

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2013

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
Councillors Davis, Stevens, Russell, Kerrigan, Cheesman, Jones and Reed.

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
One member 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.
None were recorded.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Parker (prior engagement).
Cllr King (KCC).

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Goff, the new voluntary administrator of the Farmers Market, attended the meeting to update the Council about the Farmers Market following last month's discussion. Mr Goff said that it was hoped that a letter would go out to residents living around the Green this week, asking them if they had any objections to the Farmers Market taking place around the edges of the Green during the winter months. This may mean stall holders temporarily parking along Green Road to off-load goods first thing on these occasions. Mr Goff will hopefully report back on responses to this, next month.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 3rd December 2012. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 9th November 2012 and Finance Committee meeting 10th December 2012.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December were presented to the meeting and taken as read. It was proposed from the Chair that these be accepted, Unanimous.

The minutes of the Finance committee meeting of 9th November 2012 were presented to the meeting and it was proposed from the Chair that these be accepted as they stand, carried.

The minutes of the Finance committee meeting of 10th December 2012 were presented to the meeting and it was proposed from the Chair that these be accepted as they stand, carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Computers at the Social Club/Institute - Cllr Reed and Kerrigan to speak to Mr Kellas about where the broadband socket should be located at the Club. Cllr Kerrigan and Cllr Reed will look at various options to see which will be the cheapest for broadband.

First Registration of the Village Green - Clerk still waiting to hear from Land Registry.

Community Gardening Scheme – no updates this time.

Conservation Area Map – no further developments had been made on this.

It was proposed by the Chair that item 9.3 Experimental order for weight restriction (7.5 tonnes) on roads, be brought forward whilst Mr Goff and Cllr McDermott were still present. Unanimous.

9.3 Experimental order for weight restriction (7.5 tonnes) on roads.

Cllr Stevens presented the road maps which had been sent through to the Parish Council. It appeared that the decision about this order had been made between Yalding Parish Council, Kent Highways Services (KHS) and Jacobs, without any consultation with other parishes who could be affected by this.

It was proposed from the Chair that the Clerk write to Cllr King (KCC) to say that this matter should have gone to the Locality Board for a joint discussion between Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and TWBC, and to request a presentation and meeting with surrounding Parishes to ascertain the likely outcome of the order. It was also suggested that Cllr King should be requested to fund another Road Traffic Survey in Horsmonden prior to the end of the 6 months trial period for the Experimental Order. The results of this could then be compared with the results of the recent Road Traffic Survey to see if more heavy lorries were taking a route through Horsmonden. Unanimous.

It was suggested that the Clerk also pass details of the Experimental Order on to the Clerk at Brenchley and Matfield PC.

5. PLANNING

Planning Application No:	TW/12/033398/HOUSE/CP3J
Proposal:	Demolition of car port and rear lean-to. Single storey side/rear extension.
Location:	Stanstead, Brenchley Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge.
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Reed, seconded Cllr Stevens
Comments:	Suitable enhancement , which is not excessive for the property.

Planning Application No:	TW/12/03304/HOUSE/HW1
Proposal:	Garage conversion to habitable room.
Location:	7 Oliver's Court, Horsmonden, Tonbridge.
Recommendation:	The Parish Council did not get to make a recommendation or comment on this application as TWBC Planning had already ,made their decision.
Proposed:	N/A
Comments:	N/A

Applications Granted and Refused

Applications Granted

TW/12/03019/HOUSE – Sandhole Cottage, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
 TW/12/02989/LBC – Ash Farm, School House Lane, Horsmonden.
 TW/12/02405/FUL – Grovehurst Farmhouse, Grovehurst lane, Horsmonden
 TW/12/02084/FUL – The Granary, Swigs Hole Farm, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
 TW/12/02085/LBC - The Granary, Swigs Hole Farm, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
 TW/12/01923/HOUSE – Heathside, Green Road, Horsmonden
 TW/12/03199/HOUSE – 12 Orchard Way, Horsmonden
 TW/12/03022/HOUSE – 3 Wharf Cottages, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden
 TW/11/03707/LBC – Bushes Farm house, Churn Lane, Horsmonden
 TW/12/01841/LBC – The Lindens, Rectory Park Road, Horsmonden

Applications Refused

None

Appeals/Committee decisions

TW/12/02014/FUL _ O/S Plot 7526 Furnace Lane, Horsmonden – was discussed by Eastern Area Planning Committee on 10th December 2012 at 4.30pm.

