

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Public discussion

A resident requested that the salt bins be checked ahead of the winter period. **ACTION: Cllr T Sams**

A resident reported that The Friends of St John's are selling packs of 5 Christmas cards for £2.00.

1 Present

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

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr S Brown, Community Warden Martin Sherwood

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 27th September 2023 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Griffiths; with all in favour.

4 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to the register.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

5 Planning

5.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved applications were noted.

5.3 Other Planning Matters

- MBC Local Plan Update: Cllr Powell updated Councillors, following discussions with both the Parish Council's Barrister and Lenham Parish Council. A draft response should be ready to be reviewed at the next Planning meeting on the 3rd November. This will leave a week to submit the final response to the current public consultation. Cllr Powell added that the cost of the response will be less than the £5,000 discussed at the previous meeting.

6 Environmental

6.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held on 9th October: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Luck and seconded by Cllr Stanley (those present at the meeting).

Councillors discussed the need for the matting to be laid on the Glebe Field as soon as possible, due to the grass growing season coming to an end. After brief discussion it was noted that the barrier can not be more that 0.9m high, meaning that there needs to be further investigation on the options available. It was agreed that this work would not now be completed until later in 2024.

6.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- Percy's Information Board: It was proposed by Cllr T Sams to accept the quote for £150 (+vat) to arrange a replacement information board. This was seconded by Cllr Luck, with all in favour.
- Open Spaces Policy: It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to approve the recently reviewed Open Spaces policy, this was seconded by Cllr Luck; with all in favour.

6.3 Other Environmental Matters

- Rubbish Bin near to Fairbourne Lane end of Saxon Place Land: Cllr T Sams confirmed that MBC would decide the final position of the bin. It was then proposed by Cllr T Sams to arrange for a new bin to be installed on Fairbourne Lane, with the cost being similar to that

agreed for the bin on Marley Road (£610 +vat). This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

- Unauthorised Encampment Policy: Cllr T Sams reported that a draft policy is coming together, however it is proving difficult to obtain all of the information required from MBC. Once this has been received, the policy will be circulated for approval.

7 Finances

7.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets (September 2023): The financial document was proposed as accurate by Cllr T Sams, seconded by Cllr Roots; with all in favour.

7.2 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets (October 2023): The financial document was proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour .

7.3 Other Financial Matters

- RFO's Financial Report: The reported circulated by the RFO was noted and Cllr T Sams thanked Mr Cuerden for his work on producing a thorough breakdown of the Parish Council's current financial position. Cllr Roots asked that this be added to the November F&GP meeting agenda. **ACTION: RFO**

8 Highways

It was noted that a report had been circulated before the meeting. The items approved at the last meeting are now being progressing by KCC Highways. The 20mph project is complete and roundels being painted on the various roads. The data from the Marley Road traffic survey have been circulated and the data had been uploaded to the Parish Council's website, for anyone who wishes to view the results. The A20 average speed cameras are now active and a change in behaviour has been noted. Cllr Roots gave a brief explanation of how average speed cameras work.

Cllr T Sams spoke regarding the maintenance issues for the ditches in Church Road, as they are not currently functioning at all. KCC has stated that it is MBC's responsibility and this is being disputed, so discussions are ongoing between both parties.

Cllr Roots stated that Speedwatch has been suspended, whilst the average speed cameras are operational. The group is investigating an Automatic Speedwatch system, which would need to use the current power supply which the average speed cameras are connected to.

9 Santa's Grotto

Cllr T Griffiths reported that an article will be added to Network and the event is being advertised on social media. The Clerk added that there are still 2 boxes of the selection boxes to be wrapped.

ACTION: Cllrs

10 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Councillors were in agreement that this should be a Parish Council event and Cllr T Sams stated that he would arrange the risk assessment. Cllr J Sams added that a tribute to D- Day needs to be woven into the usual Big Lunch event. Cllr Stanley queried whether the hall would be used, if there is inclement weather, and it was felt that the space would not be appropriate for the games etc. which take place. It was agreed that this could be considered further in the lead up to the event.

11 Future Events

Village Hall AGM - 30th October (7.30pm - Village Hall)

Ploughman's in the Church - 11th November (12pm - 2pm)

Remembrance Service - 12th November (St John the Baptist Church)

Candlelit Memories (Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas) - 3rd December (4pm - 7pm - Village Hall)

Salvation Army Concert - 8th December (8pm onwards with Mulled wine and mince pies)

Santa's Grotto - 17th December (Village Hall)

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

Cllr Roots spoken briefly regarding the Poppy display, which will be installed on the 3rd November.

The Amenity Manager commented that the Tommy silhouette in the War Memorial area needs to be refixed and he will contact the contractor who maintains the area. **ACTION: Amenity Manager**

12 Items for Future Consideration

No items for consideration

13 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Public Discussion

A resident reported that the bulbs have now been planted around the Glebe field.

It was noted that, even with a good cctv image, no one had been caught, following the burglary in Chippendale Drive.

There was general discussion regarding the situation with locking Woodlands Walk and it was noted that this cannot start again until the necessary risk assessment is drawn up.

ACTION: Environmental Cttee