

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2010

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

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
3 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

The Clerk had been informed that several members of the public had intended to attend the meeting regarding anti-social behaviour which had taken place recently in the village. However these persons had been unable to attend at the last minute. The Clerk had asked the parishioners to report these crimes to the Police so that the necessary actions can be taken during her previous conversations with them.

It was noted that at the Village Hall the cigarette disposal tray had been removed from the wall and emptied out. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Ewen Kellas at the Social Club to see if the same thing had occurred there. The police will be informed of this action.

Clerk to state in the next Parish News article that even small crimes should be reported to the police otherwise the police are unaware of what is going on and are unable to take the necessary actions to stop anti social behaviour.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 7th December 2009

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December were taken as read and proposed for approval by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor March. Unanimous.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting – 14th December 2009

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 14th December were taken as read and proposed for approval by the Chair. Carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The raising of funds towards a new bench on the Green to commemorate Bernard and Jean Fowler, was discussed. Cllr March reported that Hugh Nye said there was now £317 in the pot of donations. It was noted that the Historical Society had decided to withdraw its offer of £50 towards the bench as they were not in agreement with the idea of a recycled plastic bench. The Historical Society would prefer to see a traditional wooden bench on the green instead.

The Clerk now needs to find out how much space is on the plaque so that a commemorative wording can be decided.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

Planning Application No:	TW/09/02460/FUL/SM
Proposal:	Demolition of an existing 2 storey 4 bedroom house and replacement with a 2 storey 4 bedroom residential dwelling
Location:	Parkfield, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Chair. Carried, with one member abstaining.
Comments:	The parish Council have recommended refusal on the grounds that the height of the building is excessive and is detrimental from further afield. The Council would welcome a proposal for this building if reduced in height by 2 metres.

Planning Application No:	TW/09/03826/HOUSE
Proposal:	Proposed dormer window and alterations to allow the installation of an en-suite
Location:	Park Lodge, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Stevens. Unanimous
Comments:	The parish Council propose approval of this application as it is a sympathetic and necessary addition to the house.

Planning Application No:	TW/09/03827/LBC/CLC
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent -Proposed dormer window and alterations to allow the installation of an en-suite
Location:	Park Lodge, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.
Comments:	The parish Council propose approval of this application as it is a sympathetic and necessary addition to the house. Subject to the Conservation architects approval.

5.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused

Permissions Granted.

TW/09/03280/HOUSE – 2 Heathfield Cottages, Furnace Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

TW/09/03169/FUL – Hill Top, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

TW/09/03024 – Chapel Manor House, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

Condition 7 of TW/06/00082 – Castlemaine Oast House, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

Permissions Refused.

None.

Cllr Stevens asked if there had been any progress on the enforcement issue at Bassett's Farm on the Maidstone Road. The Clerk said that she had been in contact with TWBC Planning and the pending prosecution was still in progress.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 3rd January 2010

The following accounts in respect of the period up to 3rd January 2010 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 3rd January 2010

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 07.12.09	£ 3,340.32
Deposit account b/fwd 07.12.09	£ 47,016.66
Interest received (Deposit Account)	

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Horsmonden Parish News	400688		£ 250.00
Mr C J Couchman - Dec Play area and clock	400689		£ 78.92
Mr S Jones - Dec scavenging	400690		£ 60.36
Mrs L Noakes - December salary	S/O		£ 608.61
HM Inspector of Taxes (tax & NI Mrs L Noakes)	400691		£ 52.46
Mrs L Noakes - refund for printer cartridges	400692		£ 17.97
Southern Electric Company LTD Repairs to 13&24	400693		£ 32.72
Southern Electric Contracting November Maintenance	400694		£ 127.17
Specialist Hygiene Services Ltd - December 2009	400695		£ 164.45
Kent County Council _ Kent Audit internal audit	400696		£ 138.00
Mrs L Noakes - stationary reimbursment	400697		£ 24.57
Interest on current account		£0.47	
TWBC Festive lights grant		£120.00	