5.3 Other planning matters

The Clerk was asked to report back to TWBC Planning enforcement that the fence at Corner Cottage, Maidstone Road had not yet been lowered. This was a requirement in the last planning application for this property.

6. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 6th January 2013

The accounts below up to and including 6th January 2013 were presented to the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Stevens that these accounts be accepted, unanimous.

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 6th January 2013

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 3.12.2012	£ 2,009.44
Deposit account b/fwd 3.12.2012	£ 81,292.83
Interest received (Deposit Account)	

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Post Office Ltd - EDF Energy - Public toilets electricity	401160		£ 118.00
Post office Ltd - Edf Energy - VG Box electricity	401161		£ 36.00
Mrs L D Noakes - Salary	S/O		£ 665.75
HM Revenue and Customs - Tax and NI L Noakes	401162		£ 10.69
Mr C J Couchman - clock and play area December	401163		£ 80.48
Mr S Jones - scavenging December	401164		£ 61.52
Mrs L Noakes - refund for postage	401165		£ 12.70
Mr C Noakes - refund for letter cage and plate	401166		£ 106.33
Solway Recycling Limited - new bench	401167		£ 324.00
Specilaist Hygiene Services Ltd - December cleaning	401168		£ 178.71
South East Water - supply to public conveniences	401169		£ 51.10
Gillet & Johnson (Croydon) Ltd - clock service	401170		£ 226.80
Transport Survey Specialists - road traffic survey	401171		£ 990.00
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd - spare parts	401172		£ 53.45
Southern Water - sewerage for public toilets	401173		£ 81.63
SSE Contracting Ltd - December street lighting	401174		£ 71.26
E.On - street lighting supply Nov& Dec 2012	401175		£ 214.40
Mr W Vine - refund of remaining deposit Horsefair	401128		-£ 124.00
Interest Current Account	05.12.2012	£ 0.30	
Interest Current Account	04.01.2013	£ 0.18	

Current Account as at 6.01.13	£ 3,851.10
Deposit Account as at 6.01.13	£ 76,292.83

**TOTAL
BANK: £ 80,143.93**

6.2 Parish Council Precept for 2013/2014.

Cllr Russell gave an explanation to those present regarding the effect that the Government's recent changes would have on band 'D' properties in Horsmonden.

Cllr Russell then went on to explain that the Finance Committee had looked closely at each item on the parish precept. Items which had resulted in more lengthy discussion had included the Clerk's salary, which had been raised to point 28 on the NALC salary scale, the mowing of the Village Green following Les Bateup's retirement and estimated costs for the disabled toilet project and refurbishment of the public toilets.

The Council went on to discuss the possibility of a grant from section 106 monies which had been paid to TWBC by the developer's of Willard's Place. It was now thought to be unlikely that the PC would be successful in gaining a grant from the scheme for assisting with the refurbishment of the Public Conveniences, although other ideas could still be considered for the section 106 monies. Cllr Kerrigan offered to take a look at the section 106 agreement to see how the Council could best put forward their case.

It was considered that £10,000 could be taken from reserves towards the toilets if necessary and hoped that a further £5,000 might be available as a capital grant from TWBC.

Bearing the above in mind, Cllr March proposed from the Chair that the Parish Precept for 2013/14 be set at £58977, and this was carried.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

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

It was reported that the drains on the Lamberhurst Road were blocked up and Cllr Stevens said that other drains in the village were also very blocked. Cllr Jones offered to carry out a visual survey of drains around the village and report back to the next meeting.

Clerk to contact Jamie Tweddle about the young tree on the Village Green which needed straightening up.

8. ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Quotes for Village Green Maintenance.

The Clerk had not been able to obtain any quotes for this as yet.

8.2 Horsefair – plumbing costs.

The Police had said that they could not liaise any further in this situation. It was suggested that this would put the Council in a difficult position as public money had been used to cover the plumbing costs and could not now be recovered from the Horsefair organisers.

