

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 7th JULY 2014

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Russell, Cheesman, Stevens, Isaacs, Davis, and Stanton

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

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr Isaacs declared a pecuniary interest in item TW/14/500138/FULL, – Churn Siding, Churn Lane, Horsmonden as he is contracted to carry out works on the project.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hughes
Cllr Lawrence
McDermott (TWBC) - (attending another meeting)
Cllr King (KCC)

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).*

Mr Larkin, a Horsmonden resident and tutor for Age UK (Tunbridge wells Branch) wished to inform the Council about the services which Barclays Bank are offering at their Tunbridge wells branch. Anyone who would like tuition can book a session at the bank to be shown how to carry out internet banking and use a smart phone to pay in cheques. The tuition offered is not limited to internet banking, but also includes tuition on how to email, Skype and shop on line.

Anyone interested can book a private session with a Barclays personal assistant to help them by calling Zoe (the branch organiser) on 07557204546 or can go along to Barclays open house event on from Wednesday 9th July 9.30am till 11am when coffee and cakes will be served. Barclays plan to hold these open house sessions every six weeks or so.

3. CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY.

Two candidates had stepped forward to file the vacancy for Parish Councillor following Cllr Parker's retirement.

An interview panel consisting of Councillors March, Davis and Russell had interviewed both candidates on the same evening following a set of pre-prepared questions and allowing both candidates the same amount of time for answers and questions.

Both candidates were extremely good candidates and the Council found it very difficult to make a decision between them, to the extent that they had made enquiries with TWBC to see if it was possible to extend the council to 10 members. Unfortunately this was not possible as the number of council members is based on the number of parishioners and this left the Council in the regrettable position of having to choose between two very strong candidates.

The working party recommended that Jacqueline Stanton be co-opted as the new member on the Council, as she had previous experience as a Parish Councillor, relevant skills from her previous career and had shown commitment to the Council by agreeing to be on their Emergency Planning Group. This was proposed by Cllr Russell and was seconded by Councillor Davis. Cllr Cheesman asked Mrs Stanton if she could commit time to the future of the council and Mrs. Stanton confirmed that this would be the case. Unanimous.

It was commented by Cllr Russell that if the Council could try and involve the other candidate in any of their working groups over the next year; it would be a very good idea, as they did not wish to lose the opportunity of harnessing this candidates skills on to the Council.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish council meeting dated 2nd June 2014 were circulated to Council members prior to the meeting for reading. It was proposed by the Chair that these should be accepted as a true statement of the meeting. Carried.

5. Matters Arising

Institute Repairs

Quotes for the plumbing works and outside tap have not yet been received. The Left hand fascia board needs repair. Cllr Isaacs will prepare a quotation The Clerk will also obtain a quotation from other sources. It was suggested that the Clerk get those quoting to include the removal of the two old fire alarms which are on the front of the building.

Stickers on Wheelie Bins

Cllrs Isaacs and Stanton took some of these for distribution. Cllr Davis took some for Cllr Lawrence as he had agreed to distribute some of these.

Conversion of old toilet in the Village Hall

The works quoted for are now completed. The clerk asked if a small tube heater could be fitted in the new cupboard as well as her office to keep things dry in the winter as papers are often damp. Cllr Isaacs will look into this.

Location of William Lambert Plaque

The Clerk is awaiting a further response from Planning (TWBC)

Conservation area map

Stuart Davis is awaiting further information about the plinth from TWBC

6. PLANNING

6.1 Applications:

Planning Application No:	TW/14/01489/FULL/NR2
Proposal:	(Land adjacent) two stable/store room blocks
Location:	Lewes Heath House, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Isaacs. Carried.
Comments:	Suitable equestrian accommodation

Planning Application No:	TW/14/500138/FULL/CP3
Proposal:	First floor side extension, porch alterations, fence and replacement garage
Location:	Churn Siding, Churn Lane, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Russell, carried
Comments:	Refusal on the grounds that the close boarded fence is inappropriate that close to the Highway. The PC has no objection to the proposal for the house and garage itself.

Planning Application No:	TW/14/01609/FULL
Proposal:	Demolition of existing swimming pool building and supporting accommodation and formation of a new pool house and gym with spa and ancillary accommodation. Addition of photovoltaic panels to roof of modern barn.
Location:	Rectory park, Rectory Park Road, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Stevens, carried.
Comments:	Acceptance as a reasonable enhanced replacement to the existing

	swimming pool and associated facilities.
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Planning Application No:	TW/14/01610/LBC
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing swimming pool building and supporting accommodation and formation of a new pool house and gym with spa and ancillary accommodation. Addition of photovoltaic panels to roof of modern barn.
Location:	Rectory park, Rectory Park Road, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Isaacs, seconded Cllr Stevens, carried.
Comments:	Improvement to the existing building .Subject to the conservation architect's approval.

6.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.

No permissions reported as granted or refused.

Appeal allowed on the Highwayman, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden. And permission granted for conversion and change of use from ground floor A4 and first floor apartment to single dwelling house.

6.3 Other Planning matters –

6.3 i) Friday s development at Minepit Wood

The Clerk had received a courtesy letter from Fridays to inform the Council about their plans to request planning permission for a chicken farm at Minepit wood. As the Council did not yet have the application details they could not discuss or comment on this proposal. It was suggested that with the holiday season coming up, the Clerk should ask TWBC to let the Council have the paperwork as soon as possible, or at least notify them when the proposal is made, so that they can arrange a site visit prior to having to comment on the application.

ii) Heath Stores - TL3/14/01605/ENCGEN

Heath Stores had made the council aware that they had received a complaint about noise from a neighbour. This related mainly to early morning deliveries to the shop. Heath Stores were doing everything they could to alleviate the problem where possible, however TWBC were now involved in noise monitoring to see if the levels were acceptable. The Parish Council would wait to see the outcome of the noise monitoring.

7. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

7.1 Parish Council Accounts to 6th July 2014

The Clerk presented the accounts up to 6th July 2014 to those present. Cllr Stevens queried whether the two water bills had a similar cubic meter usage on them. This was verified and they were both based on 71 cubic meters of usage. Cllr Russell proposed acceptance of the accounts, seconded Cllr Davis. Carried.

The Chair checked, agreed and signed the balance presented by the clerk, against the balance shown in the latest Bank statement.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 6th July 2014

	Balances	
Current account b/fwd 02.06.2014	£ 21,029.18	
Deposit account b/fwd 02.06.2014	£ 63,841.25	
Interest received (Deposit Account)		

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments	
Frederick Nevison - DJ services deposit	401421		£	50.00
Jubilee Hire - tables and chairs	401422		£	859.20
EDF Energy - supply public conveniences	D/D		£	45.96
EDF Energy - supply VG box	D/D		£	30.00

BT office telephone	D/D	£	148.89	
Mrs L Noakes - salary plus overtime	S/O	£	1,158.82	
HM Revenue and Taxes - Tax and NI LD Noakes	401423	£	259.42	
BBS Site services - CDM Coordinator services - toilets	401424	£	180.00	
Specialist Hygiene services cleaning	401425	£	223.20	
South east water - supply to public conveniences	401426	£	118.54	
Future Vision PC - computer courses May/June	401427	£	420.00	
SSE Contracting - street lighting June	401428	£	71.26	
Viking Direct - stationery	401429	£	40.14	
Mr S Jones - scavenging June	401430	£	61.52	
Mr C J Couchman - clock and play area	401431	£	83.08	
Medix - first aid cover for Music festival	401432	£	70.00	
Frederick Nevison - DJ services	401433	£	175.00	
C& M Security services - security for marquee	401434	£	370.00	
Mrs L Noakes - refund for mileage and parking fees	401435	£	30.40	
EJP Fire Protection Ltd - checking at the Institute	401436	£	270.96	
Mrs J March - refund of expenses for Music festival	401437	£	31.47	
Southern Water - drainage for toilets	401438	£	179.30	
TMS - stationery	401439	£	20.00	
Computing for elderly		£	15.00	
High heels and hampers		£	200.00	
Interest on current account		£	5.07	
BT Wayleaves payment - box on VG		£	756.00	
HMRC - refund of VAT for 2013/14		£	7,291.89	
Music festival takings		£	1,530.00	
Interest on current account		£	3.45	

