

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 20TH
OCTOBER 2015

Present: Cllr March (Chair)
 Councillors Isaacs, Stevens, Russell, Hughes, Stanton, Davis, Holloway and Jenkinson.

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
 No members of the public.

Declarations of Interest:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

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).*

None.

3. PLANNING.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/507881/FULL
Proposal:	Retrospective application for the erection of children's tree house with balcony in garden.
Location:	Hill Top Lewes Heath Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8AF
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Isaacs, seconded Cllr Russell, unanimous.
Comments:	Approval. Acceptable structure for the environment and position.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/507697/FULL
Proposal:	Temporary change of use of existing office to dwelling. Erection of rear extension, alterations to roof to include solar panels; roof lights and dormers, relocation of greenhouse, erection of garage, alterations to outbuildings and the siting of a ground source heat pump.
Location:	Plovers Ruck Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent TN12 8EA
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Hughes, Unanimous.
Comments:	Approval. Suitable enhancement to the existing building. The Parish Council would expect the office building to be returned from temporary residential to office within the period set out in the design and access statement.

3.2 Other Planning matters can be raised, but no decisions

The Clerk was asked to liaise with TBC enforcement about the mobile home which is still at Bassett's Oast, as the Council wondered if this was being lived in. Also was there any news yet on a retrospective plan for the pond at the Oast?

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Emergency Planning and using the Village Hall as a Welfare Centre

The Council looked at the draft letter to be circulated to parishioners. It was suggested that the clerk add 'generator' to the list of equipment sought after. The letter should be dated January 2016, signed electronically by the Chairperson, and should include the parish council's letter head. It was to be printed on two separate single pages, folded and stapled, with 1000 copies being needed, it was thought.

Cllr March to ask TWBC if they have any printing facilities the PC could use for this and obtain a quotation. Clerk to ask TMS at Paddockwood.

It was also suggested that the Clerk contact Ken Tutt to see if he had a list of how many houses were on each road.

Cllr Russell reported that the Village Hall committee were happy for the Hall to be used for a welfare centre for the village if there was a suitable agreement in place with TWBC.

Cllr Stevens said that he felt it would be best if this were restricted to the surrounding villages local to Horsmonden, and a discussion followed around this point, with the conclusion that the most councillors would be happy for the Hall to be a registered welfare centre, (which meant its use could not be restricted to surrounding villages only) providing there was a suitable agreement in place to safe guard the Village Hall against damages and lost income.

It was suggested that the Clerk go back to Denise Haylett and say that in principle the PC were happy with the Hall becoming a welfare centre, however there would need to be a legal agreement drawn up to reassure the parties about how this would work and what compensation would be provided if damages occurred to the hall during its use as a welfare centre.

Clerk to contact the insurers and ask if they would have any concerns or additional requirements if the Hall were to be a registered welfare centre.

4.2 Health watch

Cllr March reported to the Council the priorities of Health Watch in the Tunbridge wells area: self harm, excess winter deaths, falls, obesity, smoking, and alcoholism. Tunbridge wells had a higher incidence in some of these categories, than that of Kent or of England as a whole. This was particularly true of self harm, excess winter deaths and falls, and alcohol related hospital stays. TWBC are putting a number of plans in force to try and aid the situation.

4.3 Outside lighting and pathway outside Parish office at Village Hall

The Clerk had asked Dukes to provide a quotation for a one off clear up around the outside of the village hall including removing weeds from the block paving, weed killing the area to the sides and back of the hall, cutting the hedges back and cleaning out the gutters. She had also asked for Dukes to provide a quotation to add this to the maintenance contract on a half yearly basis. The Clerk was still awaiting this quotation.

Roger Hummel the electrician, who had installed the emergency lighting at the hall, had inspected the emergency/sensor light outside the Parish Office entrance, which was not working. He had replaced the bulb and sensor and the light was now functioning correctly. However, upon inspection of the area at night, Council members still felt that this area was not adequately lit, and required another two lights positioned carefully to fully light up the pathway. The Clerk would contact Roger Hummel with regards to putting two more lights up.

4.4 **Highways**

The Clerk had been chasing highways with regards to repainting some of the white lines in the village, which had become worn. Cllr March had discovered upon liaising with KCC highways, that there was now no more funding left for white lining this financial year. It was therefore suggested that the clerk continue to chase this matter in the New Year, to ensure that the lines were done as soon as a further budget was available. The Clerk would let Mr Dicketts know about this as he too had been proactive in trying to get the lines repainted.

The Councillors then had a discussion about reducing the speed of traffic through the village. The Village Vision Highways group had taken part in several discussions with KHS Officer, Mr Noad, but had not been able to come up with any plans to try and reduce speed throughout the village. The reason for this was thought to be because in Horsmonden we have four different roads going through the village making it difficult to know where to concentrate plans for traffic calming. It was suggested that the Group should perhaps concentrate on one road and try to see what can be done. Any improvements which could be undertaken would probably have to be paid for at parish level or grants, as KHS had very little money set aside for traffic calming measures.

It was noted that Brenchley and Matfield had recently been successful in obtaining a 30 mph extension between the two villages.

5 **CONSULTATIONS**

5.1 **Tunbridge wells Borough Council - Cycling Strategy 2015-2020**

http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/portal/economic_development_regeneration/cycl/cyclends 2nd November

There was very little directly affecting Horsmonden in the Strategy, as the nearest cycle route was in Paddockwood, however Cllrs seemed in agreement with the principle of the idea to create new cycle routes in local areas. There was however some surprise that in providing a strategy, TWBC had not tried to link the new cycle routes to the existing national routes already existing.

Cllr Davis proposed that the Council should comment along the following lines:

The parish Council were surprised that there was no integration with existing National cycle routes. Seconded, Cllr Russell. Unanimous.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm