

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Public discussion

A resident reported that attendance at the recent Friends of St John's AGM had been disappointing, but the group had been grateful for those who were present. Unfortunately, no new members had joined, although some had offered to help. It was noted that the Friends will be unable to run the events that they currently do without more assistance.

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Brown, Cllr S Luck, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr R Dayes, RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst
3 Members of Public

2 Apologies for absence

Community Warden M Sherwood, County Cllr S Prendergast

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 28th February 2024 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Luck; with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions.

4 Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting

Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 15th March 2024 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr T Sams; with 7 in favour and 1 abstention.

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6 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to the register.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr C Roots - Agenda Item 8.2 (Other Financial Matters - Grant Request) as his wife is the Leader of Harrietsham Knit, Crochet and Craft and they both fund any cash deficits.

Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

6 Planning

6.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

24/500793/TPOA - Keilen Manor, Marley Road

TPO application to reduce two Horse Chestnut (W1 and W2) to a height of 6 metres and reduce one Horse Chestnut (t1) to 10.5 metres in height.

Members of the Planning Committee asked for the application to be approved and did not request that it was reported to the Planning Committee. **ACTION: Clerk**

6.2 The approved applications were noted.

6.3 Other Planning Matters

- MBC Local Plan Update: Cllr Powell reported that the Local Plan had been adopted at a recent meeting of MBC (31 in favour and 21 against). The Parish Council had sent a letter to the Chief Executive ahead of the meeting, to ask for the decision to be deferred, but this was declined. A letter had been submitted by KCC at the last minute, raising concerns with the lack of school places and necessary infrastructure, however MBC stated that they had had enough time to submit a comment and that all of the items raised had previously been dealt with. The next step is to obtain legal advice with regards to a legal challenge and the Parish Council's Barrister is looking into whether the correct procedures have been followed. The Clerk and RFO have delegated powers to progress as necessary and the Clerk is currently in discussions with Mr Bell.

7 Environmental

7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held 18th March 224 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dayes, seconded by Cllr Brown; with 4 in favour (those present at the meeting).

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- To accept JB Landscapes quote to lay matting at the entrance of the Glebe Field: Cllr T Sams queried the timing for the work and the Amenity Manager responded that the matting could be laid now, with the grass seeding being completed later in the year. It was noted that, if the sockets were also approved, JB Landscapes would be asked if they could install them at the same time, with the cost of installation being added to their invoice. It was then proposed by Cllr Griffiths to accept the quote of £2,545 (+vat - dated October 2023). This was seconded by Cllr Luck; with all in favour.
- To purchase two sockets for the entrance bollards: Cllr T Sams queried how these would be different to those already fitted and Cllr Brown explained that these would have flaps over the hole for the bollard to stop the mud falling into the space (as happens currently). It was also noted that a handle is required on the post to help manoeuvre the bollards into place. It was proposed by Cllr Brown to purchase the sockets at a cost of £300 (+vat). This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour.

7.3 Environmental Matters

- Work Required in Teers Meadow: It was noted that the Environmental minutes had highlighted repairs required to the boundary fence and also to the two benches, which have been vandalized. Since the meeting the Amenity Manager has spoken to Andrew French who has supplied a quote of £940 (+vat) to make all of the necessary repairs and add additional ground anchors to the benches, once repaired. It was proposed by Cllr Dayes to accept the quote and this was seconded by Cllr Brown; with all in favour.

8 Finances

8.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets: The financial document was proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour.

8.2 Other Financial Matters

- Grant Application from Harrietsham Knit, Crochet & Craft: It was proposed by Cllr Stanley to approve the request for £30 to purchase Easter Eggs as grand prize draws for the Easter Random Acts of Kindness. This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with 8 in favour and 1 abstention.

9 Highways

It was noted that a report had been circulated before the meeting.

The Clerk gave an update relating to the streetlights, which are still not working around the West Street/Goddington Lane junction. Work is required to the columns before they can be adopted by KCC and, following discussions with both Crest Nicholson and KCC, the Clerk has asked that the bulbs be changed in the meantime to make the junction safer. This is being investigated by the Developer.

Cllr Roots queried the tree works which had been mentioned in the Highways report and the Clerk clarified the issues which have arisen in Mercer Drive and The Old Bailey.

Cllr Luck stated that Fairbourne Lane needs to be reduced in width at the Lenham Road end to discourage lorries and it was noted that, on the Parish Council's HIP, additional signage is to be added close to the junction and, once installed, the area needs to be monitored before KCC will discuss the matter further.

10 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Cllr T Sams confirmed that the Big Lunch will be held on Saturday 15th June. The toilets, raffle, games, ice cream van and stalls relating to the D-Day commemorations have all be arranged. Cllr Griffiths reported that the lady overseeing the Dog Show asked how the rosettes are to be purchased, as they are around £65. It was agreed by all present that, if a sponsor can't be found, the Parish Council will cover the cost. Cllr Luck will organise the face painter.

11 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the various Parish Council reports are required before 8th April.

ACTION: Cllrs Powell, Roots & J Sams

The usual Parish Council meeting will be shorter, with no public discussion, commencing at 7.15pm.

12 To Adopt Additional Parish Council Policies

The Clerk reported that she had circulated 3 draft policies and asked for Councillors to adopt these:

- Grievance Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure Policy
- CCTV Policy

It was proposed by Cllr Roots to adopt the policies, this was seconded by Cllr Stanley; with all in favour.

13 Future Events

Ploughman's Lunch in St John the Baptist Church - 13th April (12-2pm)

Harrietsham in Bloom's Quiz Night - 20th April (7.30pm in the Village Hall)

Harrietsham's Annual Parish Meeting - 24th April (8pm in the Booth Hall)

Harrietsham's Big Lunch inc. D-Day Commemorations - Saturday 15th June (12-4pm on the Glebe Field)

Coffee Morning - Every Friday in the Booth Hall (10am - midday)

Cllr Brown reported that a new Culpepper Charity "Welcome to Coffee Morning" will commence on Monday 13th May in the Booth Hall (10am-11am) to give residents of any age the opportunity to meet up for a free drink and chat.

Cllr J Sams reported that, at the recent village litter pick, members of the Weald of Kent Rotary club had helped and had circulated information about the North Downs Walk on the 9th June; this will be passed to the Clerk.

14 Items for Future Consideration

No items for consideration

15 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 24th April at 7.15pm (shorter meeting) in the Booth Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm

With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Public Discussion

A resident reported on highway issues in the Holm Mill Lane area and, after discussion, Cllr Powell suggested that County Cllr Prendergast be contacted to discuss this further.

A resident reported that a new water boiler installed in Lenham community centre has broken. When queried it was reported that the water pressure is too low due to the additional houses which have been built in the surrounding area. It was noted that this is before the 5,000 dwelling Heathland garden settlement has progressed.