

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH
2015

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Davis, Isaacs, Stevens, Russell, Hughes, Lawrence and Stanton (Cllr Lawrence left the meeting at 9.40pm)

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
1 member of the public
4 land developers

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr Stanton declared that she had an interest in item 8.8 as Jeremy Waters is her husband. She took no part in the discussion or voting regarding this matter.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr King – attending another meeting
Cllr McDermott – attending the meeting at Brenchley
Cllr Cheesman – unwell.

2. PUBLIC SESSION: (Members of the public have the right to speak for up to three minutes at the Chairpersons discretion on issues concerning the Parish providing the Clerk has prior notification).

Chris Hawkins had asked to speak on behalf of DHA Planning, who were acting as agents for Charles Church, owners of the site at Bassett's Farm on the Goudhurst Road. Charles Church are looking to try and create a residential site at Bassett's Farm, which will reduce the scale of buildings and hard surfacing on the current site. The development is at its embryonic stages and the developers are looking for public engagement and would like to work with the Parish and Borough Council to try and develop something suitable within the constraints of the site. It was noted that at this stage the Parish Council could not engage in any discussions about a forthcoming plan, as this could jeopardise any future planning put forward. However, the clerk is able to put members of the public in contact with Mr Hawkins if they are interested in finding out more.

Mr MacDonald was representing Colin Begeman from Corelaw, and wished to speak about a potential 'self build' scheme on the land behind Kirkin's Close. Mr Begeman had been involved in the development of Willard's Place and believes that the site behind Kirkin's Close would lend itself well to becoming a 'self build' site location, based on the Governments 'Right to Build' models. The construction of the houses would be individually designed and built by local individuals looking for an opportunity to build their own homes. Tunbridge wells Borough Council also has a document available on self build schemes in the area.

Again this was something which the Parish Council could not comment on at present, but they thanked both developers for coming along to explain their ideas at this stage.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 2nd February 2015 and Planning Meeting 9th February 2015.

The minutes of the meeting 2nd February were presented to the Council as read and proposed for acceptance by the Chair. Carried.

The Minutes of the planning committee meeting of 9th February were presented as read and proposed for acceptance by the Chair. Carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING. (No decisions taken)

Water bills

Dealt with under 8.3

Conservation Area Map

Cllr Davis reported that he had spoken again with Mark Stevenson at TWBC regarding this matter.

Buses to Paddockwood.

The *Council* were still waiting to hear from Nu Venture about a possible increase in bus services.

Cllr March said that she will be attending the next public transport forum and will chase this item.

Public Rights of Way

The *Clerk* was still waiting to hear back from KCC on this matter

Community Litter Picking

The clerk had now organised this with the help of Nigel Freeman, KCC although she was still looking for a helper for teas and coffees. It was suggested that she ask Kell to send a reminder out via his email newsletter asking for a helper for tea and coffee. *Clerk* to let Ken Tutt know about the litter Picking.

5. PLANNING

Planning Application No:	TW/15/500634/FULL
Proposal:	Retention of mobile home and store for 3 years.
Location:	Banfields Churn Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8HL
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Lawrence, unanimous
Comments:	Recommended Refusal. Whilst the Parish Council is always keen to support agricultural activities in the Parish, the Council is not persuaded that there is any agricultural justification for the siting of this mobile home (refer to Rural Planning Ltd's report 16/2/2015)

Planning Application No:	15/501111/FULL
Proposal:	Proposed garage extension.
Location:	Church Farm Barn Brick Kiln Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EJ
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Lawrence. Unanimous
Comments:	Recommended acceptance. A reasonable extension to an existing garage block.

5.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.

Applications granted.

TW/14/502679 – Broadford Stables, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

TW/14/503971 –Castlemaine Oast , Maidstone Road, Horsmonden

TW/14/504494 – Heathleigh House, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden

TW/14/503573/LDCEX – Buildings and Land adjacent to Quince Cottages, School House Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/14/504402/FULL – Remingtons Farm Land and Buildings, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
 TW/506568/FULL – 1 Hurst Cottages, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/504106/FULL – Hazel Street Farm, Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden
 TW/504020/FULL – Redmans, Green Road, Horsmonden
 TW/14/504129/FULL – Orchard Lodge, Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden
 TW/14/503889/FULL – The Kestrels, Castlemaine Oast, Maidstone Road
 TW/14/504101/FULL – Remingtons, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
 TW/14/503795/FULL – The Granary, Grovehurst Farm, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/14/503797/LBC - The Granary, Grovehurst Farm, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/14/504183/FULL – Hayle Farm, Marle Place Road, Horsmonden

Applications refused

TW/14/502720/FULL – Park Lodge, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/14/503900/FULL – The Old Sunday School, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/14/504724/LBC - The Old Sunday School, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden

Applications withdrawn

TW/14/505213/FULL – Broadford House, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden
 TW/14/505216/LBC - Broadford House, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

5.3 Other Planning matters.

None.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 1st March 2015

The Clerk presented the accounts including cheques drawn, up to 1st March 2015, as shown below, to those present. Unfortunately owing to a bank error, cheque 401518 had passed though the bank account for the wrong amount, which meant that the bank reconciliation did not agree with the amount in the account. Instead of passing through the account for £143.48 it had gone through as £143.45. The Clerk had pointed out the error to Co-op bank who assured her that an extra payment of £0.03 would be sent to the payee as soon as possible to rectify the situation.

A further problem had occurred as cheque number 401437 which was assumed lost, had turned up and been paid into the account by mistake. Cllr Stevens had corrected the error by writing out a return cheque for £90 payable to Horsmonden Parish Council; however this would not show in the bank account for several days.

After explanation of these matters the Chair proposed acceptance of the accounts as they stood. Unanimous.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 1st March 2015

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 02.02.2015	£ 35,392.91
Deposit account b/fwd 02.02.2015	£ 60,000.47
Interest received (Deposit Account)	£ -

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Mrs L Noakes - salary	S/O		£ 821.13
HM Revenues and Taxes - Tax and Ni L Noakes	401527		£ 49.20
Mr S Jones - scavenging Feb	401528		£ 61.52

Mr C J Couchman - Feb clock and play area	401529	£	83.08
Kent Association of Local Councils - book	401530	£	18.71
Mr J S Waters - Ipad training	401531		£120.00
Mr J Tweddle - tree on Green	401532	£	250.00
Cornford Builders - structural engineers report	401533	£	90.00
EJP Fire Protection Ltd - repairs to emergency lighting institute	401534	£	186.00
National casinos - festival deposit	401535	£	50.00
Frederick Nevison - deposit fo DJ - festival	401536	£	50.00
Viking Direct - stationery	401537	£	56.69
SSE Contracting Ltd - Maintenance January	401538	£	71.26
SSE Contracting Ltd - Maintenance February	401539	£	71.26
The Society of Local Council Clerks - subs	401540	£	131.00
Specialist Hygiene services - toilet cleaning Feb	401541	£	187.20
<i>Inadvertent cashing of cancelled cheque to R Stevens</i>	<i>401473</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>90.00</i>
Interest on current account		£	5.42
Payment of farmers market electricity bill		£	60.00

	£	33,071.28
Current Account as at 01.03.15	£	60,000.47
Deposit Account as at 01.03.15		
	£	93,071.75

TOTAL BANK:

6.2 Quotation for a new street light.

The Clerk had obtained a quotation via SES contracting(the street light maintenance company) for an additional, ornate, Windsor style lantern on the village green. The quotation was £1654.65 to have the light delivered, supplied, installed, connected and electrically tested. This would not cover the electrical installation to a new point, which may need to be carried out by UK Power networks.

It was suggested that before going ahead with these plans *the Clerk* should write to Poplars, Redman's , Birch Cottage and Crowhursts to let the owners know the approximate proposed siting of the new light and ask for their comments.

The next phase could be to look at the more modern lighting in the village and decide if there are any particular sites which would benefit from more lighting. *Clerk* to ask SES if it would be more cost effective to install several new lights at once (some new ones in addition to the older style lantern).

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

7.1 Highways issues – footpaths, trees, roads, signs, verges, and markings

The following to be asked/reported to KHS by the *clerk*:

- Numerous pot holes between the Holloway's gate entrance and the top of Hayman's Hill. This is because the road is used by many different HGV's.
- Man hole cover breaking up on the Brenchley Road, about 50 ft from the Horsmonden sign.
- Long crack in centre of the road just past Furnace Lane on Brenchley Road.
- Large pot hole outside 2 Gibbet Lane same side as new development.
- Another pot hole emerging outside number 6 Gibbett Lane

- Side of road falling away on Furnace Lane just after Green Acres plant (LHS going towards Castle Hill.)
- Pot hole at bottom of Orchard Way junction with Goudhurst Road.
- Hedge between Spring cottages and Noakes Cold stores on LHS short stretch still needs cutting.

