

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman, Cllr Powell, welcomed the Worshipful Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr David Naghi, the Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr R Greenwood and the members of public to the meeting.

Community Warden Report: Martin Sherwood reported that there have been several ASB occurrences in the village, including some cars being keyed; one of these has been reported to the Police. He reminded all present that any incidents must be reported as soon as possible. The Community Warden reported on a new service called TrueCall38. Sometimes, when completing forms, you will be required to include a telephone number, even though you know that the Company doesn't really need it. Residents may not wish to use their number, as this could leave them exposed to the possibility of being scammed. If you enter 0333 88888888 (three threes and eight eights) and someone calls the number, they will receive a message that states *"TrueCall38 is handling my calls. I prefer not to be contacted by phone, so please contact me via my email address. Goodbye!"* He added that, if you are completing an on-line form, which will not allow as many digits, you can remove an 8.

The Clerk confirmed that no report had been received from the Police and Cllr Powell stated that his 80 year old neighbours had had both of their cars damaged, with 10 windows being smashed. This had been reported to the Police.

Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

1. **Present**

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

2. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr V Foster, Kent County Cllr S Prendergast

3. **Guest Speaker - The Worshipful Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr David Naghi**

Cllr Naghi thanked the Parish Council for the work that they complete for the community. He added that the work of volunteers is very important and many would suffer without their valuable contributions.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Parish Council Meeting 28th November 2018 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Roots; with seven in favour and one abstention.

5. **Disclosures and confidential items**

Changes to the Register of Interests

No changes were submitted.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

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:

There were no other matters to discuss.

7. **Environmental**

7.1 Minutes from the Meeting held 17th January: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley and seconded by Cllr Dean (the two Councillors present at the meeting).

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee: There were no recommendations.

7.3 Other Environmental Issues:

- Christmas Tree to be planted on the Village Green: Cllr T Sams reported that he has contacted Fairbourne Christmas Trees to look into having a tree planted on the Green; he has not heard back yet. Cllr Dean raised concerns that this could affect the contractor working in this area, as there are already quite a few obstacles on the green.
- Signage for Parish Council Open Spaces: The Clerk reported that, following several complaints relating to unsuitable vehicles being used on the Glebe Field in recent months, a set of conditions had been produced. These have been circulated to all Councillors and the Clerk has investigated having this made into signs. The cost of each sign would be £87 which would include the sign, 7ft black metal post and delivery. The Parish Council would then need to arrange for them to be installed. After brief discussion it was felt that 3 were required on the Glebe Field, 1 on the West Street green, two for the Saxon Place land and 1 for Teers Meadow. Councillors asked that a spare be purchased. This gives a total cost of £696.00 (+vat). It was proposed by Cllr Dean to purchase 8 signs and this was seconded by Cllr Griffiths; with all in favour.

8. Finance

- 8.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.
- 8.2 Minutes from the Meeting held 10th January: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots and seconded by Cllr Dean; with 3 in favour and 1 abstention.
- 8.3 Budget & Precept for 2019/2020: The Clerk reminded all present that the proposed budget and Precept for 2018/19 had already been circulated to all Councillors. The proposed recommendation is that the precept requirements for 2019/20 is £120,190 resulting in a precept of £94.72 per Band D property. This will result in there being no precept increase on the previous financial year. It was proposed by Cllr Powell that the precept for the forthcoming year be set at £120,190, with no annual increase per Band D household. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour.
- 8.4 Additional Grants & Donations:
The following grant was proposed by Cllr T Sams and seconded by Cllr Moore; with all in favour:
The Summer Fun Club - £500.00 (payable in April).

9. Highways

- 9.1 Highways Issues: Cllr J Sams reported on the following points:
 - Thanks were given to the litter pickers in the village, who keep the village and A20 clear (including collecting a complete car boot!).
 - Potholes are being reported.
 - The need to reduce the speed limit through the roadworks on the A20 to 20mph, as it is very dangerous for the workers. Kent Highways have stated that, by the time that they could get a temporary restriction, it is likely that the new lower speed limit will be in place.
 - The Clerk reported that there has been concerns raised by the Indian Restaurant, which need to be looked into. She added that she would forward the email received. **ACTION: Clerk**
 - Cllr J Sams reported on the required 'walkers in road' warning sign for Holm Mill Lane. Jennie Watson, from KHS, has stated that, if the sign is moved closer to the bend, rather than by the Garden of England site, the cost of installation would be less, as the road is wider at this point. Cllr J Sams stated that the cost of the sign from RBLI would be approximately £260 and the installation would be £280. It was proposed by Cllr Moore that the installation of the sign be progressed. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour. **ACTION: Cllr J Sams/Clerk**
 - Cllr Stanley reported that the A20 is very slippery by the Bellway development. Cllr Roots confirmed that a street cleaner is used at least once a week.
- 9.2 Church Road Footpath: Cllr T Sams asked that Councillors discuss the possibility of purchasing a strip of the Booth Field (on the boundary with the Church Road verge). This would mean that the fence line could be moved in order to be able to construct the footpath. Cllr Dean commented that she thought KHS had approached the Trust, who had not been interested. Cllr Powell asked for a vote to be taken to establish whether the Trust should be approached. It was proposed by Cllr Stanley to progress with contacting the Booth & Baldwin Trust. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour. **ACTION: Cllr T Sams**

10. Lenham Parish Council

A report had previously been circulated by Cllr Roots. Lenham Parish Council's representative, Cllr Greenwood, added that the NHP is taking up a considerable amount of time and the first major site is being discussed by the Planning Committee next week. This is for 54 dwellings and residents feel that they are not being supported, as the Parish Council has recommended "no objection" to the application. This is the first of 8 sites. Cllr Greenwood also spoke about the ongoing issue with the requirement for a 50mph speed limit at one of the development sites. The Parish Council has also taken the decision to close to public toilets, due to

the ongoing vandalism. The Parish Council is also hoping to build a nursery, as the one that is currently inside the primary school has been served notice.

11. Speedwatch

Cllr T Sams reported that an informal training session has been held, but the volunteers need to wait for the A20 improvement scheme to be completed before the speed watch locations can be approved by the coordinator. It was confirmed that this should be removed from the agenda for the time being.

ACTION: Clerk

12. Street Names for Mayfield Nursery Development Site

The Clerk reported that, following the decision made at the last Parish Council meeting, there have been numerous discussions with MBC regarding the chosen names. MBC had confirmed that only 3 names had been required but that developer would not agree to one of the names offered from the War Memorial. Their final list to be approved by Councillors is Mayfield, Hilton and Putland. The Clerk read out the emails that had been received and Councillors were very unhappy with the content; the Mayor stated that he was horrified. Cllr T Sams asked that a meeting be arranged with MBC and the Developer to discuss the matter further.

ACTION: Clerk/Cllr T Sams

13. Required Upgrade to the Fire Alarm System in the Doctor's Surgery

The Clerk reported that Fire Action have written to say that, when the next service is due in 2019, the fire alarm system will be over 10 years old. In accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, the detectors should be replaced for new ones as their future reliability can no longer be guaranteed. After discussions with Fire Action, the cost of replacing 6 detectors will be £372.60. The Clerk added that she had asked that all detectors be changed at the same time and the Company had offered a discount for this. They had also suggested that 2 manual call points be changed to ensure that they are all the same operating type, at a cost of £104. This gives a total cost of £476.00 (+vat). Cllr Powell stated that this work needed to be completed so proposed that this work be arranged. This was seconded by Cllr T Griffiths, with all in favour.

14. Future Events

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a group, which had previously been given permission to use the Glebe Field in July, to move the date from Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd July. The Clerk had been intending to just confirm with Councillors that they were happy with this; however, a further request had been received, following the organisers completing a visit to the field. They had asked that the mounds be removed by Marley Road as these will impinge the cars accessing the field. The Clerk had informed them that these had been installed at considerable cost to the Parish Council to deter unwelcome visitors and that they would not be removed. After further discussion it became apparent that the field would not be a suitable venue for the event, due to the cars (which are the main attraction) being lowered. The Clerk asked whether anyone could think of an alternative suitable venue and after brief discussion, it was felt that the Parish Council could not assist with this.

Cllr Dean reported that the Big Lunch Committee will be looking for volunteers in the new future. The event is scheduled for Sunday 2nd June.

15. Items for Future Consideration

There were no further items.

16. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 27th February 2019** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.32pm.

During Public Discussion the following points were mentioned:

- A sign post for the new Parish Office.
- The bulbs along the A20 planted by HIB and the damaged verges (caused by the A20 improvement scheme).
- The cables under the verge outside the Booth Field