

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2012

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

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

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr Holloway declared that as a Trustee of the Village Hall she had an interest in any matter concerning the village Hall.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr King (KCC)

Cllr McDermott (TWBC)

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Kerrigan had come to the meeting to explain that she found the signs outside Berrisden, on the Brenchley Road, offensive in their contents. She believed that the signs were in contravention to current legislation regarding Race and Religion.. Cllr March explained that this matter was already in the hands of the police and that as such the Parish Council was not able to discuss this during their meeting. PC Booth was currently dealing with this matter and the PC understood that negotiations were under way with Mr. Berry regarding the signs.

Mr Jolley, the Tree Warden had come along to update the PC about trees in Horsmonden. He had been keeping a careful eye on the large Horse chestnut tree on the corner of the Village Green as it had suffered some damage in the past and he felt it could pose a threat in the future. The PC suggested that Mr Jolley ask Jamie Tweddle to take a look at the tree when it was in full leaf in the summer months. Mr Jolley was trying to find out more about thermal imaging as this could potentially tell the PC more about the health of the tree. Cllr Holloway will ask her son, who is an arboriculturalist, about thermal imaging.

The Clerk mentioned that she had received an email from a member of the parish who had donated a tree on Fromandez Drive, saying that the original rope and supporting post were still attached to the tree and that the rope was cutting in to the tree. Mr Jolley agreed to have a look to see if it was possible for him to remove these objects.

Mr Jolley also mentioned the possibility of planting some trees to commemorate the Queens Jubilee and wondered if some small trees could be planted on Fromandez Drive. It was suggested that Mr Jolley ascertain how many small trees, such as flowering cherry, could be supported on this area.

Mr Jolley also mentioned the idea of community woodland, which some parishes had. It was suggested that if anyone had woodland which they did not wish to manage anymore, they could donate it to the Parish as community woodland.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th January 2012.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th January 2012 were taken as read. Cllr Stevens proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Fletcher. Unanimous.

4. Matters Arising

Love Where We Live Awards -4 nominations had been put forward by the Parish Council.

Computers at the Social Club – Cllr March was awaiting Alex King’s decision on funding for this. Cllr Hughes was happy to continue this project even if it extends beyond his retirement from the Council.

Risk Assessment of the Institute – Clerk to ask Mr Kellas if he can provide a copy of the Risk Assessment for the PC ‘s records.

First Registration of the Village Green – KCC legal are now making an application to the Land Registry on the PC's behalf.

Toilets at the Institute – these are now finished and should be removed from matters arising for next month.

Conservation Area Map – John Naylor is trying to put some photographs of the map on to his computer and will alter the description of Limes Cottage. Cllr March said that she may be able to get some BC funding for this for next year. JN will try and obtain some quotations for the work needed.

Footpaths on the Lamberhurst Road –British Telecom need to lower a manhole cover so that the pavement can be finished off. This may take up to a month. Clerk to organise official opening of footpath once this has been done.

War Memorial Names – Cllr Clemson dealing with this. The general consensus was that the person would have needed to have either lived in the village at the time of their call –up, or at the time of their death in order to have their name added to the Memorial.

Street Lighting Replacement – It was agreed by all that the lighting was a great improvement and the new lights looked good. Cllr Stevens suggested that the Council should ask KCC and TWBC to change over to the same sort of lighting. It was suggested that the lighting in Horsmonden could be used as an example to other Parish Councils. Thanks were given to the Clerk for all her work in achieving the changeover.

SEC had now suggested that the PC need not have a maintenance contract and could simply pay call out charges. However some members of the council were slightly concerned that this could end up costing more than at present. It was suggested that the Clerk ask how much the call out charges were and see if SEC could give a reduced maintenance contract for call outs.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

None.

5.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.

Permissions Granted

TW/11/03507/LBC – School House Farm, School House Lane, Horsmonden

TW/11/03734 –Drum & Monkey House, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden

TW/11/03301 –8 Oast View, Horsmonden.

Applications Refused

None

Appeals

Ash Oast, School House Lane, Horsmonden – application TW/11/02068/FUL – The Appeal was allowed and planning permission granted under this application reference.

5.3 Other Planning matters.

Manor Farm

The footpaths officer has enforced that the owner must remove two fence panels near to the entrance of the footpath. This will allow a widened area of footpath where the close boarded fencing is. The width will reduce to 1.5 metres where the post and wire fencing carries on. The latest planning application for this property has now been called in, to be decided upon by the SE area committee rather than being dealt with at case officer level.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 5th February 2012

The Clerk presented the accounts up to and including 5th February 2012, as shown below, to members of the council and the public. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Clemson that the accounts be accepted and the vote for this was unanimous

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 5th February 2012

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 09.01.2012	£ 2,772.35
Deposit account b/fwd 09.01.2012	£ 69,588.77

Interest received (Deposit Account)

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Mrs L D Noakes January salary	S/O		£ 639.35
HM Revenue and Customs - Tax and NI L Noakes	410009		£ 19.72
Mrs L Noakes Refund of travel costs	410010		£ 33.54
Mrs L Noakes - stationery	410011		£ 45.14
Mr C J Couchman - clock and play area January.	410012		£ 80.48
Mr S Jones Scavenging January	410013		£ 61.52
Cheque reversal for missing cheque 400940	Void		-£ 76.90
Cheque reissue for scavenging in July	410014		£ 76.90
Rates demand for Public conveniences	410015		£ 845.89
Architects fees for Toilet plans - Mr P Honeysett	410016		£ 600.00
Specialist Hygiene Services - cleaning in Jan	410017		£ 178.71
SSE Contracting - Jan Maintenance of lighting	410018		£ 136.08
BT telephone charges for Oct to Jan	DD		£ 101.80
Interest on Current Account		£ 0.27	

Current Account as at 05.02.12

£ 5,030.39

Deposit Account as at 05.02.12

£ 64,588.77

TOTAL

BANK:

£ 69,619.16

6.2 Quotes for extra grounds maintenance from Dukes

The Clerk had obtained quotes from Dukes as follows:

Tarmac in front of millennium plaque - £135

Clear and tarmac area of nettles by Kings Head - £90

Clear and trim bushes as requested at Fromandez Drive - £75

It was proposed from the Chair that these quotations be accepted without any further quotes being obtained as Dukes carried out all groundwork for the council at present, as the chosen contractors of the council.

Unanimous.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

7.1 Highways issues

The following were reported for action:

- Dog bone markings still need repainting (Mr. Naylor has offered to put up some laminated signs pointing out the disabled access points).
- The disabled slope on the corner of the pavement on Maidstone Road needs to be levelled out where it lowers for disabled access across the road, as it is too high in places.
- White lining in centre and at edges of roads throughout village, needs repainting.

The Clerk showed the Councillors diagrams of the bus stop outline and signage proposed for the new bus stop on the Brenchley Road, in respect of the Mascall's School bus. It was proposed from the Chair that these were suitable for the use. Unanimous. The sign should state 'No stopping between 2.30pm and 4.30 pm on weekdays'.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had received communications from KHS to the effect that they do not own the verge near to the Oast House on Lamberhurst Road and will not therefore maintain this area. It was suggested that the Clerk should go back to KHS to say that whilst the PC were happy to deal with the verge cutting in this area, as ownership could not be ascertained, they felt that it was the responsibility of KHS to keep drains clear. The PC would not wish to see an accident caused by blocked drainage in this area, and this would be even more likely in freezing conditions.

Cllr March had met with Robert Dicketts to consider the possibility of creating a pavement on the Brenchley Road. Having considered this, they had ascertained that there was no way of creating a pavement along this stretch of road as it simply isn't wide enough, Mr Dicketts suggested a raised platform near the junction of Furnace Lane to slow traffic down.. It was noted that there used to be a 'Slow' sign painted on the road at the corner, but this had worn off and never been replaced. Clerk to investigate this with white lining above. Cllr March suggested that the Council await the results of Village Vision and then form a working group who could look at road safety elements as raised in the survey.

Cllr Stevens suggested that the Clerk may add in a Parish News article that it might be a good idea for neighbours to try and get together when heavy snow is forecast and try to organise their parking so that it is only on one side of the road. This would help considerably when the snow plough has to go through, clearing, as it is often difficult for the snow plough to clear residential areas as efficiently as it could ,because of parking on the road side.

7.2 STREET LIGHTING

Already discussed under matters arising.

8. QUOTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Chairman's update

- Cllr March reported that Shaun Speirs had offered to update the PC website and rewrite it at some stage.
- It was requested that the Clerk write to those members of the public who watered the planters on the green last summer and ask if they might consider doing it again. This included the residents of Poplars, The Highwayman, Charlotte at Haircraft, the residents of Woodbine Cottage. Cllr Holloway proposed this and Cllr Parker seconded it. Unanimous.
- Cllr March and Cllr Stevens were to meet with the Police Events Team on the Village Green on 7th February regarding this years Horsefair event in September. TW Police have announced that they will no longer be taking part in the liaison or organisation of this and the police presence will be less pronounced than previously. This matter will be passed to the police liaison team to liaise with the PC and Gypsy community.
- The Clerk had presented Cllr March with various quotations for a projector, screen and trolley which were to be purchased with grant monies offered by KCC. Clerk to forward these to Cllr Robins and Parker for further investigations. Cllr Robins said that he may be able to borrow a projector for the next meeting so that the PC could see what it was like.

8.2 Queens Jubilee

- The next meeting of the working party was to be 20th February.
- Various events were being organised for the weekend, as listed previously.
- The Clerk was now applying for a UMS certificate for the lighting to be switched on for this event.
- Cllrs March and Stevens are looking into the possibility of a static firework display.
- Cllr Stevens is making up a sign for one end of the Green which will have a suitable light display on it.
- Cllr Stevens was trying to organise rubbish bins and collection etc.
- Outgoings would consist of the cost of the marquee (net £800), first aid at £105 (3 days at £35), temporary events notice (£20.50) banqueting role for tables etc; extra loo cleaning (Thursday and Saturday), double side laminated signs for toilets etc, super market air fresheners for toilets, tables

(The ball organisers will fund the round tables which can be used throughout); chairs (Denise Bignell has costed these at £1.80each – it is proposed that the ball organisers will pay £1 of this and PC will pay the other £0.80 for each chair.); Mugs.

- o Incoming moneys would consist of flat rate for stall holders, Ball tickets, Grant from Alex King for£500 and grant from TWBC amounting to £1100.

It was proposed by Cllr March that the PC pay £20.50 for the temporary events notice and £105 for the First aid. Unanimous.

The PC agreed generally with the concept of the Ball as put forward. Cllr Hughes suggested that the Methodist Church may offer their car park if it was needed.

John Naylor suggested a balloon race – perhaps to be run by the Kindergarten.

Cllr Stevens mentioned the idea of farmers having their own beacons if they wish, but this will not be part of the main event run by the PC.

Cllr March proposed from the Chair that the PC order 750 mugs from Impact China, in bone china at £2.60 each. Carried. Cllr Clemson suggested these were sold at £4.00 each, seconded Cllr Stevens.

Carried. Cllr Stevens proposed that the mugs should say ‘Horsmonden commemorates the Queens Diamond Jubilee’. This was seconded by Cllr Fletcher. Carried.

8.3 Village Vision Update

Nick May had reported to Councillor March that all the village vision questionnaires which were completed had now been input in to the system and that the volunteers were planning to get together to ascertain the next stages of the project.

It was reported that 470 out of the 850 (55%) Household questionnaires sent out, were completed, along with 264 older persons questionnaires and 105 younger persons questionnaires.

8.4 Community projects update

Cllrs March , Clemson and Parker met to discuss the Draft Strategic Compass 2012/13 – Community Projects, which TWBC had asked for parish comments on.

Under the section ‘Prosperous Borough’ the councillors had prioritised the following in order:

1. Work with Kent County Council to improve broadband speeds in the borough particularly for rural businesses and communities
2. Deliver the key objectives within the transport strategy such as: work with KCC to address key traffic infrastructure issues including the A21 and the introduction of traffic light management.
3. Explore the potential to encourage hi-tech employers to Tunbridge wells.

Under ‘Healthy Borough’ the priorities were considered:

1. Deliver a programme of community grants (The Community Grant programme aims to assist voluntary and community organisations working to help develop safer and stronger communities and provide leisure opportunities throughout the borough).
2. Provide financial assistance to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people, increasing energy and efficiency and reduce the number of vacant properties.

The Councillors added their own comment:

3. Promoting and linking healthy eating/cooking with veg. boxes and local produce particularly for low income families (includes classes in basic cooking skills using healthy food from veg. boxes).

Under ‘Green Borough’ the Councillors had one preference:

1. Introduce a campaign to encourage increases in the levels of household waste recycling

The councillors added a comment on this:

2. Household waste recycling to include doorstep glass recycling
3. Promote more efficient use of water resources e.g. Hippo bags in loo cisterns, showers, water butts and grey water recycling.
4. Reduce the number of plastic carrier bags used by the promotion of reusable bags e.g. Bags for life or strong brown paper bags.

Under ‘Confident Borough’ the councillors prioritised:

1. Support the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee
2. Support local community groups to play a greater role in delivering services and explore the potential to devolve services to local groups that are better placed to deliver them.

They added their own comment:

3. Develop an effective speed management traffic system to increase the perception of confidence and safety on rural roads.

8.5 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – Local Heritage Assets: Consultations on draft Supplementary Planning Document 30th January to 11th March 2012.

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Local Heritage partnership in the form of a draft consultation for comments. The Borough Council is trying to produce its own list of local heritage assets and has asked for parish comments on the processes and criteria for compiling the list of assets. Cllrs Fletcher and Clemson to work on this and report back at next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Future meeting dates for 2012:

Planning Committee Meeting – 27th February – St Margaret’s Church Hall

Parish Council Meeting - 5th March – Village Hall

Planning Committee Meeting – 19th March - St Margaret’s Church Hall

Parish Council Meeting - 2nd April- Village Hall

Planning Committee Meeting – 16th April - St Margaret’s Church Hall

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - 14th May 2012 – Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting - 21st May 2012 – Village Hall

Please note that meeting schedules are subject to change, you should therefore always check the Parish Council notice board before attending a meeting. All members of the Public and press are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings; however, if you wish to speak in the Public session it is important that you notify the Clerk beforehand.