

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2009

Present: Cllr Robins (Chair)
Councillors March, Fletcher, Stevens, Parker, Hughes, Clemson, and Holloway.

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
3 members of the public
Cllr Callow (TWBC)

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application TW/09/03441/TUL/SJM and did not take part in the discussions or decision making process regarding this application.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

KCC Cllr Alex King.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Kerrigan asked if he could address the Council on several different issues:

- The Youth Club – Mr Kerrigan informed the Council that the newly formed Youth Club was now up and running and wondered whether the Council could make a small donation towards the running costs of the Club. Council members said they would bare this in mind when setting the precept.
- Re-siting of the Computers which were in the Public library – Mr Kerrigan asked if the Council could find out whether it may be possible in the long term to have the two computers back which were originally sited in the Library, as it is hoped that a position could be found for them in the Institute. Clerk to contact KCC
- Sustainable Communities Bill – Mr Kerrigan asked if the Councillors could bare in mind the request to write to some members of Parliament urging them to recommend the passing of an Amendment Bill regarding the Sustainable Communities Act. This would serve to ensure that local government is empowered in certain issues.

3. CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

3.1 Co-option of new Parish Council member.

Councillors March, Fletcher and Parker had interviewed four candidates to fill the vacancy for Councillor. It was reported by Cllr March that the quality of the candidates had been extremely high and that it had been a very difficult decision to make. However, the working party had decided to put forward for election on to the Council, the candidate who could provide the Council with attributes which they felt the Council did not already have, and this was reflected in Valerie Holloway, who had a great deal of experience and involvement in the past with teenagers and youths.

It was proposed from the Chair that Valerie Holloway be co-opted onto Horsmondén Parish Council and this was voted for unanimously by the other Council members present. At this point Cllr Holloway joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

Cllr March also said that the other candidates had very valuable skills which the Council would be keen to use within the community if possible. Colin Russell has very sound financial and business acumen, which could potentially be useful in helping with the Village Hall if he was agreeable, whilst Nick May and Ken Tutt had shown a potential willingness to work on a Parish Plan. Cllr March asked if Parish Planning could be added to

the agenda in January and it was suggested that the Council try and obtain some copies of Parish Plans if possible, to have a look at.

3.2 Changes to committee membership resulting from new Parish Council member.

Following Cllr Holloway’s co-option onto the Council it was suggested that there may be a reshuffle of committee membership. Cllr Holloway took over membership of the Police Liaison Committee and Planning Committee which had been held by Cllr Kerrigan. It was also suggested that Cllr March come off of the Village Hall committee and go on to the Institute committee as it was felt that now that the village hall extension was completed, Cllr March’s potential could be better used to help get the Institute up and running as a Trust. Cllr Holloway took over Cllr March’s place on the Village Hall committee. Clerk to amend Committee membership sheets and circulate to members.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2009 were taken as read and proposed for approval by Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Hughes. Unanimous.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Robins raised an issue under matters arising. He had noticed when investigating the gate locks at the Institute on a Friday afternoon, a couple of young secondary school age children hanging around the building. It was suggested that the Clerk make the police aware of this.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

Planning Application No:	TW/09/03441/FUL/SJM
Proposal:	Demolition of existing pre-fab bungalow and replacement with new dwelling.
Location:	Lewes Heath Bungalow, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden, Tonbridge.
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Stevens. Carried
Comments:	Sensible replacement of a very old bungalow

Planning Application No:	TW/09/03367/HOUSE/TA1
Proposal:	Two Storey side extension.
Location:	1 Station Cottages, Goudhurst road, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Clemson. Unanimous.
Comments:	Acceptable enhancement to a village cottage

6.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused

Permissions Granted.

- TW/09/03215/HOUSE – 2 Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden.
- TW/09/03076/FUL – 3 Elphicks Farm Cottages, Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden
- TW/09/02945/FUL – Heath Forge House, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
- TW/09/02899/FUL – Orchard Lodge, Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden
- TW/09/02537/CEU- Broadford Oast, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden
- TW/09/03019/FUL - The Old Forge, Hayle Farm, Marle Place Road, Horsmonden

Permissions Refused.

TW/09/02836/FUL – Lampkyns, School House Lane, Horsmonden
TW/09/02828/LBC - Lampkyns, School House Lane, Horsmonden

Appeals Lodged

TW/09/01989/FUL – Capel Manor House, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden

Cllr Stevens asked if there had been any progress on the enforcement issue at Bassett’s Farm on the Maidstone Road. The Clerk said there was nothing to report, but she would continue to chase this up. Cllr Stevens also mentioned Bassett’s Oast as the temporary caravan was still there, but no works seem to have commenced as yet. Clerk to enquire with TWBC Planning.

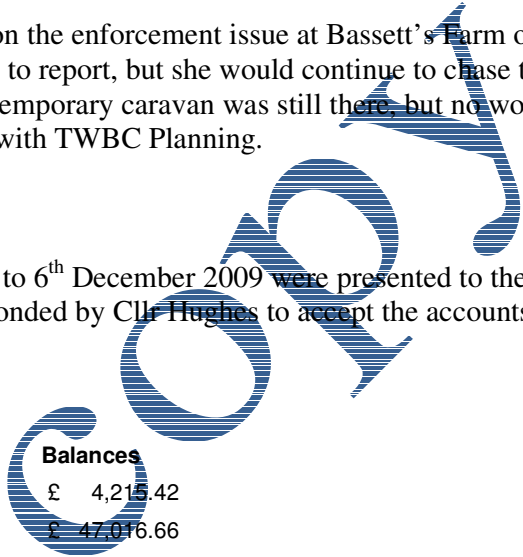
7. FINANCE

7.1 Parish Council Accounts to 6th December 2009

The following accounts in respect of the period up to 6th December 2009 were presented to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Clemson and seconded by Cllr Hughes to accept the accounts as shown. Unanimous

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 6th December 2009

Current account b/fwd 02.11.09
Deposit account b/fwd 02.11.09
Interest received (Deposit Account)



Balances
£ 4,215.42
£ 47,016.66

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
EDF Energy customers Plc	400680		£ 31.21
Bulbs for Xmas Lights - QVS	PC Card		£ 86.25
Ladder for Institute - B& Q	PC Card		£ 64.98
Land Registry - Register lease at play area	400681		£ 50.00
Mrs L Noakes - November salary	S/O		£ 608.61
HM Inspector of Taxes (tax & NI Mrs L Noakes)	400682		£ 52.46
Mrs L Noakes - Reimbursement of stamps	400683		£ 35.64
Horsmonden Village Hall – new back door	400684		£ 150.00
Specialist Hygiene Services - Nov. Cleaning	400685		£ 164.45
Symon Jones - November scavenging	400686		£ 60.36
C J Couchman - November clock and play area	400687		£ 78.92
Interest on current account	05.11.09	£ 0.70	
Insurance claim for street light 10 Brenchley road	23.11.09	£507.08	
Current Account as at 06.12.09			£ 3,340.32
Deposit Account as at 06.12.09			£ 47,016.66
TOTAL BANK:			£ 50,356.98

7.2 Retrospective agreement to request for festive lights grant.

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes that the Council apply for the maximum grant which could be justified by the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Parker and voted for unanimously.

7.3 Retrospective agreement to purchase ladder for Institute

Cllr Hughes proposed acceptance of the ladder as a necessary and urgent purchase needed for health and safety reasons. This was seconded by Cllr Clemson and voted for unanimously.

7.4 Retrospective agreement to replacement of back door at the Village Hall

Cllr Hughes proposed acceptance of this as a necessary job which needed carrying out urgently. This was seconded by Cllr Hughes and voted for unanimously.

8. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

8.1 Highways - new system form KHS and ways to input problems/faults.

The Clerk reported that she had had a meeting with a member of KHS about the new 'My Highways' website. The website allows the Council to report faults online, and monitor their progress. It also provides a great deal of information about other aspects of KHS and the work they carry out.

Cllr Stevens commented that the following signs are still broken:

- Churn Lane – sign post bent.
- Spelmonden Lane – finger post still not mended
- Brick Kiln Lane – directional post , signs have collapsed
- Church sign at crossroads.

Cllr Stevens also reported:

- Many gulleys are full of leaves
- The alleyway between Back Lane and the Green is full of leaves and very slippery
- The overhanging trees marked up over 1 year ago have still not been dealt with.

Cllr Hughes pointed out that there are two potholes near the entrance to Grovehurst lane when coming off the Goudhurst Road. These large pot holes are on both sides of the road and when it is very wet they meet in the middle. The water should be drained away and the pot holes need filling.

8.2 KCC - Claimed restricted Byway from Goudhurst Road to Marden in the Borough of Maidstone to Queens Mead Bridge in Horsmonden in the Borough of Tunbridge wells.

Some discussion took place about the location and usage of the footpath in question and some of the Councillors felt that the width of the pathway was questionable in places if usage was to be given to horses and carts, which a Restricted Byway would allow. Cllr Stevens proposed that this should be made a footpath only and not a Restricted Byway. This was seconded by Cllr Holloway and voted for unanimously. Clerk to reply to letter along these lines.

