

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 6.30pm in St John the Baptist Church

The Chairman welcomed all present and stated that, as this is a shorter meeting due to the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8.00pm, there would be public discussion at the end, if time allowed.

Community Warden: The Community Warden reported that there has been reports of roofing rogue traders in the area. There has been an increased number of shed break-ins in the surrounding area; although none had been reported in Harrietsham. Martin informed all present that he is meeting with the Dog Warden next week to discuss dog fouling issues.

Cllr Powell commented that rural crime is up by 30% in some areas and Martin responded that Harrietsham and Lenham have lower rates of crime compared to other areas. It was noted that a rural task force is being set up with some PCSOs to tackle rural issues. Martin reported that he had seen 4 Police trial bikes along the Pilgrims Way.

1. Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr V Foster, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr J Moore, Cllr F Stanley, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden M Sherwood, County Cllr Shellina Prendergast and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.
4 Members of the Public

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Sams, PCSO J Boyd

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 28th March 2018 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Foster; with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions.

4. Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

No changes were submitted.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No declarations were submitted.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

5. Planning

5.1 The current planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved planning applications were noted.

5.3 The refused planning applications were noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters:

Cllr Dean commented that the Planning Committee are extremely busy with a large number of applications at present.

6. Communications

6.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:

There were no recommendations.

6.2 Other Communications Matters:

Cllr Dean reported that the planning tracker on the Hugo Fox website appears to have stopped working. It was noted that this is currently being investigated.

7. Environmental

7.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th March 2018 (Deferred from March meeting): The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley and seconded by Cllr Dean. Two Councillors were in favour with five abstentions (not members of the Environmental Committee).

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee: There were no recommendations.

7.3 Other Environmental Issues:

- Cllr Dean reported that the chalk and aerators in the lake seem to be working well.
- Cllr J Sams reported that she has received complaints regarding bikers and 4x4 vehicles on the Pilgrims Way. These users have caused rutted areas, with a 3ft puddle noted near Beech Walk. Cllr J Sams has asked the PROW Officer to come for a site visit to discuss the issue further.

ACTION: Cllr J Sams

8. Finance

- 8.1 2017/2018 Draft Accounts: Cllr Moore proposed that the draft accounts be approved ready for internal audit. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.
- 8.2 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.
- 8.3 Minutes from the F&GP Meeting held on 19th April: These were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Stanley. Two Councillors were in favour with five abstentions (not members of the F&GP Committee).

9. Highways

- 9.1 Highways Issues: Cllr J Sams reported that potholes are constantly being reported, although Kent Highways state that not all of them meet the criteria for repair. Complaints have been received from residents of Pilgrims Retreat regarding the state of the road and they have also requested that passing places be put in place. Cllr J Sams also reported that an issue has been raised by residents at the Garden of England. The bus stop is not big enough for the bus resulting in it having to stick out on to the A20. This issue is to be discussed with one of the team members who oversaw the A20 improvements scheme consultation to ensure that this is addressed during the works. **ACTION: Cllr J Sams**
- 9.2 Church Road Footpath: Cllr J Sams reported that the consultation is underway and ends on the 1st May.
- 9.3 Parking around Harrietsham Primary School: Cllr Griffiths raised concerns about the parking around the school noting that there had been several 'near misses'. He asked whether there is anything that can be done regarding this issue. It was noted that the bus had been delayed for 25 minutes due to inappropriate parking by parents. Cllr J Sams agreed that the parking was making the area dangerous and added that a meeting had previously been held with the Governors, MBC and Kent Highways. Cllr J Sams then suggested that this could be revisited. The Community Warden reported that Operation Cactus is taking place next month and various schools will be visited that have parking issues. He suggested that the Police be contacted to add Harrietsham school to the list. **ACTION: Cllrs Griffiths & J Sams**

10. Lenham Parish Council

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

- The Neighbourhood Plan.
- Lenham Parish Council have been awarded £75,000 for a traffic survey and would like to look at issues along the A20.
- Faversham Road junction was discussed with Cllr Dean adding that there had recently been another fatality.
- Parking in the Square.
- A litter pick is to take place on the 5th May.
- A new Councillor was co-opted, Cllr John Britt.

Cllr Stanley informed all present that, at a previous meeting that he had attended, it was noted that with major constructions, an assessment is carried out, on completion, by KCC to see if the highways works have been effective.

11. Speedwatch

Cllr J Sams informed all present that there is nothing to report at present, as they are still waiting for the old equipment to be assessed. It was noted that the volunteers are mostly from Platts Heath.

12. KALC Annual Membership Renewal

The Clerk reported that the KALC annual membership renewal is due at a cost of £887.02 (£739.18 + vat). Cllr Griffiths proposed that the membership be renewed, this was seconded by Cllr Foster; with all in favour.

13. Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) Annual Membership Renewal

The Clerk reported that the ACRK annual membership renewal is due at a cost of £50.00. Cllr J Sams proposed that the membership be renewed, this was seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

14. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Clerk reported that she will be circulating some new policies and privacy notices shortly, which will need to be agreed and then ratified at the May meeting. She reported that it was vital that all Councillors read the documents and let the Clerk know if any amendments are required. The Clerk informed all present that she had managed to find another company (Local Council Public Advisory Service - LCPAS) that can take on the Data Protection Officer's role, at a similar cost to Satswana and Mrs Broadhurst stated that she is likely to sign up with them, all Councillors confirmed that they were happy for the Clerk to progress with this.

