

\*\*\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*\*\*

**HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm**

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

Cllr P McGarvey, District Councillor  
Cllr Brian Carroll, District Councillor  
Cllr Roger Gough, County Councillor

7 Members of the public including Malcolm Dunn (DRiPs), S Dove and D Hollands (SPCA), G Kirby (DVLP), L Clarke, C & L Rohard, D Holpin

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk  
L Bugler, Assistant Parish Clerk/Finance Officer

**117 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllr C Willson

**118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**119 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> December were signed as a true record.

**120 MATTERS ARISING**

**HK Environmental School:** have agreed they will be keeping the silhouettes indefinitely

**Nuisance Quad Bikes:** Southdowns landowner has responded to resident that the old football field will have measures in place to prevent access except for walkers.

**Traffic Island TPO:** emailed in support of TPO being kept in place and enforcement ref pallets.

**Draft Local Plan:** Parish sites - details were added to the Parish Council's website and facebook to alert residents to consultation period and a new site 'The Cottage, Holmesdale Hill.

**Bus service:** Clerk written to Oliver Manahon, Managing Director, Arriva Kent & Surrey. Awaiting response.

**Draft Local Plan OVSF boundary greenbelt/brownfield query:** Clerk suggested that this query be included with comments to the consultation: .ACTION

**Village Hall toilet refurbishment:** order has been placed and work will be completed during half term week in February; office liaising with clubs/ groups to accommodate or cancel sessions that week.

**DVLP update:** Geoff Kirby present at this evenings meeting to give an update

## **121 POLICE MATTERS**

The PCSO was unavailable to attend the meeting. A report was received from Chief Inspector Nick Finnis via Cllr House and read by the Chairman:

“We have seen an increase in burglaries, both houses and outbuildings, in the recent weeks. These have predominantly been in the Sevenoaks area, but we also suffered a spate of garage and shed break-ins in Horton Kirby and Hartley. We have been robustly following all lines of enquiry.

We recently executed a Theft Act warrant at an address, where stolen goods were recovered and enquiries are on-going around those and linking them to the original thief.

As always, I would encourage people to report crimes, no matter how petty they may seem, as they help us identify patterns and build a better intelligence picture. Crimes can be reported via 101 or online via [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).

Apart from the aforementioned rise, which is always anticipated at this time of year, I am pleased to report crime continues to be low and the District remains ones of the safest places in Kent to live.”

Cllr Rushbrook reported that ‘lock bumping’ or quiet house break-ins can be avoided by upgrading to a 3 star Eurolock instead of standard eurolocks. Details can be found online: <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/euro-cylinder-advice>

## **122 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & CORRESPONDENCE**

A member of the public asked if there is any progress on the enforcement action at Oak View Stud Farm regarding static caravans and the shipping containers being removed. Cllr Carroll replied that a statutory period of time has to elapse to allow removal before further action.

Correspondence had been received from a local resident concerned about danger to pedestrians in Holmesdale Road/Hill as there is no footpath and traffic travels at speed especially at the bend into Homlesdale Hill. Cllr Gough had been copied into the emails and would be happy to look into what could be done. L Clarke who lives in Holmesdale Hill and Cllr Stewart both verified that traffic speeds and volume were worrying especially when there are issues with the A225 and the road is used as an alternative route. 3 accidents were reported in the correspondence. ACTION: Clerk to update resident

Correspondence from Cllr McGarvey and Cllr Carroll with the Headteacher who has requested a Safer School Zone was shared with members; Cllr Carroll will be taking this up with SDC on behalf of the school. Cllr Moyle stated that he had seen 1 parking enforcement officer in 9 years of doing the school drop off/pick up and Cllr Mitchell also recommended letting our PCSO know of the issue to see if they will patrol at those times. ACTION: Clerk to email PCSO

Correspondence was received regarding the posts in the verge by Bull Hill/Horton Road junction which have been knocked over. Cllr Gough will take this up with Highways. Cllr

Blackamore reported that a new 40mph sign from Franks Lane is facing the wrong way; Cllr Gough will also take this up.