Cllr March proposed from the Chair that the Clerk write to CI Faulconbridge explaining that the Council must try to recover the public money spent on this, preferably without having to approach the small claims court, and that Police liaison in this matter was vital for success in future events. Unanimous.

8.3 Public Conveniences.

The Clerk had received an estimation of the total costs of carrying out the works to the Public conveniences. This included minor repairs to the toilets, refurbishing them and providing a disabled toilet facility and totalled £39560.00. This amount did not include Mr. Bell's fees for managing the project, fees for the original CAD drawings, the Health and safety coordinator, the services engineer who would look at preventing frozen pipe work or any fees relating to building regulations and inspections.

The Council already had £15000 towards this project and would be asking for a further £9400 in the 2013/14 precept. It had also been agreed by the Council in point 6.2 that a further £10,000 could be taken from reserves if necessary, and that a possible grant for £5000 may be available from TWBC.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Kerrigan that the Council ask Mr. Bell to obtain quotations from at least 3 contractors for this work.

8.4 Sports club lease.

The Sports club lease had now been signed by all parties and had been sent off to KCC Legal for finalisation.

8.5 Boiler in Village Hall

The Clerk had ascertained that the current boiler had been put in to the village hall in September 2004, making it 8 years old. Cllr Parker had said that generally most boilers had a life expectancy of 10-15 years and a new boiler would cost between £700 and £1500, plus fitting.

Under the circumstances it was suggested that the Council budget to replace the boiler after 10 years and at the same time think about repositioning it to a more suitable position in the hall where it would not be susceptible to flooding. However at present the boiler should be left in its current position and the drainage of the boiler room kept clear from blockages.

8.6 Youth provision in the village

Cllr Reed had been a member of the Village Vision group looking at Youth provision and reported that although adults had tried to get youngsters to come along to an initial meeting to discuss the Youth Provision

in the village, there had been very poor attendance. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Caroline Smyth to see if the Youth Club have any funds which could be used to provide facilities in the village for youths.

8.7 Speedwatch

Cllr Kerrigan will contact Mr Dicketts to discuss how this is to continue and whether more help is needed.

8.8 Farmers Market

This had been dealt with in the public session.

8.9 Hospice in the Weald request to put up an advert on Green

The Hospice in the Weald had contacted the PC to see if they would be agreeable to allowing them to put up adverts on the Village Green for each of their forthcoming charity events. However, it was pointed out that as this was registered Village Green, there were strict guidelines against putting anything on the Green and it was therefore felt that this would be inappropriate. Clerk to let the Hospice know and suggest that they ask the local shops if they would mind advertising instead.

CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES

9.1 Chairman's update

Cllr March explained that Nick Peeters was going to come along to the next Parish Council meeting to speak about the new Parish Charter.

It had been requested that the defibrillator equipment which had been installed on the outside of the Highwayman Public House, could be moved to the outside of the Institute Building as this would be a good, central site to locate the equipment following the sale of the pub. Cllr March proposed that this be allowed and this was voted for unanimously.

Mr Kellas had written to the Clerk regarding works which needed to be carried out at the Institute Building. It was reported that the roof was still leaking above the main entrance and Cllr Stevens agreed to have a look at this on behalf of the Council.

Mr Kellas also commented that the exterior paintwork was beginning to flake away. This had been done about two years ago. The Council were building a reserve towards the next exterior paint work, but could not afford to get this done in 2013. It was suggested that next time higher quality paint should be used.

Mr Kellas had also mentioned that some work needed doing to the rainwater pipe work on the exterior of the building and that volunteers from Blantyre House may be able to carry out this work. The Chair proposed that the council would pay for any materials needed, and were happy to allow volunteers from Blantyre House to carry out the work.

Cllr Stevens had explained to Cllr March that there had been a lot of problems with the Christmas lights this year as water had interfered with their operation. Cllr Stevens to look in to various alternatives to bring back for discussion.

9.2 DCLG Consultation on Examining Speed Limits for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads

It was suggested that the PC members were not informed enough to answer this consultation and that it would probably have limited relevance to the parish. Individual members to respond if they wish.

9.3 Experimental order for weight restriction (7.5 tonnes) on roads.

Dealt with previously in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.27pm