

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7.30pm
in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman, Cllr Powell, welcomed all present to the meeting.

Community Warden: The Community Warden reported on a safeguarding issue relating to vulnerable adults and children. Drug gangs are targeting these groups to carry out drug runs and Crimestoppers are asking that any concerns be reported to them on 0800 555 111; this can be done anonymously. Signs to watch out for include: change in the person's behavior, signs of assault, gifts and new mobile phones. Martin reported that a Headteacher in Thanet has identified 20 middle class children that are affected by this. Cllr Powell added that this is a growing problem, which has been identified in the Maidstone area.

Public Discussion

A resident queried where the Tommy statue is to be situated and Cllr Dean responded that the Environmental Committee have decided that it will be placed at the War Memorial.

1. Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr V Foster, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden M Sherwood and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.
5 Members of the Public

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Moore, Cllr S Knowles, County Cllr S Prendergast

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 27th June 2018 - 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 were submitted.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No declarations were submitted.

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 refused planning applications were noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters:

The Clerk reported that MBC are completing a hierarchy survey for Parishes and that Councillors will need to discuss this at the planning meeting on the 3rd August. She asked that the Planning Committee Councillors bring the circulated printed document to that meeting for discussion.

6. Communications

6.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:

There were no recommendations.

6.2 Other Communications Matters:

There were no further matters to discuss.

The Clerk asked whether Communications should be removed from the agenda and Cllr Dean agreed, as everything is running smoothly at present.

7. Environmental

7.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19th July 2018: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley, seconded by Cllr Foster, with 3 in favour (the Councillors that are members of the Committee).

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- Cllr Dean reported that Sally Evans, from the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership, who has been involved with Teers Meadow for a number of years and is currently looking into funding streams. The Committee have recommended that she be asked to act as the Parish Council's consultant to assist in the preparation of the grant bids for having the meadow fenced and to draw up a management plan,

using the information collected during a recent study carried out on the field. It is estimated that this work will take up to 4 days at a cost of £200 per day. Cllr T Sams commented that Sally has always been extremely supportive and that the Parish Council need her expertise to move the project forward. Cllr Dean proposed that Sally Evans be employed as a consultant and this was seconded by Cllr Foster, with all in favour.

7.3 Other Environmental Issues:

- Bins around the Village: Cllr T Sams reported on the recent issues relating to the bin relocation from Quested Way. Following the Council's decision at the June meeting to place the bin back in the original position in Quested Way, it had been installed in Baldwin's Place. Cllr T Sams proposed that this bin be placed at the junction of Church Road/Ashford Road (close to the BT box) and the small litter bin on the post at that location be placed down by the stream on West Street (subject to MBC's agreement). This was seconded by Cllr Foster, with all in favour.

8. **Finance**

- 8.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.
- 8.2 Cllr Dean confirmed that she had checked that the bank balances were all correct.

9. **Highways**

- 9.1 Highways Issues: Cllr J Sams reported that Cllr T Sams is continuing to go around the village reporting any issues found. Fairbourne Lane has had lots of pothole and drainage issues, which have all been reported on the Kent Highways website.
The Clerk briefly reported on the issues in East Street and The Old Bailey. Having discussed the issues with Kent Highways a response has been received regarding East Street. The triangle outside the Almshouses is not owned by Kent Highways and Jennie Watson has suggested that the Parish Council look to install bollards to try to stop the damage being caused by HGVs. Councillors felt that this would not stop the problem. With regards to signage for deterring these lorries using the road, Kent Highways have confirmed that they would not fund this project as there has not been a crash in the last 3 years, however, the Parish Council could look to fund signage. The Clerk asked whether she should investigate the cost further and Cllr T Sams confirmed that the Clerk should progress this, ahead of the meeting with Jennie in September. **ACTION: Clerk**
- 9.2 Church Road Footpath: Cllr T Sams reported that a meeting with Jennie Watson from Kent Highways, has been arranged for the 12th September. He added that the issues around the Holm Mill Lane area will also be discussed.
- 9.3 Parking around Harrietsham Primary School: Cllr Griffiths reported that a meeting has been arranged with the Headteacher in September.

10. **Lenham Parish Council**

Cllr Dean reported that the following items were discussed at the July meeting:

- Operation Stack and Highways England not consulting
- ASB at the public toilets.

Cllr J Sams reported that there had been a meeting with Helen Whately MP regarding the proposed lorry park. Forty people were in attendance and it was noted that landowners have been sent letters. Environmental Assessments are now being completed to see which parcels of land are suitable. Cllr T Sams added that it had been a good meeting and it is hoped that there will be a further one in the Autumn.

