

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2012

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Robins, Clemson, Stevens, Fletcher, Hughes, Parker and Holloway.

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
13 members of the public
Cllr McDermott (TWBC)

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllr Holloway declared that as a Trustee of the Village Hall she had an interest in any matter concerning the village Hall.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Cheesman – Unwell .
Cllr King (KCC)

2. PUBLIC SESSION

A number of members of the public had come to speak about and listen to the discussion on the planning application TW/11/03687/FUL/SJM - Manor Farm, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge.

Mrs Dadley had requested to speak in the public session about the proposal as she objected strongly on several grounds as below:

- Proximity of the proposed development to residential housing - the animals will be housed less than 400m from a residence,
- Environmental concerns regarding smell and health, noise, dust and vermin.
- Impact on the beauty of the countryside.

Mr Aindow also requested to speak in the public session, making similar objections to Mrs Dadley, as he is also a nearby resident. Mr Aindow mentioned that he had also heard that the owner may apply for permission for a farm shop at some stage and he would object to this on grounds of increase in traffic and concerns about the sightlines.

Mr Banfield also spoke on this matter along similar lines to Mrs Dadley and Mr Aindow.

Following this speakers in the public session, Cllr March proposed that she bring forward the discussion and decision making for planning application TW/11/03687. This was voted for unanimously.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

Cllr March read aloud a summary from TWBC written by Richard Lloyd-Hughes, regarding this application. A discussion took place regarding the proximity of livestock to residential dwellings in the area, the fact that the livestock yard appeared to encroach on the footpath according to the plans drawn up, traffic and access and the lack of provision for effluent in the plans provided.

Planning Application No:	TW/11/03687/FUL/SJM
Proposal:	Livestock Building
Location:	Manor Farm, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Robins, seconded Cllr Clemson
Comments:	Based on the proximity of animals to residential dwellings; the scale of the development seemingly too great for the land area, the environmental impact and containment of excrement have not been demonstrated.

	Possible contamination of water courses in this area is also a risk factor.
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Cllr March proposed that the council continue to discuss the other planning applications on the agenda at this point in the meeting. Unanimous

Planning Application No:	TW/11/03732/FUL/GM2
Proposal:	Change of use of agricultural land to ancillary residential curtilage(retrospective)
Location:	Stiles Oast, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposed:	Cllr Robins, seconded Cllr Clemson. Carried.
Comments:	Area of land in question is too large and extends too far from the property. If TWBC are inclined to give approval, then the PC would recommend that the permitted development rights be removed.

Planning Application No:	TW/11/03734/LBC/SE2
Proposal:	Listed Building consent: Replacement of five windows to front of house with new oak windows to match existing old windows
Location:	Drum & Monkey House, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.
Comments:	Acceptance subject to the Conservation architects approval.

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

Permissions Granted

TW/11/03214/FUL – Fruit Packing Station, Spelmonden Farm, Spelmonden Road, Goudhurst

TW/11/03158/HOUSE – Church Farm, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden

TW/11/03159/LBC - Church Farm, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden

Applications Refused

None

Applications Withdrawn

TW/11/03142/HOUSE – The Oast, Smalls Farm, School House Lane, Horsmonden.

5.3 **Other Planning matters.**

Car parking in Paddock wood

The Paddock wood Business Association had written to the PC about TWBC's proposal to abolish the 2 hours free parking which is currently allowed in Paddock wood. They felt that this would have an adverse affect on parishioners using Paddock wood for their larger shopping as well as making it even more difficult for local businesses to compete with large 'out of town' shopping developments where parking is free.

Following a discussion amongst the Council members it was proposed by Cllr Stevens,seconded by Cllr Holloway , and voted unanimously that the Clerk should write to TWBC to say that it was in the interests of parishioners of Horsmonden that they can easily park for up to an hour in Paddock wood to get a range of facilities which are not available in Horsmonden, and that HPC felt that it was not in the best interests to charge for parking within the first hour. It was asked that the Clerk copy the Paddock wood Business Association in on this.

Double Horse Box in Spelmonden Road

The appearance of a double horsebox in the lay by at Spelmonden between Christmas and New Year, had been mentioned by a few parishioners, as it appeared to be residential.

