

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

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

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
1 member of the public

Declarations of Interest:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McDermott (TWBC) - (attending another meeting)
Cllr Davis – Domestic reasons
Cllr Hughes- Domestic reasons

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*).

Mr Randall had asked to speak about planning application TW/13/03881/FULL -Blue Boys Cafe Hastings Road Brenchley Tonbridge Kent TN12 7HE.

Mr Randall had come to the meeting in his capacity as a Parish Councillor for Brenchley and Matfield, and outlined details about the application, mentioning the fact that it was outside the limits to built development and in an Area of Outstanding natural Beauty (AONB). He felt that the application did not provide enough parking, had not addressed the issue of parking of HGV's, and did not take into consideration the traffic flow on the way out of the site.

Horsmonden PC had not been formally consulted on this application, as it is outside the parish boundaries; however Cllr March thanked Mr Randall for coming along and presenting the Council with this opinion and said that the PC would discuss the matter under item 6.3.1 of the agenda and may send a comment to TWBC, if they considered it appropriate.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 6th January 2014 and Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting 21st January 2014.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2014 were proposed for acceptance from the Chair. Carried.

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 21st January 2014 were proposed for acceptance from the Chair, carried.

4. Matters Arising

Village Sign

Cllr Stevens will liaise with Cllrs Russell and Lawrence to erect. Cllr Davis had also offer his assistance if needed.

Institute Repairs

Discussed under item 6.3.

Stickers on Wheelie Bins

Clerk to count up number of houses on each major road and let Cllr Parker know. Cllr Parker to draft a letter to go with each set of stickers. Cllr Parker to organise distribution via volunteers.

Conversion of old toilet in the Village Hall

Clerk awaiting quote on damp proofing from Chemicure. Cllr Isaacs to arrange.

Location of William Lambert Plaque

Cllr Davis and Stevens will continue to look at options for this.

Summer Festival

Cllr March explained that the dates had been altered to 13th, 14th and 15th June in order to avoid the Bedgebury Music concerts. It was hoped that the programme of events would be: 'High Heels and hampers' style event on the Friday evening, with supply of a bar and musical entertainment; school fete in marquee Saturday

afternoon, finishing at 4pm followed by musical entertainment commencing at 5.30pm as a free event, with optional hog roast available; and church events on the Sunday.
 Cllr March will look at the possibility of providing a raffle, but this may need to be undertaken by a local charity, if the PC is not allowed to hold the license.

5. PLANNING

Planning Application No:	TW/14/00131/LBC
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent: Substitution of consented window for glazed door to proposed kitchen
Location:	Rectory Park Rectory Park Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EH
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Parker, seconded Cllr Lawrence, Unanimous.
Comments:	Acceptance, subject to the opinion of the TWVC Conservation Architect and other consultees.

5.1 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused/Appeals lodged.

Applications accepted

TW/13/00838/FUL – Part of O/S Plots 7900& 7741 Upper Hayman’s Farm, Hayman’s Hill, Horsmonden.

TW/1303529/FULL – O/S Plots 0088&3283, Old Hay, Brenchley.

TW/13/03723/HOUSE – Southlands, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

Applications Refused

TW/13/03455/FULL – Broadford Oast (the ForgeUnit7) Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden

TW/13/01743/FUL _ The Highwayman, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden

Withdrawn

TW/13/02843/FULL – Banfields, Churn Lane, Horsmonden

5.3 Other Planning matters.

TW/13/03881/FULL -Blue Boys Cafe Hastings Road Brenchley Tonbridge Kent TN12 7HE

The Parish Council discussed the application for a MacDonal’s unit at this site.

The following comments were proposed by Cllr March, from the Chair, to be sent to TWBC planning:

The building site is not relevant to Horsmonden as a Parish, however the Parish Council is concerned that increased traffic congestion on the A21 could result in increased volumes of traffic using Horsmonden as a cut through. The Parish Council is also concerned that litter and light pollution from the site could affect the Parish. Unanimous.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 2nd February 2014

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

The Chair checked and signed the balance presented by the clerk, against the balance shown in the latest Bank statement .

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 2nd February 2014

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 07.01.2014	£ 3,079.10
Deposit account b/fwd 07.01.2014	£ 105,841.25
Interest received (Deposit Account)	_____

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
M&C Electrical contractors ltd - Institute	401346		£540.00
TSS - transport survey 2013	401347		£ 900.00
Mrs L Noakes January salary	S/O		£ 694.48
HM Revenue and Customs NI and Tax L Noakes	401348		£ 14.90
Mr S Jones scavenging January	401349		£ 76.90
Mr C J Couchman - clock and play area Jan	401350		£ 100.60
Mrs L Noakes - refund for litter pickers purchase	401351		£ 12.95
Michael Sexon - Future Vision PC training	401352		£ 210.00
SSE Contracting Ltd Dec street lights	401354		£ 71.26
Playdale playgroud equipment and installation	401355		£ 537.78
SAI Construction - works to Institute Roof	401356		£ 2,038.00
S137 Donation to Horsmonden sports club	401357		£ 150.00
donations for computing course x6		£ 90.00	
Gang mower purchase by Sports club		£ 500.00	
DSG retail - reclaim of cash back on Ipad Air		£ 30.00	
Donations for computing course x2		£ 30.00	
Current Account as at 02.02.14			£ 5,382.23
Deposit Account as at 02.02.14			£ 98,841.25
TOTAL BANK:			£ 104,223.48

6.2 Quotations for War memorial cleaning.

The clerk had asked three companies to tender for cleaning and repairing the lettering to the war memorial. Neil Scrivener, Stone masons had quoted £1396.25 net, The Stone Shop had quoted £580 and the third tenderer had not provided any quotation by the date of the meeting. It was proposed from the Chair that the Clerk ask The Stone Shop to come and carry out the works prior to the Anniversary date. Unanimous.

6.3 Quotations for Institute Building - water/plumbing, emergency lighting

SEW had been out to investigate the problem and measure the flows of water to the building at various points. It was found that whilst the flow at the mains located at the junction of the Maidstone Road and Green Road was very strong, it diminished vastly by the time it reached the Institute stop cock. This would indicate that the galvanised pipe work along Green Road is blocked by deposits and needs replacing. Unfortunately SEW does not own this piece of pipe work and it is therefore likely to be owned by the PC, as it supplies only the one building. The Clerk has asked for paperwork to prove ownership and will obtain quotations for replacement, upon sight of this.

It was suggested that the Clerk contact three companies who could replace the pipe work by way of moling under the Green, which would avoid having to dig up the road and create trench works (which could be expensive). Three companies suggested for the clerk to contact were Mac Mole, Pat Burke at Marden and Tom Chantler.

EJP had carried out the annual checks and certification of the emergency lighting at the Institute, however there had been several faults found. Their quotation for correction of these items was £235.75 (net) in total. Cllr Cheesman proposed acceptance of this quotation, seconded by Cllr Isaacs. Carried.

6.4 Village Hall quotations.

The Clerk had received an invoice from SAI Construction for the works to the old outside toilet. These works had been carried out in 2011, but the invoice had not been received. It was proposed by Cllr Cheesman and seconded by Cllr Stevens that the invoice should be paid as the works were carried out at that time to a satisfactory nature.

It had been proposed that the Clerk obtain a quotation for PV Surveys to carry out an asbestos survey of the Village Hall as they had recently carried out a similar survey of the Institute Building on the PC's behalf, following quotations.

PV Surveys had quoted £350 plus VAT to carry out his survey. It was proposed by Cllr Russell and seconded by Cllr Parker that this quotation should be accepted and the works carried out as soon as possible. Unanimous.