Current Account as at 03.01.10	£ 1,905.56
Deposit Account as at 03.01.10	£ 47,016.66

**TOTAL
BANK: £ 48,922.22**

6.2 Annual Parish Precept and Risk Assessment for April 2010-2011

Councillor Hughes presented the proposed precept for 2010-2011 as had been discussed and agreed by the Finance Committee during their meeting on 14th December 2009. Councillor Hughes made the points that in preparing this proposed precept the Finance committee had taken into account the need to build up the Councils reserves for the future, in addition to providing for all known and foreseeable eventualities, whilst trying to keep the precept as low as possible. This had resulted in a reduction of 0.26% on the 2009/2010 precept figures.

Councillor March made the point that the proposed precept did not make any provision for a Parish Plan if the Council decided to go ahead with this. However, it is possible that a grant could be obtained for this.

The Council had also received news that evening that the Clock above the Institute may need specialist cleaning. Although there are reserves for the clock, these could run short. It was suggested that the Council may be able to obtain a Heritage Grant in respect of this.

Cllr Hughes proposed on behalf of the Finance Committee that the Council accept the Proposed Precept for 2010/2011 as set out. This was seconded by Cllr Holloway and voted for unanimously.

Councillor Parker proposed that the Council should thank Councillor Hughes and the Clerk for their work in preparing the proposed precept.

Following this, Councillor Hughes presented the Annual Risk Assessment which the Finance Committee had also looked at during their meeting. Some discussions took place about the possibility of updating the Byelaws for the Village Green as well as obtaining a fire proof cabinet for storage of documents. Clerk to look into these.

Cllr Hughes proposed that the Council should adopt the current risk assessment as presented. This was seconded by Councillor Stevens and voted for unanimously.

7.1 Highways

The following problems were mentioned for reporting to KHS:

Potholes

- Churn lane on the bend near Churn Siding
- At top of the hill by entrance to Rams Hill , Maidstone Road
- Square hole on top of old railway bridge, just after entering Yew Tree Green Road
- dip in road near entrance to Poplars Farm, Churn Lane.

Other Highways problems

- Verges are breaking up generally.
- Culvert between Churn Siding and the entrance to Poplars Farm, Churn lane, is collapsing
- Blocked drain just after Yew Tree Green lane on the Left hand side , Maidstone Road
- Gulley outside Freestons, Maidstone Road is broken and collapsing
- Drain at Hayman's Hill floods out down the road whenever it rains hard
- Grating has collapsed, just outside entrance to Hayle farm, Marle Place Road (between Ruck Farm and entrance to Hayle farm).

The following problems with hedges were reported and the Clerk was requested to write to the owners:

- Bramaca, the house next to the VH, Back Lane
- Small Bridge Cottage, Small bridge Lane together with the house on the opposite side of the road.

It was also reported that following a recent road accident at the crossroads, there had been debris left under the horse chestnut tree on the Green and underneath the hedge opposite the green, on the triangle.

It was requested that the Clerk put a notice in Parish News next month to ask parishioners not to take salt from the salt bins as this was not provided for parishioner's personal use, but in order to keep the roads salted when needed. It was also suggested that a further note be added to ask parishioners to avoid parking their vehicles at the side of the road in extreme weather conditions, as to do so may prohibit the snow ploughs from being able to go down the road and clear it.

7.2 Public conveniences

The Clerk reported that she had now had confirmation from Paul Barrington King at TWBC that the PC would receive the amounts promised to them in respect of saved demolition costs and the Public toilets scheme, by the end of January. She had also been informed that TWBC were working on the lease.

The Clerk is continuing to ask about the amounts which the Council understood had been set aside for making the toilets compliant with disabled legislation

Councillor Parker had made some investigations with regards to the previous suggestion from TWBC that the PC may not have to make the toilets DDA compliant. She had been advised that in most cases there would not be any exceptions to making the toilets compliant with current legislation. The Council may therefore be obliged to carry out this work to the public conveniences.

