

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

**Present:** Cllr March (Chair)  
Councillors Davis, Stevens, Russell, Kerrigan, Parker, Cheesman, and Reed.

**In attendance:** Lucy Noakes (Clerk)  
No members of the public  
PCSO Carey  
4 officers from TWBC

**Declarations of Interest:**

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. None were recorded.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr McDermott (TWBC).

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

PCSO Carey gave a brief update on crime in the area. During December and January there had only been 4 crimes reported in Horsmonden: two of these relating to damage to vehicles; one attempted burglary on a shed and one attempted burglary on a house. In the area in general, the main crime increase was the theft of domestic heating oil and there were rumours of an increase in dog theft, although PCSO Carey could not confirm this to be true. The Parish Council thanked PCSO Carey for her update.

Jane Clarke and Nick Peeters from TWBC Democratic Services had come to the meeting to update the Parish Council on the new Parish Charter. In September 2012 a working group was set up to review the Charter with a view to making the Charter more concise. The Charter represents an agreement between the Parishes and TWBC to set out working relationships and strategies.

As a side issue, it was suggested by the PC that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be asked to review Fly-tipping in the Borough.

Richard Allen (Planning Team leader for the Western part of the Borough) and James Freeman (Head of Planning Services) had come along to the meeting to speak about Planning in the Borough and give an overview of how the system works.

It was explained that the Borough Council has to stick to strict timescales set out by Central Government for planning applications and that if these were not adhered to, then Central Government could refuse to let TWBC decide on planning matters. These timescales result in a 21 day consultation period for each application and if Parishes find it difficult to stick to the timescale outlined for a particular case, it was suggested that they should contact the case officer to see if a small extension can be granted on an individual case basis.

Mr Freeman explained that from April, pre-application advice will be charged for by the BC. It was also thought that permitted Development Rights would be extended.

Mr Freeman also explained that the Core Strategy of the TWBC Local plan, which came about in 2010, sets out the figures for housing development in the area, and that in March 2013 the Development Plan Documents would set out how each area will meet its individual housing requirements.

Mr Freeman said there was likely to be some planning training for Parish Councils in May 2013. The Parish Council thanked the officers from TWBC for coming along to the meeting and explaining these matters and at this point in the meeting the officers from TWBC left the meeting.

A minutes silence was then held, as a mark of respect in memory of Paul Jones, who sadly passed away in January. Paul was a Parish Councillor and a friend of many, as well as being someone who was committed to serving the Parish of Horsmonden.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

#### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January were presented to the meeting and taken as read. It was proposed from the Chair that these be accepted, carried.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**Computers at the Social Club/Institute** - Cllr Kerrigan had investigated further and had received three quotes for broadband. Virgin had quoted £149 to connect and £24 per month thereafter; O2 had quoted £67 one off charge to connect and £36.67 per month thereafter and BT had quoted a one off connection fee of £99, with £17 per month line rental and £16 per month for Broadband, with a free router.

It was proposed for the Chair that the best option was BT and this was voted for unanimously. Therefore Cllrs Reed and Kerrigan to go ahead with the installation. A further meeting would then be held with Club members to ascertain the details of how this would be operational.

**First Registration of the Village Green** - Clerk still waiting to hear from Land Registry.

**Community Gardening Scheme** – Cllr Parker suggested that as Cllr Jones had been very keen on the idea of the community gardening scheme, it would be a nice gesture to get together with his family and friends on perhaps a Saturday or Sunday in September to plant some yellow spring crocus’ on the Village Green in his memory. Paul had also been very keen to do something at the Village entry points, so maybe some bulbs could be planted at these locations as well.

**Conservation Area Map** – no further developments had been made on this.

#### **KCC (various Roads, Borough of Maidstone) (7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction) Experimental Order 2012**

An email had been received from John Burr, (KHS) who had said that the situation would be monitored very closely and he would take it very seriously if any evidence showed that the HGV’s had transferred onto other unsuitable rural roads in the area. He did also say that the trial had not yet begun as it would not do so until all the signage was in place. He said that he would ensure that all parishes were aware when the trial was to begin and would be notified as to how they can make their views known.