### **123 ROUGHSLEEPER ASSISTANCE**

A rough sleeper has been camped alongside a footpath from Westminster Field since August 2018 and has been the subject of much local interest. Donna Holpin has been helping him by providing hot meals, clothing and gas to keep warm/cook. She gave a report to the Parish Council of his known history, mental and physical health and the agencies that have been involved in trying to find him the right support and accommodation including Porchlight, Dartford Borough Council, Salvation Army and more recently Social Services. Many locals have helped him over the months with gifts, money and food. With the weather turning colder Donna hopes that he will be fast tracked within the next couple of weeks to permanent accommodation and support.

Dartford Churches Winter Shelter have knowledge of this gentlemen and would be able to offer him overnight accommodation but nowhere for him to go during the day; Donna feels he is safer and warmer where he is at this time.

Cllr Rushbrook thanked Donna for all her assistance to this gentleman over the months and the Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for going above and beyond in helping him.

### **124 DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr Geoff Kirby from Eynsford Parish Council is the liaison for Parishes who are participating with the DVLP however there had been a delay in receiving lottery funding and the delivery team being put together by KCC. The final member of staff will be an 'Access Officer' who will be overseeing the Darent Valley path improvements and river improvements is still awaited. The scheme for all the Parishes with their match funding contributions will cost £4.7m over a 5 year period which started early 2018 however the Heathside toilet block would not fall under the project remit as the scheme of work has already been drawn up; an extension for delivery may be necessary due to lost time last year. Cllr Kirby offered Awards for All Small grant application pack which Rick Bayne will help complete to make up any shortfall in the funding available for the Toilets project.

Malcolm Dunn reported that a meeting is due soon with Mark Gallant (NWKCP) who will be delivering the river improvements and with whom the Parish Council has worked with for several years in leading our local River Team Days.

Cllr Kirby apologised for the lack of updates from the DVLP and would ensure that he keeps the Parish Council abreast of what is happening in future.

### **125 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr McGarvey reported the Draft Local Plan final consultation is now in progress and the closing date is 3<sup>rd</sup> February. He will be attending the drop-in session in Swanley 8/1/19 with Cllr Carroll.

Cllr Carroll reported that he has been asked about introducing 20mph speed limits in the villages – could the Parish Council do a survey to find out public opinion on this to be reviewed by the Parish Council and Cllr Gough?

Cllr Mitchell responded that Speed watch volunteers had not been forthcoming to gather information on whether speeding was an issue and where. Cllr McGarvey said that Eynsford and Farningham have recently started a Speedwatch and these volunteers may be amenable to help. However there is always the minority who will speed despite signs, speed bumps or chicanes – Scratchers Lane junction with A20 had £80K worth of speed reduction work carried out is a point in case.

Cllr McGarvey highlighted the SDC Community Grant Scheme and how dozens of charities are claiming Business Tax relief including Village Halls. He enquired whether HKSD Village Hall benefits and the Clerk confirmed that it does.

## **126 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Gough responded to the 20mph discussion; if local speeds are recorded as over 23/24 mph a lower speed limit is deemed as un-enforcible. Crockenhill had a 20mph speed limit introduced – 2 roads showed a slight improvement but the road that had the initial speeding problems actually became worse.

He will pick up the path/traffic calming issue with Highways.

The structures team survey for the Westminster Field Bridge – the PROW officer will be in touch with this.

Franks Lane speed limit signage and chevrons will be taken up by the new Highways Steward for the area.

Cllr Rushbrook asked if there were any progress on the request for a change of priority at the Bull Hill/Horton Road junction as there had been no further communication. The scheme proposed by the Highways engineer would not solve the issue of slowing motorists before the bend; members solution of introducing a 'Give Way' at Horton Road would be a cheaper option. Cllr Gough responded that cost was not the issue but that the engineer did not think the Give Way idea would work.

Cllr House asked who the PC should write to have the idea given a second opinion; Cllr Gough suggested Simon Jones, Head of KCC Highways. Cllr Rushbrook will take this up.

Currently there are 12 bollards missing: ACTION: clerk to report online for the new steward to take up.

8.50pm Cllr Kirby & Cllr Gough left the meeting.

## **127 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

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

## **128 WESTMINSTER FIELD CAR PARK**

Cllr Stewart reported that the design from KCC to extend the car park and quote from their contractor Amey had been received for £39,398.35 (no VAT) with a 10% contingency suggested. As this work is over the £25K threshold it will be advertised and tenders invited.

Cllr House recommended Otford Council be contacted for their contractors details who recently completed their car park.

