

*****DRAFT*****

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 9th July 2018 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr I Blackamore
P Rushbrook, D Mitchell, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, J Stewart,

Cllr P McGarvey, District Councillor
Cllr R Gough, County Councillor

4 Members of the public including Malcolm Dunn (DRiPs)

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk
D McFall, Assistant Parish Clerk

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr C Willson

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

36 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting held 4th June 2018 were signed as a true record.

37 MATTERS ARISING

Terms of Reference for Personnel Committee: in progress

Inflatables Picnic Day Event: surveys and gazebo to be ready for the event which has now been moved to 22nd July to avoid potential clash with World Cup England football match.

Heathside Gym Equipment: this was successfully installed last week.

38 POLICE MATTERS

No Police or PCSO in attendance or report received. The Clerk reported that the PCSO was aware of the recent arson (playground bin set alight) in Heathside and would be patrolling in the evenings. He recommended CCTV be installed.

39 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & CORRESPONDENCE

There were no questions from the public.

Malcolm Dunn reported that the river level is lower due to the lack of rain and very hot weather but is not giving any cause for concern yet. Regional water supplies are good for at least another 3 weeks. He highlighted that the steps in the picnic area need refilling with ballast. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

He also reported that the Volunteer River Day was successful although not many volunteers. Cllr Stewart who had joined the day to volunteer said that there was a 60% reduction in Himalayan Balsam which was encouraging.

Cllr Rushbrook reported that a resident had complained about the damage to pavements by coaches visiting the Field Study centre in School Lane. Cllr Gough said that he was aware of the issue and will take it up.

Cllr Moyle said that there was much concern for parents regarding the number 2 bus route being stopped to Wilmington School and that another company is not willing to take it on. The 414 Arriva Service is packed at school travel times and would not be able to cope with an influx of more students. Parents are unsure what to do as they need to apply for bus passes for the next school year.

Cllr Gough replied that the No 2 bus was a commercial route and that Go Coach is re-routing its bus to collect children in Farningham and Eynsford. He is aware of around 20-22 children that are affected and KCC are putting pressure on operators to provide a satisfactory service. Inspectors from KCC will be on buses in September to check on this.

Cllr Moyle also reported that the boundary sign on the A225 had a rotten post; the Clerk has reported this online to KCC.

Cllr Rushbrook said that the new sign installed in Franks Lane has been removed and that the existing chevron had the reflector strips removed. Cllr Gough will report this to the Highways Steward. Cllr Stewart had noticed that the HGV sign in Station Road was pointing in the wrong direction and asked if this could be flagged up as well.

The Chairman invited Cllr Gough to give his report:

40 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough explained that the Big Conversation events are being held across the County; the Sevenoaks event was reasonably well attended and there was good engagement with local residents.

3 options are being presented looking at better ways to enable rural transport. 97% of routes in Kent are commercial operations. Most children are travelling on these routes to school; there are very few designated 'school buses' now.

The A225 will have a new speed limit of 40mph introduced, a good reduction from the current 60mph.

Cllr Blackmore raised correspondence with a resident in Lombard Street who has had their boundary wall knocked repeatedly by passing traffic; Cllr Gough said he was aware of the issue and had responded directly to the resident.

7.57pm Cllr Moyle and Page left the meeting to attend another meeting

41 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr McGarvey reported that the draft Local Plan will be ready for public consultation from the 16th July and urged members to read it through and raise any comments before the close of consultation on 20th September.

8pm Cllr McGarvey left the meeting to attend another meeting.

The Chairman brought the following correspondence to members' attention:

The Clerk had asked for an update from SDC on the number of penalty charge notices in the Parish; 4 have been issued in Montgomery Road (12 Jan, 17 Feb and 5 May). Cllr Stewart stated that Double Yellow Lines in Montgomery Road have recently been tarmacked over and not reinstated; the Clerk would flag this up with SDC. ACTION: Clerk

A letter was received from St Mary's Church Festival of Flowers organiser seeking sponsorship for the arrangements; this event is held every 3 years and the Parish Council contributed to the last event. Cllr Rushbrook proposed a donation of £50, seconded by Cllr Stewart with all voting in favour. ACTION: Assistant Clerk

Cllr Rushbrook raised the issue of very dry grass in the adjoining field to Westminster Field which has been allowed to grow rather than being flail mowed in previous years. He suggested that the Clerk let the land owner know of the Parish Council's concern ACTION. Cllr Stewart suggested signs be put up in Westminster Field to remind visitors that no BBQs are allowed anywhere in the Field. ACTION.

42 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The latest approved Minutes of the committee were received for information

43 PLANNING

The following applications were received from Sevenoaks District Council for comment:

SE/18/01855/HOUSE
58 East Hill, South Darenth, Kent DA4 9AN
Creation of dropped kerb to access new driveway.
NO OBJECTION

SE/18/01989/MMA
Land North East of Croft House
The Street, Horton Kirby
Minor Material Amendment to 17/02408/FUL for erection of one dwelling, showing alteration to fenestration (addition of rooflights).
NO OBJECTION

SE/18/02093/FUL
Gas Valve Compound
School Lane, Horton Kirby
Upgrade of the security fencing and installation of mast mounted CCTV around Farningham AGI
NO OBJECTION

SE/18/01329/MMA
The Co-operative Food Building
25 Horton Road South Darenth
DA4 9BD
Minor material amendment to 16/01973/FUL to change of use of vacant first floor and part ground floor and alterations to form 8 x2 bedroom apartments, with formation of ground floor entrance hall and stairs, 2 x internal car parking spaces, cycle store and refuse bay, external alterations, and use of 10 x external allocated parking bays (and additional shared parking spaces). Internal and external alterations and refurbishment.

Alterations to fenestration and the installation of rooflights; showing amendments to the internal layout of the units, making the hallways smaller in size.
OBJECTION STANDS as per original objection.

44 PAVILION

The feasibility study presented in April (minute 207) with 3 options had been reviewed and considered by members at a discussion meeting. The conclusion of that meeting was there is a need to provide a useful building for local residents and visitors without incurring huge cost, nor is it necessary to achieve Football Association standards. There is potential to incorporate a kiosk into the existing building and a need for general improvements to be made throughout.

Cllr Stewart proposed that this 4th option be explored next year Cllr Stead seconded and all voted in favour.

45 WESTMINSTER FIELD BRIDGE

The bridge is currently unregistered whilst being the only access to Westminster Field. The Recreation and Open Spaces Committee had requested that this matter be investigated for the Parish Council to consider adopting the bridge. The Clerk had liaised with Invicta Law (Kent County Council legal dept) and received a quote to include checking title documents, legal rights of access to car park and to see if the original owner can be identified. Cost £372 + VAT and small disbursements. A quote for a structural inspection, drawing and report, had also been received for information for £1050 + VAT

Cllr Rushbrook had raised this matter due to the surface of the bridge showing signs of wear and should be resurfaced soon to avoid more costly repairs in future. With future plans to improve the Pavilion further services may be needed across the bridge.

Cllr Stewart reiterated the need to ascertain ownership and to safeguard access to the field. He proposed that the legal investigations should be carried out as the 1st step. Cllr House seconded and all voted in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Invicta Law

46 ADOPTION OF NEW STANDING ORDERS

NALC model Standing Orders had been reviewed by Cllr Stewart and Cllr Mitchell. They reported there were a number of changes they would recommend and requested that their input be amalgamated to the draft copy and circulated to members and brought to the September meeting for further discussion.

ACTION: Clerk

47 'THE BIG CONVERSATION'

This item was covered under item 39 and 40. Cllr Stead suggested that the main concerns for residents is reliability, frequency and cost of using the buses. A return fare to Dartford is now £6. The Clerk will be attending the presentation 18th July.

48 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Schedule Of Accounts

The schedule of accounts and payments were approved for payments to be made electronically.

49 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Cllr Mitchell reported that she had asked about the cost of the newsletter printers producing fliers for events and then inserting them into the newsletter ready for delivery to save time for staff and volunteers. For 2500 leaflets £153.50 was quoted with an additional £40 per 1000 for inserting into the newsletters. Currently 2500 leaflets are purchased for £27.95. Cllr Mitchell concluded that it was not cost effective to have the newsletter producers take this on.

Due to the change of date for the picnic day stickers with the new date are needed for Cllr Moyle to add to the fliers posted up around the villages. ACTION Dawn McFall. Website will be updated with new date and facebook post already made.

50 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be 3rd September as the Parish Council will be in recess during August. The Halls Committee will be meeting 17th July and the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee 6th August.

The Chairman requested that the public leave at 8.32pm

51 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

To receive and discuss information regarding Wide Horizon Centre.

Cllr Stewart reported that Wide Horizon Centre at South Darenth will be closing on the 20th July. This is part of national closures including residential sites with 60% of staff being made redundant. The centre next to the Village Hall is owned by Lewisham Council and Cllr Stewart has been in touch with them to find out what plans there are for the building and has been told there are no plans as yet. He suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider possible joint ownership/working with any interested parties to make the field study centre viable.

Cllr House highlighted the need for rural business locations and offices and how Sevenoaks District Council has bought properties to give an income stream –this could be an opportunity for joint ownership and income for the Parish Council.

The Clerk gave information on how to register a Community Asset which would give first refusal to the nominator should the property be put up for sale; it would secure a 6 month window for the Parish Council to either make a purchase or work with a potential purchaser. Cllr Gough has been alerted to this in case Kent County Council would wish to move their Field Centre from Horton Kirby and resolve the coach parking problems (as highlighted in item 39).

Cllr House proposed that the Parish Council registers South Darenth site as a Community Asset. This was seconded by Cllr Stewart and all voted in favour. Cllr Stead proposed that the Horton Kirby site is also registered as a Community Asset should KCC decide to move operations and dispose of that site. Cllr Stewart seconded this and all voted in favour. ACTION: Clerk

Meeting ended at 8.49pm

Chairman

Date