The Police had been in contact with the owners and reported to the Clerk that these were New Age Travellers who had been promised a plot of land to park on, which had not come to fruition. Apparently the family were now advertising in Heath Stores to see if anyone could assist them with a plot of land, as they have a child at the primary school, and wished to remain in the area.

Cllr March had made some enquiries regarding the licensing for such a caravan, but information so far was non-conclusive. The Police had confirmed that everything was in order following their visit. They will continue to monitor and deal with this matter as appropriate.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th December 2011 were taken as read. Cllr Stevens proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Hughes. Carried.

The minutes of the Planning Meeting of 12th December 2011 were taken as read and proposed for approval by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Stevens, and carried.

The minutes of the Finance Meeting of 12th December 2011 were taken as read and proposed for approval by Cllr Clemson, seconded Cllr Fletcher, and carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Computers in the Social Club – ongoing. Cllr March contacted Roger Manning of KCC and has now found out that any funding for this would need to come from Alex King’s budget. Now waiting to hear if Cllr King can support the council in this.

Risk Assessment Institute –Clerk still awaits confirmation that this has been carried out.

Millennium Plaque –Clerk awaiting quotation from Dukes o this.

First Registration of Village Green –Statutory Declaration now completed. KCC legal now dealing with Land Registration of this.

Installation of Disabled Toilet facilities at Institute – work now completed, and inspected.

Conservation Area map –Clerk and Mr Naylor liaising with Alan Legg at TWBC about this.

Footpath on the Lamberhurst Road – Council now waiting for works to commence 10.01.2012

War Memorial – Cllr Clemson is investigating this matter.

Play area – Cllr Stevens has kindly added new spring to gate and has installed the ‘No Ball Games’ sign. New sign needed for ‘Children under 12 only, no dogs, no bicycles’. Clerk to arrange this new signage.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 8th January 2012

The Clerk presented the accounts up to and including 8th January 2012, as shown below, to members of the council and the public. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Clemson that the accounts be accepted and the vote for this was unanimous

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 8th January 2012

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 05.12.2011	£ 5,215.34
Deposit account b/fwd 05.12.2011	£ 69,588.77
Interest received (Deposit Account)	_____

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
L D Noakes - photocopying at P.O	400994		£ 10.55
SE Water - water supply public conveniences	400995		£ 48.35
C A Forward and Sons - posts around Fromandez Drive	400996		£ 204.00
EDF Energy 1 Ltd overdue bill for Xmas lights 2008/09	400997		£ 29.68
Mrs L D Noakes December salary	S/O		£ 639.35
HM Revenue and Customs - Tax and NI L Noakes	400998		£ 19.92
L D Noakes - refund for legal fees for VG reg.	400999		£ 15.00
Symon Jones - scavenging for Dec	401000		£ 76.90
Mr. C J Couchman - clock and play area - Dec	401001		£ 100.60
Southern water - Drainage for public conveniences	401002		£ 76.17
Specialist Hygiene Services - Dec cleaning	401003		£ 178.71

Gillett and Johnston Clock annual service	401004		£	226.80
CA Forward and sons - bench installation on VG	401005		£	114.00
EDF Energy 1 LTD - street light supply to 31.12.2011	410006		£	563.10
Post Office Ltd - VG Box supply	410007			£35.61
Post Office Ltd _ Public conveniences supply of electricity	410008		£	105.34
Interest on Current Account	05.12.2011	£	0.50	
Interest on Current Account	05.01.2012	£	0.59	
Current Account as at 08.01.12			£	2,772.35
Deposit Account as at 08.01.12			£	69,588.77
TOTAL				
BANK:				£ 72,361.12

6.2 Parish Council Precept for 2012/2013.

Cllr Hughes explained to members of the Council and public present that the Finance Committee had gone through each item of the Council's expenditure giving careful consideration to current expenditure needed as well as future estimated expenditures. This had resulted in a proposed precept of £57,313.00 which was a 2.86% increase on last year.

The Finance committee had also proposed, that the Clerk should be paid an incentive bonus of £500 upon completion of certain tasks, as outlined in the Finance Committee Minutes of 12th December 2011. Unfortunately the proposed precept of £57,313.00 did not take this bonus into account. It was however suggested that the bonus should be split into four equal payments of £125, each of which could be paid to the Clerk from General reserves as she achieved one of the four goals set out in the Finance Committee minutes.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Hughes that the Council should vote in favour of the precept of £57,313.00 for the period from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, and that the bonus should be paid to the Clerk as outlined above from general reserves. This was seconded by Cllr Clemson and voted for unanimously.

6.3 Quotes for extra grounds maintenance from Dukes

The Clerk was still awaiting these quotes from Dukes.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

7.1 Highways issues

The following problems relating to Highways and street lighting were reported/noted:

Drains on Lamberhurst Road and Maidstone Road need blasting through as they are blocked solid in places. (This is especially noticeable between Freestons and Rosebank on the Maidstone Road).

The runs offs on the Spelmonden Road and Lamberhurst Road need digging out.

The street light on LHS just inside Lamberts Place is on all the time (KCC light?)

Repainting of Dog Bone markers has not yet been carried out.

Maidstone Road sign on VG is still flat to ground.

Trees – it was proposed that the tree warden should make a plan of trees close to the highway, which require remedial action, so that the Council can report to landowners or KCC Highways. This has been highlighted by recent windy weather which brought down a number of trees and dead branches.

8. QUOTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Amendments/updating of VG booking form (all insurance details etc must be provided at least a week before event takes place)

The Clerk presented a slightly altered version of the Village Green booking form. The form had the wording 'Please note that the booking of the Village green is at the discretion of the Parish Council and subject to all requested documentation being received by the Council at least one week prior to the event taking place' at the top of the form and there was a slight alteration in wording in the paragraph relating to the relaxation of the Byelaws.

It was proposed from the Chair that the form be altered as prepared by the clerk and submitted to the Council, and this was voted for unanimously.

8.2 Further nominations for Love where we Live Awards.

Two more nominations were put forward for the Love Where We Live Awards. It was suggested and proposed by the Chair that Liz Taylor and the farmers Market should be entered for the Green category and that Pauline Bell should be entered for the Lifetime Achievement Award. This was voted for unanimously. The Council are already entering the Youth Club for the Best Group Award, Ken Mills for Individual Hero Award and the Community First Responders for the Innovation Award.

9. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

9.1 Chairman's update

Cllr March mentioned the Draft Strategic Compass. This is a consultation which will enable TWBC to see where it needs to put its energy and money over the next few years. Cllr March suggested that it was therefore important for the Parish Council to flag up items which relate to Horsmonden as a rural community so that these can hopefully be included. It was decided that Cllrs March, Clemson and Parker would meet to decide upon the top items to go forward under this.

9.2 Queens Jubilee

The next meeting of the Jubilee committee is scheduled for Wednesday 11th January 2012.

Cllr Parker had carried out some further investigations regarding mugs for the Jubilee. She had found that there were about 247 needed for the primary school, about 50 for Kindergarten and approximately 40 for children at other schools. This meant that there would be a requirement for at least 350 mugs for children under 12 alone. It should then be considered how many mugs the PC needed to order to allow for those wishing to purchase a mug .Cllr Parker to continue to investigate.

9.3 Citizens Advice Bureaux – Paddock wood closure

Cllr March read aloud a letter received from the Tunbridge wells and District Board of the CAB. This outlined the difficult decision made to close the Paddock wood office due to lack of funds and consideration of the best way to continue to provide as wide a possible a service thought out the District.

The Paddock wood CAB had asked the Parish Council if they could provide any funding to try and keep the branch open or continue the work of the CAB in Paddock wood area.

Normally the PC do not provide funding to any bodies outside the village, however as the Mobile service does come into Horsmonden each week to provide a service it was suggested that the PC may wish to make some sort of donation on future as the CAB is providing a service within the village itself.

It was proposed by Cllr March that the Clerk should write to the CAB and say that they are sorry that the Paddock wood office is closing It was suggested that the Clerk should say that the PC may consider making a donation in future years, as the mobile service comes into Horsmonden on a weekly basis, but unfortunately it cannot precept any funding for this year as it is too late. This was voted for unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9.57pm

Future meeting dates for 2012:

Parish Council Meeting – 6th February – Village Hall

Planning Committee Meeting – 27th February – St Margaret's Church Hall

Parish Council Meeting - 5th March – Village Hall

Planning Committee Meeting – 19th March - St Margaret's Church Hall

Parish Council Meeting - 2nd April- Village Hall

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.