ACTION: Clerk to start tendering process

### **129 WESTMINSTER FIELD BRIDGE**

Investigations into the ownership of the bridge have been completed by Invicta Law on behalf of the Parish Council which concluded that:

- the Parish Council have the benefit of a legal right of way over the bridge.
- I am afraid I have been unable to find any concrete evidence by way of legal documentation to confirm who owns the bridge but the fact that the right of way was included in the transfer from Sevenoaks District Council to the Parish Council in 1988, the plaque on the bridge (Dartford Rural District) and the local government reorganisation in 1974 all imply the bridge and the adjoining unregistered land is owned by Sevenoaks District Council.
- I think it is highly likely that Sevenoaks District Council have unregistered title to the land either side of the bridge because they granted the Parish Council a right to cross the unregistered accessway and the bridge in 1988

The Clerk has written to the SDC Asset Manager to ask that it is looked into and awaiting a reply. ACTION: to follow up

### **130 ALLOCATION OF CIL MONIES**

Cllr House proposed that Community Interest Levy funds received for this year amounting to £9,831 be allocated to the Heathside Public Toilets project. Cllr Moyle seconded the proposal and all voted in favour. RESOLVED that CIL receipts to date should be used to part fund the Heathside Public Toilets project.

### **131 SDC DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

The Draft Local Plan is in its final public consultation however a new site HO430 The Cottage, Holmesdale Road has been included without consultation to the Parish Council or residents. Members heard from neighbours who have concerns that building on this site would mean a loss of privacy to their gardens and that the road, as already discussed (Minute 122) the speed and volume of traffic particularly evident at the pinch point where the site is proposed.

Members queried whether the garden would be protected as 'Greenbelt' - the information states that it is 'Brownfield' or Previously Developed Land.

Members were opposed to the inclusion of this site in the Local Plan particularly as it has not had the full consultation period made available to the public as an extremely late entry. Holmesdale Road and Hill has no safe pedestrian route as there are no pavements. Although described as Previously Developed Land the site has not had any activity for many years and is thought to have been incorporated as part of the garden of The Cottage. Building on this site would impact on the privacy of the neighbouring gardens of 1 and 2 Homesdale Cottages. 14 -18 residential units as stated in the SHELAA yield would be overdevelopment of this site. The position of the site on Holmesdale Hill is at a pinch point to single file traffic on a blind bend which is heavily used as a 'cut through' especially when there is congestion on the A225/M25; access to the site for the recommended 9 units would not be possible with the current road lay out. ACTION: Clerk

### **132 KALC NOMINATION**

No nominations have been received by residents for the KALC award; this will be discussed further. ACTION

### **133 GRANT AWARDS 2018/19**

The Grant Committee awarded the following:

£1000 to Beams, Hextable for a new 'Safe Space Bed' for respite care. 36 Families in the Parish are supported by Beams

£500 to HK Cricket Club as a contribution towards a new outfield mower

£300 to HK Bowls Club to replace outdoor seating for spectators

£400 to St Mary's Bell Ringers to provide lighting in the bell tower to improve safety and security

Cllr McGarvey suggested that Beams may also like to apply for a Community Grant Award from SDC as it covers several parishes within the District. ACTION Clerk

9.15pm Cllr Page left the meeting

### **134 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **Schedule Of Accounts**

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

### **135 2019/20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The 2019/20 as prepared by the RFO and reviewed by committees and members was ratified. The Precept request for this period shall be £103,672 (no increase from last year). The tax base for this period has slightly increased to 1299.56 which means for a Band D property it will be £79.77 for the year, a slight decrease on 2018/19 which was £79.86 ACTION: Clerk

### **136 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Cllr Mitchell reported that she would not be available for the planned St Georges Day Event date of 27<sup>th</sup> April and requested that it be moved to either the 13<sup>th</sup> April or 4<sup>th</sup> May. Members opted for the 4<sup>th</sup> May (Saturday).

The Chairman requested that the 'lock bumping' information be shared on the website and facebook.

Cllr Stewart raised the matter of facebook communications and recommended that responses relating to the Parish Council should only be made to enquiries or posts on the Parish Council's Official page which has admin controls in place. This view was supported by the Chairman and Clerk.

### **137 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

4<sup>TH</sup> February 2019

Meeting closed at 9.22pm

Chairman  
Date