

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 6.30pm in St John the Baptist Church

The Chairman welcomed all present, including the Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr M Cockett and stated that, as this is a shorter meeting due to the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8.00pm, there would be public discussion at the end, if time allowed.

Community Warden: The Community Warden reported that there has been a number of thefts of plants in pots around the village. He also made everyone aware that there have been sheds broken into in Staplehurst and horse box and trailer thefts in the West Farleigh area. He asked residents to remain vigilant as these criminals tend to move on to other villages. If anyone sees a crime being committed they must phone 999 straight away.

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr T Sams, Cllr M Allardyce, Cllr J Moore, Cllr F Stanley, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden M Sherwood, Lenham Parish Council Representative Cllr M Cockett and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.

3 Members of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr J Sams, PCSO D Rowley

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 29th March 2017 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Allardyce, seconded by Cllr Moore; 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 Other Planning Matters:

Cllr Powell reported that the Bell Farm South appeal hearing had concluded and added that, hopefully, a decision will be made soon.

6 Communications

6.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:

There were no recommendations.

7 Environmental

7.1 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- Purchase of Dog Bins: Cllr Powell reported that, following a meeting with MBC, they will supply four dog bins and the money set aside at a previous meeting will purchase a further 8. MBC have confirmed that, if the bins are placed in an easily accessible area, they will empty them free of charge. Cllr Powell added that this was good news as MBC had previously stated that each bin would cost £20 a month to empty. Cllr T Sams stated that, when Councillors met with John Edwardes (from MBC), he had understood the issues raised and Cllr Sams felt that this was a good resolution. Cllr T Sams added that the dog walkers had been extremely helpful with the information they had provided. It is hoped that these will be installed by June, once the final locations have been decided. The Clerk added that it had now been confirmed that there no bins are to be installed in the CTRL site by the developer. It was also noted that the shop proprietor in West Street will buy one which MBC have agreed to empty more regularly. Cllr Allardyce reported that there is an unofficial protest group in the village who are bagging waste and throwing it in the bushes. Cllr Dean responded that walkers should be disposing of this in their home bins. The Community Warden stated that, if walkers bag the waste and then throw it on the floor or in

the bushes, it amounts to littering and they would receive a fixed penalty notice if seen doing this.

7.2 Other Environmental Issues:

- Cllr Allardyce stated that, at the Hollingbourne Annual Parish Meeting the previous evening, there had been some interesting discussion relating to Environmental projects. He felt that some of these may be of use to Harrietsham and proposed to add these as agenda items for the next Environmental meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Allardyce**

8 Finance

- 8.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Stanley, with all in favour.
- 8.2 Minutes from the F&GP Meeting held on 24th April: These were proposed as accurate by Cllr T Sams and seconded by Cllr Dean. Three Councillors were in favour with three abstentions (not members of the F&GP committee).
- 8.3 2016/2017 Draft Accounts: Cllr Stanley proposed that the draft accounts be approved ready for internal audit. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.
- 8.4 Governance Declarations: Cllr T Sams proposed that the Internal Audit Governance Declaration document be approved for internal audit. This was seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.
- 8.5 Grant Request from Summer Holiday Fun Club: It had been recommended by the F&GP Committee that, following receipt of an email from Jill Bishop, the grant for £500 be paid immediately, but on the proviso that the Parish Council receives full financial information (including invoices paid, number of children attending etc.) on completion of this year's project. This was proposed by Cllr T Sams, seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

9 Highways

Cllr T Sams reported on the recent Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting where the A20 improvement scheme had been discussed. He read out the recently circulated minutes from MBC:

The Strategic Transport and Development Planner from Kent County Council presented a verbal report on 'A20 Through Harrietsham Update'.

The following points were noted:

- *This item related to the scheme for road improvements on the A20 which are required to support new housing developments in Harrietsham.*
- *The proposals involved:*
 - *The narrowing of the carriageway*
 - *Lowering of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph*
 - *The provision of new sections of footway and pedestrian crossing facilities*
- *An outline scheme design had been commissioned by MBC and had provided a basis for securing financial contributions via Section 106 agreements from the various housing developments in the village. Payment of the contributions was tied to the occupation of the developments, which were at varying stages of construction.*
- *Once funding was available, the County Council would allocate the necessary resource to review and progress the scheme design. The design had been developed as a complete package and the traffic order required for the speed limit reduction would require a statutory consultation process.*
- *In the event that there was local growth fund money left over, following delivery of the Maidstone Integrated Package, there would be scope for the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board to consider whether it could put towards the Harrietsham scheme.*
- *The County Council would continue to explore other funding opportunities that would help to accelerate the delivery of this locally important scheme.*

Cllr Powell stated that this had been raised some years ago by Cllr J Sams at JTB meetings as the A20 is such a dangerous road. Cllr Moore raised concerns that the report mentioned the improvements as 'a whole package' which could imply that, if enough money is not found, the project will not be completed. Cllr T Sams stated that there needs to be consultation with the residents and that the Parish Council, MBC and Kent Highways need to move this project forward together. Cllr Powell added that safety for pedestrians wishing to cross the road and drivers getting out of junctions had to be the main issues addressed in this project.

10 Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Moore reported that the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan had been a main topic at the recent meeting and the need to retain green spaces. A Trust has been formed to protect open spaces and this may be something for Harrietsham to think about in the future. There had been discussion about the recent Bell Farm South planning appeal and the fact that most of the discussion was nothing to do with Harrietsham, it was more to do with MBC's 5 year housing supply. Cllr Powell stated that this had been discussed at the last MBC Planning Committee meeting as it would appear that MBC has a 6.11 year supply which would dispel Developer's arguments.

The Lenham Representative Cllr Cockett congratulated Harrietsham on managing to negotiate for more bins in the village, adding that Lenham had had to install additional dog bins and are now having to pay for these to be emptied. Cllr Cockett also reported on the A20 issues through the village, as there have been several bad accidents. Kent Highways will be making some adjustments to the road but the Parish Council would also like to see changes near Ham Lane and East of the Faversham Road junction, if the Tanyard Farm North application is approved; this is likely once sewage and drainage issues have been resolved. Lenham Parish Council would also like to see the A20 speed limit reduced to 40mph through the village. Cllr Cockett also gave further information relating to the Trust which has been set up for the green spaces in Lenham.

11 Village Hall Trust

Cllr Stanley reported that he had received a warm welcome at his first meeting as the Parish Council representative. He stated that the Trust had asked whether the Parish Council will reconsider locking the Glebe Field at 9pm as moving vehicles onto surrounding roads may upset residents. Cllr Dean responded that it was wrong to expect a Councillor to come out late at night to lock the field in the dark. Cllr T Sams reminded all present that he intended to put up a sign to alert all drivers of the time that the field will be locked to give ample opportunity for the cars to be moved. Cllr Stanley highlighted that there would be a health and safety risk with locking the field up in the dark and the Parish Council does not want to run the risk of having unwelcome visitors to the field. Cllr Dean stated that the Trust had been informed that the field had to be marshalled at all times to prevent this particular issue. Cllr Allardyce proposed that the original decision of locking the field at 9.00pm remain in place. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour. The Clerk then reported that an email had been received asking for the decision made regarding the Music Event advertising signs to be revisited. The company erecting the signs would usually complete this at the beginning of June and so would want to install the signs on the field at the same time, rather than at the beginning of July. The day after the event is a Sunday so couldn't be removed until the Monday. Cllr T Sams stated that there would be enough boards around the village advertising the event that early and Cllr Allardyce stated that there is already a large amount of fly-posting around the village for various events. It was proposed by Cllr T Sams that the original decision of allowing the boards to be erected at the beginning of July should stand, but that the signs can be taken down on the Monday rather than the day after the event. This was seconded by Cllr Allardyce, with all in favour.

12 KALC Annual Membership Renewal

The Clerk reported that the KALC annual membership renewal is due at a cost of £833.42 (£694.52 + £138.90 vat). Cllr Dean proposed that the membership be renewed, this was seconded by Cllr Allardyce; with all in favour.

13 Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) Annual Membership Renewal

The Clerk reported that the ACRK annual membership renewal is due at a cost of £50.00. Cllr Dean proposed that the membership be renewed, this was seconded by Cllr Allardyce; with all in favour.

14 Use of the Glebe Field by The Friends of St John the Baptist Church for a Classic Car Display

The Clerk reported that The Friends of St John the Baptist Church have submitted a request for parking classic cars on the Glebe Field during their fete at the Rectory on Saturday 8th July (from 12.00 until 4.00pm). All Councillors were happy to approve this, with the usual caveat that the grass would need to be reinstated if there was any damage caused. Councillors queried whether they would like the field locked whilst the cars are on the field. The Clerk stated that she would clarify this point with the organisers.

ACTION: Clerk

15 Future Events

Every Saturday Morning 9am on the Glebe Field - 'Get Active' event (depending on the weather).
Sunday 21st May - Harrietsham Primary School May Fayre
Sunday 4th June - The Big Lunch

16 Items for Future Consideration

No further items to be added to the agenda.

17 Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 31st May 2017** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 7.20pm