

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman welcomed all present, including the Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr M Ballard and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Public Discussion

Community Warden: The Community Warden reported on several scams and reminded all present that they should never click on any links in emails. If they are concerned that the emails may be fraudulent, they should be deleted immediately. There has been issues with a door to door scam in Ashford where a man is reporting to be from Dyno-rod and needs to gain access to the property to check the water pressure. Residents must always check the callers ID and if in any doubt call their office prior to admitting entry. Martin also reported on a new service being offered by BT to current and new BT landline customers. They now scan for suspicious callers and can add them to a black list which will automatically divert the call without the customer even realising. BT are hoping that they could divert up to 30 million nuisance calls a week.

A resident asked who is monitoring the amount of homes being moved into Pilgrims Retreat. Cllr J Sams reported that the agreed number of dwellings is still the same however larger homes are being installed. It was confirmed that there are 18 residential homes and all of the rest of the dwellings have a 12 month licence. Cllr T Sams added that the volume of homes on the site is equivalent to Platts Heath being situated at the top of the lane. It was confirmed that the occupants are registered with the doctor's surgery.

A resident queried whether flats will be built on the CTRL shop site if a buyer is not found to build the shop. The Clerk reported that Barratt's representative has never indicated that this would be the case, however she would contact them to discuss this further. It was noted that this area would be better as open space, if a shop cannot be built.

ACTION: Clerk

A resident complained about the Denwood signs which are still around the village and in particular the large one outside the shop. Cllr J Sams offered to discuss this with the Company.

ACTION: Cllr J Sams

1 Present

Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr M Allardyce, Cllr J Moore, Cllr F Stanley, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden M Sherwood, Lenham Parish Council Representative Cllr M Ballard and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.

6 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr E Powell, PCSO D Rowley

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 25th January 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Allardyce, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions.

4 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

No changes were submitted.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr G Dean Agenda Item 7.1 (Environmental Recommendations) as her house backs on to the lake in Woodlands Walk

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 withdrawn planning application was noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters:

Cllr Dean reported that a planning application for the old KIG site by Junction 8 is going to appeal. She urged all residents to submit a comment to the Inspectorate as the traffic issues along the A20 will increase if approval is given. It was noted that the Clerk has all of the relevant details.

6 Communications

6.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:

There were no recommendations.

Cllr Dean reported that discussions are ongoing with Hugo Fox, who are now developing a website for the Parish Council. Training has been arranged with the President of KALC for Monday 27th February.

7 Environmental

7.1 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- Purchase of Grass Carp for the Lake in Woodlands Walk: Cllr Dean reported that there are concerns regarding the algae on the lake and, subsequently, she has met with an expert to discuss the long-term options for dealing with this issue. The original suggestion had been to add some Grass Carp, however, having now seen the lake he has suggested that Aquaplancton, or something similar, might be preferable. Cllr Dean stated that she had hoped for some further information for the meeting, however she had not received an email from the Company. She asked that this item be deferred until the March meeting for further discussion. All Councillors were in agreement with this.
- Purchase of Dog Bins: Cllr Dean informed all present that two dog walkers in the village have been assisting the Environmental Committee with considering the locations that required a dog bin, following MBC's decision to remove all but one in the village. The ladies had since produced a report with an attached map highlighting areas where dog bins and litter bins are required. Cllr Stanley queried whether Crest Nicholson and Barratt Homes are to provide litter/dog bins in their developments and Cllr Dean stated that this needed to be considered. The Clerk reported that she had been in discussions with the Booth and Baldwin Trust regarding the need for a dog bin to be relocated on the field and added that she had confirmed that the Parish Council would add the emptying of the bin to the current contract, if the Trust purchased the dog bin; there has been no confirmation of their intentions. Cllr T Sams asked where bins were required and the Clerk suggested that one was required on the footpath behind the church, one on the Booth Field and one in Hook Lane. She added that the cost of each bin was between £86 and £160 (dependant on style) and that the cost of fixings, post and installation would be an additional cost. It was noted that there are currently 4 bins on the village green, one by the stream and a further two by the shop and the Clerk queried whether it would be possible to have one of these moved up towards the school and Cllr J Sams stated that this could be discussed with MBC. Cllr T Sams suggested that this needed to be investigated further and the Clerk added that a dog bin was probably required on the footpath leading from the A20 down into Forge Meadow and had looked into whether there were any lamp posts that one could be fitted to. Cllr Moore stated that there was a footpath signpost by the A20 and it might be possible to fix one on there and offered to investigate this further. After further brief discussion Cllr Moore proposed that £2,000 be set aside for the installation and emptying of dog bins (number to be decided over the coming weeks). This was seconded by Cllr J Sams with all in favour.

