

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman welcomed all present and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr T Griffiths, County Cllr S Prendergast, Lenham Representative Cllr M Cockett and the RFO Mr M Cuerden (Acting Clerk).
6 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Sams, Cllr M Allardyce, Cllr J Moore, Community Warden M Sherwood,

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 26th July 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Griffiths; 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

No Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

5 Planning

5.1 The current planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved applications were noted.

5.3 The refused applications were noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters:

Cllr Powell spoke a little about the successful Bell Farm planning appeal, noting that it was the second appeal that this council has succeeded in, and commenting that this had been achieved through a good joint effort by many people (including Maidstone Planning).

6 Communications

6.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:

There were no recommendations.

6.2 Other Communication Matters:

There were no matters to discuss.

7 Environmental

7.1 Minutes from the Meeting held 10th July 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Stanley (the only members of the Committee who were at the meeting)

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

At this point, the chairman asked Mr Cuerden, in his capacity as Amenity Manager, to run through the recommendations from the minutes. Mr Cuerden outlined the background to the new contracts and the work so far in preparing the new specifications.

Items 1 & 2 - were taken together. It was agreed that the specifications as currently drafted were acceptable, as were the timescales and processes outlined in the accompanying documents. Proposed Cllr Stanley, seconded Cllr Griffiths, all in favour.

Item 3 - It was agreed that the rent per allotment plot would be increased from £11 per year to £13, effective from the next renewal. Proposed Cllr Stanley, seconded Cllr Dean, all in favour.

Item 4 - Woodlands Walk tree quotes; We have received only one quote so far, and we are waiting for two others. It was therefore agreed that the matter be deferred to October's meeting, unless two or more of the quotes indicate that the work is of an urgent nature, at which point the council could exercise its emergency powers to get it done quickly.

Item 5 - Treatment of Lake; Cllr Dean reported that last year's treatment of the lake appeared to have made a significant improvement in the algae level and consequent quality of the water. At that time, it had been accepted that this would probably need repeating for up to three years, so it was now suggested that we proceed with the second year. There was no dissent to the suggestion.

Item 6 - Aerator; Mr Cuerden explained that a neighbour wished to place an aerator in the lake with a view to improving the water quality by oxygenating it. This would be done at no cost to the council

in acquisition, maintenance or running, and it could be removed at any time without damaging the lake or environment. On that basis, it was agreed to approve the request, proposed Cllr Stanley, seconded Cllr Sams, all in favour.

Item 7 - Open Spaces Policy; Cllr Dean had produced a draft policy for use of the council's land. It required a minor amendment to the section concerning individual liability, but was otherwise considered to be an acceptable first version. Subject to a suitable amendment being drafted, the policy was approved for future use. Proposed Cllr Sams, seconded Cllr Powell, all in favour.

7.3 Other Environmental Matters:

Cllr J Sams outlined that she and Cllr T Sams had been working with the Mid Kent Downs Partnership on a grant application for Teers Meadow. This was being progressed, and it was hoped that, if awarded, we would be able to start work on fencing the meadow relatively shortly.

Cllr J Sams also explained that the bins, which should have been done in August, had been delayed by the need for some clarifications, but that they were now expected imminently.

8 Finance

8.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Griffiths, with all in favour.

8.2 Other Financial Matters:

Mr Cuerden, as RFO, was then called upon to talk about the external audit. He informed the council that, yet again, we had received a clean report from the external auditor, with no comments or reserved opinions. The relevant notices had been placed on the noticeboards.

9 Highways

Cllr J Sams informed the meeting that Cllr T Sams had met with a resident from the Garden of England to discuss the state of the local roads. A road sign in the same area that had been knocked down had also been reported. Work on rejuvenating the Speedwatch program was progressing. She also commented on some flytipping - namely, a dead sheep in an orange bag - on Hogbarn Lane, which had been reported.

- Church Road Footpath: there had been no progress on the Church Road footpath, as we still needed to overcome the perceived hurdle of the standard letter of engagement from the contractors.

10 Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Stanley, with assistance from Cllr Cockett from Lenham, provided a comprehensive account of the last meeting. Discussion topics had included the removal of bicycle stands, the Neighbourhood Plan (where, at a planning inspection, they were told they should have 1000 houses over 10 years instead of the proposed 1500 over 3 years), an extension of the allotments in Ham Lane, tree work round the community centre, concern over the revised layout of the A20 crossroads, access to the A20 by some of the new developments, the expense of running the public toilets, and the relocation of the football pitch from its current location on the William Pitt field to a new site to the east. Cllr Stanley made a point of finishing by commenting that the Lenham Parish Council meetings were very well run.

11 Replacement of Noticeboard at Village Hall

As Cllr Moore wasn't present, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

12 CCTV Camera Service

The current CCTV system has been in use for a considerable number of years, and was now in need of servicing. A quote had been received from the suppliers, and it was agreed to proceed with this. Proposed Cllr Sams, seconded Cllr Griffiths, all in favour.

13 Sewage Pump Serving VHT and Doctor's Surgery

The RFO outlined the current situation, and explained that in the past the council has agreed to fund any repairs 50/50 with the VHT. The VHT currently have two quotes for replacing one of the two pumps which is now deemed as beyond repair. It was agreed that upon receipt of copies of three quotes, and a copy of the invoice(s) paid by the VHT, the council would be prepared to reimburse the VHT 50% of the total, including any preliminary work, such as emergency pump-outs. Proposed Cllr Sams, seconded Cllr Dean, all in favour.

At this point in the meeting, the chairman invited KCC Cllr Shellina Prendergast to say a few words. She confirmed that, although she probably wouldn't be able to be a regular attendee at our meetings, she looked forward to attending future ones as time allowed. In the meantime, she was always available if we needed help on any specific matter, especially highways issues.

14 Scarecrow Festival

Reading the paperwork, it became apparent that entry was free, the only cost arising if we wanted our scarecrow delivered back to us after the festival. With this in mind, it was agreed that the council would indeed participate,

and that we would collect our entry - so no cost accrued. Cllr J Sams stated that Cllr T Sams would be delighted to assist. Entry was proposed by Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Sams, with all in favour.

15 Future Events

Every Saturday - 'Get Active' on the Glebe Field from 9am

14th-15th October - Scarecrow Festival in St John the Baptist Church

29th October - Village Hall Trust are holding first aid training cost - Cost £25.00

16 Items for Future Consideration

Speedwatch - Cllr J Sams

17 Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 25th October 2017** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.