

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

Cllr Dean welcomed all present to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that two urgent items needed to be added to the agenda, both had arisen after the agenda had been posted. One is the street lighting in Church Road, which will be discussed under Highways (Agenda item 9) and the other related to the Parish Office, which will be discussed under Finance (Agenda item 8.2).

Community Warden Report: The Community Warden informed all present that the Police have received reports of homeowner's doors being marked with black tape. The residents had Googled this and it appears to be a marker for homes that own a dog. Martin asked that, if anyone is concerned that a marker may have appeared at their property, they should inform the Police and Community Warden as soon as possible. Martin also reported that the usual HMRC scams are circulating again, along with a Thomas Cook one (following their collapse earlier in the week). There has been an incident in Lenham of 2 lads touting for garden work and a house was later found to have had the pins removed from the patio doors at the rear of the property. These individuals have been spotted at the train stations in Lenham, Bearsted and Maidstone. There is only a vague description of them both being young white men with one wearing an orange reflective jacket.

Police Report: The Clerk reported that there had been 5 crimes since the last meeting:

- A hut at a fishing lake was damaged
- A white Mercedes Sprinter van, was stolen from a driveway.
- A garage at a residential property has been broken into, a search of the garage has been carried out. At the time of the report, it was unsure if anything had been stolen.
- A VW Transporter parked in the road was broken into and various tools were stolen.
- A Portaloo was stolen from a church premises.

Katie Bishop, the Senior Early Help Worker from the Maidstone Youth Hub came to speak regarding the Youth Club that is running in the Village Hall. There have been 8 sessions since it started on the 13th July with an average of 15-23 children attending each week. Katie gave a breakdown of the activities that have been undertaken and the ones planned in the near future.

A resident raised a query regarding the build outs on the A20, which have been removed. The Clerk stated that this item was to be reported on during the meeting.

A resident raised concern regarding action on the road surface on the A20 (at the junction with Church Road). The Clerk stated that there had not been an update on this and she would need to contact KHS. **ACTION: Clerk**

There was brief discussion regarding the defected HGV bridge warning sign, which has been constantly flashing since last December.

A query was raised regarding the new bus stop locations on the A20. The Clerk stated that the bus companies had been consulted as part of the A20 Improvement Scheme consultation and they had requested these locations. The areas would have had to be approved as part of the scheme.

A query was raised regarding the speed limit on the A20 and there was brief discussion of when the 6 month 'bedding in' period would actually commence, as work appears to be on going.

A query was raised regarding Pilgrims Retreat and it was noted that this application is being heard at the MBC Planning Committee meeting on the following evening.

1. Present

Cllr G Dean, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr R Dayes, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr J Moore, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst
3 Members of the Public

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr E Powell, Cllr V Foster, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, PCSO J Boyd, Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr C Huggens

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 24th July 2019 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Roots; with all in favour.

4. Decision to Discuss Agenda Item 17 (Complaint Received) under a Closed Part II Confidential Session

It was agreed by all Councillors that the complaint should be dealt with under a Part II session, at the end of the meeting.

5. Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

The Clerk had advised Cllr Dean that she did not need to declare an interest under Planning, as her application will not be discussed during the meeting.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

6. Planning

6.1 The current planning applications were noted.

6.2 The approved planning applications were noted.

6.3 The refused planning applications were noted.

6.4 Other Planning Matters:

Cllr Roots gave a brief report on the Local Plan consultation, which closes on the 30th September.

Councillors thanked Cllr Roots for his work preparing the response to be submitted by the Parish Council.

7. Environmental

7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting Held on 11th September: The minutes of the September meeting were found to be an accurate record, proposed by Cllr Stanley, seconded by Cllr Dean (the two Councillors present at the meeting). A copy was duly signed.

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

There were no recommendations for Full Council.

7.3 Other Environmental Matters:

There were no further matters to discuss.

8. Finance

8.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley and seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.

