

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Russell, Cheesman, Parker, Stevens, Lawrence and Davis

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
2 member of the public
Stephen Whitehead - Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit.

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr March declared an interest in item 9.3 as she is the Tunbridge wells Cabinet member who authorises grants associated with Citizens advice Bureaux and Paddock wood Community Advice Centre.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McDermott (TWBC) - (unable to attend)
Cllr King (KCC) - (Unable to attend)

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).*
None.

3. STEPHEN WHITEHEAD – Manager -COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT (TWBC)

Mr Whitehead had come along to explain to the Parish Council the service which the Community Safety Unit provides .The Community Safety Unit becomes involved in aspects of antisocial behaviour and crime within the community. In Tunbridge wells town centre it provides CCTV to help co-ordinate the shop keeper's awareness of theft and antisocial behaviour, as well as providing 'Pub Watch' which deals with licences premises, and providing a radio contact between shop keepers and premises. The unit consists of an antisocial behaviour officer, social workers, police officers and civilian staff. Each day a briefing takes place involving all staff including community wardens so that everyone is aware of current problems and operations. Mr Whitehead said that he realised that rural communities like Horsmonden did not have access to these facilities, however we could ask the CSU to provide advice about CCTV placement, stickers and events to raise public awareness. He stressed how important it was to register all crimes with the police, using the 101 number if non urgent or 999 if urgent or in progress. This enables the crime to be logged, thereby detailing an accurate record as to how many crimes have taken place in the area.

It was suggested that the clerk may contact Mr Whitehead for advice on CCTV once the toilets were refurbished next year, and also regarding the possibility of Zig Zags marking in the road outside the Kindergarten /school entrances where dangerous parking takes place.

Cllr Parker mentioned that oil theft was one of the biggest crimes taking place in rural communities at present. Mr Whitehead offered leaflets which explain how one can try to limit oil theft. The Council thanked Mr Whitehead for attending their meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 7th October and Planning meeting 15th October. The minutes of the meeting 7th October were presented to the meeting by the Clerk. It was proposed from the Chair that the minutes be taken as read and accepted as they stand. Unanimous. The minutes of the Planning meeting of 15th October were presented to the meeting by the Clerk. It was proposed from the chair that the minutes be taken as read and accepted. Carried.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Computers at the Institute

It was suggested that the Clerk put Cllr Lawrence in contact with Mike Sexon so that we could try to ascertain the specification of the laptop/ipad which we needed. Clerk to get the sessions booked for the New Year with Mr Sexon.

Commemorative bench

Cllr Stevens arranging installation with Mrs Jones.

Gang Mowers

The Pc was still waiting to hear from the sports club as to whether they wished to purchase the gang mowers. Clerk to chase Martin Devenish.

Village Sign

Clerk to ascertain if the sign could stay in its current position. It was suggested that if this were the case then a new post could be installed which was perhaps taller to make the sign more visible and the sign head could be renovated. Clerk had contacted Heath Stores and was awaiting a response from the owners.

Institute Repairs

The Clerk had arranged for the asbestos survey to take place and now awaited the results of this before commencing with the electrical testing and plumbing works.

Stickers on Wheelie Bins

Cllr Parker had sent around to all members information on how this matter had been approached successfully in other parishes. Cllr Parker recommended that the Parish Council should provide 2 stickers (for the green bin only), to all households within the 30mph limits along all four axes of the village. She had obtained some prices, the lowest of which was £0.35 per sticker and the highest was £0.95 per sticker.

It was suggested by other members that Cllr Parker should get some samples from the companies who had provided quotations, so that the quality difference could be noted.

Cllr March suggested that the Council could try and find a sponsor to finance the stickers, and this could be incentivised by offering advertising on the sticker; however some members were not keen on this idea as they felt it detracted from the original idea and might make the stickers less clear in their message.

Clerk to check with Gary Stevenson to see if he is happy with the Council asking parishioners to put stickers on the wheelie bins, which may include advertising. Also Clerk to look into grant possibilities to fund this.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Applications/submissions:

Planning Application No:	TW/13/02843/FUL
Proposal:	Temporary stationing of mobile home for 3 years in association with vehicle repair and agricultural use
Location:	Banfields Churn Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent
Recommendation:	Neutral
Proposed:	Cllr Lawrence, Cllr Parker, carried.
Comments:	The Parish Council do not know what the business plan is and cannot make an informed decision without the agricultural consultant's report.

Planning Application No:	TW/13/02909/HOUSE
Proposal:	Demolition of rear porch. Single storey rear extension
Location:	Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores The Heath Horsmonden Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Parker, unanimous.
Comments:	It is a simple modification to the existing situation subject to the planning officer being satisfied that there is not a detrimental loss of light to the neighbouring property.

Planning Application No:	TW/13/02919/LBC
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent: Demolition of rear porch. Single storey rear extension
Location:	Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores The Heath Horsmonden

	Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Lawrence, seconded Cllr Davis, unanimous.
Comments:	Acceptance subject to the conservation architect's approval

6.2 **Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.**

Applications Granted.

TW/13/02539/CEU – Quince Cottage, School House Lane, Horsmonden.

TW/13/02602/HOUSE – 9 Fromandez Drive, Horsmonden

TW/13/02214/HOUSE – The Coach House, Broadford, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

TW/13/02216/LBC - The Coach House, Broadford, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

TW/13/02428/LBC – Kirkins Farm house, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden.

TW/13/02618/FUL – Park Farmhouse, Smallbridge Road, Horsmonden

TW/13/02621/LBC - Park Farmhouse, Smallbridge Road, Horsmonden

Applications Refused

None.

6.3 **Other planning matters.**

TW/13/01957/FUL – 2 Heathfield Cottages, Furnace Lane, Horsmonden

This application will be considered by the Planning Committee of TWBC at a date to be confirmed.

7. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE**

7.1 **Parish Council Accounts to 3rd November 2013**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the finances up to 3rd November, as below. It was proposed from the Chair that these were accepted as a true representation of the accounts to this date. Unanimous.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 3rd November 2013

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 07.10.2013	£ 35,731.57
Deposit account b/fwd 07.10.2013	£ 81,352.75
Interest received (Deposit Account)	_____

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Lights4Fun Ltd - lights for VG	401307		£ 275.62
F. Andrew bell - precontract services Public loos	401308		£ 1,678.75
LD Noakes October salary	S/O		£ 688.38
Bank charge(later refunded) for statement	bank		£ 12.00
BT telephone 30.09.2013	D/D		£ 123.03
HM Revenue and Customs NI and Tax L Noakes	401309		£ 13.12
CJ Couchman - clock and play area Oct	401310		£ 80.48
Mr S Jones - scavenging Oct	401311		£ 61.52
Actions With Communities in Rural Kent - training	401312		£ 20.00
Gillet and Johnston (Croydon)Ltd - clock service	401313		£ 226.80
SSE Contracting Ltd - lighting September	401314		£ 71.26
SSE Contracting Ltd - lighting October	401315		£ 71.26

SHS Cleaning Public toilets October	401316		£ 178.71
Cory Environment - cleaning benches etc	401317		£ 55.20
J Tweddle - pollarding the limes VG	401318		£ 1,280.00
Recovery of insurance excess -light on Goudhurst road		£ 100.00	
KCC Payments - members grant for public conveniences		£ 2,000.00	
Bank refund of extra statement fee		£ 12.00	

Current Account as at 03.11.13 £ 33,007.44
Deposit Account as at 03.11.13 £ 81,352.75

TOTAL
BANK: £ 114,360.19

8. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

8.1 Highways issues – footpaths, trees, roads, signs, verges, markings, drainage.

The Clerk reported that Mr Tweddle had been pollarding the limes on the Green; however he had found that unfortunately three of the limes had some problems which needed further surgery. It was proposed by Cllr Davis that the Clerk be allowed to spend up to £320 which was left in the budget for trees, to deal with the canker in the trees. Seconded Cllr Russell. Unanimous.

Cllr Stevens said that the drains on the Maidstone Road were supposed to have been dealt with, however he noted that some were still a problem and was in contact with Graham White form KHS.

It was noted that most of the wind damage done by the recent storm, had taken place in Upper Hayman's Hill with lots of willow, ash and poplar down. This was being cleared. One poplar tree had come down near the entrance to sports ground and had been dealt with.

Cllr parker pointed out that the hedgerow belonging to the National Trust on the right hand side of the Lamberhurst Road, turning into Spelmonden, had grown out considerably and needed cutting right back. Cllr Davis will mention this to his contact at the National Trust.

8.2 Street lighting

It was noted that one of the lights in Fromandez Drive was not working properly.

9. ADMINISTRATION

9.1 KCC Consultation (various Roads, Borough of Maidstone) (7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction) Experimental Order 2012 on HGVs' through Yalding.

The Parish Council had received feedback from the Village Vision Traffic Group, regarding the results of the recent traffic survey carried out. The results had shown very little alteration in HGV's coming through the village, although there were still a few anomalies in the data which needed to be clarified with TSS, who had carried out the survey.

Based on this it was proposed from the Chair that the following statement be sent in response to the HGV consultation above: 'At the present time the Parish Council cannot see that the restriction has been detrimental to Horsmonden, on the basis of the evidence currently available to us. However the Parish Council are still analysing the data from the recent traffic survey and reserve the right to follow up with further comments.' Unanimous.

Clerk to send these comments through to KCC for the consultation.

9.2 Request from Yalding PC for contribution towards Play scheme.

The clerk had received a letter from Yalding PC regarding their summer play scheme and requesting that the PC consider making a donation to the costs of the play scheme.

After a short debate, it was proposed by Cllr Stevens that the PC continue in its previous stance of making donations to those charities within the village only. This was seconded by Cllr Lawrence. Unanimous.

9.3 Paddock wood Community Advice Centre

The Clerk had received some communication from the Centre clarifying the data which had been received. A debate took place and it was mentioned that the Chair had now also received a letter requesting a donation from the TW citizens Advice Bureaux, who provided a mobile service which visits the village.

The point was reiterated that the PC's policy was to give to village charities only and these charities were not directly located within the village. Although these charities could show from statistics that they directly assisted those who lived in Horsmonden, there were many other charities who could do the same and who regularly wrote to the Council asking for donations. It was felt that such donations could not be made to all those who requested them as there would not be sufficient funds available. The point was also made that residents of Horsmonden already pay towards PWCAC and TWCAB through their Community Charge contributions and the PC did not think it right that the residents should (in effect) pay twice for these services. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Parker that the Clerk write to the Charities concerned saying that the PC's policy remains unchanged. Seconded, Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

10.1 Chairman's update

The Chair had received some feedback statistics from the Ward Walks which took place earlier in the year. According to the statistics 98.2% of those interviewed in the village were satisfied with the area. There was 79.9% satisfaction with the Parish Council, which was the highest, result achieved amongst local Councils. The best things listed about living in the village, by those surveyed were – people, countryside and peace and quiet. The worst things listed were - the speed of traffic, public transport and broadband.

The Chair also spoke about Village Vision which was now almost ready for printing. It was noted that Village Vision will be looking g to the Parish Council to take on responsibility for various issues raised in the plan.

The meeting ended at 10.03pm