15. Representatives for the Village Hall Trust for 2018/2019

The Clerk reported that the Village Hall Chairman has asked for the names of the Parish Council representatives for the forthcoming year, ahead of their AGM in May. Cllr Moore had previously offered to continue and the Clerk

asked if anyone else wished to take on the role, as the Parish Council is entitled to 3 representatives. With no further volunteers, it was proposed by Cllr Foster that Cllr Moore continues as the Parish Council representative for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with all in favour.

Cllr Stanley voiced thanks to the committee members for the courtesies he had been given at meetings.

16. Big Lunch

Cllr J Sams reported that, having visited the new residents in the Saxon Place (CTRL site) development, they would like to get involved in the village. Cllr J Sams suggested that a street party style Big Lunch be held on the site and added that the Scouts wish to be involved as well. Cllr Dean asked whether the usual Big Lunch leaflets will be delivered to the whole village and Cllr J Sams responded that they would, as it is a community event. It was noted that the Big Lunch committee would still be involved with this event and Cllr Griffiths added that it would be good to get new people involved as they may then join other village organisations.

17. Future Events

The Clerk reported that she wished to bring an item to the attention of Councillors, in case they are asked about the Ringlestone public house. Due to issues with the change of licensee the pub is to be auctioned in June. As the pub is in a rural location, the insurance company has stipulated that the building must be boarded up to prevent squatters or consequential damage. The Clerk reported that she would make the organisers of the North Downs Walk aware of the situation, in case this is listed as a stop off point along the route.

Every Saturday Morning 9am on the Glebe Field - 'Get Active' event (depending on the weather).

Bluebell Walk - Sunday 6th May

Harrietsham Primary School May Fayre (12.00 - 3.00pm) - Sunday 20th May

Gardening Club Coffee Morning (10.00am - 12.00pm at Little Hatch, Ashford Road) - Saturday 26th May

Rude Mechanical Theatre Company - 2nd June at 7.30pm on the Booth Field

The Big Lunch - Sunday 3rd June

North Downs Walk - Sunday 10th June

Church Fete and The Rectory (more details to follow) - Saturday 14th July

18. Items for Future Consideration

Christmas Sleigh - Cllr Griffiths

19. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 30th May 2018 from 7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 7.09pm

Public Discussion:

A resident reported on a pothole in Church Lane, which had recently been repaired. It had not been sealed so will break up again and be a complete waste of money.

The road outside the Church was discussed and the Clerk reported that she had spoken to Kent Highways about this, as they had inspected the area and stated that the damage did not meet the criteria for repair. Cllr J Sams added that she has since chased this again.

Pilgrims Retreat was discussed and residents at the meeting felt that, as they are not contributing to the village (no s106 or precept funds), they should pay for any work they want completed. It was also noted that the residents do not drive appropriately on the lanes. The lack of contributions was queried and it was noted that, apart from 18 homes, all of the dwellings do not have permanent residential status. Cllr Stanley commented that some of the residents thought they were permanent homes and only found out otherwise after the conclusion of the sale. Cllr Moore added that, in most cases, solicitors will not have been involved so no searches had been completed. Cllr Powell informed all present that a lot of irregularities and issues are being dealt with. Cllr Moore also stated that the lane will be in a poorer state following the bad weather earlier this year.

A resident reported on some forthcoming events (added above).

A resident asked whether the concrete circle by the Indian restaurant could be removed as it is being filled up with rubbish and dog mess. Cllr J Sams reported that, along with Cllr Moore, Cllr T Sams had already emptied this but now intended to break it up so that it can be removed.

A resident commented on some good volunteers that are litter picking in the village recently. All Councillors were in agreement that the A20 looks lovely. Cllr Powell stated that the Council also appreciates Audrey for her hard work carrying out litter picking along the A20.

A resident queried whether there was any update regarding the tree that has come down onto the sign on the A20 on the Crest Nicholson development. The Clerk offered to investigate this further. **ACTION: Clerk**

The issues along the Pilgrims way were discussed and a resident queried whether further crop gates can be fitted. Cllr J Sams offered to discuss this with the PROW Officer when they meet. **ACTION: Cllr J Sams**

A resident queried whether new residents get a welcome book and the Clerk confirmed that they do. They then asked whether finger post signs could be added around the village so that people know where to go for the different organisations, Cllr Dean stated that this would be difficult as some groups are run from people's homes. It was

felt that this would be very expensive and groups would have to fund this themselves as Kent Highways wouldn't. Cllr Moore added that many rural villages are trying to reduce the amount of street furniture rather than increase it so there may be some opposition to this idea. It was noted that many of the groups have Facebook pages and websites that new residents can visit.

It was noted that many new residents attended the recent meeting in the hall regarding the future of the Roebuck public house.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council could do anything about the old school site as it is an eyesore. It was noted that this is not something that the Parish Council could get involved with as it has no influence over this site. Cllr J Sams stated that, at a Full Borough Council meeting, she had raised the issue of empty properties in Harrietsham to see whether they could be compulsorily purchased; it was noted that some properties have been empty for 10 years or so. The Housing Committee had stated that none of the empty properties in the village could come under the order because most of them have probate or other issues which prevent it.