

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 2ND APRIL 2012

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Clemson, Robins, Hughes, Parker, Stevens, and Cheesman

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
3 members of the public

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr March declared a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in TW/12/00701/FUL/TA1 and left the meeting during the discussion of this matter. Councillor Stevens declared that he had been lobbied by the proposer in respect of TW/11/03707/LBC; however this did not affect his judgement on the matter as he had no prejudicial or pecuniary interest in the matter.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr King (KCC)
Cllr McDermott (TWBC)
Cllr Fletcher (work related meeting)
Cllr Holloway (away on holiday)

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Claire Reed from the Community First Responders had asked if she could come to the meeting and update the Council on the project so far.

Mrs Reed said that there were now 8 volunteers on the scheme and they were very close to going live, when they would be able to be despatched by the ambulance service in response to 999 calls. Ideally each member of the team would have their own kit, but they needed more funds to help with this.

The kits consist of a defibrillator, at a cost of £890 and basic first aid kit costing around £100. The Parish Council said that they could look at providing some funds towards this in the next precept (2013/14) which would be decided upon by the new Parish Council committee later in 2012

The Parish Council congratulated Mrs Reed on her work towards this project, which would provide an invaluable service for the community.

Shaun Speirs had very kindly volunteered to try and update the Parish Council's website and work towards producing a new site, and had come along to update the Council on his work so far.

Unfortunately Mr Speirs had found that the current website was quite difficult and time consuming to update and he had therefore suggested writing a new site which would be easier to update and edit, as needed. The company which currently hosts the PC website were not able to offer a service to run the new software and so it was suggested by Mr Speirs that the PC look towards a new host for their website who could provide what was needed. Mr Speirs will continue to liaise with the Clerk regarding this matter.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th March 2012 were presented to the meeting and taken as read. They were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Clemson, seconded by Cllr Robins. Carried.

The minutes of the Planning and Events Meeting 19th March 2012 were presented to the meeting and taken as read. Cllr Stevens proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Parker. Carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Computers at the Social Club – Cllr King (KCC has agreed that he may be able to grant £1000 from next year's members Grant fund.

Risk Assessment of the Institute – Cllrs March and Holloway are in the process of carrying this out.

First Registration of the Village Green – Clerk still waiting to hear from Land Registry following the PC's application for First Registration.

Conservation Area Map – Clerk to continue to chase Alan Legg about the possibility of a grant and help with producing the map.

War Memorial Names –Cllr Clemson to check the Church registers to see if the soldiers were born in Horsmonden. It was suggested that even if a connection with the village could not be found, the names should continue to be read out at the memorial service each year.

Street Lighting Replacement – Clerk continues to negotiate a reduced maintenance contract with SEC and arrange for a new UMSO certificate so that the energy usage can be recalculated.

Projector System – This will be taken forward.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

It was proposed from the Chair that TW/12/00701 should be brought forward enabling Cllr March to leave the room and Cllr Clemson to Chair this part of the meeting. Unanimous.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/00701/FUL/TA1 12/00701/FUL 16 stand alone PV solar panels The Granary Swigs Hole Farm Maidstone Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8DG
Proposal:	16 stand alone PV solar panels
Location:	The Granary Swigs Hole Farm, Maidstone Road
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Cheesman. Unanimous.
Comments:	Inconspicuous in their presence.

It was proposed by Cllr Clemson that Cllr March continue to Chair the meeting. Seconded Cllr Stevens, unanimous.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/00501/FUL/RH1 12/00501/FUL Retrospective - Tractor shed Rams Hill Maidstone Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8DB
Proposal:	Retrospective – Tractor Shed
Location:	Rams Hill, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Clemson. Carried.
Comments:	Suitable addition.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/00711/FUL/GM2 12/00711/FUL Demolish garage building and construct two bedroom dwelling, access from Furnace Lane The Forge Brenchley Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8JB
Proposal:	Demolish garage building and construct two bedroom dwelling, access from Furnace Lane
Location:	The Forge, Brenchley Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Robins, seconded Cllr Parker, carried.
Comments:	Acceptable size of dwelling for the small plot.

Planning Application No:	TW/11/03707/LBC 11/03707/LBC Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to create new shower room Bushes Farmhouse Churn Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8HN
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent – Internal alterations to create a new shower room
Location:	Bushes Farmhouse, Churn Lane, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Approval

Proposed:	Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Parker, unanimous.
Comments:	Sensible additional facility.

Planning Application No:	TW/11/03574/FUL/TA1 11/03574/FUL Conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling and construction of a detached garage Barn 30 Metres South Of Yew Tree Farmhouse Yew Tree Green Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8HR
Proposal:	Revised application: Conversion of redundant barn to dwelling and construction of detached garage.
Location:	Barn 30 metres South of Yew Tree Farmhouse, Yew Tree Green Road, Horsmonden
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Parker, carried.
Comments:	Insufficient information regarding the west bound sight lines.

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

Granted

TW/12/002229/FUL – The Public Conveniences, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden.

Cllr March will be in contact with Mike Viney to see if Cascade can do anything to help with this matter.

5.3 **Other Planning matters.**

None.

6. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE**

6.1 **Parish Council Accounts to 31st March 2012**

The Clerk presented the accounts up to and including 31st March 2012, as shown below, to members of the council and the public. The accounts were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Clemson, seconded by Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 31st March 2012

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 05.03.2012	£ 4,941.29
Deposit account b/fwd 05.03.2012	£ 44,588.77
Interest received (Deposit Account)	_____

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Post Offices LTD _ EDF electricity Public loos	410030		£ 107.87
Mrs L Noakes - March salary plus overtime plus bonus	S/O		£ 900.68
HM Revenue and Customs - NI and tax Noakes	410031		£ 248.03
Mrs L Noakes- refund of petrol and mileage	410032		£ 15.34
Mrs L Noakes - petrol and mileage & refund of stationery costs	410033		£ 55.41
KCC Legal fees for Jan 2012 - VG reg	410034		£ 117.36
KCC Legal fees for Feb 2012 - VG Reg	410035		£ 21.60
EON - electricity supply Xmas lights and Queens Jubilee	410036		£ 17.20
Maidstone Signs - play area sign	410037		£ 93.90
Specialist Hygiene Services - toilets cleaning	410038		£ 178.71
Mr C J Couchman - play area and clock - March	410039		£ 100.60
Symon Jones - scavenging for March	410040		£ 76.90

Interest on Current Account	05.03.2012	£	0.50	

Current Account as at 31.03.12 £ 3,008.19
Deposit Account as at 31.03.12 £ 44,588.77

TOTAL
BANK: £ 47,596.96

6.2 Clerks overtime calculation and bonus payment – see minutes 9th January 2012 point 6.2

The Clerks salary payment for March included an overtime payment as well as a bonus payment of £125 as the Parish Office lease had now been fully completed. These payments had been checked and verified by the Chair and formed part of the minutes agreed by the Council, as above.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

7.1 Highways issues

Cllr Stevens reported that some of the trees in the area opposite Rams Hill were leaning towards the road. It was thought that this area of land belongs to Mr. Goldstein.

It was suggested that the Clerk contact Donna Cuthbertson to see what can be done to make things safer at the crossroads. A roundabout painted onto the road surface, was suggested. It was also suggested that a meeting between the police and Kent Highways services could assist in solving the situation.

The Clerk reported that KHS had said that they did not own the ditch area outside Thompsett's Cottage and were not therefore going to be able to maintain this. It was suggested that Council members have a look at where the water along this area drains from when it next rains heavily in order to ascertain who may be responsible for maintaining this drainage.

It was reported that Mr and Mrs Capel have made a good job of litter picking in the area of Churn lane. Clerk to write and thank them for their efforts.

It was suggested that litter picking was something which the new council may wish to think about after their May meeting.

A water leak was reported outside Cluncher Cottage on the pavement. This was only a small leak at present, but SE Water should be made aware of it. Clerk to report.

7.2 STREET LIGHTING

Nothing new to discuss at this meeting.

8. QUOTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Chairman's update

The matter of how agendas are sent to Parish Council members, was raised again. It was thought by some members of the council that it was a waste of resources to send paper copies as well as emailing the agenda. Cllr March explained that the 1972 ACT has not been revised and that KALC's advice based on the Act had been to issue paper copies as well as sending by email. It was suggested that the PC lobby KALC to see what can be done to try and change the law in this respect as it was out of date and a change would help reduce costs. It was proposed from the Chair that the Clerk take this course of action, unanimous. It was also suggested that the clerk try to get other parish Councils on board with this argument and keep them copied in.

8.2 Queens Jubilee

Cllr March reported that there was not now going to be a silver band on the Sunday as there were not enough people to take part in this. The Songs of Praise service was now also in question.

Simon Hookway is looking into the possibility of hiring a big screen which would help keep people at the event to watch the Thames procession of the barges etc. if it was affordable.

The leaflets advertising the event cannot yet be printed and sent out until the exact order of events etc is known.

The Clerk had gone ahead and filled in the grant form based on known costs at that time. This had included £400 towards payment of Warwick Lowe's band on the Monday evening.

Cllr Parker had drafted out a form for claiming a mug but these were not yet circulated.

8.3 Cllr Cheesman's report on KALC meeting

Cllr Cheesman reported that when the new hospital was built on the Pembury site one of the conditions had been to provide a bus service from local villages to the new hospital. However the costs of this were proving to be prohibitive at present. TWBC are still providing some sort of shuttle service at present.

There had been a report at the meeting about the number of social houses which become occupied by those without any connection to the local area. It was stated that this is the reason for putting Section 106 agreement on all new social housing built in small villages.

Cllr Cheesman said there was to be a push forward to try and achieve a 20mph speed limit outside all schools. The count for parish Council elections would now take place at the Town Hall in Tunbridge wells.

8.4 Village green booking form - alteration to wording

Following a discussion with the police, it had been noted that the wording at the top of the VG booking form was not very clear. The Clerk had drafted a new wording at the top of the page on the booking form. This was now to say (in red), 'Please note that the booking of the Village green is at the discretion of the Parish Council. All requested documentation must be received by the Council 6 weeks prior to the event taking place.' This was proposed from the Chair and voted for unanimously.

8.5 Horsefair

Cllr Stevens and March had met with William Benson (Chief Executive of TWBC) and the special events organiser at TWBC, to discuss this matter. Following this, a letter will be sent from William Benson to the police outlining TWBC's position and HPC's position on this event, as there are some things which both TWBC and HPC feel the police should still take responsibility for at this event.

8.6 Request for funding from Citizens Advice Bureaux (TW)

The Clerk had received a letter from TWBC CAB about assisting with funding for the CAB. The Council do not have any precepted funds for this at present, but will reconsider it again after September, when they look at the 2013/14 precept.

The meeting closed at 10.06pm

Future meeting dates for 2012:

Planning Committee Meeting – 16th April - St Margaret's Church Hall

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - 14th May 2012 – Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting - 21st May 2012 – Village Hall

Please note that meeting schedules are subject to change, you should therefore always check the Parish Council notice board before attending a meeting. All members of the Public and press are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings; however, if you wish to speak in the Public session it is important that you notify the Clerk beforehand.

Following this meeting the Council members offered their best wishes and thanks to Cllr Robins, Clemson and Hughes who were retiring from the Council and for whom this was the last full Parish Council meeting.