6.5 Internal audit programme for 2014/15 Kent Audit

The Internal Auditors Kent Audit had written to the Council to propose their audit programme for 2014/15 and advise that their charges would remain the same for this period, at £275(net) per day. Kent Audit had carried out the internal audit for the Parish Council over the last four years. It was proposed from the Chair that the council appoint Kent Audit as their official auditor for this period. Unanimous.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

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

The following problems were mentioned to be reported to Kent Highways services by the Clerk:

- Multiple pot holes on the top section of Hayman's Hill Road
- Multiple pot holes from Burnside to Castlemaine on the Maidstone Road.
- Pot hole on brow of hill outside Rams Hill , Maidstone Road
- Pot hole opposite Broad ford Cottages , Goudhurst Road
- Water draining out of pond and running across the road Yew Tree Green Road
- Blocked drain – Maidstone Road near Burnside.
- Blocked culvert/drain at entrance of Grovehurst Road.

The footpath near to Lewes Heath House at Lewes Heath was also mentioned, as pile of manure and other items were making it difficult for pedestrians to use the footpath and forcing them off the footpath and through more difficult terrain.

Cllr March had been asked about the possibility of extending the footpath along the Maidstone Road again. This had already been investigated some time ago; however it was in the Village Vision plan to be considered further.

It was mentioned that a lot of trees on the road side are covered in ivy growth which can make them weak and liable to fall. It was suggested that the clerk ask the tree warden if he could write a short paragraph on how to deal with ivy on trees, which could then be put into the parish News.

7.2 Dogs mess

The Clerk had received several complaints about dog mess over the last month, some occurring along the same section of pavement between the end of Furnace Lane and the cross roads. It was suggested that the clerk mention the particular area where the problem had occurred, in the Parish News article next time, asking people to keep an eye out and dog owners to ensure that they clean up after their dog. It was also suggested that the Clerk contact TWBC to see if she can obtain any more stickers about dog mess from the Borough Council. These could then be stuck in strategic places around the village.

8. ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Public Conveniences

The Clerk had not been able to contact Mr. Bell on the afternoon of the meeting; however she had received recent communications from him to say that the building works were running to schedule.

8.2 Setting up an emergency planning group.

Cllr Davis had indicated to the clerk that he would be prepared to join an emergency planning group .Cllrs Russell, Stevens and Lawrence were also interested in joining this group to report back to the council on emergency planning.

Cllr Russell agreed to attend the KALC training on Resilience and Emergency planning at Oakwood on Saturday 8th February.

8.3 Speedwatch agreement

The clerk had investigated the insurance cover for a Speedwatch scheme between both Parishes. If the scheme was 'a Horsmonden scheme' run by one coordinator for both parishes, using volunteers from both, then all volunteers would be insured under the HPC insurance provided Horsmonden was responsible for the whole scheme and carried out all the risk assessments. It was proposed by Cllr Parker that for ease of management, if Mrs Hogan was agreeable, she could perhaps coordinate all the volunteers under a scheme run by HPC to cover all the approved Speedwatch sites in Horsmonden, Brenchley and Matfield, using volunteers from all parishes. This was seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and voted for unanimously.

9. CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

9.1 Chairman's update

The Post Office had sent a letter to confirm that the open reach branch in Heath Stores was now up and running. It was noted by members of the PC that there had been a few 'teething troubles' with equipment, however it was hoped that the trial would be a success.

9.2 Government Consultation on Local Authority Parking Strategies

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263815/parking-consultation.pdf, closes 14th February

Having had a chance to look at the consultation, Cllr March proposed that HPC had no comments to make, as this did not affect Horsmonden as a small rural parish. Unanimous.

9.3 TWBC – consultation on Green infrastructure plan and Noise and Vibration supplementary planning documents – starts 27th January and closes 7th March 2014

<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/consultations>,

Cllr Davis had read the plan in detail and circulated his comments prior to the meeting for information. It was proposed from the Chair that the following comments, made by Cllr Davis, should be returned on the consultation for the Green Infrastructure Plan:

"Proposal No 3 (Teise to Medway river corridors) only considers water quality and ecological aspects. Particularly in the light of the recent flooding of the Teise and Medway, HPC would expect flood risk to be included as a major factor in the management of the river corridors and HPC would have expected that liaison with the EA would have been given more emphasis in the plan."

The PC voted in favour of returning these comments. Unanimous.

The Council did not have any comments to make on the Noise and Vibration supplementary planning documents.

The meeting ended at 9.48pm