7.3 Scavenging – future of litter picking in Horsmonden

The Clerk had been contacted by Symon Jones, the litter picker, to say that in the last few months there had been very little litter and he felt that he was no longer needed to carry out this task.

A discussion took place and the Council were in agreement that although there may not seem to be much litter at present, there may be more in the summer months and they would therefore prefer to have someone still at hand to monitor the situation, if possible.

It was therefore proposed from the Chair that the Clerk write to Mr Jones and say that whilst they understand and appreciate what he is saying, they would prefer for him to continue checking the village for litter as they feel the continuity is important.

Clerk to let the Council know Mr Jones response to this.

7.4 Jacobs – offer to work for PC at low rate.

The Council had no interest in employing Jacobs to carry out any of the tasks listed at present.

8. PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Parish Planning – do we wish to look into this further?

Cllr March explained that Ken Tutt and Nick May had volunteered to help steer a parish plan if the Council decided to go ahead.

It was proposed from the Chair that Cllr Robins and Cllr March should meet with Ken Tutt and Nick May to try and get a proposal off the ground. Unanimous.

8.2 Institute Trust – next steps

The Clerk will recommence work on this as soon as there is time allowing.

8.3 Village Hall lease – meeting date to agree lease wording

It was suggested that Cllrs Robins, March and Parker meet with the Clerk at Petersford on 18th January at 7.30pm. Clerk to confirm.

8.4 Are there any new names which need to be added to the War Memorial?

After much discussion it was suggested that it would be best to leave things as they currently stand at present , and wait to see if a bereavement takes place during the current conflict.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Audit commission – Appointment of Wayne Rickard as new District Auditor w.e.f January 2010.

This was noted by Council members.

9.2 KCC Consultation Draft: Community Infrastructure Provision Service Strategies in Kent 2009. (www.kent.gov.uk/publications/community-and-living/guide-to-development-contributions.htm). Comments by 20th January 2010.

Cllr Robins and March to read and comment.

9.3 TWBC – Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015 to Parish Councils – request for our comments.

Cllr Robins to review by 5th February 2010 on behalf of the Council.

9.4 TWBC – Review of Housing Needs Survey questionnaire and methodology – request for comments.

The Clerk had forwarded this request to members of the Council via email. It was suggested that the Clerk send back the following comments:

- Question 4: It should be noted that many people do not move out when they go off to school and college – they still retain a room at home.

- Question23: the word 'deposit' appears to have been missed out.

9.5 Request for a visit from the Standards Committee Chairman and Monitoring Officer –would we like a visit?

The Council were very willing to have a visit from the above and Clerk to request that they attend a meeting a soon as possible.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Cllr Hughes informed the Clerk and Council that Mr or Mrs Bignell would like to attend the next meeting to speak about the future plans for Locket Green, assuming the application has come through from TWBC planning by then.

Cllr March informed the Council that she had taken photographs of the broken Christmas lights and was sending these with a short report to the Courier Newspaper. It was suggested that the PC needed to discuss the future of the Christmas lights at the next meeting. Clerk to add to the agenda.

Patricia Davenport had contacted Cllr March regarding the fact that all three of the village shops were now under threat of closure. She had asked if there was any way the PC could look at running a Community shop by purchasing one of them. This matter was briefly discussed but it was not considered something which the Pc could take on.

Isobel Kerrigan had contacted TWBC about issues with her bin collection and the fact that some people living in Tunbridge wells still seemed to be having weekly green bin collections. She will keep the PC up dated with her response from TWBC.

Norman Fisher had been in contact with the Clerk regarding the Council's response for the Sports club to repair the fencing at the grounds. It was suggested that Councillor Robins and Councillor Stevens meet with Mr. Fisher at the sports ground on Saturday 9th January at 9am to look at the fencing.

The meeting closed at 10.28pm

Next Meeting Dates

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