

## HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 7 July 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

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

#### **26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Roger Gough, R House (Holiday), A Lewis (Holiday)

#### **27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in Minute 38

#### **28 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and 2<sup>nd</sup> June were all confirmed and signed as true records.

#### **29 MATTERS ARISING**

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

Matter continues to be progressed by the Clerk

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

This had been granted subject to conditions; the application to discharge the conditions had been completed and sent to SDC

#### **30 HALLS COMMITTEE**

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

#### **31 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Dylan Crawford had submitted a report to be included in the Parish Newsletter which was published and distributed early July.

#### **32 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

DRiPS AGM invitation was extended to all in attendance.

April Glaze had written a letter of thanks to the Parish Council which was read by the Chair to the Council.

Notification of how registration for voting has changed was shared.

Information on London Paramount Exhibition dates given.

100 Year Wood events highlighted

£4m Funding news received from SDC regarding help to make homes more thermally efficient. This Parish has been selected for initial assistance.

A member of the public raised concerns about the road surface in Rabbits Road at the junction with Canada Farm Road. The Clerk offered to report this online to KCC.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### **33 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

Brendan Keegan attended to answer questions from the public and members following the flooding during Winter and early Spring 2013/14.

He highlighted the availability of a Government Grant Scheme to help make homes more resilient to future flooding which is available to homes that had been affected in the last flood. Literature and information were available to take away. Maps showing flood risk areas were also prominently displayed.

He hoped to recruit a Volunteer Flood Warden for the Parish and would provide an electronic copy of the job description for this to be published in the next Newsletter.

Malcolm Dunn asked about the clearance of vegetation from the river as this had been attributed to flooding in other areas. Mr Keegan responded that this work was scheduled later this year but did not have a date. He also reiterated that ground water had been the source of flooding to local homes and not the River breaching it's banks.

A Flood Plan document for the Parish Council had been discussed with the Clerk at a previous meeting and would be completed for future reference.

### **34 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr McGarvey reported on the Gypsy and Traveller Plan consultation with the District's residents which had not seen as many responses as hoped. The Consultation was still open to Landowners to put forward suggested sites from their own land.

### **35 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Absent for this meeting

### **36 HIGHWAYS MEETING REPORT**

Cllr Lewis, Moyle and Page reported on their meeting with the new KCC Highways Steward Paul Catt, who is covering for Andy Waters who is currently on study leave. A number of items were discussed including potholes, overgrown paths, overgrown hedges and parking issues. Julian Cook from KCC had been due at the meeting but did not arrive. The more strategic areas of concern could not be answered by Mr Catt so another meeting would be set up to include as many agencies as possible to find solutions.

A number of residents had been given 'Parking Tickets' whilst parking on The Mill site. Cllr Willson explained that only Police or Local Council's had the authority to issue tickets; these were 'Invoices' and payment could only be enforced through a Civil Court.

Cllr Moyle reported on progress with a petition to see the speed limit reduced on the A225 to 40mph.

**ACTION: Clerk to liaise with SDC, Cllrs, KCC Highways, Crabtree.**

### **37 FIRE STATION**

Cllr Willson reported that Questionnaire responses were still being received; so far it appeared to be an even vote between those for and against the Parish Council purchasing the site. The Questionnaire appeared prominently in the Parish Newsletter and would be

distributed to all households in the usual manner. KFRS had been asked for extra time in order for as many responses to be received as possible. This had been set for 5<sup>th</sup> September following the next Parish Council meeting.

**ACTION: Agenda item for September**

### **38 WESTMINSTER FIELD PAVILION**

The proposal from South Darenth Football Club to lease the Pavilion and football pitches for £1500 per year was considered by members. The club also proposed that they would pay the bills associated with running the Pavilion (excluding the Public Toilets) and the Rates for duration of the Season. The existing terms of Contract with Horton Kirby Football Club would be transferred to the South Darenth Club with amendments made.

Cllr Mitchell proposed that South Darenth Football Club's offer be accepted with a 1 year contract offered initially. Members voted unanimously in favour.

**ACTION: Contract will be available to sign at the next ROS Committee meeting 11<sup>th</sup> August.**

### **39 SOUTH DARENTH VILLAGE GREEN (PAPER MILL GREEN)**

Another Transfer of Land Document had been received but the 2 concerns had not been addressed by Crabtree's Solicitors: 1) the removal of the dead tree 2) the riparian responsibilities/ownership of the river bank, in particular the section that had been adopted by the neighbouring property 'Willow Cottage'. The Clerk would refer this back to KCC Legal Services for attention but expressed the view that it may be cheaper to remove the tree and negotiate with the neighbours once the transfer had been completed rather than keep proceedings ongoing with attached legal fees.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC Legal Services and obtain quote for tree removal from Tree Surgeon.**

### **40 NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARTER**

The residents consultation morning would be held at the Parish Office on 21<sup>st</sup> July with Mandie Stallard in attendance from West Kent Housing.

### **41 STREET LIGHTING**

Necessary pruning works for 6 Columns were approved at a cost of £240 + VAT. All Columns were being painted as part of the annual maintenance service.

### **42 COMMUNITY EVENT**

Following on from discussions last year about providing a Firework Display in November a budget of £1000 had been allocated in addition to the St George's Day budget. Cllr Mitchell had investigated the cost with a firm that would provide the whole display and comply with necessary health and safety rules for a public display.

Cllr Willson said that the local Scouts group would be able to help with collection of gate fees and possibly a BBQ with monies made going towards their Scout funds. An initial ticket price of £2 per adult with children admitted free was mooted. Dates suggested 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> November; Cllr Page asked that St Mary's Church service be given consideration.

Cllr Willson proposed that the Fireworks Display be trialled this year; all members voted on favour.

**ACTION: Cllr Mitchell to proceed with making arrangements. Clerk to advise Insurers. Newsletter production be brought forward to early October, to include publicity for event**

#### **43 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **Schedule Of Accounts**

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

##### **Banking Compensation**

The Clerk reported that following a lengthy complaint process with Nat West Bank over the changing of signatures to the accounts, compensation of £750 had been awarded by the Bank's internal Complaints Team. The news was welcomed by members.

#### **44 NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA**

Inclusion of news that Sport England Funding had provided for a 10 week free Archery Course to start in September.

The facebook page would be updated to include the information that reporters must ask for permission to use names, failure to do so would result in them being removed from the Group.

The Clerk was attending website training with Wilmington Parish Clerk and would be updating the HKSD Website before going on Annual Leave in August.

#### **45 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The Parish Council will be in recess during August.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman:

Date: