

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2014

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Russell, Cheesman, Parker, Stevens, Isaacs, Davis, Hughes and Lawrence

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. Cllr Isaacs declared an interest in item 6.2 Old Toilet Conversion and took no part in the decision making process on this matter.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr 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).*

The Clerk read aloud a statement from the Tree Warden, Mr. Jolley and the following is a summary of Mr Jolley's discussions with a variety of people who are concerned with trees one way or another: The loss of trees from wind damage is bound to be very high because the sodden ground can no longer support some of the shallower rooted varieties. This loss may well be greater than those lost to a variety of the twenty or so tree diseases currently present in the UK.

Some tree diseases are slowly on the increase. It is felt amongst the profession that the care and maintenance of woods in general is much less than it used to be (possibly through cost), and this has contributed to an increase in the poor health of some trees because dead and nearly dead trees are not always cut up and removed so rapidly as previously.

So far as Horsmonden is concerned the woods around Sprivers have been exhibiting some disease in the sweet Chestnut clumps, otherwise there does not seem to be much in the way of disease. That is not to say there are not small clumps in odd out of the way places.

What is not yet obvious is what the longer term effects of this extreme weather will be this may take quite a long time to show.

What we should all do is to keep an eye open for signs of distress in our own trees and call for help if needed.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 3rd February 2014 and Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting 25th February 2014.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2014 were proposed for acceptance from the Chair, carried.

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 25th February 2014 were proposed for acceptance from the Chair, carried.

4. Matters Arising

Village Sign

The metal base has now been installed and Cllr Stevens is liaising with others to repaint the sign head and treat the post before they are re-erected

Institute Repairs

Clerk is to obtain 3 quotations for new pipe work.

Stickers on Wheelie Bins

Many of the stickers have now been delivered and the idea has been received enthusiastically so far. Clerk to put a notice in Parish News to say that parishioners can collect some stickers from the Parish Office if they would like some.

Conversion of old toilet in the Village Hall

The room had now been investigated and it was noted that there was no damp proofing needed. The patches on the walls etc seemed to be caused by a condensation problem, which could be corrected by two air bricks being installed when the room is converted.

Location of William Lambert Plaque

Cllr Davis and Stevens still investigating options

Summer Festival

Next meeting is 6th March at 8pm. Cllr Davis to attend.

Dog Fouling

The Clerk had received some dog fouling stickers from the Dog Warden at TWBC. Each Cllr took several stickers to place in appropriate places around the village (i.e. on footpaths etc).

Whilst on the subject of Dogs, Cllr Stevens requested that the Clerk add information in the Parish News to ask all dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when travelling along public footpaths with livestock present, as local farmers had lost livestock through dog attacks. It was also vitally important to clear up any dog mess in areas with livestock because of the risk of diseases in livestock spread in this way. Clerk to add a piece in parish news about this and put the message across that 'any bin will do'.

5. PLANNING

Planning Application No:	TW /14/00306/HOUSE/GM2
Proposal:	Single-storey rear extension and new stairs to first floor
Location:	15 Oliver's Court Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8BZ
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Lawrence, seconded Cllr Hughes, unanimous
Comments:	Suitable extension

Planning Application No:	TW/14/00475/HOUSE CO1
Proposal:	Single garage extension
Location:	Orchard Lodge Spelmonden Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EE
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Davis seconded Cllr Russell, unanimous.
Comments:	Suitable development of the property.

5.1 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.

Applications accepted and Refused.

None.

Appeals Lodged

TW/13/03859/HOUSE/CP3 – Ash Oast, School House Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge.

5.2 Other Planning matters.

TW/14/00265/HOUSE - Bassett's Oast Maidstone Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent

The Council had asked the Borough Council representatives to 'call-in' this application if TWBC planning were likely to approve it. Cllr March had discussed this matter with the case officer. The Officer may suggest to the agent that velux windows are installed instead of dormer windows. The thoughts from Council members were that this would not alter their decision to call –in the application as they believed that the description of works was not accurate. They considered that the application was more like a second storey extension to the garage, than a simple addition of dormer windows. The roof extension also suggested living accommodation by providing for toilet facilities.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 2nd March 2014

The Clerk presented the accounts up to 2nd March 2014 to those present. It was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Lawrence that these be accepted as a true representation of the Council's finances, as shown below. Unanimous.

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 2nd March 2014

Balances

Current account b/fwd 03.02.2014
 Deposit account b/fwd 03.02.2014
 Interest received (Deposit Account)

£ 5,382.23
 £ 98,841.25

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Viking Direct - stamps	401358		£ 96.30
Cornford Builders - first installment of build	401359		£ 10,003.50
Mrs L Noakes - February salary	S/O		£ 708.67
HM Revenue and Customs NI and Tax L Noakes	401360		£ 19.06
Mr S Jones Feb scavenging	401361		£ 61.52
Mr CJ Couchman - clock and play area Feb	401362		£ 80.48
SAI Construction - works to old toilet VH	401363		£ 2,232.00
SHS Ltd - 01.01.2014- 05.01.2014 cleaning	401364		£ 27.48
Kent Association of Local councils training	401365		£ 72.00
M& C Electrical contractors Ltd - works to club	401366		£ 300.00
SSE Contracting - Jan street lights maintenance	401367		£ 71.26
Mr C Noakes - reimbursement of costs of printer and cartridges	401368		£ 81.62
Viking Direct - flash drives for computer tuition	401369		£ 95.08
SLCC Membership	401370		£ 129.00
EJP Fire protection Ltd - repairs social club	401371		£ 282.90
Interest on Current account		£ 0.49	
Reimbursement for cutting of Fromandez Drive		£ 179.23	

Current Account as at 02.03.14

£ 1,301.08

Deposit Account as at 02.03.14

£ 88,841.25

TOTAL BANK: £ 90,142.33

6.2 Village Hall quotations – old toilet conversion

Mr Isaacs had provided a further quotation to install the two airbricks required to solve the condensation problem in the old toilet area. It was proposed from the chair that the quotation for £140 plus Vat be accepted by the Council in addition to the works already quoted for by SAI Construction and agreed to in the October 2013 minutes, prior to Mr Isaacs becoming a Parish Councillor. Carried. (Cllr Isaacs took no part in the discussion or voting on this matter.)

- 6.3 **Portable Electrical Appliance Testing**
The Clerk had received a reminder from Inspection Services that the PEAT testing would soon be due in the Institute and Village Hall to ensure the safety of all portable electrical appliances. Inspection services had quoted £1.77 per item for a 1 year contract and £1.51 per item for a 5Year contract, with a minimum cost of 25 tests. They agreed to carry out the testing on both buildings together for the minimum number of items allowance. Cllr Russell proposed that the Council allow Inspection services to carry out the PEAT testing for 2014/15, under terms of a one year contract, as the potential saving for tying into a 5 year contract was insufficient to enter into this arrangement. Seconded Cllr Stevens, unanimous.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

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

It was mentioned that when the Highways teams come out they are still only filling the marked potholes and not others next to them. It was suggested that the Clerk ask Highways if the emergency procedure can be followed and all pot holes filled when the team come out.

The Clerk was asked to report the following:

- The drain at the bottom of Grovehurst Lane, as although the water has been cleared it is still blocked and fresh water is accumulating.
- Write to the owners of a dangerous tree in Brick Kiln Lane, approximately 50 metres from Cllr Cheesman’s yard entrance, on left hand side of the road.
- Inform the at Sports Club that there is one fallen tree and one dangerous tree in top North East corner of the field. These need dealing with urgently.
- Blocked drain outside Old Oast
- Blocked drain at Yew Tree Green Road (junction with Maidstone Road.)
- Road surface at top of Hayman’s Hill is broken up and disintegrated (about 50 metres down from the junction of Grovehurst lane/School House Lane junctions)
- Pot hole in the centre of the road along form Sprivers entrance on LHS on Brenchley Road.
- Edge of road is v broken up and dangerous -Yew tree Green Road, by Yew Tree Green farm (two cones there.)

It was suggested that the Clerk remind parishioners in the parish news article, not to remove cones which have been placed in large pot holes, as these mark the danger for other road users.

Clerk also asked to remind parishioners in the Parish News article that KCC have decided to make some of their street lighting part night, which means that it may not be on all the time, or at the same hours as the parish owned street lighting.

8.1 Public Conveniences –delegate a group to agree minor decisions

It was proposed by the Chair that those on the toilet Committee be allocated the authority to make decisions on the renovation of the toilets outside a full meeting. Cllr Parker asked to be removed from this committee. The committee would therefore include Cllrs March, Stevens, Davis and Russell. Unanimous.

Cllr Stevens suggested a small camera should be put on the corner of the toilets to safeguard them against vandalism. He will send the clerk some details to look at and pass on to members.

8.2 Setting up an emergency planning group.

It was proposed from the Chair that an emergency planning group is set up consisting of Cllrs March, Russell, Davis, Lawrence and Stevens. Unanimous. Cllr March to approach Ken Tutt to see if he would like to be involved as he had shown an interest.

Cllr Russell to see if he can obtain a proforma terms of reference for this as he had attended the KALC training on this. Clerk to see if Staplehurst PC or other TWBC parishes had already done this and may have a proforma or terms of reference available.

8.3 Speedwatch agreement

The Clerk showed the draft document to the members and various alterations were suggested and noted by the Clerk. Clerk to consult Brenchley and Matfield PC and bring back to next meeting for agreement.

8.4 TWBC Fun Day on the Village Green – 20th August 2014. (Plus funding)

Kim Dale had contacted the PC to see if TWBC could hold another Fun Day on the Village Green on 20th August 2014. She had said that this year her funding had been cut and she could not afford to bring along the large equipment (i.e. climbing wall etc) unless she received some financial pledges from PCs involved and private sponsors, who she would be approaching.

It was proposed by Cllr Russell and seconded by Cllr Stevens that the PC allow the booking of the Green for this event subject to the usual paperwork being received, and pledge £200 towards the cost of bringing the large equipment to the Fun day on the Green Unanimous.

8.5 Booking for Crosses on the Village Green (plus farmers market?)

Mr Bell had requested to be allowed to put the crosses on the Village green from 18th to 19th April inclusive on behalf of St. Margaret's Church. It was proposed from the Chair that this be allowed subject to the necessary forms and paper work being received by the Clerk. Unanimous.

It was suggested that the Farmers market would need to book the Green as a separate event to this, as their needs and insurances would be different.

8.6 Computer training – does the PC wish to provide a further 6 week course in the current financial year?

It was proposed by Cllr Russell that a follow on group be commenced as soon as possible, this financial year, and that a new start up group be commenced next Financial Year. Seconded Cllr Lawrence. Unanimous.

8.7 South East in Bloom

It was proposed from Cllr Hughes that the PC should not enter the SE in Bloom competition as it would be quite time consuming. This was seconded by Cllr Cheesman. Unanimous.

Cllr Cheesman commented on how nice the crocuses on the Village Green looked and thanked Cllr Parker for her work organising the bulb planting last year.

9. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

9.1 Chairman's update

The Clerk read out a letter of thanks received from Martin Devenish at the Sports Club, thanking the PC for their donation towards the gang mower repairs.

The clerk asked if anyone would like to attend the Police and Crime Commissioners, or Ambulance events held by KALC. Cllr Lawrence said that he could attend the session at Kings Hill on Wednesday 9th July at 6.30pm

9.2 Public consultation on the Pre submission Document Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan – comments by 16th March 2014 (Cllr Lawrence has taken the info on this)

Cllr Lawrence had looked at this and recommended that the Council should pass no comment on the Plan. This was seconded by Cllr Davis. Unanimous.

9.3 Kalc's request for information about what issues we have faced with the flooding and how things could be improved.

It was suggested that the Clerk ask that the people who were flooded in Horsmonden be included in the sand bag allocation (Old Chapel, Maidstone Road, homes done by River Teise, at Smallbridge, and Gafford's Cottages.) These people did not have access to sandbags in the recent flooding because the lesser Teise was not deemed to be in an emergency flood zone, however their homes still got flooded and sandbags would have helped the situation. Horsmonden is right on the edge of the flood plain and does not therefore come into the TWBC emergency area.

It would helpful if drainage and culverts could be cleared before and throughout the winter to save the risk of surface flooding and lessen the effects of any flooding which takes place.

9.4 TWBC's draft Vision – consultation until 28th March 2014

http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/portal/community_living/vision/draft_vision_2014

It was suggested that this be added to the planning meeting on 18th March.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm