

**MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009**

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

**In attendance:** Lucy Noakes (Clerk)  
10 members of the public

**Declarations of Interest:**

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
KCC Cllr Alex King

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr Naylor presented the idea of providing a board which would detail the conservation area of Horsmonden and show details of all the listed buildings within the conservation area, with historical information about each. Mr Naylor showed a similar board which had been made for another Parish, as an example.

Mr Naylor had already prepared a rough copy of the conservation area for Horsmonden and presented this to Councillors at the meeting.

The Councillors commended Mr Naylor for the idea and said that they would like to further discuss this at their meeting in September. Clerk to add to the agenda for September and investigate possible funding at the Heritage section on the 'Awards for All' website. KCC Member grant funding could also be a possible source of funding for this project.

It was also suggested that such an item could be positioned on the village green near to the Millennium Plaque when it is installed.

Councillors suggested that if the idea were to go ahead, the Council would need to seek permission from the owners of those listed properties on the map, to ensure that they were in agreement with their property being included.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were taken as read and proposed for approval by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Hughes. Unanimous.

The minutes of the planning meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 were to be approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Robins informed the Council that the bin outside the Institute had now been chained up, away from the building, so that it could not be used to gain access to the roof.

Cllr Robins and March to discuss further the quotations for the lowering of the brick wall outside the Institute and inform the clerk of their decision so that a contractor can be asked to complete this job.

## 5. PLANNING

### 5.1 Planning Applications

Planning Application No:	TW/09/01989/FUL/SM
Proposal:	Construction of a two bedroom guest pavilion as annexe to Capel Manor House
Location:	Capel Manor House, Grovehurst lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr March. Carried

Planning Application No:	TW/09/01532/FUL/SJM
Proposal:	Revised planning application details
Location:	Hayle Farm, Marle Place Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent.
Recommendation:	<b>Approval</b>
Proposed:	Chair. Carried.

### 5.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused

#### **Permissions Granted.**

TW/09/01327/FUL/GM – Mill Cottage, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden

TW/09/01469/FUL/SM – 1 Lewes Heath Cottages, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden

#### **Permissions Refused.**

None.

## 6. FINANCE

### 6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 12th July 2009

The following accounts in respect of the period up to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were presented to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Clemson to accept the accounts as shown. Unanimous.

**Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 12th July 2009**

	<b>Balances</b>
Current account b/fwd 08.06.09	£ 18,247.64
Deposit account b/fwd 08.06.09	£ 32,482.50
Interest received (Deposit Account)	

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Cllr Card purchase B&Q - Lock and chain for bin at institute	Cllr Card		£ 24.89
Mrs Noakes June salary	S/O		£ 608.61
HM Inspector of Taxes (tax & NI Mrs L Noakes)	400629		£ 52.46
Ready Call Horsmonden - Annual donation	400630		£ 50.00
Southern Electric contracting Ltd - Apr, May Maintenance plus electrical testing	400631		£ 1,227.23
Horsmonden Methodist Church - hire	400632		£ 10.00
BTCV - Pond warden scheme annual donation	400633		£ 100.00
Audit Commission - external audit for 08	400634		£ 632.50
EDF Energy 1 Ltd - supply 01.04.09 - 30.06.09	400635		£ 284.90
Clerk and Councils Direct - annual subscription	400636		£ 10.00
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	400637		£ 31,130.95
Vat reclaim for 01.04.08 - 31.03.09		£ 3,128.47	
Interest Current account		£ 2.06	
Cash paid in - pet show electricity charges		£ 6.36	

Current Account as at 12.07.09	£ 7,252.99
Deposit Account as at 12.07.09	£ 12,482.50

**TOTAL  
BANK: £ 19,735.49**

**7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

**7.1 Highways**

Cllr Stevens mentioned that he had recently noticed in another Parish, an interactive speed sign which flashes up the speed at which the vehicle is travelling, rather than simply flashing up a 30mph sign when the limit is broken. He thought that this was preferable to the other type. Cllr March said that she felt that this would be less effective than the type which we have on the Maidstone and Lamberhurst Road as it may encourage speeders to go faster in order to try and achieve a certain speed.

Clerk to contact KCC and ask if they have carried out any research as to which type is better and why this may be. This may affect the request for an interactive sign on the Goudhurst Road, which is currently being dealt with by KHS.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Richard Kaupert about the logs on the verge at Sandhole Cottage and that Mr Kaupert had said that he would write to the owners of the Cottage, whom he believed to be the National Trust. Members of the council did not believe that Sandhole Cottage is owned by the National Trust, and asked that the Clerk inform Mr Kaupert of this.

The Clerk had been informed by Richard Kaupert that the hedge at Heathside, bordering the Goudhurst Road, had been trimmed back by the owner and would be cut right back to the base of the pavement in the autumn, when the hedge would more easily be able to cope with the hard pruning. Council to monitor.

It was noted that some brambles were hanging down onto the pavement bordering the Goudhurst Road, originating from Petersford and Old Petersford. Clerk to organise the removal of these.

Cllr Stevens said that he is still to meet with Aubrey Furner to discuss the verge cutting and grass areas listed for the Parish.

It was mentioned that many cats' eyes were missing in the Parish.

Cllr Stevens said that the road surface was very uneven on the bend in the road by Pitlands in Churn lane. Clerk to inform KHS.

Les Bateup reported that the grass on the village green badly needed some weed and fertilizer treatment as it was full of plantain, rather pale in colour and did not appear to be growing properly. It was suggested that before treatment took place a soil sample should be carried out to ascertain what type of treatment would be best. Cllr Stevens to ask his contacts about soil samples. Clerk to contact Richard Greenwood to see if he has any suggestions.

## **7.2 Street lighting**

The Clerk reported that she had met with the street light operative from SEC to ascertain the positioning of the replacement street light on the Brenchley Road. The Clerk also said that all the electrical testing of the street lights had now been carried out and certificates had been received in respect of this.

## **8. PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION**

### **8.1 Opening of Play area**

It was explained to the Council that although there had been a redraft of the play area lease, there were still a few points upon which the FAMT and the Councillors could not agree. It was suggested that the Clerk organise a meeting between Richard Williams and Councillors Robins, March and Parker to try and agree a wording of the lease.

### **8.2 Public conveniences**

Cllr March explained that although the Parish Council had agreed to take on the maintenance of the Public conveniences at the May meeting, it had since come to light that the Borough Council had agreed to continue the maintenance of the toilets at Brenchley and Matfield in return for a payment of £4000 per toilet from the Parish. Following investigations with the Borough, the same offer had been made available to Horsmonden Parish Council, although this would be for one year only whereupon the arrangement would need to be renegotiated.

A discussion took place regarding the cost of the various options and the amount of monies available to the Parish Council to spend on this during 2009/2010. Cllr Hughes asked if the Parish Council would be expected to make the toilets compliant with disabled requirements under legislation. It was understood by Cllr March who had asked the Borough Council about this, that because Horsmonden is a small parish it would not necessarily be expected to comply with these regulations if the Parish Council did not have the funds to carry out the changes.

It was proposed by Cllr Clemson that the Parish Council continue to take on the maintenance of the public conveniences as previously negotiated with the Borough Council, and claim the one off amount of £3000 in respect of the saved demolition costs, and £600 per annum offered under the community toilets scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Stevens and voted for unanimously by the Council.

### **8.3 Renewal of Village Hall lease**

The Clerk had redrafted a new lease for the Village Hall based on the lease drafted and amended by Thompson Snell and Passmore for the Institute Building.

Cllr Robins proposed that the Council nominate 2 persons to review the new lease and agree it with the Village Hall management committee. Cllr Robins and Cllr Parker agreed to be nominated as the two representatives. This was voted for unanimously by the Council.