### 5. PLANNING

Planning Application No:	TW/12/00081/FUL <a href="#">13/00081/FUL</a>   <a href="#">Replacement hostel accommodation for seasonal workers   Fruit Packing Station Spelmonden Farm Spelmonden Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent</a>
Proposal:	Replacement hostel accommodation for seasonal workers
Location:	Fruit Packing Station Spelmonden Road Goudhurst
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Parker, Cllr Stevens, unanimous.
Comments:	Acceptance subject to the occupation being for no more than nine months per annum. Any external lighting should be submitted and agreed to the planning officer prior to installation, in order to prevent nuisance to neighbours and light pollution.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/03555/FUL <a href="#">12/03555/FUL</a>   <a href="#">Retrospective: 2m closed board wood fence along the western boundary of the site   Church Farm House Brick Kiln Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EN</a>
Proposal:	Retrospective: 2m closed board wood fence along the western boundary of the site.
Location:	Church Farm House, Brick Kiln Lane Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal

Proposed:	Cllr Kerrigan, Cllr Cheesman, carried
Comments:	The fence is not in-keeping for the quintessential country lane. It looks suburban and this is a sensitive location in the village leading to an important, ancient church, which is a fundamental part of the village. The Parish Council would suggest that the applicant be requested to lower the height of the fence to 1 meter and allow the fence to naturally weather in.

## 5.2 **Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.**

### **Applications granted.**

TW/12/03398/HOUSE – Stanstead, Brenchley Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

TW/12//03098/LBC – Milestone Cottage, Brenchley Road, Horsmonden

TW/11/03578/LBC – Yew Tree Farm Oast, Yew Tree Green road, Horsmonden.

TW/11/03577/FUL – Yew Tree Farm Oast, Yew Tree Green road, Horsmonden.

## 5.3 **Other Planning matters.**

None

## 6. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE**

### 6.1 **Parish Council Accounts to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013**

The Clerk presented the accounts up to and including 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013, as shown below, to members of the council and the public. The Clerk pointed out the Cheque numbered 401177 made out to ‘Christopher Noakes’ and said that this was in respect of a refund of payment to Dell computers for a annual maintenance programme. The Clerk had been forced to take put the programme as a matter of urgency in order to sort out a problem encountered with sending and receiving emails during January. The maintenance programme allowed the Clerk to contact Dell on three further occasions in the year to sort out any further problems encountered with the computer.

It was proposed by the Chair that the accounts be accepted and the vote for this was unanimous.

#### **Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 3rd February 2013**

	<b>Balances</b>
Current account b/fwd 7.01.2013	£ 3,851.10
Deposit account b/fwd 7.01.2013	£ 76,292.83
Interest received (Deposit Account)	

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
BT - Parish Council telephone	D/D		£ 112.33
Mrs L Noakes - salary plus bonus	S/O		£ 751.95
HM Revenue and Customs - Tax and NI L Noakes	401176		£ 42.94
Christopher Noakes - refund for Dell maintenance contract	401177		£119.00
Lucy Noakes - refund for printer paper	401178		£ 5.75
J Ralph Stevens - refund for printouts	401179		£ 5.40
C J Couchman - clock and play area Jan	401180		£ 80.48
S Jones - scavenging Jan	401181		£ 61.52
EJP Fire Protections Ltd - service for VH	401182		£ 62.04
SSE Contracting Ltd - Jan maintenance	401183		£ 71.26
Duke Contractors Ltd - grounds maintenance	401184		£ 2,278.21
Current Account as at 3.02.13			£ 260.22
Deposit Account as at 3.02.13			£ 76,292.83
		<b>TOTAL</b>	
		<b>BANK:</b>	<b>£ 76,553.05</b>

**6.2 Quotations for maintenance contract for Village Green.**

The clerk had obtained three quotations for maintenance of the Village Green at Horsmonden. However as the Chair had not yet heard from Martin Devenish ( the Chair of the Sports Club ) to say how the Sports Club intended to proceed with maintenance, it was suggested that this matter be postponed for discussion and decision at the March 2013 meeting.

