

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman, Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Community Warden Report: Martin Sherwood reported on scams that, whilst not currently in Harrietsham or Lenham, are ones that could occur in the village. These included driveway & roofing work and selling mattresses from vans door to door. There has been an increase in Tax and National Insurance scams and Martin asked that they be reported to HRMC, the email can be forwarded to phising@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk. There have been some thefts from local building sites and illegal fishing on Woodlands Walk lake.

Police Report: The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting in May, there had been the following crimes:

- Rectory Lane - Youths attempting to access a vehicle and eggs thrown at both the car and residential property.
- Horwood Way - Vehicle broken into and a laptop stolen.
- Co-op Store - 3 separate incidents of shoplifting
- West Street - theft of milk, delivery day has now been altered and there have been no more incidents.

The Clerk also stated that 2 abandoned vehicles had been investigated by the PCSO and these had been found to belong to a resident and were parked in legal parking bays.

It was also noted that children had been seen riding motorbikes on the Glebe Field on Sunday afternoon, unloaded from a red van with the parents watching; even though there is now signage in place to show that this is not permitted.

1. Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr V Foster, Cllr R Dayes, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood, Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr A Walmsley and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.

4 Members of the Public

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Griffiths, PCSO J Boyd, Kent County Cllr S Prendergast

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 15th May 2019 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

4. Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

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 The refused planning applications were noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters:

The Clerk reminded members of the Planning Committee that the Pilgrims Retreat application response must be submitted imminently and asked that Councillors respond when the final draft is circulated.

It was noted that the planning application for the mound in the Chantry Green development has been received by MBC and is currently being validated.

6. Environmental

6.1 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee: (No recommendations)

6.2 Other Environmental Matters:

- Cllr Dean reported on the illegal fishing that has taken place on the lake in Woodlands Walk. This was reported to the Police and the culprits were spoken to. There is a website directing people to the lake for fishing and the Company is being chased to remove the incorrect information.

- Cllr J Sams reported that Percy the Monk requires some maintenance and the sculptor has been contacted to come out to complete it.
- It was noted that the area surrounding Percy requires some work to be completed as there are some trip hazards. **ACTION: Amenity Manager**
- It was noted that the benches look much better, since being treated.
- Cllr J Sams reminded everyone that the Teers Meadow Botany Day is to be held on Saturday 6th July.
- Cllr T Sams gave an update on the removal of the dog bins. It is hoped that the dog bin on the Glebe Field will be removed by the end of the week and a co-mingle bin will be installed by MBC on Southfields Way at the same time.
- The Clerk asked that a member of the Environmental Committee have a look at the allotments to give a view on how they are being maintained. Cllr Dayes offered to complete this.

ACTION: Cllr Dayes

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots and seconded by Cllr Foster, with all in favour.
- 7.2 Saxon Place Maintenance Contract - The RFO had circulated a report relating to the open spaces contract required in Saxon Place. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Foster to accept the cheapest two year contract at a total cost of £11,465 (Contractor 1). This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour. The RFO confirmed that Contractor 1 was JB Landscapes.
- 7.3 Teers Meadow Fencing and Clearance Contract - The RFO had circulated a report relating to the livestock fencing and scrub clearance work that is required on Teers Meadow. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Dean to accept the cheapest quotation at a total cost of £9,525 (Contractor 5). This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with all in favour. The RFO confirmed that Contractor 5 was Fences R Us.

8. Highways

- 8.1 Highways Issues: Cllr J Sams reported that there had been fallen trees and flooding, following the recent heavy rainfall. Cllr T Sams had had to arrange sandbags, due to flooding in Church Road and one of the residents affected has now requested a meeting with Kent Highways. This has been referred to County Cllr Prendergast for actioning. Cllr J Sams confirmed that the grass area on the A20, close to Lenmead, will be reseeded in a couple of weeks. **ACTION: County Cllr Prendergast**
- 8.2 Church Road Footpath: Cllr T Sams reported that a meeting has been arranged with Jennie Watson (from KHS) on the 24th July.

9. Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Moore had previously circulated a report to all Councillors. A garden village is being considered by MBC as part of their Call for Sites. The Parish's Neighbourhood Plan is hoping to reach Regulation 16 by the end of June. The Lenham representative Cllr Walmsley also commented on the following points:

- There are issues with the CIL funds due to the village; making sure that they actually come to Lenham as this could affect future infrastructure plans.
- KCC highways have agreed to alter the speed limit at the Faversham Road crossroads.
- SIDs are now in place and collecting data in the village, this information will be able to be used in future discussions with Kent Highways.
- It is hoped that the nursery will have a smooth move into their new premises.
- CCTV has been improved in Lenham Square.
- An Emergency Plan is now in place in the village.

