

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr D Mitchell (Chairman)

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

P McGarvey, District Councillor

Malcolm Dunn, DRiPS

Insp I Jones

PCSO D Crawford

3 members of the public

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R House (on holiday), A Lewis (working away). Cllr R Gough. Apologies were accepted

61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blackamore declared an interest in Schedule of Accounts

62 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on the 1st September were confirmed and signed as true records.

63 MATTERS ARISING

Adoption of Land – Franks Lane River Bank

The Clerk reported that after making an Land Registry Application which has been rejected advice given by Land Registry is to possess the land by Adverse possession with recognition of possession applied for in 5years and Title of Deeds on 12years. Cllr McGarvey confirmed that SDC Community safety funding would still be available to fence this area despite the Parish Council not owning the land. The matter of fencing will now be referred to the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee's October meeting.

Fire Station Survey – suggestions from residents

Cllr Wilson had collated the suggestions with the main requests for a drop in for older residents who may be feeling isolated and youth club provision.

All other Action points completed.

64 HALLS COMMITTEE

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

Planning Permission for Rotaspikes

Cllr Mitchell reported that at the Halls Committee meeting 23rd September, when the cost of painting the rotaspikes (£1832.88 + VAT for 5 days work to remove, transport to powder coating firm, transport back and reinstall) was discussed, a representative of the

hall users objected strongly to money being spent on this and would be writing to outline reasons.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with SDC Planning to ask for advice on whether painting is absolutely necessary.

ACTION: Clerk

65 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Dylan Crawford gave a report on the month's crime figures which were 8 for South Darenth/Horton Kirby. 1 was a stolen bike and others included, domestic abuse, breach of bail, shoplifting and stolen vehicles found (stolen from other parts of Kent). Nuisance bikes continue to be reported in New Road and The Mill, South Darenth and he is working with residents to try to find solutions and the culprits.

Insp Ian Jones attended by invitation from Members concerning Oak View Stud Farm's recent fire. Whilst the fire was not suspicious, investigations uncovered evidence of criminal activity in relation to the above stolen vehicles being cut up into smaller parts. This was 1 business unit out of 120 units on site.

Insp Jones had met with the owner of Stud Farm to stress the importance of managing the site responsibly and as a result he will no longer be letting out units to car breaking businesses and will have a more careful rental procedure. Cllr Willson had also met with the owner and hopes that by forging a better working relationship any resident concerns can be passed on quickly and dealt with.

Whilst the loading and unloading of cars onto transporters has been reported to Trading Standards at KCC to see if action can be taken, Kent Police have so far found only legal cars and so have no powers to intervene.

A member of the public commented that an increase in Police presence had been noticed and was reassuring.

ACTION: Cllr Willson to liaise with Stud Farm re Car Transporters

66 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Hedges and road surface Rabbits Road: issue has been raised with KCC

Introduction of small weirs to River Darent: DRiPS representative reported that 'a number of small weirs had been proposed by the chairman Alan Williams when he attended a recent meeting with EA and DEFRA, to the river below Station Road. Low weirs will slow down the flow and give wild life a better chance to flourish, allow fish to migrate up and down the river and will not act as a barrier. The nearest example is at Horton Road opposite Frog Island. This weir has been in place for 20 years and the resulting pond is a safe haven for fish and ducks. Maintenance cost are negligible and will enhance our lovely Parish. Funding for this will come from DEFRA or other central sources. Parish funds will not be needed'

Footpath in fields at the top of East Hill: landowner has recently blocked off a popular path with fencing and signs to warn of shooting taking place on farmland. Clerk has reported this path to the PROW team in case there are any breaches to the Public Right of Way SD6.

67 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr McGarvey had raised his own observations about Planning Application ref SE/14/02617/FUL - Land East of Boyneswood, Mussenden Lane Horton Kirby, Erection of Stables and associated works, which had been referred to the Development Control Committee. His comments have been forwarded to members.

He also reported that Farningham Parish Council were in support of the petition for the 40mph Speed Limit along the A225 and were keeping up to date with progress.

68 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough had attended the meeting on 11th September which was discussed below.

69 TRAFFIC CALMING MEETING OUTCOMES

Cllr Moyle reported that it was a worthwhile meeting. Cllr Lewis had also attended the meeting.

