

# Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

## Public discussion

A resident asked for the Parish Council's Facebook page photo to be changed as it was still showing the Christmas lights. **ACTION: Communications Cttee**

A resident offered to put up any posters made for the Annual Parish Meeting.

## 1 Present

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

## 2 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr R Dayes, Community Warden M Sherwood, County Cllr S Prendergast

## 3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions.

## 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 declarations of interest.

### Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

## 6 Planning

6.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

6.2 The approved applications were noted.

### 6.3 Other Planning Matters

- MBC Local Plan Update: Cllr Powell informed all present that there was no update from the Inspector. Cllr T Sams added that MBC has submitted new evidence the day after the latest consultation closed. This is being acted on, as the documentation should not have been accepted.

## 7 Environmental

### 7.1 Other Environmental Matters

- Woodlands Walk Lake: The Amenity Manager clarified the financial situation relating to the lake, explaining that money is ringfenced in case there is ever a large maintenance issue with the dam. The fund is having £5,000 added each year to bring the levels back up to £100,000, following money historically being borrowed to purchase Teers Meadow; the fund currently sits at approximately £85,000. The Clerk reminded all present that the Amenity Manager had circulated a report on the work currently required at the lake, following the aerator developing a fault. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr T Sams that an alternative aerator be purchased and another Aquabio treatment be carried out at a cost of £4,650 (+vat), but that the next £5,000 to be added to the ringfenced fund be withheld. This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

**ACTION: Amenity Manager**

- Play Area Repairs: The Clerk reported that there were a number of items outstanding on the play area repair list that, whilst not medium or high risk, have been sitting on the inspection sheet for over a year. The items are:
  - Junior Multi Play Unit - dirty and covered in plant material (slip hazard)
  - Toddler Multi Play Unit - dirty and covered in plant material (slip hazard)

- Roundabout - ground is eroded at edge (trip hazard)
- Roundabout Climber Net - ground eroded at edge work (trip hazard)

Safeplay had submitted a quote for £1,126 (+vat) and JB Landscapes had been approached, as the incumbent contractor, who had quoted £842.50 (+vat). It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to ask JB Landscapes to complete the work. This was seconded by Cllr Luck, with all in favour. **ACTION: Amenity Manager**

It was also noted that the toddler car unit has been damaged again. Cllr Brown had made this safe and the Clerk has contacted Safeplay to request replacement brackets. To supply and fit one set and supply a further spare set will cost £145 (+vat). It was proposed by Cllr T Sams to proceed with purchasing the brackets. This was seconded by Cllr Luck, with all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr J Sams thanked Cllr Brown for acting so quickly, when the toddler car was vandalized. It was also noted that the signs asking people to stay away from the climbing net, which is awaiting repair, have been removed. The Clerk confirmed that new signs have been produced, which will be put up imminently and a post has also been added to Facebook informing residents that the area must not be entered.

## 8 Finances

**8.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets:** The financial document was proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley, seconded by Cllr Roots; with all in favour.

### 8.2 Other Financial Matters

There were no further matters to discuss.

## 9 Highways

It was noted that a report had been circulated before the meeting.

Cllr Roots asked whether there was any update regarding the streetlights which are still not working around the West Street/Goddington Lane junction. The Clerk stated that the KCC representative had contacted Crest Nicholson but was still awaiting a response. Cllr Roots requested that this be chased again. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Roots reported on an issue with potholes which are still awaiting repair on the A20, but have been removed from the 'one.network' website which lists all forthcoming repair. He will check this further on the KCC highways portal. **ACTION: Cllr Roots**

## 10 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

It was noted that the date of the Big Lunch needs to be changed and it is likely that it will now be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. A meeting of the working group is imminent.

## 11 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. A representative from Harrietsham Primary School will be attending to give a talk on the Forest School which they are creating. The Clerk reminded all present that there are reports required from Councillors for the booklet and the following was agreed:

- Planning Report - Cllr Roots
- Environmental Report - Cllr Brown
- Highways - Cllr J Sams

The Clerk confirmed that the RFO will produce the Finance report and Cllr Powell will submit a Chair's report. These all need to be emailed to the Clerk by the 5<sup>th</sup> April at the latest. Cllrs T & J Sams will organise the refreshments.

## 12 Future Events

Soup Saturday - 9<sup>th</sup> March (St John the Baptist Church)

Friends of St John's AGM - 22<sup>nd</sup> March (7pm in St John the Baptist Church)

Village Litter Pick - 23<sup>rd</sup> March (9-11am meeting on the village green)

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

Harrietsham in Bloom's Quiz Night - 24<sup>th</sup> April (7.30pm in the Village Hall)

Harrietsham's Annual Parish Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> April (8pm in the Booth Hall)

## 13 Items for Future Consideration

No items for consideration

**14 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall**

*With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 8.00pm.*

Public Discussion

A resident queried whether volunteers could do more to assist the Parish Council and it was confirmed that it would depend on what work was required at the time. Volunteers wouldn't be able to assist with work required with play equipment as it needs to be completed to certain standards for H&S and insurance purposes.

A resident commented that the potholes are so bad along the A20, drivers are swerving around them; which is dangerous.