### **8.4 Speedwatch**

The Clerk had been in contact with Mr Dicketts who lives on the Brenchley Road and reported that he had offered to take on the Co-ordination of the Speedwatch scheme. Clerk to put him in contact with Isobel Kerrigan and PC Ball. Clerk also needs to order two new batteries for the equipment.

### **8.5 Village entry sign and invicta badge**

Clerk is awaiting information from Roland Duke about the cost of a new invicta badge.

### **8.6 Publicity/advertising for meetings.**

It was agreed to discuss this issue again at the September meeting. Cllr Stevens will try and get some information on the costs of boards. Cllr Robins asked each of the Cllrs to email him with details of what they thought should go on the advertising boards, so that further investigations can be made.

### **8.7 Update on Housing Needs project.**

The Clerk had forwarded an email received from Jennifer Hudson at TWBC Housing detailing that Cascade Homes were still trying to get planning permission to build on the area in Gibbet Lane. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Orbit to ask them to approach Cascade about the possibility of working together with them on the site in Gibbet Lane.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **9.1 Government Office for the SE – partial review of the SE RSS in relation to: Somewhere to live: Planning for Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people in the SE. – comments by 1/09/09**

Cllr Robins proposed from the Chair that the Council authorise a group to read the documentation and comment on behalf of the Council. The group to consist of Cllr March, Cllr Clemson and Cllr Kerrigan. Unanimous.

### **9.2 KCC Kent Alcohol strategy – do we wish to take part in the consultation?**

The Clerk reported that she had read the document and most of the suggested plans seemed very common sense. The Council did not feel the need to comment on this strategy.

### **9.3 Kent Policing Plan for 2009/10**

The letter from the police outlined various websites where further information on the Kent Police Strategy Plan could be obtained if so wished.

### **9.4 Members grant information from KCC – any ideas?**

The Clerk said that she had now received details of the KCC members Grant available to Alex King this financial year and requested that the Councillors consider any projects to be put forward. It was suggested that the Council could try and obtain some funding towards the costs of treating the grass on the village green and perhaps providing some more seats.

#### **9.5 Tunbridge wells, Community Safety partnership.**

The Clerk had read the document produced by TWBC which outlined how safety had improved in the region through various measures put in place.

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ONLY)**

Cllr Kerrigan outlined details of a meeting which had taken place between himself, Cllr March and CI Wilson from Kent police regarding the forthcoming Horsefair in September. Cllr Kerrigan said that CI Wilson had a slightly differing approach to that which had been followed in the past by the police and had been speaking to the gypsy community in order to try and secure a proper booking of the Village Green for the event this year. Clerk to send details through to CI Wilson to aid this process and further communication to take place with the police if necessary.

The Clerk and Cllr Robins had received a letter from DEFRA regarding the Village Green Byelaws and it was generally considered that this should be raised as a topic for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting in September.

The Clerk had been requested to provide details of guided walks in the area, by Explore Kent. It was suggested that Explore Kent be made aware of the Village Trails document and that John Naylor may be able to provide more information.

Cllr Parker reported that she had heard through a colleague that the National Trust was opening up some of its land to provide areas for allotments. Clerk to investigate through the office at Scotney Castle to see if land at Sprivers is to be included in this.

It was suggested that the Clerk should contact the Police to see what could be done about possible disturbances caused by late night drinking at the Highwayman public House as several Councillors had received verbal complaints from parishioners regarding disturbances around the village green at night.

Cllr Robins commented that 2012 was the Queens Diamond Jubilee (as well as England being host to the Olympic Games) and suggested that Council member's might like to consider organising an event in celebration on the Village Green. All members to think about possibilities.

Cllr Robins mentioned timekeeping of members at Parish Council meetings as he felt that when members of the Council arrived after the meeting started it was embarrassing and reflected badly on the Council.

**The meeting closed at 11.10pm**

#### **Next Meeting Dates**

Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Planning committee Meeting

Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Finance Committee Meeting