ACTION: All Cllrs

Cllr T Sams asked that thanks be minuted to the two ladies who had been extremely helpful in assisting the Parish Council with trying to resolve this current issue.

7.2 Other Environmental Issues:

- Community Litterpick: Cllr J Sams reported that there is usually an annual litterpick in the village and suggested Saturday 1st April as a possible date as the children will be on Easter holiday and will be able to assist. Cllr T Sams confirmed that they will arrange for all of the necessary equipment to be loaned by MBC and added that the A20 cannot be completed as it is a health and safety issue, having a 40mph speed limit. All Councillors were in agreement with this date. **ACTION: Cllrs T & J Sams**
- Tree Survey for Woodlands Walk: Cllr Dean reported that work is outstanding from the tree survey completed in 2012. Having spoken with a contractor, they have suggested that a new up-to-date survey should be completed before obtaining any quotations for the work required. The last survey had cost £750 and Cllr Dean recommended that £850 be set aside for getting a new survey completed. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Allardyce to arrange for another Tree Survey to be completed as soon as possible. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams with 5 in favour and 1 abstention. **ACTION: Env. Cttee**
- Teers Meadow: Cllr J Sams reported that the proposed meeting, to discuss a grant application with Sally Evans, has had to be cancelled and a new date is being arranged.

8 Finance

8.1

The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr T Sams and seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.

9 Highways

Cllr J Sams reported that residents are being encouraged to report highways faults on the website. The following items have been reported to highways:

- The give way white markings by the old school site need repainting
- Refuges on the A20 are very muddy and the lighting needs cleaning
- Hogbarn Lane potholes and damaged surface need repairing

Cllr T Sams stated that he had reported the A20, from Holm Mill Lane through to Lenham, as needing cleaning as the road is in a very poor state. The issue of mud on the road by the Crest Nicholson site were discussed as this has been a real issue recently. The Clerk reported that strongly worded emails have been sent to the Site Manager and it is hoped that this issue has now been resolved.

- Traffic and Parking in West Street: Cllr Allardyce stated that he had counted 66 vehicles between Forge Meadow and the shop this evening. It was noted that the parking round the pub is so bad that prams and wheelchairs would not be able to pass vehicles on the pavement. Cllr Dean asked how the issue can be resolved when there is nowhere else for residents to park. Cllr T Sams stated that photographic evidence is required so that these can then be shown to the relevant agencies to ask them how this issue can be resolved in the long term. It was then agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda until a decision is required by Council.
- Update on White Line Issue by Harrietsham Primary School: Cllr J Sams reported that she has asked for the white lines to be relocated and is awaiting a response. She asked that this item be taken off the agenda and confirmed that any response will be circulated to Councillors.

10 Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Dean reported that Cllr Powell had been unable to attend the last Lenham Parish Council meetings. Cllr Ballard stated that, at the last meeting, the following items had been discussed:

- Parking issues in the Square.
- Planning - a hybrid application has been submitted at Tanyard Farm. This application is for 49 dwellings and also an outline application for a further 102.
- A new fingerpost sign has been erected in the Square which has reduced the number of signs needed.
- A lot of work is being completed on the Neighbourhood Plan to direct MBC with regards to development in the village.
- Negotiations are underway with St John Ambulance to purchase land for creating allotments.
- HSBC have asked the Parish Council to close a stagnating account which holds a significant amount of money; Metro Bank is thought to be a good alternative.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of their dates for forthcoming Lenham Parish Council Meetings, the following were agreed:

1st March - Cllr Allardyce

5th April - Cllr Moore

3rd May - Cllr Stanley

7th June - Cllr Dean

11 Street Names for the Church Road Development

The Clerk reported that a letter and plan had been circulated to all Councillors. The letter from the Borough Council highlighted issues with Church Road being divided by the A20 and the confusion of having some existing dwellings at the bottom of Church Road that have a postal address of East Street. Part of the proposal is to formally use East Street as the road name for part of Church Road with the part joining the A20 having a new name. The Clerk stated that there are 7 other names required and detailed the recommendations made by the developer, Harrietsham History Society and also the names not used on the War Memorial. The Clerk reported that she had also had a request from the Putland family for Richard and Ann Putland (who have passed away) to be recognised within the development and they had suggested Putland Place. Cllr T Sams felt very strongly that only names from the War Memorial should be used in the development and a long discussion took place. The meeting was briefly suspended to allow for the residents attending the meeting to give their view on the options available. The meeting was then reopened and the following were recommended:

Armistice Way Seal Drive Tupper Close Parks Road East Street Young Lane
Brunger Close Norris Walk

These names were proposed by Cllr T Sams, seconded by Cllr Allardyce; with all in favour.

12 Use of the Glebe Field for the Bluebell Walk (30th April 2017)

The Clerk reported that The Heart of Kent Hospice have submitted their annual request for use of the Glebe Field for the Bluebell Walk. It was proposed by Cllr J Sams and seconded by Cllr Dean to allow use of the field, with the usual caveats attached regarding reinstating any damage to the field. Cllrs J & T Sams stated that they would oversee the opening and closing of the field.

13 **Battles Over - A Nations Tribute & WW1 Beacons of Light**

The Clerk reported that, having emailed Stephen Morris, he had been unwilling to commit to assisting with the beacon for the event. Cllr Allardyce confirmed that he was happy to be the representative named in the brochure being produced.

14 **Committees & Working Parties**

The Clerk reported that there are a number of roles which need to be covered until the Committees are revisited at the May meeting:

- Village Hall Trust: One representative is required on the Village Hall Trust and Cllr Moore offered to take on this role.
- Charities: Two representatives are required to be involved with the Charities. The RFO briefly outlined the work involved with the Charities and Cllrs Dean and Moore offered to take over.
- KALC: One representative is required and Cllr Stanley offered to represent the Parish Council. He asked that the sound issues be addressed as it was very hard to hear the Chairman during the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

15 **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 26th April at 8.00pm. As with previous years, this would follow on from a shorter April Parish Council meeting which will be from 6.30 - 7.30pm, with public discussion at the end; if time allows. The Clerk asked that the following points be agreed by Members:

- Speaker for the Meeting: The Clerk has spoken with Kent County Cllr Jenny Whittle, who is standing down in May, and she has confirmed she would be happy to speak at the meeting about her time in Office. All Councillors were in agreement that Jenny would be a good speaker for the meeting.
- Report Booklet: The Clerk reported that the Parish Council usually produces a booklet which includes all of the Parish Council committee reports and articles from the various groups in the village. Whilst this is time consuming to produce, it gives the parishioners attending the meeting the opportunity to read the reports at their leisure. Councillors asked that this booklet be produced again this year.
- Refreshments: The Clerk asked whether Councillors wished to provide refreshments at the end of the meeting to give residents the chance to speak with Councillors and other group members informally after the conclusion of the meeting. Cllrs agreed that tea, coffee and biscuits should be purchased for the meeting and Cllrs J & T Sams offered to arrange these.

It was noted that the meeting is usually held in the Ambrose Hall and the Clerk stated that she would confirm with the Booking Clerk that this would be available, as in previous years.

ACTION: Clerk

16 **Representative to attend the next Parish/Police Forum Meeting**

The Clerk reported that the next Parish/Police Forum meeting is scheduled to be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 24th May at 7.00pm and the Parish Council needs to send a representative. Cllr Stanley offered to attend.

17 **Future Events**

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

Sunday 4th June - The Big Lunch

Saturday 18th March - HIB Quiz Evening

18 **Items for Future Consideration**

No further items to be added to the agenda.

19 **Date of next meeting**

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 29th March 2017** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.18pm