

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 22ND
SEPTEMBER 2015

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Isaacs, Stevens, Russell, Hughes, Stanton , Jenkinson and Holloway

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
No members of the public.

Declarations of Interest:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Davis, Cllr McDermott, Cllr Holloway arrived 8.00pm

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).*

No one wished to speak.

3. RECOMMENDATION AND CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Cllr Russell said that at the last meeting the council had voted to co-opt Wendy Garnet to fill the other councillor vacancy, however since this, Wendy had indicated that for work related reasons she had been forced to reconsider her position and felt that it would be unfair to take up a position on the Council as she may not be able to give it the time which it required. Following this, the interview panel had carried out further consultations by email and telephone and decided to recommend a third choice from the interviewees, as Valerie Holloway.

It was felt by the panel that Valerie was already experienced in Council matters as she had held a previous position on the council, and that she was heavily involved in the community, and had a strong link with the elderly in the village. Therefore the panel had no hesitation in recommending Valerie for co-option.

It was proposed by Cllr Russell that Valerie Holloway be co-opted to fill the remaining position on the council. Seconded Cllr Hughes. Unanimous.

4. POSITIONING OF 5M DIAMETER SHELTER AND CONSERVATION AREA MAP, ON THE VILLAGE GREEN.

The Shelter.

The clerk had received communications from Safe and Sound Playgrounds, who were to install the shelter, that they would like to come and lay the base week commencing 28th September and put up the shelter week commencing 5th October, therefore an urgent decision was needed with regards to the positioning of the shelter.

In considering this matter the Parish Council took into account representations from all the various groups and tried to find a location which was sympathetic to the historical views within the conservation area.

The end result of this was that the Council felt that the best position would be to position the shelter between the first and second tree on the east side of the Green looking northwards, and about 1 metre

away from the kerbside. **This was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Holloway. Unanimous.**

The council felt that this position would fulfil the advice set out in Mr Walsh's (KCC Youth Worker) report, in that it would position the shelter in a well lit area which was visible from all sides. Young people had also been asked to give an opinion by Kent Youth Workers when they met at the street cruiser bus, and they had given a preference for the shelter to be on the eastern side of the Green.

It was felt that this location would also fulfil the wishes of Horsmonden Social Club , who had specified that they did not wish the view looking south across the Green to be interrupted, as the shelter would be over to one side and did not have solid walls , hence causing minimal obstruction to the views. Others had specified that they did not wish to have the view northwards interrupted and again by positioning the shelter to one side; it was felt that this wish had been largely adhered to. The manufacturers themselves and local tree experts had both recommended keeping the structure away from the large horse chestnut tree on the western side of the Green because of the damage which installation could cause to tree roots and the potential for falling branches. It was felt that the chosen location would avoid tree roots and branches as far as possible.

It was suggested that the entrance to the shelter should face in towards the Green and point towards the area between the chemist shop and horse chestnut tree. This was felt to fulfil the needs of the Farmers market, who would find the shelter useful if facing inwards, and those wishing to use the shelter for a bus shelter, and who would be exiting towards the south side of the Green.

Cllrs were interested in pursuing the possibility of installing a low energy light inside the shelter which could be on a timer so that it went off at night, but allowed the shelter to be used safely in dimmer light. Clerk to investigate further. It was also thought that a further rubbish bin would be required near to the shelter as those using it for picnic etc would require somewhere close by to put litter. A wall mounted metal cigarette bin was also suggested as the structure is timber and smoking inside was not to be encouraged. Periodic cleaning of the shelter was mentioned, and it was suggested that SHS who clean the public toilets, may be asked if they would like to undertake this on a monthly/ quarterly basis, although this could be arranged after installation once the council saw how often it needed to be done.

It was felt that the shelter in this position would be an ideal place for families and elderly folk to shelter from the rain, or the sun on a hot day and would fulfil the specification of villagers who had requested it.

The Conservation area map.

The Council discussed the positioning of a plinth to mount the new conservation area map. After a full discussion **Cllr Isaacs proposed that the map be mounted on a sloping style lectern, preferably constructed of hardwood. This should be placed in a position symmetrical with the footpaths map and to the right hand side of the parish Notice board when facing it. The tarmac should be extended to the east from the area in front of the parish notice board to the front of the new map. Seconded Cllr Stanton. Unanimous.**

It was suggested that the clerk contact Peter Every at Parks and Gardens at TWBC to see if they could supply a suitable lectern for this, or let the council know of their supplier.

Clerk to write to Mr and Mrs Drinkwater out of courtesy to let them know the positioning of these new objects on the green as residents on the corner of the Green.

5. CONFIRMATION OF PLAY AREA REPAIRS

The council had agreed to repairs costing £228.91 plus VAT at the previous meeting, to replace the chain connectors on the swings at the play area. However it had since been established that this would only renew the connectors on the flat bed swings and not those on the cradle swings.

A further quotation had been provided by Play dale to replace all chain connectors at a price of £275.55 net (£330.66 gross) which included a discount of £100 on the call out and fitting fee.

It was considered that as all chain connectors were the same age, it would be pertinent to replace all at once in order to save another all out and fitting charge from Playdale if the other connectors looked worn at a later date. **Cllr Hughes proposed acceptance of the revised quotation of £330.66 noting the recovery of the VAT. Seconded Cllr Russell. Unanimous.**

6. INSTALLATION OF NEW STREET LIGHT ON VILLAGE GREEN

The Clerk had now received quotations for the trenching of the cable allowing electricity supply to the new light which was to be installed on the Green.

The costs for trenching across the Green and laying the cable would be approximately £1218.08 or the alternative to trench across the carriageway and lay a cable would be approximately £1732.17 (not including a KHS permit to carry out works , or the necessary traffic management involved.)

Cllr Russell proposed that the Council accept the quotation to trench across the green, taking the supply from the existing column outside Crowhursts rather than across the carriageway. Seconded Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Planning Applications

Planning Application No:	TW/15/507308/FULL
Proposal:	Erection of Oak framed three bay garage, external wooden staircase to loft storage and rooflights
Location:	Ashdown Bungalow Lamberhurst Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8LP
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Holloway, seconded Cllr Jenkinson. Unanimous
Comments:	Approval. Acceptable in that it is sympathetic to the area and remains linked to the main residence in perpetuity.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/507222/FULL
Proposal:	Two storey end extension and vehicle access. (Revised scheme)
Location:	18 Gibbet Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8NA
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Hughes, unanimous
Comments:	Approval. This is a suitable extension for the property , matching others in the area and the block paving complies with drainage, being a permeable surface, and providing parking for two vehicle off the main highway.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/506476/FULL
Proposal:	Single-storey rear side extension
Location:	Ormonde Maidstone Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8NB
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Russell ,seconded Cllr Stanton. Unanimous.
Comments:	Approval. A reasonable extension to the existing property.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/501954/FULL - Revised details
Proposal:	Conversion of redundant Oast House to single residential dwelling and construction of a detached garage
Location:	Yew Tree Farm Oast Yew Tree Green Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8HR
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Russell, unanimous
Comments:	Approval. The Parish Council stands by their previous comments on this application.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/501955/LBC- Revised details
Proposal:	Listed building consent for conversion of redundant Oast House to single residential dwelling and construction of a detached garage
Location:	Yew Tree Farm Oast Yew Tree Green Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8HR
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Russell, unanimous.
Comments:	Approval. The Parish Council is pleased to see that the roller floor is being incorporated and preserved and approve subject to the conservation architects approval.

7.2 **Report of Permissions Granted and Refused**

None.

7.3 **Other Planning matters can be raised, but no decisions**

None.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm