

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 2nd
FEBRUARY 2015

Present: Cllr Davis (Vice-Chair, acting as Chair throughout this meeting)
Councillors Cheesman, Isaacs, Stevens, Russell, Hughes and Stanton

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
No public

Declarations of Interest:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lawrence was still at work. Proposed for acceptance by the Chair, unanimous.
Cllr March at another meeting. Proposed for acceptance from the Chair. Unanimous.

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).

Nigel Freeman, ten Kent Community Warden supervisor had offered to update the council on his works through the CSU and the services he could offer.

He is assisting the village with organising the Community Litter picking on 21st March 2015 and will be present on the day and arrange all equipment etc.

Mr Freeman offered to do a presentation to any local groups on Scams and fraud. It was suggested that he may wish to come and speak to the over 60's group. He could also send the Clerk some details for parish news.

Mr Freeman announced that the new PCSO who was taking over the position from Laura Carey was Dave Jenkins, who is an ex-police officer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 12th January 2015 and Planning Meeting 21st January 2015.

The minutes of the meeting 12th January were presented to the Council as read and proposed for acceptance by the Chair. Unanimous.

The Minutes of the planning committee meeting of 21st January were presented as read and proposed for acceptance by the Chair. Carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING. (No decisions taken)

Water bills

Cllr Russell had checked the meter several times and in 9 days it had measures the use as 3 cubic metres. It was too early to say if the problem had been solved. The Clerk had come across a tap in the ladies loo which was stuck on, when she visited on one occasion. **Cllr Russell** to continue to monitor the meter and **all** to monitor taps when passing.

Play Area

Play Dale had now fitted the spring to the second gate. The Council had received a complaint via Cllr March about an incident with the gate. The clerk had been to check on the gates and found them working correctly. It was suggested that the **clerk** notify the Insurers about the incident in the Play area.

Cllr Stevens mentioned that the Kindergarten Trust need to check the gas cylinder closer on the large gate to Locket Green , and the closing mechanism on the gate to the Maidstone Road, to ensure that they shut . *Clerk* to report to Kindergarten Trust.

Restoration of Milestone on Brenchley Road

The clerk had met with Gordon Newton from the Stone Shop and they had inspected the Milestone. Gordon had suggested that the stone was best left as it was and vegetation kept cleared back.

Conservation Area Map

Cllr Davis reported that there was no further progress on this as yet. He was chasing this matter up with Mark Stevenson at TWBC.

Buses to Paddockwood.

The *Council* were still waiting to hear form NuVenture about a possible increase in bus services.

Public Rights of Way

The *Clerk* had sent everything off to KCC and had received a letter of confirmation back from them to say that they would look into this matter in due course, however there could be a lengthy delay owing to a backlog of work in this department.

Community Litter Picking

The clerk had now met with Nigel Freeman from KCC and this was organised for 21st March 2015 9am until 11am. *Cllrs* were reminded to put this date in their diaries and let as many people know about this as possible. The *clerk* will put up posters around the village

5. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

5.1 Parish Council Accounts to 1st February 2015

The Clerk presented the accounts including cheques drawn, up to 1st February 2015, as shown below, to those present.

Cllr Davis proposed acceptance of the accounts and cheques drawn, from the chair. Unanimous. The cheques were signed during the meeting.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 1st February 2015

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 13.01.2015	£ 37,285.89
Deposit account b/fwd 13.01.2015	£ 60,000.47
Interest received (Deposit Account)	£ -

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments	
			£	
Mrs L Noakes - salary plus overtime	S/O		£	960.96
HM Revenue and taxes - LD Noakes NI & Tax	401518		£	143.48
Printing costs to Parish News	401519		£	250.00
Mr S Jones - scavenging - Jan	401520		£	76.90
Mr C Couchman - clock and play area	401521		£	103.85
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd - repairs - gate spring	401522		£	75.76
Viking Direct - stationery	401523		£	94.83
<i>cancellation of cheque 401473 to R Stevens</i>	<i>void</i>		<i>-£</i>	<i>90.00</i>
Reissue of cheque to J Ralph Stevens for works	401524		£	90.00
Specialist Hygiene Services - January cleaning	401526		£	187.20

Current Account as at 01.02.15

£ 35,392.91

TOTAL BANK: £ 95,393.38

5.2 Institute – quotation for engineers report on insertion of historical plaque and quotation for survey on condition of roof timbers.

Cllr Isaacs had contacted Paul Molyneux Associates to get a quotation for a structural engineers report for inserting the William Lambert plaque in to the front of the building. The price was £70- per hour and it will take approximately 5 hours as an estimate, so that the council would be looking in the region of £350 for the report. Paul Molyneux Associates would also examine the roof timbers and give a report on the condition of these within the report.

It was proposed from the chair that the quotation be accepted, without any further quotations as this was a relatively small amount of money, and that *Cllr Isaacs* would manage the quotation with Paul Molyneux associates, enabling them to look at the Institute and the Plaque. Unanimous

5.3 Quotation for PEAT testing of Village Hall and Institute Building

The clerk had received a quotation of £1.77 per item for PEAT testing form LASER, a division of KCC, for the electrical items in the Institute and the Village Hall. It was proposed from the chair that this be accepted as the council had used the company in past years. Unanimous. *Clerk* to arrange the inspection.

6. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

6.1 Highways issues – footpaths, trees, roads, signs, verges, and markings

The following to be asked/reported to KHS by the *clerk*:

- when will KHS be carrying out the repairs to the rest of the Maidstone Road(B2162) as they had got so far and then stooped.
- Blocked gully opposite the entrance to Mill Lane (Maidstone Road)
- Blocked gully, under verge, which is 50 meters prior to Yew Tree Green Lane,
- Pot hole when turning from Spelmonden into Rectory Park
- V large pot hole on the road next to Lordship wood, running from the Rectory Park down towards the church.
- Metal sign near to new BT box on the Green is falling over and rusty at the base.

It was also suggested that the *clerk* write to Mr Kellas about the hedge outside Freestons as it is growing up again.

Clerk to write to housing association about the hedge between the entrances for Willard's Place as it has grown out over road.

Thanks were given to Cllr Stevens for replacing the post on the village green which had been knocked out of the ground near to The Limes.

6.2 Road signage (warning for pedestrians crossing road for footpath)

This matter had been suggested by the Highways Group to Mr Noad at KHS. It was suggested that at this stage it was left for the *Highways group* to discuss this further and bring to the PC once more detail was known.

6.3 Street lighting

The clerk had received a quotation for new Thorn Indra LED lanterns, similar to those used around the village. New lamps of this type would be approximately £250. However this would not include

the cost of installation and power supply by UK Power networks, which the clerk had not yet been able to ascertain.

It was suggested that a couple of members should look at the lighting around the village over the next month and bring back their thoughts for discussion at the next meeting. *Cllrs Stanton and Stevens* offered to do this.

6.4 Request for additional funding for Churchyard– St Margaret’s Church

The clerk had received a letter from Steve Jones on behalf of the PCC regarding funding for churchyard maintenance and the potential to build a new pathway to the Garden of Remembrance. The clerk had gone back to ask for a breakdown of the maintenance costs and a copy of the quotations for the pathway. She had also asked how much space was left in the churchyard before it became closed off. It was suggested that the *clerk* could also ask about the PCC’s plans to buy another piece of land to extend the churchyard, as this idea had been floated previously. Report back to next meeting

6.5 Quotation for tree work on Village Green

The clerk had obtained a quotation from Mr Tweddle to remove some branches from the Red Oak outside Poplars, as the residents were concerned about how close some of the branches were getting to the house. Mr Tweddle said that he could remove the main stem growing towards the house and cut out the deadwood for £250. It was proposed from the Chair that the Council accept this quote. Unanimous.

Clerk to ask Mr Tweddle’s advice on which sort of trees should be planted to replace the tree which had recently been removed, bearing in mind that the Council wanted two trees which were fairly slow growing. It was suggested that the trees should be at least 10-12 feet high when planted to avoid damage from vandalism etc.

6.6 Quotation for works to Milestone on Brenchley Road

This matter had been dealt with under matters arising. It was established that the milestone was also a geographical trig point and should be kept cleared around, but no cleaning or repairs were required.

7. ADMINISTRATION

7.1 The Institute –plans for the front of the building.

The clerk had not received any further information from the social club on their plans for this.

7.2 School playground resurfacing – (can the playground be used by other groups?)

The councillors discussed this matter and felt that it was a matter for KCC and various community groups to discuss as the PC had no jurisdiction over the school grounds. *Clerk* to inform Mrs Catchpole

7.3 Emergency Planning

The group are continuing to develop the plan. The latest draft will be reviewed by the Kent m prior to circulation within the PC.

7.4 Public conveniences

Nothing further to report at present. Water consumption dealt with under matters arising.

7.5 Village Vision

Cllr Isaacs had carried out some research on youth shelters. He showed the council some shelters designed by a company called Rekk.(www.rekk.co.uk).It was suggested that *all councillors* carry out some research in surrounding villages when passing through and that the *clerk* email her

associates to find out if they have a youth shelter and any problems or issues which have arisen . Cllr Isaacs will get some information on costs.

7.6 Music Festival 12th -14th June 2015

The theme for the Friday evening event was to be a James Bond type theme with casinos. Other than that there was nothing new to report.

7.7 TWBC transfer of discretionary services - civic amenities vehicle

The clerk had not received any further news on this.

7.8 Rural Housing

The clerk circulated a booklet which she had received on Rural Housing.

The clerk had received communications from two developers looking to develop two separate sites within the village. They had been referred to the Village Vision statement in that residents were not keen on more market housing in the village. Cllrs suggested that it would be better if they approached TWBC planning first with their plans prior to contacting the council, as to discuss matters beforehand could jeopardise any applications they then put in to TWBC.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Local Government Boundary Commission on the Electoral Review of Kent County Council, comments by 2/3/2015

The council had no comments on this matter.

8.2 Libraries, Registration and Archive service consultation – comments before 8th April 2015

It was proposed from the Chair that the *clerk* respond to the effect that the council thought the charitable trust option was the best way forward as it opened up new funding opportunities. However they also wished to make the following statement: when the village library was closed, against parishioners' wishes, the council understood the mobile library would replace it and hope that this arrangement continues. Unanimous. *Clerk* to submit these comments

9. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

9.1 Chairman's update (no decisions)

No further matters to update the council on.

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

No meetings to discuss.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm