

**MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
**2016**

**Present:** Cllr March (Chair)  
Councillors Stevens, Russell, Richards, Davis and Jenkinson.

**In attendance:** Lucy Noakes (Clerk)  
5 members of the public.

**Declarations of Interest:**

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Isaacs and Cllr Holloway.

**2. PUBLIC SESSION (no decisions): 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.**

Mr Dicketts had asked to speak about the Traffic solution for Horsmonden. He had read the Traffic consultants draft report and felt that whilst the consultant had made some good points, he wished to comment on certain aspects of the report. Mr Dicketts said that he understands the limitation of costs of this project, but feels that physical traffic calming measures are the only way to successfully slow down traffic. In the longer term he did not feel that signs alone would work. He understands from KHS engineer Steven Noad that KHS will only pay for such works if there have been fatalities.

Jill Hughes had asked to speak about the Ponds at OS Plot 3666 Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden. Mrs Hughes explained that she had lived at Grovehurst for 16 years and knew that the land had always been used for grazing over this period. The applicant now wished to use the land for commercial use, and so it should be a change of use from agricultural to commercial usage, however there is no mention of this in the application.

Digging of the pond had commenced in 2014 and in May 2016 a certificate of lawful use was applied for the north most pond (referring to the unlawful lake in the east.) Fishing in the unlawful lake commenced early 2016. The current planning application refers to 'retention' of the lake, but it was only dug out in 2015. Mrs Hughes felt that whilst the application dwells on the benefits for biodiversity, the project is more for commercial gain.

**3. MATTERS ARISING (no decisions)**

**Public Rights of Way**

Clerk still waiting to hear

**Street Cruiser Bus**

No feedback received yet on how well these sessions are being attended.

**Parish Toilets**

The clerk is still monitoring the cleaning and Cllr Russell still monitoring the water usage.

**Village Hall Boiler pipe work**

The boiler pipe work has now been re routed.

**Love where we live Awards**

Results are still awaited.

### **Change of Signatories with the Bank**

The new bankers mandate has now been sent into Co-op and they have acknowledged the changes.

### **Pension Arrangements**

There will be a pension and finances meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm

### **Village Green Treatments**

All the treatments had now taken place, however the Council would need to monitor the condition of the green to see what other treatments may be necessary.

### **Treework on the Green**

Hopefully this work would be undertaken week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllr Stevens proposed that item 7.1 be brought forward for discussion at the meeting. Seconded Cllr Richardson. Unanimous.

## **7.1 Discuss information/draft report from traffic consultants.**

Cllrs Davis and Russell had met with the traffic consultant Mike Seare in July and discussed the problems which the village encountered. They had not at any point said that the PC did not want hard traffic calming features, although there was a preference to avoid hard engineering if possible because of the cost and potential urbanisation of the village by such methods.

Cllr Davis had the following points to make about the draft report:

- There was no real explanation as to why a reduction from 30mph to 20 mph wouldn't work
- There were no prices provided for hard engineering. He would like to see some ideas for hard engineering such as street furniture, lighting etc and prices included in the report.
- The report mentions traffic speeding 'into' the village with methods for slowing, but does not refer to traffic speeding 'out of' the village- this also needs looking at.
- He would like to find out more about flashing bend and speed signs, in particular those which show the speed you are travelling at, rather than just flash
- He would like to see some examples in the report of where village gateways have been shown to have measurable improvement.
- He felt the idea to move the stop line at the crossroads was a v good one.

Cllr Russell agreed that speeding in and out of the village were equally as important and both should be looked at. He also liked the idea of more roundels on the road.

Cllr Richards said that he felt the idea of moving the white line at the crossroads was a cost effective and good idea. He would like to see some evidence in the report to show which types of road sign are the most effective. Cllr Richards suggested that hatching in the corner near to Heath Stores could be useful to stop people parking right on the corner.

Cllr Jenkinson felt also that the alteration of the stop line would be good. She would like to see speed signs which flash up with the speed you are travelling at, installed.

Cllr Stevens said that in other European countries they have a good camera and traffic light system which tracks speeding drivers and stops them with a traffic light, for 10-15 seconds forcing them to slow down. He also raised the option of a doughnut style roundabout instead of the crossroads and asked if we could have an explanation as to why this would not be suitable, as it would be effective at stopping the traffic in all four directions and hence slow things down in the centre of the village.

Cllr March had attended a meeting on the previous evening and had discussed the future of Speedwatch. The general overview was that Speedwatch cannot work on its own to solve traffic problems in villages, it has to be a mixture of education, engineering and enforcement. The suggestion was that if small villages like Horsmonden wish to install engineering in the future they must apply for funding from their Borough Councils and County councils as well as applying for s.106 monies when large numbers of houses are built in their villages.

Cllr Davis proposed that he should put together a list of the comments made about the traffic consultants report and get back to MLM with this, seconded Cllr Stevens, unanimous.

#### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

##### **i) Current applications awaiting consideration by the council:**

Cllr Richards proposed that item TW/16/066001 be brought forward for discussion. Seconded Cllr Russell, unanimous

<b>Planning Application No:</b>	TW/16/06001/FULL
<b>Proposal:</b>	Retrospective-Proposed recreational fishery for use by a syndicate with maximum membership of 18 people including proposed enlargement of top ( north west) fishing lake, retention and use of existing lower (east) lake as a fishing lake and its expansion with islands, associated landscaping including a wildlife pond, closing off existing field gate off Grovehurst Lane and new gated opening to south leading to new parking area comprising 18 spaces and a new fishery hut in replacement of existing timber outbuilding.
<b>Location:</b>	Pond OS Plot 3666 Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Refusal
<b>Proposal:</b>	Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Jenkinson, unanimous.
<b>Comments:</b>	Recommended refusal on the following grounds: 1)Unwarranted change of use from agricultural to commercial use 2)Concern about increased traffic movements on the narrow lane ( Grovehurst Lane) 3)Conflicting information in the submission regarding the size of membership giving causes for concern that there could be very large numbers of users 4) Apparent conflict in interest between Environment Agency requests on drainage and preservation of riparian rights downstream.

<b>Planning Application No:</b>	TW/16/05794/FULL
<b>Proposal:</b>	Loft Conversion
<b>Location:</b>	5 Fromandez Drive, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Approval
<b>Proposal:</b>	Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Davis, unanimous.
<b>Comments:</b>	Approval on the grounds that it is an acceptable extension.

<b>Planning Application No:</b>	TW/16/505268/FULL
<b>Proposal:</b>	Demolition of existing single storey and erection of a new two storey rear extension
<b>Location:</b>	Wayside Maidstone Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Approval
<b>Proposal:</b>	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Russell, unanimous.

<b>Comments:</b>	Suitable extension in the location it is in.
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<b>Planning Application No:</b>	TW/16/05701/FULL
<b>Proposal:</b>	Single storey rear extension
<b>Location:</b>	9 Lamberts Place Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent, TN12 8AG
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Approval
<b>Proposal:</b>	Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Richards, unanimous.
<b>Comments:</b>	Reasonable extension to the family home.

<b>Planning Application No:</b>	TW/16/06054/FULL
<b>Proposal:</b>	Relocation of equipment store to front of the site
<b>Location:</b>	Plovers Ruck Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge TN12 8EA
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Refusal
<b>Proposal:</b>	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Davis, Unanimous.
<b>Comments:</b>	Refusal on the grounds that it is not a suitable development to the front of the site away from existing buildings.

## **ii) Notification of applications granted and refused/Appeals lodged.**

Applications granted.

TW/16/505270 – Heath School House, Maidstone Road

TW/16/503785 – Highlands Oast, Marle Place Road

TW/16/503938 – Oak House, Lamberhurst Road.

TW/16/504488 – Heathleigh Cottage, Maidstone Road

TW/16/504636 – Barn 50M of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Yew, Tree Green Road.

TW/16/504637 - Barn 50M of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Yew, Tree Green Road.

TW/16/504384 – poplars Lodge, Churn Lane

TW/16/504423 – Grovehurst Farm, Grovehurst Lane.

TW/16/504933 – Broadford Oast, Goudhurst Road.

TW/16/504763 – 1 The Manwarings, Horsmonden

TW/16/504175 – Baycote House, Back Lane

### **Applications refused.**

None

### **Applications withdrawn**

TW/16/504248 – Broadford, Goudhurst Road

TW/16/510638 - Old Hay Airfield, Willow Lane Paddockwood.

## **5. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

### **5.1 Highways issues – footpaths, trees, roads, signs, verges, and markings**

The following highways problems were listed:

- There is a water leak in the entrance to the four houses just down from Rose Bank, Maidstone Road.
- Same place there is a branch overhanging the road which has been hit by several lorries already.
- The vegetation at Kirkins field is now overhanging the pavement again
- The finger sign at the end of Churn Lane, has the ‘Horsmonden’ finger missing still

- Ask KHS if we can have a ‘Narrow lane, unsuitable for HGV’s’ sign at the ends of Yew Tree Green Road (copy in Alex King).
- Ask if we can replace the Catholic Church finger on the VG post with a sign saying ‘Public toilets’ (the Catholic Church is to become a residence and there have been complaints that we do not have enough signage for Public conveniences).
- Although the hedge at South view has been cut back it is still not wide enough to enable disabled vehicles and those who are unsteady on their feet and walk with sticks, to use the pavement.

## **5.2 Street lighting**

No quotes received to replace the street light head on the Goudhurst Road as yet.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION**

### **6.1 The Institute - lease agreement and future planning regarding potential to position the William Lambert plaque.**

The Clerk to ask Mr Kellas if the club are agreeable to replacing the front door with plain oak. Cllr Isaacs to look at soffit boards with a view to replacement of rotten wood and then painting. Next meeting discuss the possibility of putting the WL plaque in the memorial garden somewhere.

### **6.2 Horsefair – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September.**

Cllr Richards offered to open up the green gates and unlock the water tap outside the social club at 6.30 am on the day and to lock everything up again at 5.30pm if everyone has left.

### **6.3 Co-option of a new parish councillor**

Assuming that the Council a given the go ahead to co-opt a new councillor after 26<sup>th</sup> August, clerk to advertise in teh normal way giving candidates up until midday on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to apply for the position. If more than one candidate applies the normal procedure for interviews will need to take place after this.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE /CONSULTATIONS**

### **7.1 Discuss information/draft report from traffic consultants.**

Already dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

### **7.2 Potential hiring of noise monitors for monitoring of aircraft noise.**

Cllr Jenkinson proposed that the PC hire the noise monitoring equipment for one week to monitor the noise of aircraft and give the parish council a base line for the future. Seconded Cllr Richards, carried.

Cllr Russell asked the clerk to ensure that the insurers are aware that the equipment will be placed in a private garden away from the road.

It was suggested that the clerk email Richard Stubbings to see if he was agreeable to housing the equipment in his back garden for a week as this was a perfect position with regards to there not being any other back ground noise and it would be in line for the over head aircraft.

### **7.3 Request from Social Club to put some picnic benches on the Village green**

The Social club had kindly offered to pay to install some picnic benches at the north end of the green. However the Council members had concerns about this. It was proposed by Cllr Davis that the clerk go back to the social club and thank them for their offer, but explain that the Council did not wish to place any more benches on the green at present for several reasons: maintenance, ownership, insurance, noise issues. Unanimous.

**7.4 Coffee morning at the social club to officially open the Conservation area plaque**

This was now arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> September at 10 am and the WI had offered to serve teas, coffees, squash and cakes. It was suggested that there be a cloth over the plaque which Mrs. Naylor could then uncover followed by a photograph to be sent on to the courier and KM. Invitees should include Mrs Naylor's family , members of the historical society and ramblers, Mark Stevens from TWBC, Nigel Foster. Cllr March will say a few words of thanks to all involved.

**7.5 Future of Speedwatch.**

The equipment had now been serviced and returned to the council. It was suggested that as there was no one to act as coordinator at present this should go on hold for the time being.

**8. UPDATES (no decisions)**

**8.1 Chairman's update & Meetings attended (updates and feedback from meetings attended and held by council members)**

Cllr March had attended the Overview and Scrutiny meeting where Speedwatch was discussed. Cllr March and Russell had attended the HWCAAG meeting. The GON group had said that they wished to see the widening of the swathes, however as the aircraft are at a great height over Horsmonden this should not have much effect on the noise over the village. The noise monitoring will provide a baseline for future discussions.

Cllr Jenkinson had attended the Councillors conference and suggested that this was a good course for others to attend as it was v informative.

It was suggested that a card of thanks be sent to Jackie Stanton for all her hard work during her time as a councillor.

This meeting ended at 10.30pm