

## HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 1st September 2014 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr D Mitchell (Chairman)

Cllrs I Blackamore, R House, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, C Willson and E Wilson

R Gough, County Councillor

P McGarvey, District Councillor

Malcolm Dunn, DRiPS

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

#### 46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Chetram (bereavement), A Lewis (moving house). Apologies were accepted

#### 47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blackamore declared an interest in Schedule of Accounts

#### 48 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> July were confirmed and signed as true records.

#### 49 MATTERS ARISING

##### **Adoption of Land – Franks Lane River Bank**

Matter continues to be progressed by the Clerk. Land Registry application ready to be sent.

##### **Planning Permission for Rotaspikes**

This had been granted subject to conditions; the application to discharge the conditions had been completed and sent to SDC. Acceptance was due back by 25<sup>th</sup> August but had not been received to date. The matter will be progressed by the Halls Committee at the next meeting 23 September

##### **Highways meeting report**

A meeting had been arranged with SDC, Cllrs, KCC Highways and Crabtree for the 11<sup>th</sup> September

##### **South Darenth Village Green (Paper Mill Green)**

Whilst a quote has been received for the dead tree to be removed, Fairview have agreed via their solicitors that this will be removed prior to the land being transferred to the Parish Council

##### **Business Rates Proposal (discussed 2 June 14)**

Information had been circulated to members about this proposal made by Sevenoaks Town Council. Members voted in favour of supporting this.

**ACTION: clerk to register support with Dept for Communities and Local Government ref 52f9f9e23c3c4**

All other Action points completed.

## **50 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Blackamore also reported on the recent Corporate Volunteer Day that took place in the Burial Ground where 10 staff from Laing O'Rourke spent the morning tidying graves and laying down headstones that had been identified as loose. Noticed were stuck to these to advise families to contact the Parish Office. Cllr Blackamore commended the volunteers as doing a very good job. An item will be included in the next Newsletter to publicise this good work.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **51 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Dylan Crawford was not available for the meeting due to shift patterns however he continues to visit the Parish Office every week and keeps the Clerk informed of any issues.

## **52 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A thank you letter was received from St Mary's Church in response to £50 given for many plants received and used in the Jubilee Hall garden, after the Summer Fete.

Correspondence from Mr Bridge and Clerk's replies were shared with members for information. There were a number of general points that are in the process of being addressed such as overgrown hedges and verges, the river path being in accessible in places along the Darent Valley Walk and litter bins.

An NHS letter regarding an application 'offering unforeseen benefits in the vicinity of Eynsford Village Hall' had been received by the Clerk and shared for information. Cllr McGarvey asked for a copy to enable representations to be made from Farningham where the service may prove detrimental to other Surgeries funding/services provided to residents.

## **53 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr McGarvey reported on the now completed Gypsy and Traveller Plan consultation with the District's residents which had not seen as many responses as hoped. Shoreham Village has raised considerable opposition to plans to have a Traveller Site nearby.

Cllr McGarvey had responded to SDC regarding a Planning Application in Mussenden Lane for a Sand School (SE/14/00804/FUL) and would like his correspondence to be forwarded to members.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **54 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Gough confirmed his attendance for the meeting planned 11<sup>th</sup> September. He had also been copied into correspondence requesting a speed limit review in the Parish; he suggested that a speed survey should be completed to give evidence of need for action.

## **55 SPEED LIMITS**

A request had been received from Mrs Lynn Hill for a blanket speed limit of 20mph across the Parish. In correspondence with Cllr McGarvey Mrs Hill outlined her reasons and where the problem areas for speeding were.

Members discussed how best to tackle this issue, recognising that not everyone would welcome a very slow limit and the difficulties in enforcing one should it be introduced.

Various options to raise awareness to speed were discussed including the white 'gates' with speed and message eg Welcome to Horton Kirby/South Darenth, similar to those recently installed in Sutton at Hone. Solar powered flashing boards with the speed travelled being shown were also discussed.

Members were made aware that discretionary powers are available under Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72(1) and Highways Act 1980, s274A to be used to provide traffic signs on roads and make payments to a Highway Authority for traffic calming schemes.

Cllr Gough suggested that this topic be added to the 11<sup>th</sup> Sept meeting to instigate a survey. Members agreed with this course of action.

**ACTION: Clerk to add speeding to 11<sup>th</sup> Sept Agenda**

## **56 FIRE STATION**

Cllr Willson had collated the responses to the public consultation which totalled 253. Whilst the majority were in favour of buying the Fire Station there was a less favourable response to an increase in Council Tax to provide funds for any suggested project. Possible funding streams had also been investigated but without a clear project these could not be applied for and with no guarantees that funds would be won.

It was proposed that the Council should not purchase the building which was voted for unanimously.

Cllr Willson reported that the Working Party had been impressed with the very good ideas that had been put forward but these could be translated into the existing capacity of the Village and Jubilee Halls. Whilst the Village Hall has a very busy booking diary the Jubilee Hall still has availability during the daytime.

**ACTION: Cllr Willson to collate suggestions for further discussion and exploration.**

## **57 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **Schedule Of Accounts**

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts, as submitted, be approved and payments made accordingly.

## **58 NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Clerk had been able to update the website and will continue to keep this up to date.

Facebook continued to be busy however Cllr Mitchell wished to record that it was not a substitute forum for Parish Council meetings where business is conducted. However in

response to a number of items she had noted the following complaints and a response to how they should be tackled:

**Horses being washed in the river:**

Blocking roads – report to KCC 03000 41 81 81 or on their website

Detergents – are they harmful? Small amounts of detergent will be dispersed. The EA is aware but will only respond to an incident that is happening. Call 0800 80 70 60 (24 hour incident line)

Cruelty – report to RSPCA 24hr helpline 0300 1234 999

**Horses walking in The Mill site**

A matter for the Management agent (Crabtree) - could put up signs but as it is a road, horses are allowed there

**Motorbikes riding through The Mill**

Bikes should be taxed and insured and helmets worn – illegal to ride mini motorbikes on roads and should be reported to police on 101 or 999 if life in danger

**Car transporters loading/unloading cars outside Oak View Stud Farm**

Has been raised with KCC Trading standards for investigation

**Dumped cars outside Oak View Stud Farm**

Report to SDC IF untaxed – to check go to Gov.uk website

IF dangerous will be removed within 24 hours if not 7-15 days

**Parking on pavement outside Oak View Stud Farm**

Obstruction if a pushchair or wheelchair cannot get through – report to police 101

**River Path Westminster Fields to Station Road**

Cut twice a year by Parish Council – will look at Budget setting to see if more cuts can be scheduled next year.

Weeds in River – Environment Agency responsible but has not been done for at least 4 years however this is scheduled to be complete this year.

**Traffic Forge Lane/East Hill**

One way system, speed bumps, all suggested – to be added to discussion on 11<sup>th</sup> September

**Dog mess**

Putting up posters

Dog warden – possibly pay for an extra one?

**Pot holes**

Report to KCC 03000 41 81 81 or on KCC website

**Rubbish in Streets**

Report to SDC 01732 227000

Road Sweeping – how often is this done? Clerk to check

**Branches chopped down on Franks Lane and Eglantine Lane**

KCC responsible – had not been cut for 2 years or more and should be done more often, creating less detritus

### **Rubbish out too early**

No fines can be issued – perhaps a quiet word with your neighbour or mediation through [civilmediation.co.uk](http://civilmediation.co.uk)

Wheelie bins can be purchased privately and left at property boundaries for emptying but an upturned box should be placed inside to avoid strain to operators emptying the bin manually – the dustcarts are not equipped to do it mechanically.

### **Flytipping**

Hotspots are being monitored and checked by crews when they are in the area; this has resulted in very quick clear up times rather than the usual 10 days. Recently clear up has been within 24 hours.

### **Westminster Fields**

Grass cutting when families are not there in sunny weather. Will be passing this request to contractor, however this is often cut in evenings after 7pm and a van has been found parked on the bridge preventing access. Signs to ‘keep clear’ or on order.

The Parish Council is NOT a paid for service – the percentage of council tax that you pay that goes to the Parish Council is used purely to keep the Parish Council services going – streetlights, dog bins etc etc.

### **59 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The meeting ended at 8.46pm

Chairman:

Date: