

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 3 February 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 and E Wilson

P McGarvey, District Councillor

I Chetham, District Councillor

Inspector Jones and PCSO Crawford from Kent Police

15 members of the public

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from County Cllr Roger Gough

155 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blackamore declared a pecuniary interest in item 18

156 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

157 MATTERS ARISING

Horses being washed in the river:

This matter is still being progressed by the Clerk

Standing water in Lombard Street:

Although reported to SDC (potential planning issue) and KCC Highways (drainage) both have referred the Clerk to the relevant Water Authority

ACTION: Clerk to Contact

Flytipping:

SDC aims to remove flytipped waste within 10 working days however this has been breached a number of times. The Clerk had raised this at the Clerk's Forum with SDC and it is being looked into. In the meantime the Clerk is copying in any comments/complaints received about flytipping in the Parish to Kelly Webb, Community Safety Officer to highlight the issue.

Vandalism to Street Lights and Pavilion Windows:

2 names had been put forward to the Police and they were to be given a non-custodial interview. Outcome of this awaited. The cost of the vandalism amounted to £5409.75. £1750 has been the Parish Council's liability with the remainder covered by Insurers.

Parking around St Mary's School

The school encourages parents and children to walk or ride to school whenever possible. The school has a 'Travel Plan' in place which has a Platinum Status. Regular reminders are sent to parents/carers to ask for considerate parking.

Youth facilities

Nigel Croker for SDC Youth Services has been contacted and invited to visit the Parish and give advice.

158 POLICE MATTERS and QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Insp Ian Jones (responsibility for Community Policing in and around Swanley) and PCSO Dylan Crawford (the new PCSO for this Ward) were introduced to the meeting.

Many questions and issues were raised including; lack of Police presence, thefts from cars and vans, crime rates and statistics for the area, horses loose and flytipping.

Insp Jones responded the importance of reporting all crime to 101 so that an accurate picture of what is happening in the area is received and responded to. He has taken a personal interest in ensuring that long standing issues are being progressed by his team and appropriate files passed to the Crown Prosecution Service. The responses centre will be returning to Swanley (currently in Tonbridge) to allow a much faster response time.

PCSO Crawford will be holding surgeries in this Parish (previously surgeries have only been held in Farningham) and he will be making sure that he is much more involved with local issues and needs.

A resident raised hedges in Rabbits Lane as an issue; this should be reported to KCC Highways and the Clerk would help with this.

A broken sign was reported in Franks Lane and this was also asked to be reported to Highways with the Clerks assistance.

159 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr McGarvey reported that SDC was setting Budgets for the coming year; Precept requests had been given an extended deadline due to the Council Tax Support Grant not being passed on to the Districts Town and Parish Councils.

160 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Councillor was absent.

161 HALLS COMMITTEE

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

162 FIRE STATION

The Parish Council agreed to visit the site on 12th February and opted to have an Architect attend.

Cllr Mitchel gave information on the House in the Basement Youth project that is taking place in Sevenoaks as a possible idea for the building's use. Other suggestions received have been a tea room, museum, community drop in, youth venue, gym.

Proper public consultation would be encouraged once the Parish Council had seen the building and made any possible commitment to purchase from KFRS.

163 ROTASPIKES PLANNING APPLICATION

No further comment had been received from SDC Planning Officer.

ACTION: Clerk to progress matters

164 SEVENOAKS DISTRICT FAMILY FUN DAYS

SDC Community Safety provide free fun days during school holidays; the Parish Council welcomed the opportunity and gave permission for the Village Hall and recreation grounds to be used, with due care to the floor in the Village Hall being given.

165 FLOODING

The Clerk reported on the action taken during recent flooding. Reports had been sent to SDC and the Darent Catchment Group who have been collating information. 10 homes in Millstone Close, South Darent had suffered the worst with home having to be abandoned. Other homes in The Street, Horton Kirby had basements flooded. In both instances ground water was to blame rather than the River Darent breaking it's banks. Westminster Field had been flooded since before Christmas.

166 CLEAN, SAFE, GREEN CHARTER

A North West Kent Housing Officer has offered to work with residents across the Parish to produce a Charter. This would encourage public consultation on how or what they would like to see improve their neighbourhoods and engaging all other statutory stakeholders.

Members felt this would be a worthwhile exercise and agreed that the Clerk may use time to explore this further. No budget was deemed necessary at this time.

167 SPORT ENGLAND FUNDING

SDC have secured £60000 funding to be spent in this Parish and West Kingsdown due to residents not having easy access to the District's nearest sports facilities. This is a 2 year project aimed at getting people to take up sporting activity.

The project leader has met with the Clerk and has been put in touch with clubs and fete organisers. The Village and Jubilee Halls are likely venues for new activities and their use will be paid for from the funding.

Events and opportunities will be advertised locally.

168 CLERK'S ANNUAL LEAVE

Annual leave dates were approved; the Parish Office will be closed 26th – 30th May, 18th - 29th August and 23rd Dec 2014 – 2nd Jan 2015. Other dates did not necessitate the closure of the Office.

169 KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL AWARDS

Cllrs Moyle, House and Stead volunteered to review the nominations and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

170 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Schedule Of Accounts

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

Budget vs Actual Update

This document was received for information.

Transfer of Funds between accounts

RESOLVED that the following transfers be made from the Current Account:

£42500 to the Village Hall Roof Reserve Account

£7000 to the Playground Reserve Account

£42996 to the Land & Building Reserve Account

The Bank Of Ireland Bond is closing due to the BoI withdrawing from the UK market. The funds from this will be deposited in the Land and Building Reserve Account.

Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) Grants

Following their review of the Applications recommendations were received from the Grants Committee

RESOLVED that the following grants be made:

£350 to 1st HK Rainbows for a Ceremonial Unit Flag

£350 to The Local History Society for a Data projector

£350 to The Royal British Legion for a new Hand Rail

£350 to Saxon Place Residents Association for a Gazebo

£500 to the 1st HK Scout Group for new door to Scout Hut

171 NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

The Facebook group continues to attract new members.

Resident input for the Firestation could be sought via the Magazine and Website in due course. St George's Day event will start to be publicised.

Free help is available for Home Based Businesses from Centre of Micro Business thanks to funding from KCC and West Kent partnership. Advertising due to be added to the Parish Magazine.

172 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd March 2014. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting dates were discussed. The Clerk will confirm dates at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

Chairman

Date