

**MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2012**

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Davis, Stevens, Russell, Parker, Kerrigan, Cheesman, Jones and Reed. (Cllr Reed retired from the meeting at 11.10pm)

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

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr Parker declared an interest in TW/12/02849/FUL – 1 Lewes Heath Cottages, Lewes Heath as the applicants are neighbours, and did not therefore take part in the discussion or decision making process. Cllr Cheesman and Stevens declared an interest in TW/12/02563/LBC – Bushes Farm house, Churn Lane, Horsmonden and did not take part in the discussion or decision making on this matter.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McDermott (TWBC) - another meeting
Cllr King (KCC).

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Bateup regretted to report to the Council that he would be unable to continue to offer his services to cut and look after the Village Green as from the New Year, as this was now too difficult for him to manage. Cllr March formally thanked Mr Bateup for all his years of hard work and generosity with his time, and said that the Parish Council were very grateful for everything he had done for them over the last 15 years or so. She said that the Council would like to invite Mr. Bateup to a special 'thank you' in the New Year and that the Clerk would keep him up to date on this. Cllr March will contact Martin Devenish at the Sports Club who may know of someone who can look after both the Sports Ground and the Village Green.

Mr Greenwood had asked to speak regarding TW/12/02849/FUL – 1 Lewes Heath Cottages, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden. Mr Greenwood said that the new planning application which had been put in for this property had been agreed by the neighbours. It made provision to move the green house to a more suitable location than in the previous application and enabled the occupants to have a back garden which they were very keen to use for growing their own vegetables, although TWBC planning had suggested that a much smaller area of garden would be more suitable.

Mr Greenwood pointed out that the land to be used for the garden extension was unsuitable for any agricultural use by the Farm and was never likely to be used to plant crops by the farmer again. It would however make a suitable garden for the occupants in his opinion, as they would use raised beds to grow their vegetables.

3. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Claire Reed had been voted on to the Council at the last Parish Council meeting on 1st October 2012 (point 8.5) and now signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office , which was witnessed by the Clerk, and her Registration of Interest form, to be sent off to TWBC, Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Reed, confirmed that she was happy to take over the Committee position which had been left vacant when Tim Fletcher vacated the position.

6. Cllr March proposed to those present that item TW/12/02849/FUL – 1 Lewes Heath Cottages , Lewes heath, Horsmonden be brought forward , so that members of the public present could listen to the discussion.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/02849/FUL000VWIBWBU000 1 Lewes Heath Cottages Lewes Heath Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8AF
Proposal:	Change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage and erection of a green house
Location:	1 Lewes Heath Cottages , Lewes Heath, Horsmonden , Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Cheesman. Carried.
Comments:	Approval in light of the position of the area proposed and the fact that the land is not suitable for growing fruit or agricultural usage. The area is proportionate to the size of the property.

The Chair then proposed to return to the order of the agenda. Unanimous.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 1st October 2012. Minutes of the Planning Meeting of 16th October 2012.

The minutes of the meeting of 1st October were presented to the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Parker. Carried.

The minutes of the planning meeting of 16th October were presented to the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Jones seconded by Cllr Stevens. Carried.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Computers from the old Library to the Social Club – it was felt that this was still a worthwhile project. Cllr Kerrigan and Cllr Reed to meet with Mr Kellas and Mr Larkin to try and draw up a business plan. Clerk to let Alex King know that the PC is still trying to achieve this.

First Registration of Village Green – This matter is still awaiting a response from Land Registry.

Projector system for Village Hall – The Projector and screen had been installed by Mr Robins, Cllr Davis and Mr Noakes. The parish Council thanked Mr Robins, Mr Noakes and Cllr Davis for all their hard work on this project. Clerk to convey thanks. The clerk was still experiencing some connectivity problems with the projector, but it was hoped that these would be resolved shortly.

Community Gardening Scheme – Cllr Parker reported that this was slowly progressing. A few volunteers had stepped forward. Areas to be included, still needed to be identified. Cllr Parker to let the Finance committee know the costs of the Planters for the four village entry points. Cllr Jones to measure up for planters on the entry signs.

Conservation Area Map – Cllr Davis had brought in the map which Mr Naylor had been working on. It was now necessary for someone to undertake the graphical work. Clerk to ask Mr Legg at TWBC what had been agreed about this. Cllr March will speak to David Bartholomew.

6. PLANNING

Planning Application No:	TW/12/02563/LBC/SE2 HKL35KBWX9000 Bushes Farmhouse Churn Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8HN
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent – To prevent further dilapidation of barn and measures to stop future movement
Location:	Bushes Farm House, Churn Lane, Horsmonden , Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Chair, unanimous.
Comments:	Subject to the conservation architect's recommendation.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/02157/LS1000WVOBWBU000 The Coach House Broadford Goudhurst Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EU
Proposal:	Notification of Revised Planning Application Details
Location:	The Coach House, Broadford, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden , Tonbridge
Recommendation/comments	TWBC had already made a decision on this application, so no further comments could now be forwarded.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/02163/LBC/LS1000WVOBWBU000 The Coach House Broadford Goudhurst Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EU
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent -Notification of Revised Planning Application Details
Location:	The Coach House, Broadford, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden , Tonbridge
Recommendation/comments	TWBC had already made a decision on this application, so no further comments could now be forwarded.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/01923/HOUSE/TA1000WF2BWBU000 Heathside Green Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8JS
Proposal:	Replacement of existing 2m high close boarded garden fence with a 2m high brick wall
Location:	Heath side, Green Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Chair, unanimous
Comments:	Acceptance of the proposed brick wall, subject to eh conservation architect's recommendations(including materials) as it is in a conservation area and within the boundary of a listed building.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/02989/LBC/CLC000XF3BWBU000 Ash Farm School House Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8BJ
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent – Alterations to fenestration at rear elevation
Location:	Ash Farm, School House Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Parker, unanimous
Comments:	Whilst the Parish Council is happy with the replacement of the French doors, they have reservations about the replacement of the small window with French doors, because it is out of character with eth original part of the building. Subject to the conservation architect's opinion.

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

Permissions Granted

TW/12/02295/FUL – Gate House, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden.

TW/12/025529/HOUSE – Gate House, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden

TW/12/00066/HOUSE – Wood peckers, Castlemaine Oast, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden

TW/11/03576/FUL – Barn 50 Metres south of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Yee Tree Green Road, Horsmonden.

TW/12/02369/FUL – Part OS plot 1000 Tainter Mead, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

TW/12/02376/LBC – Heath Stores Grocers, The Heath, Horsmonden

Appeals

Manor Farm, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge – TW/12/01183/FUL

Appeal to take place on 29th January at 10am in the Town Hall Tunbridge wells.

6.3 **Open letter regarding August Pitts application**

The Clerk and members of the Council had received an open letter from parishioners, forwarded by Mr Kellas, regarding objections to the Parish Council's decision and comments about the August Pitts planning application TW/12/01342/FULMJ.

It was proposed by the Chair that a small group consisting of Cllr Kerrigan, Cllr Parker and Cllr Davis get together and formulate a response/statement which the PC could vote on at their next planning committee meeting on 27th November, to be signed by the Chair to the Council.

7. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

7.1 Parish Council Accounts to 11th November 2012

The Accounts up to and including 11th November were presented to the Council and proposed for acceptance by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Russell. Unanimous.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 12th November 2012

Balances

Current account b/fwd 30.09.2012	£ 3,796.76	
Deposit account b/fwd 30.09.2012	£ 86,270.17	
Interest received (Deposit Account)	£ 22.66	

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Fee - unpaid cheque	Bank Fee		6.00
Fee - stop payment of cheque	Bank Fee		12.00
EDF Energy 1 Ltd - street lighting supply to 30.09.12	401130		£ 594.39
Horsmonden Village Hall - office rent	401131		£ 900.00
St Margarets Church - graveyard maintenance	401132		£ 600.00
Kent County Council - Legal fees Aug 2012	401133		£ 27.60
Mr E Kellas - refund for remembrance day wreath	401134		£ 35.00
BT - Parish Council telephone	D/D		£ 106.62
Mrs L D Noakes Salary for October plus overtime	S/O		£ 877.87
BT Internet services - internet connection	D/D		£ 50.40
Kent County Council - Vat element of June bill	401135		£ 14.40
EDF Energy 1 - final street lighting supply to 31.10.2012	401136		£ 202.06
The marketing Solution - parish office signs	401137		£ 50.40
Kent County Council - legal fees for Sept	401138		£ 470.40
Hummel Electrical - electrics for VH projector	401139		£ 200.00
Kent Association of Local Councils - training	401141		£ 72.00
Specialist Hygiene Services Ltd - cleaning loos	401142		£ 178.71
HM Revenue and Customs - Tax and NI L Noakes	401143		£ 90.70
Mr C J Couchman - clock and play area - Oct	401144		£ 80.48
Mr S Jones - October scavenging	401145		£ 61.52
Uncontested election fees	401146		£ 92.60
withdrawal - Horsefair Cheque unpaid		-£250.00	
Refund of electricity costs from Farmers market	24.10.2012	£ 93.35	
Cont to wards stickers from VH committee and Ins.contrib	24.10.2012	£ 137.72	
Interest on Current account		£ 0.38	
Interest on current account		£ 0.26	

Current Account as at 12.11.12	£ 4,055.32
Deposit Account as at 12.11.12	£ 81,292.83

TOTAL BANK: £ 85,348.15

7.2 Quotations to raise boiler off the ground- Village Hall

The Clerk had received three quotations from different boilers companies about raising the boiler. One suggested re-siting the boiler to the opposite end of the cellar and venting through the wall instead of the current chimney, another suggested that the boiler stay in its current position and have a much shorter flue, and the third did not give an indication on the best way forward.

The Council members were not happy that any of the quotations dealt suitably with the problem of the boiler flooding. Cllr Stevens said that providing the drainage was kept clear in that area, the boiler room should not now flood as much as in the past. The boiler is thought to be in excess of six years old. The possibility of moving the boiler completely to the old storage cupboard was mentioned. Cllr Stevens to look in to the viability of this action instead. Boiler to remain as it is at present.

7.3 Quotations for Transport monitoring in Village. Grant to come from Alex King's members Highways fund.

The Traffic action group of Village Vision had received two quotations for a traffic Survey, on behalf of the Parish Council. Jacobs had quoted £1220 (excluding VAT) and TSS had quoted £825 (excluding VAT). The surveys were to measure number of vehicular movements, axel spacing of vehicles and speed on all four village entry points and remain in position for one week. It was proposed by Cllr Stevens that the TSS quotation be accepted, seconded by Cllr Parker, unanimous. This money is to come from Cllr King's Members Highways Funding.

Village Vision members had mentioned to Cllr March that a lot of minor accidents and near misses don't get reported to the police, and are therefore unrecorded. It was therefore important to ask members of the public to report all accidents so that the records give a true indication of the number of incidents which occur.

Village Vision groups are also looking at parking issues in the village centre and trying got come up with some answers as well as the possibility of a Bus shelter.

Clerk to add Transport to next month's agenda, as Bus shelters and Buses are to be discussed.

7.4 Agreement to purchase new bench for the Village Green

It had been suggested that Michael Craft's bench on the Green should be replaced as it was looking rather old and broken. It was proposed by the Chair that a new memorial bench be ordered without arms, with the same wording on the plaque and that this be noted in parish News if possible as the Clerk had been unable to contact Michael Crafts family members. Unanimous.

7.5 Horsefair - refund for plumbing works

The Clerk had not been able to cash the deposit cheque provided in respect of the Horsefair. At present the Police were liaising with Mr Vine to try and retrieve the plumbing costs which were incurred by the council at the event in September.

8. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

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

Cllr Stevens said that a lot of the small problem had now been fixed by KHS. However, there were many hedges still to be cut in the village. The following new problems were reported:

- A small tree on Village Green in leaning over and needs an anchor so that it is rectified – clerk to speak to Mr Tweddle.
- Hole in pavement o/s Vermont, Maidstone Road.
- People are still parking over the dropped kerbs in village centre – Clerk to provide laminated signs and Chair to ask Patrick if he would mind putting one on his fence, o/s the Post office.
- The Clerk and Chair had received an anonymous letter about the holes in the end of Back Lane. It is thought that this is an unadopted road; therefore KHS will probably be unable to repair this. Clerk to carry out a letter drop to residents in the road advising them of the situation.

9 ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Public conveniences

Mr Bell had asked the Council to make a decision about the the final layout of the toilets and how the disabled toilet is to be used, so that he could go ahead with estimates etc. It was felt that the disabled facility should be maintained for disabled users only, possibly with a radar key entry system. It was also suggested that as there

are various problems associated with urinal facilities, it may be better to have two sit down toilets in the men's facility. Clerk to check on this with Mr Bell. The clerk showed the Councillors a picture of the flush fitting steel door which Mr Bell was suggesting for the disabled toilet and it was commented on that all 3 doors should be made to match.

It was proposed by Cllr Parker that subject to Mr Bell agreeing that the plans could accommodate two sit down facilities in the men's toilet, he should prepare the documentation to obtain quotes and costings. This should include 3 new steel flush fitting doors and the minor repairs as listed by Mr Bell. Seconded Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.

It was also suggested that the Clerk should speak to Mr Bell about the options for hand washing facilities in the loos, as the wall gate facilities had to be especially maintained and could be costly.

9.2 Sports Club lease and plan.

The Clerk was hoping to be in possession of the final draft for completion, soon.

9.3 Community Gardening Scheme. (Area outside Social Club and War memorial, Public conveniences, planters)

This had been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

9.4 Horsmonden Music Festival 2013

This matter was to be discussed at a meeting in the social club and would be reported back to the Council by Mr Kellas. A likely date would be Saturday 15th June 2013. Cllr Reed suggested that if such an event takes place, all local businesses should be asked to take part and given the opportunity to provide food /refreshments.

9.5 Housing

The Clerk had been speaking to Jennifer Hudson at TWBC Housing regarding the fact that no one had yet been able to move into the new housing development. There had been a delay in the formation of a raised entry table at the vehicular entrance to the site, new footpath running along Gibbet lane and resurfacing and signing of Gibbet Lane. This is to ensure safe vehicle and pedestrian access to and from the new homes and until this is done, no one can move into the homes. It is hoped that the situation is now resolved and that the building works will be completely finished by mid to end of January.

CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

10.1 KCC Health and Wellbeing strategy – consultation 17th October to 23rd November <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/health/consultationHome>.

The Councillors are to respond individually to this if they wish to.

10.2 Parish Charter – comments on the new draft.

Council members did not have any comments on this at the time, but understood that it is to be discussed further at Parish Chairman's meetings.

10.3 Kent High Weald Partnership – Free trees initiative

Clerk to advertise where possible. Cllr Parker will mention it to the School.

The meeting closed at 11.20pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Planning Committee Meeting – 27th November 2012

Parish Council Meeting – 3rd December 2012

Finance Committee meeting – 10th December 2012