The written report was received by members which noted the following outcomes:

- The rumble strip outside Gifford Cottages is to be removed altogether by KCC Highways
- Permanent Bollards will be installed outside Gifford Cottages – funding to be sought by Parish Council from District Councillors Community and Highways Fund
- Speed Survey to be conducted, funded by District Councillor and SDC Community safety Funds.
- Recommendation was received from SDC Parking Management with a Draft map showing possible double yellow lines and restricted time on parking bays
- Crabtree Management Co are not enforcing a ban on commercial vehicles. However any vehicle parked on an access road or path will be fined by their own parking enforcement patrols
- Crabtree identified the area they are responsible for street cleaning. As a result SDC has added the pavement areas along Horton Road to their street cleaning schedule

To enable a speed survey to be conducted members nominated the following roads: East Hill, New Road – evenings in particular. Horton Road from the Village Hall to Jacobs Lane. Forge Lane. Holmesdale Hill. Devon Road.

To enable SDC to put in progress a public consultation on parking restrictions around East Hill, Horton Road and Esparto Way junctions: members agreed that it be suggested that the corners of East Hill and New Road have new Double Yellow Lines and that 2 hour restriction be introduced to the parking bays at Turners corner and Horton Road.

ACTION: Clerk

70 PAPER MILL GREEN

The transfer of land document was signed by 3 members.

71 NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARTER

Members were given details of the forthcoming meeting's presentation 23 October in the Jubilee Hall for all stakeholders. The Chair and Vice Chair were to represent the Parish Council. Around 20 people representing statutory bodies working in the Parish were expected to attend. The Parish Council as host would be providing a light lunch.

72 STREETLIGHTING

Column 30 situation near St Mary's Church had been found to be vandalised; slight damage had been caused but the diffuser had to be replaced at a cost of approx. £50. This had been discovered whilst foliage had been cut back so it may have been damaged for some time.

73 STREETCLEANING and FURNITURE

A copy of the Street cleaning schedule has been left with the Clerk so the area outside Esparto Way can be monitored. Crabtree only sweeps the road as far as the buildings however there have been complaints about the cigarette butts left in the cobbles and the broken planter opposite the Co-op.

Clerk reported discussion with SDC that the benches along Horton Road outside the shops were not their responsibility. Crabtree had said they were not their responsibility either.

Members felt as the benches had been installed as a feature of the Mill development, they should remain the responsibility of the site and its management company.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Crabtree

74 DEFIBRILATOR

Information regarding purchasing a defibrillator had been received from KALC which could offer savings by bulk purchase for Parish Council's.

Members discussed it's merits and where one might be positioned which would be accessible to everyone in the Parish. As 8 minutes is the 'window' in which a heart attack victim can best be helped, travel time to a central point such as the village hall would defeat the object of having one.

It was suggested that 2 may be needed to cover the area but not much information about the statistics where defibrillators had been successfully been used had been received with the offer from KALC. Members deferred making a decision until more information was available.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain more information

75 ACCESSIBLE BRITAIN CHALLENGE

The Minister of State for Disabled People, Mark Harper MP had written to all Parish Councils to invite participation in this nationwide challenge to consider the needs of disabled people when conducting it's business.

Members acknowledged this important challenge and suggested that it be added to the Neighbourhood Charter priorities.

Inclusive play was another area that was discussed which would be incorporated in any plans for the Saxon Place Playground refurbishment.

76 COMMUNITY EVENT

A meeting with the Scouts to discuss final arrangements for the Fireworks Display would be held on 14th October.

The entry charge of £2 per person would be retained by the Parish Council to put towards the cost of the Fireworks. In return for providing help with manning the event the Scouts could use any sales from their BBQ and other items eg glow sticks to fundraise for their own activities.

All members were invited to be part of the occasion and volunteer their time to steward on the night.

77 PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

RESOLVED: The renewal and Long Term Agreement of 3 years was accepted from Came and Co brokers. Aviva Insurance has provided the Policy.

The schedule of assets needs to be checked through in detail. Cllr Wilson offered to assist the Clerk with this.

78 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Schedule Of Accounts

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

79 NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

The Parish Newsletter was going to print and would be delivered in October to help advertise the Fireworks Display.

The facebook group continues to be popular but concerns were raised about people being able to post without prior approval. Cllr Willson offered to look into how this could be changed. The main issue was residents not reporting to correct authorities when they had a complaint or concern despite a list of useful numbers available on the page and in the Newsletter.

A member of the public advised that he used 'Fix my Street' app on his mobile phone and had found it to be very good.

80 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd November 2014

The meeting ended at 9.50pm

Chairman:

Date: