

# Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman welcomed all present.

## Public Discussion

Community Warden: The Community Warden reminded all present that residents must telephone 101 as soon as possible to report any incidents or suspicious activity, so that Police can act quickly. He stated that he is also adding a piece to Network to remind parishioners again. Martin reported on the need for families to remember to renew their tax credits before the 31<sup>st</sup> July, otherwise they will lose their credits and have to repay any money they have received since April 2016. There is concern that forgetting to complete this may cause financial crisis for some families. The Community Warden reported on four Royal British Legion events that are taking place for veterans aged over 65 years old. These will take place once a month around Maidstone and will offer support and advice with health and wellbeing.

Police Report: PCSO Boyd reported that there had been 9 crimes in Harrietsham since the last meeting. Three were burglaries from outbuildings, three were vehicle related thefts, one was vehicle interference, one was theft of pots and one was damage to windows.

Including the reported crimes, there had been 35 incidents reported to the Police, also included were two road traffic incidents and a report of bad driving.

Cllr Dean also reported that a duck had been run over and killed at the station.

## 1 Present

Cllr K Kay, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr M Williams, Cllr G Trussler, Cllr M Allardyce, Cllr F Stanley, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden M Sherwood, PCSO J Boyd, Lenham Parish Representative Cllr N Osborne and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.  
10 Members of the Public

## 2 Apologies for absence

Cllr S Morris and Cllr E Powell

## 3 Decision to Discuss Agenda Item 19 Under Closed Session

It was proposed by Cllr Kay to discuss the complaints received by the Parish Council (Agenda Item 19) under closed session. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.

## 4 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr T Sams; with all in favour.

Parish Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr T Sams; with all in favour.

## 5 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 Interests were declared.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

## 6 Co-option of Councillor

Cllr Kay stated that Jackie Moore is known to most Councillors as she is currently co-opted to assist on the Planning Committee. He added that, if no Councillors had any questions, the Councillors could move straight to a vote. With no further need for discussion, Cllr Trussler proposed that Mrs Moore be co-opted on to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all Councillors in favour. Cllr Moore was then welcomed to the table.

## 7 Planning

7.1 The current planning applications were noted.

7.2 Recommendations from the Planning Committee:

- Further response required for the Land South of Court Lodge Road application: Cllr Trussler had circulated a Planning report which outlined two items that had been noted in the recently submitted application for the site. All Councillors confirmed that they had read the report. Cllr T Sams queried why this had been brought before the Full Council for a decision, as the Committee has delegated powers. The Clerk explained that she had

suggested this course of action as two of the members of the Committee had a pecuniary interest. Cllr Trussler reminded all that they have been awarded dispensations, but felt that this would be the correct action to take.

- Motion 1: Harrietsham Parish Council does not and will not approve the use of Woodlands Walk as access for pedestrians and cycles from the proposed development of land to the south of Court Lodge Road to Church Road. Cllr Williams proposed that the motion be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Allardyce with 5 in favour (KK, MW, MA, FS, JM) none against and 4 abstentions (GT, GD, JS, TS)
- Motion 2: Permission should not be given to allow surface water runoff into Pilgrims Lakes. Cllr J Sams proposed that the motion be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Williams with 7 in favour (KK, MW, MA, FS, JM, JS, TS) none against and 2 abstentions (GT, GD)  
Cllr Trussler explained that the application included the possibility of an infiltration pond which could overflow into the lake and he explained that he did not feel that this would be a viable option.

## **8 Communications**

- 8.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee:  
There were no recommendations.

## **9 Environmental**

- 9.1 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:  
Cllr Kay reported that a meeting has been arranged for the 7<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the monitoring of the contracts until the Amenity Manager is in place.
- 9.2 Other Environmental Issues:  
There were no other issues to discuss.

## **10 Finance**

- 10.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.  
Cllr Trussler confirmed that £49,640 is being transferred into the new bank account. The RFO added that the decision had been made due to the financial compensation arrangements in place and also the poor interest rate being received at the Natwest. The account that had been opened is called a Business Instant Access Saver Account.

## **11 Highways**

A Highways report had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr J Sams added that there has been an issue with waste water coming up into homes along the A20. This is now being investigated and it is hoped that something will be put in place to resolve this; as it has happened 4 times this month.

## **12 Footpath on the Pilgrims Way by Percy**

Cllr T Sams reported that scalping has been added to the path to improve it and will assess what other work is needed. The wooden railings etc. will need treating but the sculptor will need to be contacted about the correct way to maintain Percy. Cllrs J & T Sams also offered to monitor that area of the amenity contract for the Environmental Committee.

Cllr Kay stated that he needed to replace a section of railing and Cllr T Sams will give the necessary measurements.

**ACTION:** Cllrs T Sams & Kay

## **13 Donation towards Unexpected Costs for the North Downs Walk**

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Rotary Club, days before the North Downs Walk, as a 4x4 vehicle had damaged the route for the 6 and 9 mile walks. The result of this was that two of the three walks needed to be rerouted which meant that all of the maps were obsolete and needed to be reprinted. This was finally completed 2 days before the walk, but had given the Club an additional cost of £211. The Organisers had asked whether the Parish Council could consider making a donation towards the cost. After brief discussion Cllr T Sams raised concern that this could set a precedent for the future and proposed that Councillors make a personal donation towards the cost. Cllr Trussler seconded this course of action, with all in favour. The Clerk suggested that all donations be given to her and she would arrange for them to be passed to the Rotary Club.

**ACTION:** All Councillors

## **14 KALC Local Plan Examination Contribution**

Cllr Trussler reported that he had attended the KALC AGM with Cllr Williams and there was approximately 50% of member parishes represented at the meeting. The Joint Parish Group (JPG) were also in attendance and will be working in partnership with the Maidstone branch of KALC. Roads and infrastructure were the main items discussed, along with Neighbourhood Plans; it had been noted that only 2 had been passed in the Borough. The view was that Parishes need to weigh up the worth versus the cost of producing a plan. It was noted that a letter had been circulated from the Chairman of Maidstone KALC asking that Parish Councils consider whether, in

principle, they would contribute to the cost of instructing a professional to act on KALC's behalf; however, this was not really discussed at the meeting and there was no indication whether every Parish would pay the same or whether it would be decided by the amount of electorate per Parish. It was noted that, as a member of the JPG, Parishes paid by the amount of electorates, although much of the work had been focused around Junction 8 resulting in outlying Parishes not receiving any benefit from the expenditure.

Councillors noted that Harrietsham had decided to withdraw the Neighbourhood Plan in favour of a Design Statement. Councillors went on to discuss the difference between s106 and the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Cllr Trussler stated that a Neighbourhood Plan could be a wish list rather than a complicated plan.

The Lenham Representative, Cllr Osborne, stated that they had written to KALC sometime ago asking how much they were likely to have to pay and what they would actually be paying for. A response had only just been received which did not give a conclusive answer to either of the questions and so Lenham will probably not contribute.

**15 The Sir William Stede Educational Charity**

Cllr Williams spoke about the charity explaining that it can give educational grants to cover the cost of books or equipment for people who live in Harrietsham and wish to further their education. There are set qualifications covered by the charity and all of the details for applying will be detailed in the next edition of Network. It was noted that the Trustees decision is final.

**16 Future Events**

9<sup>th</sup> July - Night Pink Ribbon Walk (Being completed by Cllr J Sams along with her mother and daughters)

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Harrietsham Music Festival

**17 Items for Future Consideration**

No further items to be added to the agenda.

**18 Date of next meeting**

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

Cllr Kay then informed all present that Agenda Item 19 would be discussed as a Closed Confidential Session, as agreed in Agenda Item 3. Therefore, the meeting would now adjourn for 15 minutes of public discussion.

*Meeting adjourned at 8.25pm*

Public Discussion:

A resident spoke regarding pothole repairs. He stated that it made common sense to repair all of the holes at once to save keep coming back when some have deteriorated to the correct size to be filled. He also stated that the potholes used to be sealed to ensure that water and frost did not damage the repair. This is now not being completed which means that the potholes soon return and need to be repaired again. The same could be said for the white line painting as the contractors will complete some but leave other areas close by and then have to return on another day; this system is not cost effective. The resident stated that KCC are simply wasting resident's money working in this way. Cllr J Sams responded that she would discuss this with Jenny Whittle.

**ACTION:** Cllr J Sams

Cllr Kay then thanked all members of the public for attending and asked that they leave the meeting so that the Councillors could address Agenda Item 19.

***Minutes of Agenda Item 19 - Complaints Received by the Parish Council will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.***