

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 6th January 2014 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr D Mitchell(Chairman)

Cllrs I Blackamore, R House, A Lewis, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, C Willson

P McGarvey, District Councillor

R Gough, County Councillor

6 members of the public

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr E Wilson

140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

141 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December be approved and signed as a correct record.

142 MATTERS ARISING

Horses being washed in the river:

Advice from Sevenoaks District Council had been received.

ACTION: Clerk to contact resident who has offered help to fence area.

All other points had been Actioned.

143 POLICE MATTERS

No Police representative was present.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up Parish Council's letter sent November 2013 inviting Ch Supt Corbishley to attend

144 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Since the Facebook Group had been launched 2 December 2013 it had attracted over 200 members and many comments. Cllr Willson summarised the main themes of concern:

Horses loose in Horton Kirby: Cllr Willson and the Clerk had met with the owner and asked for measures to be taken to keep the horses within his boundary. This had, to date, the desired effect with no horses being loose in recent weeks. Members of the public expressed their views. All the reports have been passed to the relevant authorities for information.

Salt bins: New Road was waiting for one to be installed at the bottom of the hill. One had been recently installed by East Lane. Cllr Gough was able to report that this would be actioned as soon as funding allowed.

Standing water in Lombard Street: This issue would be redirected to KCC Highway as a drainage issue.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways

Flytipping: a number of recent incidents were referred to in Roman Villa Road, Skinny Lane, Mussenden Lane, School Lane, Franks Lane. Dartford Borough Council had responded by putting up signs warning of CCTV coverage. SDC response has been less enthusiastic. Also the time frame within which rubbish is being cleared is unacceptable with some rubbish in Mussenden Lane lying 4 weeks.

ACTION: Clerk to raise this at Sevenoaks District Council's Clerks Forum 14th January 2014

Parking issues around the school: Although this has been flagged up via this Council's recent response to the KCC Highways Survey (Dec 13) their early response to this should be encouraged.

ACTION: Clerk to diarise for response and liaise with school

Streetlight and Pavilion Vandalism: Over several weeks during the Christmas period and total of 8 windows in the Pavilion had been broken and 17 Parish Council owned streetlights shattered by either a catapult or an air rifle/pellet gun.

2 names had been given to the police which resulted from the coverage on the facebook page.

Total cost for the streetlights were estimated at £4216.75. Quotes for repair to the Pavilion windows was awaited and Insurers contacted.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Police and progress Insurance Claim

Youth facilities: following on from the recent vandalism, lack of Youth Facilities in the Parish were raised by members of the public.

The Chair responded that a Youth Club, supported by the Parish Council had not been well attended and closed over a year ago due to lack of interest. She understood the challenges of engaging young people. Cllr Wilson had recently offered to be responsible for looking into how the Parish Council could engage with Young people and their needs and options were being explored.

145 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr McGarvey reported on how the Precept would be affected by the change in the Tax Base and the possible Government Council Tax Support Grant.

He also mentioned that the Cattle grid in Otford had been cleared and this may have an impact on the river flow further downstream. Westminster Field and fields in Station Road and Horton Road have already been flooded over the Christmas period.

146 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough reported that he would be holding a site meeting in Towers Wood to decide the placement of a salt bin, funded by his Highways budget. The New Road salt bin had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

He will also be meeting with Saxon Place Residents Association co-ordinator to see if he could help with funding towards their community activities.

He had received an enquiry from a Montgomery Road resident requesting a salt bin there.

147 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The latest approved Minutes of the committee were received for information.

148 PLANNING

No planning applications had been received for consideration

149 FINANCIAL MATTERS

None to report

150 BUDGET 2014/15

The Budget had been reviewed by all Councillors present; some changes were requested and would be brought back for Approval

A Precept of £96800 was agreed which is no increase on last years Precept

ACTION: Clerk

151 CLERK APPRAISAL OUTCOMES

Cllr Mitchell reported that following the Clerks Appraisal in December the following outcomes had been discussed:

- Clerk's contracted hours to increase from 20 hours to 25 hours per week with a review at the end of March. Formalise in contract and working hours.
- CiLCA Training should start as soon as possible
- Spread areas of responsibility between Councillors to enable more in depth understanding of chosen area eg Youth engagement now adopted by Cllr Wilson

ACTION: Clerk to progress outcomes as agreed

152 KFRS – DISPOSAL OF FIRE STATION

Members Considered the offer from Kent Fire and Rescue Service to buy the Fire Station for community use at an asking price of £130,000. The letter addressed to the Chairman was read out and stipulated that:

- The building must be used for community use
- If the building were subsequently sold by the Parish Council, 50% of any profit be returned to KFRS
- A formal indication of interest be received within 8 weeks

Some suggestions had already been made following the closure of the station in November 2013 including a Museum or storage for the Dartford Vintage Fire Engine and a tea room.

Members agreed that formal indication of interest be sent and requesting a meeting with KFRS.

A message would be added to the facebook page to invite any ideas about what the Fire Station could be used for to test interest.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting with KFRS

153 ANTI-VANDAL MEASURES

Sevenoaks District Council had refused Planning Permission for the Village Hall's Anti - Vandal measure much to the disappointment of members.

Information is needed on cost and process of Appeal. Feedback given by the Planning Officer will be responded to in the hope of resolving matters.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with SDC

Cllr McGarvey brought to the Parish Council's attention that Barbara Bradley had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.

Also the sad news that Sarah Ward had passed away on 30th December and gave details of the funeral. A letter of condolence to the family would be sent on behalf of the Council and in memory of her many years work on behalf of the local community.

The meeting ended at 9pm

Chairman

Date