8.2 Other Financial Matters:

- External Audit Report: The RFO reported that the external audit has now been concluded, with no issues arising. It had been noted that the Risk Assessments were late being reviewed, however they acknowledged that a full explanation had been given for this. Councillors thanked Mr Cuerden for his hard work.
- Parish Office Loft: The Clerk reported that she had contacted the handyman to ask him to quote for boarding out the loft, as there is limited storage space in the building. He had given a price of £736 for making a larger loft hatch, installing a ladder and adding an area of boarding. The area to be boarded was quite small and the Clerk has arranged for him to come back out to see how much of the loft could be safely boarded and he is due out shortly after the meeting. The Clerk explained that, now that the conference room furniture has arrived, there are still a number of items that are in the way and she requested that Councillors set a budget and give her delegated authority to arrange the work as soon as possible; if the quote was acceptable. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths to set a budget of £1,500. This was seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

9. Highways

9.1 Highways Issues: The Clerk read out a report from Cllrs T & J Sams which stated that the gateway build outs were removed due to safety concerns and vehicles hitting them. These are to be replaced by 'ghost' islands. Funding has been secured for the street lighting and there are some surfacing and lining issues to be resolved. The timing of these works will be impacted by utility works that need to be completed and Brexit. Additional 30mph repeater signs are to be installed and a speed survey will be completed. The A20 is also an agenda item for the MBC JTB meeting on the 16th October.

The report also stated that they wish to obtain quotes for posts at the entrance to Holm Mill Lane and hope that funding can be obtained. This will be to assist drivers to see where the entrance to the road is during the hours of darkness. This would need to be added to the Highways Improvement Plan. After brief discussion, Councillors requested further clarification on this.

ACTION: Cllrs T & J Sams

9.2 Church Road Lighting: The Clerk reported that the light in Church Road, closest to the bridge, is not working. Having spoken to the street lighting contractor, he has suggested that an LED lantern be installed as he has had less reports of vandalism with these. The cost to supply and fit is £325 (+vat). The Clerk asked that Councillors consider changing the lanterns on the 3 Parish Council owned lights in the road so that they are kept uniform; adding that the RFO had confirmed that there is money available to complete the additional work. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffiths to replace the three lights at a cost of £975 (+vat). This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.

Cllr Roots requested that a letter be sent to the residents in Church Road to make them aware of the planned work.

ACTION: Clerk

The RFO asked whether the contractor could confirm how long they will be on of a night and what the wattage is.

ACTION: Clerk

- 9.3 Church Road Footpath: The Clerk stated that the Highways Committee are awaiting a report from KHS, following a meeting with Jennie Watson and the County Cllr in July. It is hoped that information will be available for the next meeting.

10. Lenham Parish Council

The Clerk reported that Cllr T Sams had been unable to attend the previous Lenham Parish Council meeting but had commented that it is worth noting that there is investigation by MBC into a Garden Community in Lenham, which would potentially include a new motorway junction and station.

11. Additional Play Equipment for the Glebe Field

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had obtained a SIPA grant of £10,000 from MBC to put with the s106 money towards play equipment. Five pieces of equipment are on order and it is hoped that these will be installed in November. The Clerk added that there would be some money left over and that this may be spent on some safety flooring for around the roundabout and some additional seating.

12. Defibrillator Training

Cllr Griffiths reported that there will be training sessions arranged for Tuesday 22nd October and Thursday 7th November and the residents that have shown an interest will be contacted to make them aware of the date that they can attend. This will be held in the Clifton Room (the old Parish Office) commencing at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

13. Future Events

19th October - Friends of St. Johns Quiz Night in the Ambrose Hall (7.30pm)

21st October - HIB AGM in the Booth Hall (7.30pm)

22nd October - Macmillan Coffee Morning (10am - 12pm) in the Ambrose Hall

14. Items for Future Consideration

Cllr Roots asked whether signs could be investigated for the A20 saying 'Take Your Litter Home' as the litter pickers do such a good job, but that drivers still throw their rubbish out of car windows. There was brief discussion on this point and the Clerk offered to look into this.

ACTION: Clerk

Community Fridge - Cllr Moore

15. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 30th October 2019 from 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.26pm.

Public Discussion

A resident, who is one of the litter pickers, stated that the litter signs don't work and Cllr Roots responded that he had been approached by one of the team so felt it was only right to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council.

Minutes of Confidential Agenda Item 16 (Complaint Received) will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.