Cllr Stevens pointed out that drains were now only cleared on a reactive basis, not as an annual event. It was therefore important that any blocked drains are reported to KHS otherwise they will remain unaware.

There had been some problems with HGVs in Grovehurst Lane, as much larger lorries were now going up to Northiam Farm at all times of day, because the delivery and pick up system for the shops had changed. Some of these drivers were unsure where they were going. It had been suggested to Cllr King (KCC) that signs could be erected to point out to HGV drivers where they need to go. The HGVs had also done considerable damage to the verges on the lane, when passing other vehicles. This was to be monitored.

7.2 **Street lighting**

Covered under item 6.2 already.

7.3 **Christmas lighting**

The Council discussed possible plans for next Christmas' festive lighting. It was suggested that the Council look into possibly dressing the large horse chestnut tree on the corner of the green with small white /blue sparkly lights, so that the lights were seen on entering the village. *Clerk* to approach Blachere and Garla lights plus others for quotation.

It was also suggested that the coloured lighting should be continued around the green if possible, although support on the eastern side of the green was lacking. *Cllr Davis* to get quotes for more coloured lighting. Councillor Davis suggested that when the Council put in the two new trees on that side of the green, a post could be extended beyond the height of the trees to use for lighting support until the trees were big enough. *Clerk* to get quotes for new trees.

7.4 **Request for additional funding for Churchyard– St Margaret's Church.**

The Council had been approached by Steve Jones, representing St Margaret's Church to see if any additional funding could be given to aid with church yard maintenance. Several suggestions were put forward by members of the council such as getting together a volunteer working party to help with certain aspects of the maintenance, or setting aside areas of the church yard to be left as wild meadow (although it was noted that this had been tried already in some areas and was not altogether popular as some parishioners felt it made the graveyard look unkempt).

The Council at present donate an amount of £600 each year towards maintenance. It was suggested by Cllr Davis that this amount be increased to £800 for 2015/16 even though only £600 had been requested in the precept (the extra £200 coming from Council reserves). This was seconded by Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.

Mr Jones had also mentioned that the friends of St Margaret's hoped to install a pathway to the Garden of Remembrance and they had received a quotation for the installation of this, which had been forwarded to the Parish Council. The Council felt that this was a capital expenditure on behalf of the Church and as such they were not in a position to donate to this currently. They suggested that the church seek further quotations and consider using alternative materials, if the quotation was not affordable to St Margaret's at present.

8. **ADMINISTRATION - Cllr Lawrence left the meeting at this time (9.40pm)**

8.1 **The Institute –plans for the front of the building.**

The Council had not received any further information from the Social Club about their plans for the front of the building at this stage.

It had been suggested that the bell tower and clock faces in the tower should be lit. *Clerk* to obtain quotation for lighting the bell and both clock faces with LED style lighting.

Cllr Isaacs was meeting with the structural engineer on 11th March to look at the roof structures and insertion of the plaque at the front.

The Clerk had received an indication from KCC Legal services that they were happy to assist the drafting of a long term lease for the Institute and would charge £90 per hour, which was a very competitive rate. They estimated between £550 and £750 to complete the lease assuming no unforeseen circumstances. The Council were happy to go ahead based on their earlier decision for a long term lease and suggested that the *Clerk* email Mr Kellas to liaise with him prior to commencement.

8.2 Emergency Planning

The draft plan could now be sent to Mr. Lovic at KCC Emergency planning for his opinion and feedback.

8.3 Public conveniences

Cllr Russell had been reading the water meter each week and reported back his findings to the council. It looked from the readings, as if the water usage had now dropped back to a reasonable level since the urinal flush had been adjusted.

From the readings, Cllr Russell had been able to calculate an average daily usage of 0.541litres, deducing that in a half year the council would use approximately 98.92 cubic metres. Taking into consideration the costs per unit and usage charged for by Southern water and SE water during the period May to December 2014, it was deduced that the costs of the excessive water usage caused by the mal adjustment of the urinal flusher had equated to £587.89.

It was suggested that the clerk let Mr Bell have these figures in order to negotiate a settlement with Cornfords.

8.4 Village Vision (including discussion on possible Youth Shelter)

The Council were awaiting further information from the Highways Group, following their discussions with Steven Noad (KHS) in order to pursue any ideas which may have come from his report.

The Clerk had received many responses from other parish councils regarding her request for information on Youth shelters. She had passed these to the councillors for their information. Some of the problems associated with shelters had been vandalism and graffiti, broken glass and litter, and very occasionally drug dealing. However other parishes had given more positive feedback. The Council felt that by providing a shelter they would be fulfilling the requests of parishioners in the Village Vision statement, and that the shelter could also double up as a covered seat and bus shelter. They looked at various designs and were interested in pursuing a quotation for the open shelter offered by Monster Play – ‘Open YS101’. *The Clerk* should pursue this quotation as well as looking into the planning aspects of the shelter with TWBC. It was suggested that the *Clerk* should let Cllr King (KCC) know the outcomes of this as he had suggested that he may be able to fund part of this project.

It was also suggested that the *Clerk* let the Youth Club, Ready Call and the Social Club know about this as they had shown interesting in donating a small amount of money to something which was need by the village.

8.5 Music Festival 12th -14th June 2015

The Clerk was arranging to fill in event forms for TWBC and to send deposit cheques for the casino and DJ services. The weekend was still to follow the format of:

Friday evening: Ticketed marquis event with James bond /casino theme and DJ

Saturday: school fete followed by musical event for all on the Green

Sunday: open air church services followed by silver band and picnic on the green for all.

8.6 TWBC transfer of discretionary services - civic amenities vehicle

There was no further information available on the changes to this service at present.

8.7 Village Green booking for regular fitness classes

Joanna Stevens had contacted the Parish Council to see if she could hold a regular fitness class on the Village Green on Tuesday mornings after school drop off. She had already provided a satisfactory insurance certificate and was happy to fill in the booking form and provide a deposit cheque.

The Parish Council were very happy to see the green used for this sort of activity, however they wished to point out that it is a public place and that they cannot control access to the green whilst the activity is on. It was suggested that this might be something which Mrs Stevens wished to consider, as her class will be a chargeable activity. It was proposed from the Chair that providing Mrs Stevens is aware of these limitations and is happy not to put anything permanent on the Green, the Council would grant permission for the classes to take place. Accepted unanimously. *Clerk* to let Mrs Stevens know and ask if vehicular access is required.

8.8 Future Computer /ipad training

The Council had received good feedback from those taking place on the last iPad training course.

Mr Waters had approached the council to see if they wished to contract him for any further courses.

It was suggested that a further iPad course commence in April for a further 4 parishioners and that this should be open to all ages to try and assist younger people who may wish to return to work or need help. This was proposed from the Chair, unanimous. *Clerk* to liaise with Mr Waters.

It was also suggested that the Clerk see if there was any interest in running a further beginner's computer course after September, open to all age groups.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Tunbridge wells Borough local plan consultation on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (dpd)Monday 9th February to Monday 23rd March

www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/allocations

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Davis that the council should respond to say they have noted the Plan and have no objections to what is being put forward. Unanimous.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

10.1 Chairman's update (no decisions)

There was no further up date.

10.2 Paddock wood community advice centre

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Paddockwood community advice centre requesting funding. It was proposed by Cllr Davis that the *Clerk* respond with the usual letter to say that the Council's policy is such that it does not donate to those charities located outside the village and that hence they would not be able to consider a donation at present. Unanimous.

10.3 Citizens Advice Bureau – TW

A member of the TW CAB had met with the clerk to confirm that the TWCAB could no longer finance the bus which comes weekly to the village. Council members discussed that as this had been the reasoning behind their donation of £100 towards CAB in the last year and the bus was to be withdrawn, it was unlikely that they could justify any donation in the forthcoming year, as the charity was located outside the village.

The TWCAB had informed the clerk that they wanted to try and set up a scheme whereby they could have skype contact 24/7 with anyone who wishes to speak to CAB. They hoped to be able to do this in rural communities with the assistance of parish councils. The suggestion was that parish councils could lend an ipad or computers to village clubs and societies who could have a volunteer trained to use skype. That way anyone wishing to contact CAB would be able to have access to skype and someone who could assist them.

The Council discussed this idea. They were not happy with the arrangement for the iPad or computer to be lent out to village clubs and societies, as it would take a lot of administration and be time consuming, keeping track of the whereabouts of the item at any given time and may result in no one wishing to take responsibility if it were broken. This would perhaps work better for larger councils who had several staff and a large office so that members of the public could come in and use the computer at a desk, however HPC was not considered to be in this situation.

The Council did however, feel that they could contribute by offering to train more parishioners in the use of skype during their iPad and computer training courses which were already scheduled.

10.4 Meetings attended (updates and feedback from meetings attended and held by council members –no decisions)

None. Members had not been able to attend the KALC area meeting this time, owing to illness.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm