

# Harrietsham Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### 1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr V Foster, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr S Luck (from 4.52pm), Amenity Manager/RFO Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst

### 2 Apologies for absence

Cllr C Roots, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr R Dayes

### 3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Dean; with 5 in favour and 1 abstention. (The minutes will be signed by the Chairman when Covid restrictions allow.)

### 4 Disclosures and confidential items

#### Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes.

#### Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr G Dean - Agenda item 5 (Fishing Proposal in Woodlands Walk) as she lives close to the lake.

#### Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

### 5 Fishing Proposal in Woodlands Walk

The Amenity Manager gave an overview of the proposal which had been discussed with the resident at a recent onsite meeting. He is a keen fisherman, who wishes to set up an angling club for residents. The benefit of having a club would be that, with more people using the area, it should curtail the illegal fishing that currently occurs and make the area more secure. The insurance company has stated that the club would need its own public liability insurance and the Amenity Manager added that, if Councillors wished to allow a trial period, a grant could be given to cover the first year's cost; in case the proposal was not progressed. As Cllr Stanley had been unable to attend the meeting, his comments were read out by the Clerk. Cllr Powell stated that Conor had stated that any unhealthy fish would be treated and the anglers will be using barbless hooks. The club will also be limited to around 20 members to begin with.

After brief discussion it was agreed that Conor should be offered the chance to have a 3-month trial period, with Councillors making the recommendation to the Clerk/RFO to action. The following conditions should be included:

- That public liability insurance is obtained and proof shown to the Council (£137 grant available to cover the cost)
- Full risk assessment to be written, which would probably need amending as the club progresses through the 3-month trial.
- Written rules of membership (to include no fires, bbqs or music and all under 16-year-olds to be accompanied by an adult).
- One pitch to be allowed in the first 3 months only and, if the club does not progress, this must be removed and the land reinstated.
- A log kept of the fish caught and their condition.

The Amenity Manager offered to draw up the details to be forwarded to Conor.

**ACTION: Amenity Manager**

### 6 Delegation of Emergency Powers

The Clerk asked that Councillors readopt the following statement, to continue the delegated powers:

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decisions cannot be reasonably deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. This will be carried out where possible by consultation with members by electronic means or telephone. The clerk will further consult with the chairman for guidance as necessary. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the council after the council meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

The Clerk also requested that financial delegated powers continue for the RFO.

It was agreed by all present that the required delegated powers be continued for both the Clerk and the RFO, until meetings return to normal.

**7 To Ratify Parish Council Decisions (Approved Virtually since May Meeting)**

The Clerk asked that this item be deferred until the September meeting and all Councillors were in agreement.

**8 Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed at a later date. (*Likely to be Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021*)

*With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 4.55pm.*