8.3 Street lighting

The clerk reported that several lights had minor faults which were being looked at by SEC. Cllr Stevens commented that the high hedge belonging to Birch Cottage was still restricting the flow of light from the street light located at the corner of this property. The Clerk advised that the owners had been written to about this in the past and had kept a small section of the hedge cut back where the light was located to try and prevent obstruction. It was suggested by members of the council that the solution might be to lower the hedge in the longer term and that the Clerk should contact KHS to see if this could be requested of the owner.

8.4 Village Green – benches, advertising by VH committee and other users of the

The Clerk explained to the Council that Mrs Bird would like to put a bench on the Green to commemorate the passing of her late husband and that Mrs Bird had suggested an appropriate wording for a plaque to go on the

bench, which the Clerk read aloud. The wording was thought to be appropriate and it was proposed from the Chair that Mrs Bird be allowed to go ahead and place the bench on the Green.

The Clerk had received communications from Richard Stubbings to say that the Historical Society were not happy with the idea of providing a bench made out of recycled plastic to commemorate Bernard and Jean Fowler. Cllr March said that as far as she knew there were no objections to the recycled plastic from the Gardening society or Bernard's family, who are also having a collection towards this. The Clerk had explained that the new benches would be made from recycled plastic when she had spoken to Mr Fisher about them and he had not raised any objections.

Bernard Fowlers family wish to wait until after Xmas to see what is in the collection and will then go ahead with the donation.

It was suggested that the Clerk inform Mrs Bird that her bench donation is acceptable and explain that a cost saving can be made by purchasing hers at the same time as the bench to commemorate Bernard if she has no objection to waiting a little longer.

The Clerk had also been looking into the price of plastic posts for the Green and had found that the Council could purchase 50 posts for about £190 plus shipping and handling.

The Village hall committee had wanted to put some signs on the Green to advertise an event in the Village Hall, and it was felt that clarification of this issue was needed as clear guidelines had been given to the Working Men's Club, but these applied to the WMC only at present. After some discussions as to how signage could be controlled appropriately on the Village Green it was proposed from the Chair that any signage on the Green should be up for no more than 7 days prior to the event, and that no more than one event should be advertised at a time. The decision to give consent for such advertising should be made by the Chair and Vice Chair for each event individually. This was voted for unanimously by members of the Council.

The Clerk mentioned that the Village Green had been booked for a re enactment of the Nativity Play on 19th December. The parishioner booking the Green had commented that she felt that there was unnecessary beaurocracy involved in the booking of the Green and had said that she felt the charges for a charitable organisation using the electricity box were a little high. The parishioner had also stated that she felt that the Parish Council should have their own cables for the VG box which should be loaned out when the electrical box was hired. The Chairman stated that it would be very difficult for the Council to have their own set of cables which they hired out, as owing to the high risk involved with any small breakage or damage to the cable, the cables would need checking after each use, and it was therefore felt that the liability to the Council would be too high. The Clerk should inform users of the box that the cables needed are 32amps or 16 amps, 3 pin plugs with blue cable. This can be obtained from most DIY stores.

8.5 Sports Club – Fencing/entrance/maintenance of grounds

Cllr Stevens had noticed that the fencing at the Sports Ground has holes in it in places and needs some attention. He also commented on the poor state of the entrance to the Sports Ground.

It was established that under the terms of the lease to the Sports Ground, it is the responsibility of the Sports Club to up keep and if necessary, replace the fencing with new fence at least five feet high which is child and stock proof. Clerk to write to the Sports Club and bring to their attention the fact that the fence needs some reparation in places and that it is their obligation under the terms of the lease agreement to keep it in good condition.

8.6 Locket Green – FAMT dissolution, does this affect our play area lease?

Cllr Hughes reported that the Kindergarten had now taken on the Frances Austen Memorial Trust's obligations and the two trusts have been rolled into one. Members of the Council asked if the name and membership of the new trust was known. It was suggested that he Clerk contact either Victoria Frampton or Caroline Wilson to see if she could find this out.

Cllr Hughes said that he felt sure that as the lease to the play area had been granted whilst the FAMT was still in force, it would continue undisturbed, however, the Clerk shall try to confirm this from the new Trustees once known.

9. PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Public conveniences - next step

The Clerk had emailed Cllr Roy Bullock (TWBC) on two occasions about the public conveniences to say she had not heard anything about the lease or monies forthcoming; however, she had not yet received a reply from Cllr Bullock.

Cllr Robins had sent some emails to other Councils in his capacity as Chairman of the PC, and it appeared that other Councils were also still awaiting leases and monies from TWBC and did not know what was going on.

It was suggested that Cllr Callow try to contact Paul Barrington-King about this in the next few days and that she would then report back to the PC.

It was also mentioned to Cllr Callow that the PC were concerned about possible monies which had been earmarked for DDA compliance of the Public conveniences, but which now seem to be no longer available.

9.2 Housing needs

The Clerk had emailed Orbit to enlighten them about the possibility of Cascade applying for and receiving planning permission to build houses on the plot which the PC had looked at for Housing Needs. The Clerk had asked Orbit to confirm if they would be prepared to work with Cascade if permission were granted and if so would they reassess their build programme to see if they could do anything before 2012, as had been previously indicated.

A response from Orbit had been received saying that at present their build programme was still full until 2012 but this could be reassessed if Cascade received planning permission.

Clerk to write back and ask Orbit if they are prepared to work with Cascade or not, as this is still not clear.

9.3 Village Hall lease

It was decided that another meeting to discuss the final draft of the lease was required. Cllr March, Robins and Parker to attend, in addition to the Clerk.

9.4 Advertising cost for Annual meeting posters etc.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had received communications from TWBC printing services to say that they can provide A2 and A1 sized laminated posters at £2 and £3 respectively. It was proposed from the Chair that this method be used to get posters printed for the Annual meetings. Unanimous.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Alex King KCC – Response to proposal for extended footway to the Sports Ground

The Clerk had received Alex King's response about the proposal to extend the footway on the Maidstone Road along to the Sports Ground. Unfortunately the quotations were all too expensive and Cllr King had been forced to dismiss the idea.

10.2 Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill

This matter had been discussed already under the Public Session.

10.3 KHS - Introducing the permit scheme to Kent

KCC Highways Services had written to the PC to inform them of the expected implementation of the Permit Scheme to Kent. It is hoped that the Secretary of State for Transport will register the scheme in December 2009. Once this had happened, KCC will be able to serve formal notices to works promoters to introduce the scheme.

10.4 TWBC – Parish Council Training (Planning) – 1st March 2pm Town Hall

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Kehoe at TWBC Planning Department to inform them that he had arranged a training day on 1st March. Mr Kehoe had requested ideas for topics to discuss on the day. The following Councillors showed an interest in attending this session – Cllr March, Clemson, Hughes and Robins. It was suggested that topics could include permitted development rights and an update on the Local Development Framework. Clerk to let Mr Kehoe know.

10.5 Invitation to the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's annual Civic service – 22nd April 2010 at 11am - All Saints Church, Maidstone.

Cllr March would like to attend this as the Vice Chairman of the Council.

10.6 Traffic Commissioner – Goods vehicle operating centre licence review at Noakes & Partners, Goudhurst Road.

The Traffic Commissioner had written to the Council to ask for any comments they might have on the Goods vehicle operating licence held by GGTomkinson at Noakes Cold Stores. The Council had no valid comments at present.

10.7 Kent Fire and Rescue – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010/13 – consultation.

The Council had no comments to make on this consultation.

10.8 Request from local branch of the Samaritans

The Clerk had received a letter from the local branch of the Samaritans to ask if they could provide any financial assistance. Clerk to write with the standard response from the Council, as the Council do not believe it is their position to donate Tax payer's money to charitable causes.

10.9 Citizens Rights for Older People (CROP) – request for funding.

The Clerk had received a letter from the Citizens Rights for Older People to ask if they could provide any financial assistance. Clerk to write with the standard response from the Council.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

The request for a donation to the Youth club was mentioned and it was suggested that this should be discussed in more detail at the Finance Committee meeting. It was suggested that any payment made must be for a specific purpose, such as to cover the insurance premium, as the Council do not donate the charitable causes generally.

The Clerk mentioned that she had received communications from Angie Jenkins regarding the Community Care Scheme and the Local Development Framework. This can be added to the January meeting if necessary.

It was requested Parish Planning should be added to the agenda for January.

Cllr Stevens mentioned that the school fence still seems to be in a bad state of repair.

Cllr Fletcher reported that some parents have found the gates of the play area very easily opened by toddlers, and wondered if a latch could be added to stop this happening. Clerk to make an enquiry to Playdale.

The meeting closed at 10.40pm

Next Meeting Dates

Monday December 14th 2009 – Finance Committee Meeting

Monday January 1st 2010- Parish Council Meeting

Monday February 1st 2010 - Parish Council Meeting

Monday March 1st 2010 - Parish Council Meeting

Monday April 5th 2010 - Parish Council Meeting

Monday 19th April 2010 – Planning Committee
Monday May 10th 2010 - Annual Parish Meeting
Monday May 17th 2010 - Annual meeting of the Parish Council
Monday June 14th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting
Monday June 28th 2010 – Planning Committee
Monday July 12th 2010– Parish Council Meeting
Monday August 16th 2010 Planning Committee
Monday September 6th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting
Monday October 4th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting
Monday November 1st 2010– Parish Council Meeting
Monday December 6th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting
Monday December 13th 2010 Finance Committee and Risk Assessment

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