

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman, Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Community Warden Report: With the current heat wave, there was some concern for vulnerable residents, and it was suggested that any should be checked upon, if possible. The Warden then extended this to point out that many people were leaving windows and doors open, and they ought to be aware of the risks that this presented. He also reported that he had been keeping an eye on the lake, but not yet found anybody illegally fishing there. There had been some problems, reported by residents, with contractors parking opposite the Bellway development site, in Downlands. He had spoken to the relevant manager at Bellway and hoped that an amicable resolution had been found. He commented that he had found the manager to be extremely helpful.

Police Report: The PCSO had offered his apologies for absence, so the clerk had checked the police database for reported crimes in the village, and found three. These were read out to the meeting by the chair.

- St Welcomes Way - A residential property was broken into, various items were stolen.
- Sandway Road - A residential property was broken into, although it is not yet known if items were stolen.
- Station Road - A vehicle was broken into, although it is not yet known if items were stolen.

1. Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr V Foster, Cllr R Dayes, Cllr T Griffiths, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood and Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr M Lowe
4 Members of the Public

2. Apologies for absence

Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, PCSO J Boyd

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 26th June 2019 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Roots; with all in favour.

4. Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

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- 5.4 The withdrawn application was noted.
- 5.5 Other Planning Matters:
There were no other matters for discussion.

6. Environmental

6.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting Held on 11th July: The minutes of the July meeting were found to be an accurate record, proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Dean, with Cllr Stanley concurring. A copy was duly signed.

6.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- It was resolved to delegate the procurement of play equipment to Cllrs T & J Sams and Cllr Stanley in order to meet the September deadline. The budget would be the S106 money plus either a SIPA grant or up to £6,000 of council capital. Prop Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Foster with all in favour.
- It was resolved to accept the two quotes from JB Landscapes for work required on the level areas and paths at Percy the Pilgrim. Proposed Cllr Foster, seconded Cllr Moore with all in favour.
- An emergency item was then raised by the RFO, being quotations received for renovating Percy the Pilgrim. It was resolved to accept the two for renovating him, but not the one for a new head or the work to the surrounding area. Proposed Cllr Foster, seconded Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

- The council considered the current level of allotment rent, and resolved to accept the recommendation of a £2 increase, making the rent £17 per annum from the next renewal. Proposed Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Foster with all in favour.

6.3 Other Environmental Matters:

There were no further matters to discuss.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots and seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.
- 7.2 Minutes of the F&GP Meeting Held on 12th July: The minutes of the meeting were found to be an accurate record, proposed by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Foster; with Cllrs Roots and Stanley concurring. A copy of the minutes were duly signed.
- 7.3 Recommendations from the F&GP Committee:
 - That plot-holders in the new allotments should be offered an **initial** 2-year lease for £17, after which they revert to the standard rent (currently £17 from October). In addition, the council would pay the first year's watering costs (subject to MBC's final costings), after which they would be responsible for their own water costs. Proposed Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Foster with all in favour.

8. Highways

- 8.1 Highways Issues: Following Cllr J Sams' apologies for absence, the usual Highways report was deferred.
- 8.2 Church Road Footpath: Cllr Roots had attended a meeting with Cllr T Sams and Kent Highways, initially to discuss the Church Road footpath, but then other items were covered. In almost all cases, the result was that Kent Highways would back to us with either costings or further information. Cllr Roots would supply a written note of his report.
It was also noted that the hedge along the A20 from Church Lane to Victoria's is getting very overgrown and obstructing the footpath. This should be referred to Highways. There was also a comment about the new bus-stops that have appeared on the A20, with a query as to whether they are in the right place or not. This would be referred to Cllrs T & J Sams for their view.

9. Lenham Parish Council

The Lenham representative gave a brief synopsis of their last meeting. The new nursery school was progressing, although there were some discussions about land availability and the lease to be offered. There were also some discussions concerning the WC's just off the square. Currently closed, they are likely to remain so due to the costs of renovation, although no decision had yet been made. Conversely, the red telephone box in the square is to be refurbished. The Neighbourhood Plan continues to be a subject of discussion, and Cllr Lowe, as a relatively new Councillor, expressed amazement at the number of houses that Lenham is having to take. Finally, they are starting to lend thought to next year's VE celebrations.

10. Additional Play Equipment for the Glebe Field

Cllr Dean expressed concern that, although the S106 money had been available for some years, the Parish Council are now under a time constraint to get an application in. It was noted that, in future, this type of project should be dealt with in a more timely fashion, to avoid a recurrence of the recent rush. It was resolved to appoint Maria Cook as our consultant to work alongside the previously delegated Councillors. Proposed Cllr Foster, seconded Cllr Dayes, with all in favour.

11. Defibrillator Training

Cllr Griffiths explained that he was planning to run one or more free sessions on defibrillator training, with the venue to be decided. There was a suggestion that anyone who had received this training could then be given the key code to the defibrillator. What was needed now was to gauge interest, so it was suggested that we publicise the course(s) on Facebook and in Network to see what the response was.

12. Recording of Parish Council Meetings

After some discussion, it was resolved to stop recording any future meetings of the council (although it was acknowledged that it could always be re-instated if necessary). Proposed Cllr Griffiths, seconded Cllr Stanley with 1 against, 1 abstention and the rest in favour.

13. Saxon Place Management Fee Invoice

After some discussion it resolved that the council would - reluctantly - pay the invoice, that the RFO, when doing so, should let Gem know that it was reluctantly, and that we should pay close attention to the end-of-year accounts. Proposed Cllr Foster, seconded Cllr Roots, with all in favour except for Cllr Powell, who abstained because he is the Parish Council representative on the Management Committee.

14. VE Day (8th May 2020)

There was general agreement that the council would like to do something on this next year. It was agreed that an event will be held on Friday 8th May 2020 and Cllr Dean stated that planning should commence in the near future. There were a number of suggestions, such as lighting the beacon on the church, fireworks (Cllr Moore to get indicative costs and availability from “a contact” she has), and/or a Big Lunch-style party. Cllr Roots proposed forming a sub-committee, which Cllr Powell seconded, with all in favour. The Clerk will circulate all Councillors for volunteers, as well as contacting anyone we think might be interested. The Lenham representative had a useful-looking document sourced from NALC.

15. Future Events

None

16. Items for Future Consideration

None

17. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday **25th September 2019** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall (*No meeting in August*)

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.