**7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

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

The following items were mentioned for reporting to Kent Highways services:

The drains outside The Old Oast, Lamberhurst Road are still blocked solid.

The interactive speed sign on the Goudhurst Road is not working

The sign at the end of Churn Lane is not yet reinstated

The finger post at Brick Kiln Lane is not yet repaired.

Clerk to make an enquiry, as there does not appear to have ever been a sign for Hoath Meadow.

**7.2 Street lighting**

The Clerk had managed to track down the head of the street light which had been knocked over by a driver on the Goudhurst Road on 20<sup>th</sup> January. She was now trying to get SSE to repair and replace the light and was also trying to claim the damages from the insurance company.

**8. ADMINISTRATION**

**8.1 Annual Risk Assessment**

The document had been assessed and altered by the Finance Committee during their December meeting and had been circulated to the PC for approval. It was proposed by the Chair that the document be accepted as it stood. Unanimous.

**8.2 Public conveniences**

It was proposed that the documentation sent through by Mr Bell be discussed and decided upon at a separate meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall.

**8.3 Trust or lease for Social Club and Repairs to Institute Building.**

It was suggested that once the repairs to the roof were carried out and broadband installation complete, the Council may spend some time looking at the trust/lease options.

It was proposed by the Chair that the Council should allow the emergency repairs to the valley gutter of the roof, up to an expenditure limit of £1400. Unanimous.

**8.4 Land registry notice regarding an Application to incorporate Parish Council land to residential curtilage**

A short explanation of the detail concerning this matter was given by the Chair. It was suggested that the Clerk find out what stance KCC would be taking on this matter, and bring this information back to the next meeting ,as it was possible that the PC may join with them in this.

**8.5 Section 106 money from Willard's place**

The Sport Club renovations were mentioned as a possible use for this money, although there were reservations as to whether this would be a suitable use, as the Section 106 monies must be used for 'public ' projects and use of the Sports Club facilities is restricted to members only.

**8.6 Farmers Market**

Mr Goff had been unable to get a response about this matter as yet, so this would be carried over until the March meeting.

**8.7 Christmas lights**

No information available as yet. Carried over to March meeting.

**8.8 Speedwatch**

Cllr Kerrigan had been in contact with Mr Dicketts about Speedwatch. He had said that although ideally he needed 12-15 volunteers to run this project efficiently; unfortunately he had only about 5 volunteers. It was suggested that the Clerk mention Speedwatch in the March Parish News article and say that more volunteers were needed to operate the equipment. Posters could also be put up in suitable places around the village and Mr Kellas could be asked to circulate an email using his village list.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES**

**9.1 Chairman's update**

The Chair mentioned that there was to be a Site Allocations workshop at TWBC shortly, to put forward the potential sites for affordable housing. These sites would only come to fruition if it were found that more Social housing was needed in the area.

Following the sad death of Cllr Jones, as notice of Vacancy had now been placed on the PC notice boards. This notice must remain until 19<sup>th</sup> February, after which, if an election is not needed, the PC will be able to advertise for a vacancy for co-option.

Cllr March mentioned that the plans for the Music Festival on the Green were now fleshing out, and this was to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013. It was a possibility that there would also be a Barn Dance on 14<sup>th</sup> June in the evening and that the Church would then use the marquee for as service on the Green on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. The Church would be required to fill in a booking form for the Church event, but as the rest of the events were being held by the PC, no booking form would be required. Sara Foster was heading the arrangements at present.

**9.2 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council - Draft Transport Strategy public consultation, from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January for a period of 8 weeks.**

Clerk to send the link for this to all Councillors so that they can respond individually if required.

**9.3 Kent Fire & Rescue Service - Fire Hydrants – maintenance**

The Councillors felt that at present they did not have the time or resources to carry out this voluntary work on behalf of KF& R. Clerk to write to explain this to KF&R

**The meeting closed at 11pm**