10. Use of the Glebe Field for Parking for the Bluebell Walk (3rd May 2020)

The Clerk reported that she had received the annual request from the Heart of Kent Hospice for use of the Glebe Field for parking for the Bluebell Walk. Next year it is to be held on the 3rd May and the use would have the usual caveats attached with regards to reinstatement if any damage was caused. It was proposed by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Foster to approve the use of the field.

11. Use of the Glebe Field for Parking for the North Downs Walk (14th June 2020)

The Clerk reported that she had received the annual request from the Weald of Kent Rotary Club for use of the Glebe Field for parking for the North Downs Walk. Next year it is to be held on the 14th June and the use would have the usual caveats attached with regards to reinstatement if any damage was caused. It was proposed by Cllr Stanley and seconded by Cllr J Sams to approve the use of the field.

12. Use of the Glebe Field for a Dog Event (September 2019)

The Clerk reported that she had received the request for use of the Glebe Field from someone wishing to hold a dog event. The lady had been asked to provide details ahead of the meeting, but these had not been received. Councillors agreed that a final decision could not be made until the information was received but that, in principle, they did not have a problem with this, as long as the organisers ensured that no dog's mess

was left on the field afterwards. The Clerk added that she would circulate further details, as soon as they are received.

13. Big Lunch

Cllr Dean reported that the Big Lunch had been a very successful day and that lots of dogs had entered the Marvellous Mutts competition. £97 had been raised for The Dogs Trust and this had been rounded up to £100. All Councillors agreed that Cllr Griffiths had done a tremendous job organising everyone and were very grateful for his hard work. It is hoped that he will be able to assist again next year! Cllr Dean offered thanks to Cllr Foster for making cakes, Harrietsham Primary School for the loan of tables and chairs and also to the neighbours who had supplied electricity for the event.

14. Defibrillator Training

The Clerk asked that this be deferred until the July meeting, as Cllr Griffiths had had to give apologies for the meeting.

15. Lift Servicing in the Parish Office

The Clerk reported that the two services included with the lift installation have now been completed and a service contract is required. Three quotes had been sought for two services a year and, after brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr T Sams to award the contract to Company 2 at an annual cost of £200 (+vat). This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour. The Clerk clarified that this was for servicing only and any parts required would be invoiced separately. Mrs Broadhurst informed all present that Company 2 was Professional Elevators.

16. Parish Council Representative for the Village Hall Trust

The Clerk reported that Cllr Griffiths had resigned as one of the three Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Trust. Cllr Dean offered to become a representative and this was proposed by Cllr J Sams, seconded by Cllr Powell; with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions.

17. Saxon Place Management Fees

The Clerk reported that the second half yearly invoice, for £272.59, has been received from the Saxon Place Management Company. To date, apart from a minimal amount of strimming last Friday, nothing appears to have been completed within the development since GEM Estate Management Ltd took over. The Clerk showed photographs of the weeds in the flowerbeds, which are now overpowering any shrubs that were previously planted. It was noted that numerous complaints have been received by the Directors of Saxon Place and it was felt that nothing had been completed on site for at least 3 months. The Clerk was asked to write to GEM to state that the Parish Council would like a copy of the specification document that should be followed during the year and to say that no further money will be paid as no work has been completed on site, the photos should also be included in the letter.

ACTION: Clerk

18. VE Day (8th May 2020)

The Clerk had previously circulated details relating to the VE Day celebrations that are to take place in May 2020. It was noted that the early May Day Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May. It was agreed by all present that the beacon should be lit at 7.00pm on the 8th May, when Church bells will be rung. Discussion took place with regards to having an event in the afternoon, in the lead up to the lighting. Cllr T Sams offered to speak to Lenham Parish Council to see what events are planned in their village.

19. Future Events

6th July - Botany Day on Teers Meadow (10.00am - 1.00pm)
6th July - Craft & Chat
13th July - Friends of St. Johns Ploughman's Lunch
19th July - Film Club (Afternoon show - Fisherman's Friends)

20. Items for Future Consideration

Play Equipment for the Glebe Field - Cllr T Sams

21. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 24th July 2019 from 7.30pm in the Booth Hall (a week earlier than usual)

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.31pm.

Minutes of Confidential Agenda Item 22 (Matters Concerning the Len Valley Practice and Village Hall Trust) will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.