

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the Mayor. He reported that there would be 15 minutes of public discussion at the beginning of the meeting only, as there would be an opportunity to speak with Councillors over refreshments, when the meeting concludes.

Public Discussion

Police Report: PCSO DeBurca reported that, in December and January, there had been 4 crimes. It was noted that 2 of these were in the Parish of Lenham. The two remaining ones were a theft and a burglary (other than a dwelling).

Community Warden Report: Martin Sherwood reported that he has received information regarding 3 scams.

1. Some older people have received telephone calls from a caller purporting to be from the GP surgery and asking for an appointment to discuss the person's mobility needs. During the appointment, the resident is persuaded to buy mobility aids which are either unnecessary or inappropriate and always expensive. Martin stated that if any resident receives a call like this, they should contact their own GP to check before agreeing to a visit.

2. Residents receive a call or letter from a person claiming to work for BT asking for an upfront fee of £300 to opt out of scam telephone calls. The caller quotes the last four digits of their credit card asking for the resident to confirm the other digits in the card number. Martin reminded all present that the Telephone Preference Service is a free service which helps to reduce unsolicited sales and marketing telephone calls.

3. There are bogus Blue Badge websites charging £49 for the badge; however they will request personal details but have no authority to issue the badge. The official blue badge costs £10 and you can find out further information or apply for one by visiting the Kent County Council website www.bluebadgeteam@kent.gov.uk or contact them on 03000 416262.

The Community Warden also reported on a recent older person's roadshow in Allington where residents could receive information on various topics including mobility equipment, meal deliveries and home help. This had been very successful and another event is scheduled for Friday 11th March in Lenham. Martin added that he will have further information for the next meeting.

1 Present

Cllr T Allwood, Cllr K Kay, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr M Williams, Cllr G Trussler, Cllr G Dean, Cllr S Morris, Cllr E Powell, The Worshipful Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Daniel Moriarty, Lenham Representative Cllr R Greenwood, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden M Sherwood PCSO DeBurca and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.

10 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

No apologies received

3 Guest Speaker - The Worshipful Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Daniel Moriarty

Cllr Moriarty gave some background into the events he has attended as the Mayor. It was noted that, during the year, the Mayor can attend between 350 and 500 different events, whilst still carrying out their duties as a Borough Councillor.

4 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 25th November 2015 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Powell; with all in favour.

5 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

No changes to the Register of Interests were declared.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No Pecuniary Interests were declared.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

6 Planning

- 6.1 The current planning applications were noted. Cllr Allwood reported that the Planning Committee are currently reviewing the documentation for the recently submitted Land South of Bell Farm application (15/510147/OUT). He stated that the Committee is encouraging all residents to make representations to MBC. Cllr Allwood added that this site is not in the Borough Council's Local Plan, however an appeal has been lodged by the Landowner for the site to be reviewed by the Examiner. Cllr Powell reported that he, along with Cllr Dean, will be meeting with residents on Monday evening to discuss the application. Cllr Allwood informed all present that KCC had approved the Chilston sandpit application which will result in an increase in the volume of HGVs using East Street.
- 6.2 The planning decisions were noted.
- 6.3 Recommendations from the Planning Committee
There were no recommendations

7 Communications Committee

- 7.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:
There were no recommendations

Cllr Allwood read out a statement supplied by Amanda Chinnery, Colin Przystupa and James Hailes regarding their recent resignations from the Parish Council.

8. Environmental

- 8.1 **Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:** A report from the Committee had been circulated before the meeting.
- Amenity Contract Tender Document (Version 10): Cllr Kay reminded all present that the document has been circulated. Cllr Kay proposed that the document be approved to send out to interested parties. This was seconded by Cllr Trussler, with 8 in favour and 1 abstention (Cllr Morris).
 - Play Equipment on Glebe Field: Cllr Kay reported that the MBC safety report has highlighted some 'wear and tear' items which need to be replaced. Cllr Kay proposed that £250 be made available to complete the minor repairs adding that he believed the work would cost less than this. Cllr J Sams seconded the proposal, with all in favour. Cllr Kay then reported that work would be required to the safety mats and he has contacted several companies. He stated that this was to be discussed further at the next Environmental meeting.
- 8.2 **Other Environmental Issues:**
- Cllr Dean proposed that David Oversby be co-opted onto the Environmental Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Kay; with all in favour.

9 Finance

- 9.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Trussler and seconded by Cllr Kay, with all in favour.
- 9.2 F&GP Minutes from the meeting held 14th January 2016: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Trussler, seconded by Cllr Allwood; with all Members of the F&GP Committee in favour.
- 9.3 Recommendation from the F&GP Meeting: A report had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Trussler detailed a number of items in the budget for 2016/17 before moving to the recommendations:
- The tax base for Harrietsham has increased from 925 to 1,020 Band D properties resulting in approximately £5,000 extra funding from MBC.
 - The money that had been proposed to set aside towards the expansion of the Medical Centre has been removed as the proposed s106 monies should cover the cost of the work, however, further discussion is required with NHS Property Services.
 - Money, previously budgeted for, will not be required for the new Parish Council building until the 2017/18 budget
 - With the various amendments to the original proposed budget, there is no longer a need to impose an increase of 10%
- Recommendations:
- Cllr Trussler proposed that any balance above the agreed balance of £33,000 be moved from the current account into reserves (this amounts to approximately £24,000). This was seconded by Cllr Kay, with all in favour.

- Cllr Trussler proposed that the circulated budget be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Allwood, with all in favour.
- Cllr Trussler proposed that **the precept be held at the current level of £56,111 (which equates to £55 per Band D Property), giving a 0% increase.** This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.

Cllr Trussler thanked the RFO for all of his hard work on preparing the budget.

10 Highways

Cllr J Sams reported that various litter and dog fouling issues around the village are being dealt with. The Lenmead name plate has finally been replaced. Cllr J Sams reported on the A20 improvement scheme reminding everyone of the meeting which had been held in August 2015 with MBC, KCC and Planning Officers. An email has been received from David Burton stating that ITS (infrastructure funding) money may be available as no s106 monies can be released before occupation of the dwellings. The Joint Transportation Board (JTB) will be chasing this.

11 Postal Address for Site off of Forge Meadow

The Clerk reported that details had been circulated to all Councillors. The developer has suggested 1-5 Banks Yard, Forge Meadow for the postal address; however Cllr Morris had suggested Bakers Close or Bakery Close so that there is no confusion with Bank House. After brief discussion Cllr Morris proposed Bakers Close, this was seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

12 Use of the Glebe Field for Parking for the Bluebell Walk

The Clerk reported that the Heart of Kent Hospice had made their annual request to use the Glebe Field for parking for the Bluebell Walk on the 1st May. It was noted that the Parish Council would need to be advised of the time that the field would need to be unlocked by. The Clerk was asked to inform them that the field will need to be marshalled at all times and that they are responsible for the reinstatement of any damage to the grass. It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to allow the use of the field, this was seconded by Cllr Powell; with all in favour.

13 Use of the Glebe Field for Parking for the VHT Music Event

Cllr Kay stated that the Treasurer was aware that no larger vehicles are allowed on the field and that it must be marshalled at all times, he added that it would be needed from 2pm to past 11pm (approximate times). Cllr Dean stated that a request for further information on the grant was still outstanding and proposed that this item be deferred until the February meeting, so that both items can be discussed together. This was seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour.

14 Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Powell reported that the main focus of the meeting was development and the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan. He added that it would probably be useful for both Parishes to liaise on some issues. Lenham Parish Council's representative, Cllr Greenwood, informed all present that there had been discussion with a Senior Executive from Marley's who had indicated that there were no plans to move from the area in the next 10-15 years. It was noted that Lenham Storage is in a similar position and the height of their vehicles is becoming an issue as they have to travel on to Ashford and then back to Lenham to avoid the low bridge on the A20 in Harrietsham. It was noted that both of these are brownfield sites, which could be developed with a considerable number of houses. Cllr Greenwood added that their draft Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to MBC for its 6 week consultation.

15 Village Defibrillator

Cllr J Sams reported that defibrillators can be purchased cheaper but these would be without the casing. It was noted that the school was not keen to have one outside their building as they feel it would be better to house on site, in case of an emergency. Cllr Trussler reported that no money had been set aside in the budget towards the purchase of defibrillators. Cllr Kay reported that two had been suggested for the village (one at the village hall and the other at the pub) and that the British Heart Foundation may be able to assist with funding. Cllr Kay offered to investigate this further and report back at the next meeting.

16 Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Cllr Kay informed all present that the Big Lunch is to incorporate celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. The Clerk reported that she had received a call from Peter Brown as he was aware the Parish Council is to arrange a representative to assist on the Big Lunch group. There is to be a meeting on the 11th February to begin making arrangements for this year and he wondered if someone from the Parish Council wished to attend, and after brief discussion Cllr Dean offered. Cllr Kay then asked that this item be deferred until the February meeting.

17 Correspondence - The Clerk reported that all correspondence had been circulated.

18 Future Events

Quiz Night - 30th January (Village Hall).

Roller Disco - 1st February (Village Hall). This will be the 1st Monday of every month.

Scrub Bash on Teers Meadow - 6th February (10am start).

19 Items for Future Consideration

No further items to add

20 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Allwood then announced that, due to ill health, he will be standing down from the Parish Council in the coming weeks, once a number of outstanding items have been concluded. He wishes to then be co-opted onto the Communications Team in order to continue to assist with the website and Facebook page. He thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support and also members of the public for their contributions.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.40pm