11. **Speedwatch**

Cllr T Sams reported that the equipment is being stored in Lenham and that new volunteers can complete on-line training. Cllr Stanley added that the new speed warning sign, which has recently been installed in Lenham, is very effective. Cllr T Sams commented that one driver had been recorded driving at 80mph.

12. **Defibrillator for the Village**

Cllr Griffiths reported that the defibrillator has now been installed on the wall outside of the Post Office in West Street. Thanks were recorded to Dimitri Electrical, who is a resident in Harrietsham, as he had installed the unit free of charge. With assistance from the Clerk, the defibrillator is now being registered with the Ambulance Service so that they will be able to give out the code to open the cabinet if required in an emergency. Cllr Dean asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the electrician. **ACTION: Clerk**

13. **To Approve the Reviewed Standing Orders**

The Clerk reminded all present that the amended Standing Orders had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to adopt the amended Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr Cllr Dean, with all in favour.

14. Public Discussion at the Conclusion of Parish Council Meetings

The Clerk reported that, at the last meeting, a resident had asked that the Councillors reconsider the decision to withdraw the 15-minute discussion at the end of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Dean that public discussion at the conclusion of Parish Council meetings should be at the Chairman's discretion. This was seconded by Cllr Foster, with all in favour.

15. Use of the Glebe Field for an Outdoor Exercise Class

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that she had circulated a leaflet detailing a class which has been set up on the Glebe Field. The club are using the Glebe Field for an hour on a Thursday morning and charging £6 per session. The Clerk had contacted the lady to inform her that the field is owned by the Parish Council and that consent for using the field is usually given to charities and non fee paying groups. After brief discussion it was felt that the group should be charged a weekly fee for use of the field and that a copy of the public liability insurance be obtained, as the Parish Council would not accept any liability if a member of the group were to be injured during the class. The RFO then suggested that the group be charge £8 per week with the first three months being paid up front. During this time a formal agreement would need to be drawn up, with the usual caveat relating to any damage needing reinstating and the RFO confirmed that a copy of the insurance documents would be required. It was proposed by Cllr Dean that the RFO's recommendation be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths, with all in favour.

16. WW1 Beacons of Light

The Clerk reminded all present that the Parish Council had agreed to light one of the beacons involved in the WW1 Beacons of Light event on the 11th November at 7.00pm. The Councillor that had been overseeing this has now left the Parish Council and a replacement needs to be agreed as arrangements need to start being made. The RFO currently has the beacon and this will need to be situated at the top of the Church tower. The RFO commented that the beacon was actually gifted to the Church as they covered the lighting of the beacon on their insurance. He added that he did not think that they were aware of this event taking place. The Clerk asked Mr Cuerden if he could discuss this with the Church, letting them know that the Parish Council would be able to assist with the preparations required.

ACTION: Mr M Cuerden

17. Future Events

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the company overseeing the helicopter charter for a wedding in August to withdraw consent for the landing, as the agreed payment has been received by the Parish Council. The company confirmed that they have not managed to contact the groom either, so they were cancelling the booking.

The Clerk reported that a late request has been received from St John the Baptist Church, which cannot wait until the September meeting. They wish to hold an Open-Air Family Service on the West Street Green, in the hope of attracting some of the new families that have moved into the Barratt and Crest Nicholson development sites. The service is to be held on Sunday 1st September at 10.30am for about an hour. There will be singing, music and Rev. John will speak. The PCC secretary would like to know whether the Parish Council has any objection to this Service. After brief discussion all Councillors agreed that they had no objection to the Church using the Green.

The Clerk reported that she had received a further email from the organisers of the event to be held at some point to raise funds for the mental health charity, Mind. They have now asked to use the Glebe Field on Saturday 20th July 2019 and the Clerk confirmed that this date is available. They have also asked whether the Parish Council would allow some fun fair rides to be placed on the field during the event. The Clerk stated that she had contacted the organiser again to find out some further information relating to the rides and will circulate any response to Councillors.

18. Items for Future Consideration

No further items to be added to the agenda

19. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 26th September 2018** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall
(No meeting in August)

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.13pm.

The following points were raised during Public Discussion:

- The exercise group should not be given permission to use the field as it was unprofessional to not have contacted the Parish Council first.
- A query regarding whether defibrillator information is to be placed in Network.
- A query as to where the Speedwatch group would operate in the village.