found on site. This is a protected species that feeds off the ragwort. Sharone Amos, a co-opted member of the Environmental Committee, has some further information that will be circulated to all Councillors. **ACTION: Cllr J Sams/Sharone Amos**
Cllr Dean reported that she had met with members of HIB to discuss the mound on the A20 by The Hollies. It has been agreed that the area will be strimmed off and tidied but, due to the overhanging trees, further thought needs to be given as any planting would not get enough light to thrive. A planter is to be added somewhere on that corner, but in a position that will not affect the sight line for drivers pulling out of West Street.

9 Finance

- 9.1 Minutes from the Meeting held 11th July 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Stanley, with three in favour and 4 abstentions (only three Councillors currently on the committee)
- 9.2 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Stanley, with all in favour.
Cllr Stanley added that it was very disappointing that HAGS had not responded to the emails sent about the outstanding work at the play area.

10 Highways

Cllr J Sams reported that Flint Lane and Birchalls Wood Road have both had patch resurfacing work completed. There was also an update following the recent flooding in Church Lane. The Highways Steward, KerryAnne Still had photographed the area including the drains and gulleys which were full, it was also noted that some of the drain covers were damaged. KerryAnne is to arrange for the gulleys and drains to be cleared out and dug out, where required and Cllr J Sams had stated that they need to be added to a maintenance schedule to avoid this situation happening again.

Cllr Stanley raised concerns at the roadworks currently underway on the Ashford Road at the Church Road development. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had not received any notice of these works from Kent Highways. Cllr T Sams offered to find out the permit number and look into this further as there is a real safety issue for vehicles trying to join the A20 from Church Road or driveways. **ACTION: Cllr T Sams**

Cllr Stanley confirmed that they are supposed to be in place for 2 weeks.

Cllr J Sams reported on the highways issues in Church Lane, due to the building work that is underway. The developer is to have a wheel washer in place but the informatives on the planning approval cannot be enforced by the Borough Council.

- Church Road Footpath: Cllr T Sams asked the Clerk to update Councillors on this item. The Clerk reported that Amey, who would be looking into the formation of the footpath on behalf of KCC, had forwarded a letter which needed to be signed by the Parish Council before the investigative work could be started. Having read the letter, and discussed this with the RFO, there were some concerns regarding the future liability. It indemnified KCC against any injury that may be caused in the future by poor design of the footpath and would leave the Parish Council liable for any claim. Both the Clerk and RFO had been unhappy with this and, after discussion, Councillors felt that they too were not keen on signing the letter.

Cllr T Sams asked that the Clerk contact the County Councillor to discuss the concerns further and to see whether there is any other Company that could assist with the design. **ACTION: Clerk**

11 Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Powell reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting and asked whether Cllrs T & J Sams had anything to report back.

Cllr J Sams reported that the following items had been discussed:

- The Lenham NHP - the Regulation 14 consultation meeting is taking place on the 16th September.
- Speedwatch - Volunteers have stood down from the scheme. Cllr Moore had previously expressed an interest in volunteering and Cllrs Allardyce and Griffiths offered to assist.

12 Re-Adoption of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessments

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that these documents had been reviewed and circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Dean that the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessments should be readopted by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths, with all in favour.

13 Replacement of Noticeboard at Village Hall

The Clerk reported that Cllr Moore had informed her that, at the recent meeting of the Village Hall Trust, the Trustees had queried whether the Parish Council intended to replace the noticeboard outside the hall as it has been damaged. The Booking Clerk had informed Cllr Moore that a replacement noticeboard, to match the VHT one, would cost in the region of £500, but had not supplied any documents to support this to date. Councillors felt that this was very expensive for a plain metal noticeboard and requested that Cllr Moore look into other options for replacing the board. **ACTION: Cllr Moore**

14 Future Events

Every Saturday - 'Get Active' on the Glebe Field from 9am

8th August - Sure Start Children's Centre Activity Morning on the Glebe Field 10.00am - 12.00pm

22nd August - Village Hall Trust AGM

Cllr Stanley queried whether there had been enough advertising for the Sure Start activity morning and offered to put some posters up around the village. The Clerk offered to laminate some for him. **ACTION: Clerk**

15 Items for Future Consideration

There were no further items to be considered.

16 Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 27th September 2017** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8.15pm.

Minutes of Confidential Agenda Item 17 - Administration Matters will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.