

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

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

Public Discussion

Community Warden: The Community Warden reported on several items:

- A rogue trader incident in Lenham. Having received a leaflet through her door, the victim had asked for a quote for garden work to be completed. The company quoted £1,000 but then commenced work straight away, without approval, requesting £1,300 after completing 50 minutes works. The victim had confided in a person giving her a lift to withdraw the large sum of money and they had contacted the Police immediately, as they realised that there was a problem.
- There have been a number of thefts from sheds including bicycles and lawn mowers. Martin asked people to check their outbuildings.
- Trick or Treating posters and Firework safety leaflets are available to download from the Kent Police website.
- Martin gave the Clerk some leaflets relating to scams. A form from KCC/Trading Standards can be completed to receive alerts regarding scams and rogue traders in the area.

Police Report: The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, there have been 3 report crimes (2 burglaries and 1 damage to vehicle with theft of various items). It was also noted that there had been one Public Order Offence relating to parking at Harrietsham Primary School.

A resident asked for an update on the Parish Office and it was noted that the Parish Council has now exchanged on the building but there are still a number of outstanding items that need attention.

A resident reported on the lack of lighting around Quested Way and the amount of crimes that are happening in that particular area of the village. The resident has had a classic car stolen and was nearly run over whilst trying to stop the thieves. Two cars have been stolen and even though CCTV footage, clearly showing the suspects, had been given to Kent Police, there has been no progress what so ever. Cllr Allardyce stated that a formal complaint should be submitted to Kent Police. The resident queried how street lighting could be progressed and the Clerk stated that she would contact the Borough and County Councillors in the first instance to try to look into this further.

ACTION: Clerk

A resident raised concerns that, whilst Kent Highways have been out repairing potholes, they have left a large one on the A20 between Church Lane and the railway bridge (Lenham bound). He had reported this particular one last year but had been informed that it was not large enough to require filling - it is now very large. He asked how he could get this rectified and the Clerk stated that she would report this for him.

ACTION: Clerk

1 Present

Cllr G Dean, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr M Allardyce, Community Warden M Sherwood, RFO Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk, Mrs A Broadhurst.
11 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr E Powell, Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr J Moore, County Cllr S Prendergast, Lenham Representative Cllr C Huggens

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 27th September 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Stanley; 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.

All members of the public left the room

5 Co-option of Councillor

Victoria Foster introduced herself to Councillors. After brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Stanley that Ms Foster be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Allardyce, with all in favour and Cllr Foster was then welcomed to the table. The Clerk reported that she had previously met with Cllr Foster and they had discussed the various Committees, Cllr Foster had expressed an interest in joining the F&GP Committee, as this currently lacks members, and this was agreed by all present.

All members of the public returned to the meeting

6 Planning

- 6.1 The current planning applications were noted.
- 6.2 The approved applications were noted.
- 6.3 The refused applications were noted.
- 6.4 Other Planning Matters:

Cllr Dean reported that the Parish Council has been informed by a resident that the land sale for expanding Harrietsham School has fallen through. No information has been received from KCC and Councillors are investigating the implications of this news with County Cllr Shellina Prendergast.

It was reported that there is to be a public meeting on Thursday 2nd November at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel to discuss the Leeds/Langley Relief Road, anyone interested in attending should be there at 6.30pm for a 7 o'clock start.

7 Communications

- 7.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:
There were no recommendations.
- 7.2 Other Communication Matters:
There were no matters to discuss.

8 Environmental

- 8.1 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:
There were no recommendations as the next meeting is scheduled in November.

Other Environmental Matters:

- Open Spaces contracts - The Amenity Manager reported that the contracts have been advertised for two weeks in the Kent Messenger, and also the November issue of the Downs Mail. It has also been placed on our website and Facebook page, so all reasonable steps have been taken to bring it to the attention of any potentially interested contractors. Copies of the specifications have been emailed out to five contractors so far. There are however a few late amendments to be made and it was agreed that these should be discussed and agreed at the next Environmental Meeting meeting, before the final document is sent out.
- Trees in Woodlands Walk - The Amenity Manager reported that the tree survey identified three trees that require attention. One was recommended for immediate action, as it is standing dead. However, it is in the nature reserve area, by the un-used footpath, running down to Court Lodge Road. Mr Cuerden had contacted two contractors who had stated that they would require access to the tree from the neighbouring field, although this could be an issue. He therefore felt that the tree should be left and cleared it up if it were to fall in the future. Mr Cuerden added that this decision would obviously need to be reviewed should the footpath ever be re-opened, and come into active use. Two other trees were recommended for attention in due course. One, again, is in the nature reserve, so could be left until the next survey. The other is overhanging a neighbour's garden and so should be dealt with. Two quotes have been received and a further one, which was promised, did not materialise. The two quotes have been detailed in different ways. The first has listed the tree as T614, and is for £897, whilst the other quote uses a different way of labelling, Mr Cuerden stated that, by deduction, the same tree would cost £550 (both excluding VAT). After further discussion it was noted that there are further branches on another tree which are overhanging the neighbouring property and it was felt that all of the work should be completed together. Mr Cuerden stated that he would contact the contractor who had quoted £550 to ask for a price for the additional work. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths that, if the work came to under £999, that the work should be completed as soon as possible. This was seconded by Cllr Allardyce, with all in favour.
- Replacement Memorial Tree on West Street Green - Following a request for a quote to replace the vandalised tree, the Amenity Manager has been informed that October and November are good months to plant trees as there should be plenty of moisture in the soil. Also, many trees go through a dormant stage which allows the tree to settle into its new environment with the minimum of stress. The contractor has quoted £175 (+ vat) for a good specimen container grown Cherry tree and a further £180 (+ vat) for a black slatted metal

guard to be installed at the same time to give added protection. It was noted that the vandalized tree has begun to sprout again. Cllr Dean stated that this was the opportune time to plant the new tree, in a different area of the green, so that if the old tree dies, there will be another for the plaque to be added to. It was then proposed by Cllr Stanley to purchase the replacement tree and metal guard. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour. HIB would be asked to place a stake in the ground where the tree would be best placed.

ACTION: Cllr Dean

- Verge on the A20 by The Hollies - Cllr Dean reported that, at the HIB AGM, there had been discussion regarding this area as it requires clearing so that spring bulbs can be planted in the next couple of weeks. It was noted that Kent Highways and the contractor for the development will not complete this work and the area looks extremely untidy. Cllr Dean had sought a quote from the A20 contractor to complete a one-off clear up and they had quoted £180 (+ vat). Cllr Allardyce raised concerns at clearing this area because of the arthropods and the Amenity Manager reminded him that even wild meadow should be cut back once a year. After further brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Dean that the quote be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Allardyce, with all in favour.
- Woodlands Walk Closure - The Clerk reminded all present that Woodlands Walk will be closed for 24 hours on the 9th November.
- Cllr Dean reported that there have been further complaints regarding dog mess around the village. There are more flyers available and an article will be placed in Network again. The Clerk reported that the Community Warden and a representative from MBC will be spray painting the £1,000 fine signs on pavement in one particular area in the near future.
- Cllr Dean reported that the concrete bases have now been put down ready for the new bins to be installed. MBC is awaiting delivery of the bins, which had been delayed.

9 Finance

9.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley and seconded with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

9.2 Other Financial Matters:

Cllr Stanley queried the outstanding cheque for HAGS-SMP. The Clerk reported that the issue with the swings and the sign have still not been resolved and so the cheque is being withheld. An email has been sent to the accounts department as they have sent out an 'overdue reminder' and the email included the full email thread with other members of HAGS-SMP. The accounts department had asked the person overseeing the work to make contact and, to date, there has still not been any response. The RFO added that, as the cheque has been written for so long, he intends to cancel it and wait for the final items to be resolved.

10 Highways

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

- Church Road Footpath: As Cllr T Sams wasn't present, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

11 Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Dean reported that several Councillors had recently met with representatives from Lenham Parish Council to discuss their Neighbourhood Plan. Lenham will undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment in which Harrietsham need to be involved. This will include, air quality, soil quality, climate change and alternatives if those fall below expectations.

Joint agreement regarding the A20 desirable to include the following:

- Speed limit needs to be reclassified from inter urban highway to a strategic urban link Flashing speed limit signs.
- Cycle track and improved pavement along south side of A20 from Harrietsham to Charing Traffic lights at junction of A20 and Faversham Road the site of a recent fatality.
- Cllr J Sams to source a drawing of A20 section Harrietsham to Charing to enable a better understanding of the area under discussion.

It was noted that there had been a worrying statement about a signed agreement for s106 monies from Jones developments totaling 364 houses in Lenham, which included agreement for money towards the new Harrietsham School. The Parish Council has no knowledge of this and it needs to be investigated further.

It was also noted that Lenham Parish Council has passed a resolution supporting Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan.

12 Replacement of Noticeboard at Village Hall

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

13 Speedwatch

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

14 Wreath and Donation for the Remembrance Service

The Clerk reported that a donation request letter had been received for the Parish Council's wreath for Remembrance Sunday, adding that the Council usually adds an additional donation to the cost. It was proposed by Cllr Dean to make the same donation as last year (£100). This was seconded by Cllr Stanley, with all in favour.

The Clerk then asked for a Councillor to volunteer to attend the Service, if the Chairman is unavailable. Cllrs Dean and Stanley offered to represent the Parish Council, if required.

15 Use of the Glebe Field for the North Downs Walk (10th June 2018)

The Clerk reported that The Weald of Kent Rotary Club have submitted their annual request for use of the Glebe Field for the North Downs Walk. It was proposed by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Stanley to allow use of the field, with the usual caveats attached regarding reinstating any damage to the field.

16 Use of the Glebe Field for the Big Lunch (3rd June 2018)

The Clerk reported that a request has been received for use of the Glebe Field for the Big Lunch. It was proposed by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Stanley to allow use of the field, with the usual caveats attached regarding reinstating any damage to the field.

17 Future Events

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

27th October - Film Club

18th November - Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning (Ambrose Hall 10am - 12pm)

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 November 2017** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.