

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2016 at 6.30pm in the Ambrose Hall.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and stated that, as the meeting was shorter, there would be discussion at the end, if time allowed.

Community Warden Report: Martin Sherwood reported that rogue traders have been targeting residents living at the Garden of England. It is hoped that any cheques that have been written will have been cancelled in time. The traders are completing gutter clearance and pressure washing. Martin asked that people remain vigilant and, if there are any sightings of 2 white men with an older white vehicle, with a short ladder on a roof rack, residents should contact him. Martin also reported on the two dogs which have recently been stolen from Goddington Lane.

Police Report: The Clerk reported that there had been eight crimes since the last meeting. Two thefts, three burglaries (including the theft of two dogs, one of which has since been recovered), two of criminal damage and one dog attack on sheep (the owner has been identified). The Clerk reported that there have been approximately 40 incidents reported to the Police which have included reports of a tree blocking a road and various calls regarding suspicious activity. PCSO Boyd has asked that if anyone sees anything suspicious, they must contact Kent Police on 101 immediately.

1 Present

Cllr K Kay, Cllr T Sams, Cllr M Williams, Cllr G Dean, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.
15 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Morris, Trussler, J Sams, Powell, Lenham Representative Cllr Jerrett, and PCSO John Boyd

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 30th March 2016 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr T Sams; with all in favour.

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting 8th April 2016 - The Clerk asked that an amendment be noted. Cllr Kay had given apologies for Mr C Roots; however, he had already resigned as a Parish Councillor and so the Clerk asked that his name be removed from the list of apologies noted for the meeting. This was agreed by all present and, after amendment, Cllr Williams proposed the minutes as accurate, seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

4 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

No changes to the Register of Interests were declared.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr T Sams Agenda Item 10 (Playscheme) as his wife has previously been employed as the Manager of the Playscheme and his daughter as member of staff.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

5 Planning

6.1 The current planning applications were noted.

6.2 The planning decisions were noted.

6.3 Recommendations from the Planning Committee

There were no recommendations.

6 Communications Committee

6.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:

There were no recommendations.

7 Environmental

7.1 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

There were no recommendations.

7.2 Other Environmental Issues:

There were no issues to raise.

8 Finance

- 8.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets for 2015-16 were proposed as accurate by Cllr T Sams and seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.
- 8.2 The Income/expenditure finance sheets for April 2016-17 were proposed as accurate by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour.
- 8.3 The Clerk asked that approval of the Minutes from the recent F&GP Meeting be deferred as there was only one Councillor present who could confirm that they were an accurate record. This was agreed by all present.
- 8.4 **Other Financial Matters:**
- Year End Accounts (including the Income and Expenditure Summary & Balance Sheet): Cllr Williams proposed that the Year End Accounts for 2015-16 be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.
 - Banking Arrangements: The Clerk reported that, due to the limits imposed by the Financial Compensation Scheme, a second bank account is required to ensure that all money held by the Parish Council would be covered under the scheme. Cllr Kay proposed that the RFO and Cllr Trussler be given delegated powers to look at the market and select a second bank to open an account and to take the appropriate action to distribute the funds between the two. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour.
 - Chairman's Allowance: The Clerk reported that the F&GP Committee had discussed whether the Chairman should receive an allowance. The recommendation from the Committee is that there should not be an allowance given to the Chairman. Cllr Kay therefore proposed that the Parish Council should not give the Chairman an allowance. This was seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour.
 - Confidential Part Two Item of the F&GP Minutes: The Clerk reminded all Councillors that there had been a confidential recommendation to Council and Cllr Dean proposed that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Kay, with all in favour. (A copy of the Confidential Part Two recommendation will be filed with the signed copy of these minutes)

9 Highways

Cllr T Sams informed all present that a meeting has recently taken place to discuss the financing of the A20 improvements scheme. It was noted that the improvements need to be carried out as a complete package, rather than as individual smaller schemes.

Cllr T Sams left the room

10 Playscheme

The Clerk reported that a report has been circulated by Cllr Morris and it was noted that the scheme had only been allocated a budget of £500. Cllr Dean stated that this item should be deferred as Cllr Morris has not provided the financial report offered at the previous meeting and was not present to give any further information. Cllr Kay stated that the scheme would require additional funding from the Parish Council. The Clerk reminded all present of the timescale for organising the scheme and stated that all of the necessary work would need to be put in place and approved at the next meeting, otherwise it would not be able to run, due to lack of advertising.

11 Lenham Parish Council

The Clerk reported that Cllr Trussler had attended the meeting. Items discussed had included:

- The forthcoming appeal for 80 dwellings.
- The legalities of transferring the land owned by the Parish Council, currently on a 99 year no charge lease, to the Lenham Village Hall Trust.
- The emerging Lenham Neighbourhood Plan.
- The siting of speed bumps.

Cllr T Sams returned to the meeting

12 Village Defibrillator

Cllr Kay reported that Frank Bradshaw will be a speaker at the Annual Parish meeting, who will be able to advise on the final locations chosen for the defibrillators.

13 KALC Annual Membership Renewal

The Clerk reported that the KALC annual membership renewal is due at a cost of £751.39 (£626.16 + £125.23 vat). Cllr Kay proposed that the membership be renewed, this was seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

14 Big Lunch & Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Cllr Dean reported that the posters for the event have now been printed and laminated by the Clerk and passed to Liz Hollands. The event is also being advertised on Facebook. The Committee is currently struggling to find a judge for the "Marvellous Mutts" competition and Cllr Williams offered to judge the competition. Cllr Dean added that the next meeting is scheduled for the 18th May.

15 Medical Centre Boiler Annual Service & Landlord's Certificate

The Clerk reported that other companies have been investigated to take over the annual service on the boiler, however, many of them could not include the service, unlimited call outs (24/7 & 365 days a year) and parts and labour for £214 (inc. vat), Cllr Kay proposed that the Parish Council continue with Swale Heating at a cost of £214. This was seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour.

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

17 Future Events

HIB Quiz Night - 30th April (7.30pm for 8.00pm - £8.00 a head)

18 Items for Future Consideration

Upgrade of Footpath by Percy the Monk - Cllr T Sams

19 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 25th May 2016 at **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 7.05pm

Public Discussion

A resident spoke regarding the A20 improvements scheme highlighting the following points:

- That the Borough Council had breached their own constitution concerning community involvement in relation to major applications.
- The inappropriate siting of a pedestrian crossing and the need for additional pavement leading to the bus stops at the east end of the village.
- Requested that the Parish Councillors completed a site visit to see how dangerous it is for school children to cross the road.

In response, Cllr Williams explained the issues with the shortfall in funding and Cllr T Sams added that the safety of the A20 is extremely important. It was also noted that the recent meeting was to discuss funding of the scheme only and consultation with residents cannot happen until the required monies have been assured for the scheme.

A resident raised concerns at the state of the pothole repairs being completed and the need for them to be sealed properly, to prevent wasting money as the repair breaks up with rainfall. Cllr T Sams responded that this is an issue that the Parish Council is aware of and stated that he would discuss this with County Cllr J Whittle.

A resident asked why the meetings have not moved to the school following the unanimous decision last year. Cllr Kay stated that the Parish Council would not have saved any money making the move and so it was agreed to keep the meetings at the Village Hall. The resident stated that a further vote should have been taken, if this was the case.

A resident queried why the Parish Council is paying ground rent for the medical centre if it owns the land. The RFO explained that the Parish Council are Custodian Trustees only.