Current Account as at 06.07.14 £ 25,933.43
Deposit Account as at 06.07.14 £ 63,841.25

TOTAL BANK: £ 89,774.68

7.2 Parish Council Bank Accounts.

Cllr Russell and the Clerk had visited several banks in Tunbridge wells to try and find a suitable savings account to spread the Parish Council's risk. Cllr Russell reported that HSBC were impressive and could offer a Business Bond with competitive rates of interest for either 3months or 6 month terms. They had at least two other Parish Councils on their books. NatWest had been less impressive as it had been difficult to obtain any information about what they had to offer, even in branch. Halifax couldn't offer any of these types of savings accounts, but said that Lloyd's might be able to on their behalf. The Clerk spoke to Lloyds on the phone, but they could not offer a deposit account, without taking out a current account and made regular charges on their current account .

Barclays were v informative, and could offer a straight savings account, but did not have any bonds.

Based on the above information, Cllr Russell proposed and recommended that the Council open a bond with HSBC, fed by a deposit account also held with them. Early withdrawal from such a bond is possible, but there is a £100 penalty for early withdrawal. The amount to be deposited in the bond should be determined on a quarterly basis by the Finance committee and reported upon at the following meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Stevens Unanimous.

7.3 Institute quotations

None available as yet.

8. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

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

- Cllr Stevens reported that the verges had been cut reasonably well this time, however the upper half of some hedges are encroaching on to the Highways.
- It was suggested that the Clerk contact the National Trust as their hedge was encroaching onto the footpath on the Lamberhurst Road.
- Clerk to ask Remington's to cut back nettles which encroach on the pathway . Highways should be requested to ask the landowner to cut back the undergrowth coming out on to the public footpath near Kirkin's Close.
- A number of parishioners had received letters about the Old Hop Pickers Line. The PC had also received a copy for their comments. The Clerk had made enquiries with KCC and had discovered that this is a feasibility study to see whether it was likely to be worth pursuing in the area. Cllr March commented that as a number of property owners affected by the proposal had not received the letter, it was not a very accurate feasibility study .The Clerk had requested details of which landowners KCC had sent the letter to and was to add to the next planning agenda so that the council could make their comments to KCC.
- Children had been seen trying to climb the small Acer tree on tea Green outside Redman's on a number of occasions. It was considered that this was not only dangerous for the children, but also not good for the young tree. Mr Jolley the tree warden is looking in to the cost of a tree guard to protect the tree and prevent youngsters from trying to climb up it.

8.2 Request to consider a bin for dog waste on footpath leading to Lewes Heath

Cllr Hughes had been asked to raise the request for a dog waste bin on the public footpath up to Lewes Heath. Unfortunately bins used solely for Dog waste need to be emptied as toxic waste which is costly, whereas if bagged correctly dogs mess can be placed in any bin – hence TWBC publicising 'Any in will do' Bearing in mind that the bin would need regularly emptying, Cllr Stevens proposed that the PC having considered the options, did not wish to put a bin in this area. Seconded Cllr Davis. Unanimous.

8.3 Vegetation at the rear of Irwin's obstructing and encroaching on to VH land.

The Clerk had been in correspondence with Town and Country Housing Group to try and get the tenant to remove the rubble at the rear of the property and tidy up the back of the gardens. This was on going ,however the Clerk had noticed that there was now a gap in the side fence , since the fence at the rear of the VH had been replaced and all the overgrown vegetation had been removed.Cllr March proposed that the Council should fill the gap with fencing. Cllr Isaacs will take a look at this.

8.4 Street lighting

Nothing to report.

8.5 Request to consider a mirror on street light opposite entrance to Tennis Courts

The tennis club had requested that they be allowed to put a mirror on the street light column opposite the entrance, which would allow better visibility for motorists coming out of the club. Earl Bourner from KHS had agreed in principal providing it was located well back from the Highway. Cllr March requested that an engineers report be carried out to show that the column was strong enough to take the weight of the mirror etc, and that the PC keep a copy of Earl Bourner's email agreeing to this. The Clerk will contact SSE who deal with the Council's street lighting to see if they can test the column for strength.

9. ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Public Conveniences

The Clerk was trying to arrange an appointment with Mr Bell and Cornford's to sign off the public toilet contract as complete.

9.2 Village Vision

The clerk raised the issue of Village Vision groups making decisions, on behalf of the Parish Council, as they were not authorised to do this. The Highways group had decided to take action by placing signs up at various positions around the village. Cllr Davis said that he had warned them that they must be careful where these are positioned so as not to block visibility splays etc.

It was suggested that the Village Vision groups should have simple terms of reference drawn up so that they are aware of their remit and the extent of their decision making etc. Cllr Davis and Stanton to look into terms of reference for each group. Clerk to pass on contact details for Carl Adams from ACRK.

9.3 Emergency Planning

Cllr Russell reported that the Emergency planning group had now held two meetings and had agreed to use the Kent Resilience Forum's template. Cllr Stanton is putting together the first draft which will hopefully be ready for the Council at their meeting in September.

9.4 Conservation area map

Cllr Davis is waiting for further details from TWBC and will hopefully be able to update the Council in September.

9.5 Love where you Live Awards – nominations

The Council put forward the following suggestions for nomination:

Safer Community Awards: PCSO Carey

Best Group Award: Music Festival Group

Young Volunteer of the Year Award: John Sheppard

Lifetime Achievement Award: Ralph Stevens

Cllr March put forward these nominations from the Chair. Unanimous.

Clerk to ask for the nominees permission to put them forward and a short resume from each.

9.6 Comments on NALC response to Government consultation for underground Drilling access.

Clerk to add to next planning meeting as an agenda item, as most members had not had a chance to read this. Clerk to forward email again to all members and print off for Cllr Stevens and Cllr Cheesman.

9.7 Request for a temporary changing area at the side of the VH during Horsmonden Players productions.

The players had made a request for a permission to arrange a temporary changing area at the side of the Village Hall during productions. It was proposed by Cllr Stevens that the players be allowed to erect a temporary structure, or tent, during productions, so long as such a structure does not block a fire exit or access point. Seconded, Cllr Russell. Unanimous.

9.8 Request to book the Village green for Walking with the wounded cycle event 3rd May 2015

It was proposed from the Chair that this event be allowed to go ahead on 3rd May 2015, as in previous years. Unanimous

9.9 Request to book the green for a vintage car show.

Mr Kellas had enquired about the possibility of the Green being used for Vintage Car Shows. After some discussion it was proposed from the Chair that subject to weather conditions and the usual booking conditions being fulfilled, the green could be booked for Vintage Car shows, however there would need to be an event organiser and group liability insurance cover. Unanimous.

9.10 Restoration of the Milestone on Benchley Road 40 yards east of Milestone Cottage.

The Clerk had received information about the Milestone which is between Milestone cottage and Shirrenden on the Brenchley Road. It was suggested by the Milestone Society that the Parish Council may wish to look into maintaining and repairing the milestone. Members of the Council felt that this is something which the Historical Society may be interested in looking into. Clerk to contact Mr Stubbings.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

10.1 Chairman's update (no decisions)

The Chair lady wanted to let members know that TWBC are currently looking again at the future of the Amenity vehicle. If this is a resource which the village and other parishes wish to keep it might be that the parish has to contribute to wars the costs of running this in the future.

Cllr March also reported that the school have couple of governor vacancies.

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

Cllr Cheesman is due to attend the Chief Constable, Police and crime Commissioner & Secambe event organised by KALC on 9th July at 6.30pm. He will report back at the next PC meeting

The meeting ended at 10.50pm