

# Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr T Sams welcomed all present to the meeting and stated that thoughts were with Cllr Powell following a recent bereavement.

## Public discussion

A resident reported that there was a rumour that the pharmacy in Lenham is to close. Cllr Roots clarified that the pharmacy is not closing but does need support.

A resident raised concerns that the jazz concert in the Church may have to be cancelled, due to low ticket sales. They have until the coming weekend to sell enough tickets to cover the cost of the band as a minimum (cost of refreshments still unfunded).

A resident spoken regarding the potholes near to the petrol station (which is in Lenham Parish). It was confirmed that the white markings show that KCC has visited to inspect the issue and scheduled a repair.

The Clerk gave an update regarding the sudden closure of Harrietsham's Post Office. Having contacted the Postmaster the following response had been received:

*"This situation has arisen because Royal Mail have made a decision to stop collecting mail/parcels from this branch, as from 24th June, with very little notice to me.*

*Harrietsham branch, is considered as an Outreach service and therefore, does not have the same priorities as a main or local branch. That said, I am in continued discussions with management regarding this situation, to see if we can come to some reasonable conclusion.*

*As a short-term solution, we requested that Lenham PO took the postage for collection by Royal Mail, as my staff had agreed to take it there themselves at the end of each day. However, Lenham PO have refused this request, which is somewhat surprising and disappointing to know.*

*Currently the Post Office management and Federation are investigating this situation and until this process is finalised, there is nothing else we can do at this point, although I would like to stress that all options are being looked at. "*

The Clerk added that she would update Councillors, when more information becomes available.

## **1 Present**

Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Luck, Cllr S Brown, Cllr R Dayes, RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst  
2 Members of Public

## **2 Apologies for absence**

Cllr E Powell

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

Parish Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Luck; with 6 in favour and 2 abstentions.

## **4 Disclosures and confidential items**

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to the register.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

## **5 Planning**

**5.1** The outstanding planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved applications were noted.

### 5.3 Other Planning Matters

There were no further matters to discuss.

## 6 Environmental

### 6.1 Other Environmental Matters

- New Burial Ground: The Clerk reported that, as part of the planning application preparation, the Parish Council has been asked to undertake archaeological trial trenching. The first plan showed that the majority of the field and access strip would be investigated. Following discussions with the senior Archaeologist, they have agreed to a minimum of 5 trenches being dug. Having received the quote of £10,200 (+vat) for the work the Clerk and RFO had found a contractor in the village who confirmed that they could assist the Council at a cost of £350 (+vat) a day. However, CDS is still to provide either the plan for the trenches (with dimensions) or the contact details of the person the Kent Archaeology Trust is liaising with, to speak with them directly. The Clerk commented that this could delay the previously anticipated date of Summer 2025 for the planning permission to be granted. The RFO added that, due to H&S, the trenches would need to be fenced off but, as it is a permissive footpath, the easiest option would be to close off the area whilst the work is undertaken. The gate can be padlocked, fencing erected by the church wall opening, with signage to inform walkers of the closure. It was noted that the trenches would likely be shallow, which would limit the risk of serious injury to anyone trespassing.
- Vegetation by Percy: Cllr T Sams queried the lack of grounds maintenance around Percy's bench on the Pilgrims Way. The Amenity Manager confirmed he had visited the area and there is a clear view when standing looking at the bench; it was felt that the angle of the photo made it look worse than it is. The contractor had commented that there had been an error with the cut and that they will visit the area. It was queried whether there would be an additional cut later or an amendment to the next invoice and it was confirmed that this was a small 'add on' to another contract.

## 7 Finances

7.1 Income and Expenditure Spreadsheets (deferred from May): The deferred finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour.

7.2 Income and Expenditure Spreadsheets (June): The finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Luck, seconded by Cllr Brown; with all in favour.

### 7.3 Other Financial Matters

There were no further matters to be discussed.

## 8 Highways

No report had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

Cllr T Sams reported that there were a number of scheduled road closures to come in the village. The 30mph banner had now been erected near the Glebe Field. Cllr Roots commented that the residents have added the 30mph stickers to their wheelie bins.

## 9 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Big Lunch

Cllr T Sams reported that, due to the weather, the event had had to be cancelled and a meeting is to be held to see whether it can be rescheduled. The Amenity Manager confirmed that the entrance to the field is accessible, after recent works. Cllr Roots wished to be removed from the group.

## 10 Parking on the Glebe Field for the Bluebell Walk (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to allow use of the Glebe Field for the Bluebell Walk in 2025, with the usual caveats. This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

## 11 Parking on the Glebe Field for the North Downs Walk (Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025)

It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths to allow use of the Glebe Field for the North Downs Walk in 2025, with the usual caveats. This was seconded by Cllr Luck, with all in favour.

## 12 Future Events

SOHL Meeting - 27<sup>th</sup> June in Lenham Community Centre

Ploughman's in the Church - 13<sup>th</sup> July (12 - 2pm)

Friend's of St Johns Jazz Evening - 6<sup>th</sup> July (from 7pm)

Coffee Morning - Every Friday in the Booth Hall (10am - midday)

Welcome to All Coffee Morning - Every Monday in Harrietsham Primary School (9.30 - 11am - open to all residents)

**13 Items for Future Consideration**

Purchase of Goal Post - *Cllr T Sams*

**14 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall**

*With no further matters to discuss the main meeting was adjourned at 7.52pm.*

***Minutes of Confidential Agenda Item 15 (Village Hall) will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.***

A resident thanked Councillors for the work they had undertaken ahead of the D-Day Big Lunch, which had been cancelled.

A resident asked whether the jazz concert could be advertised on Next Door and Councillors would look into who has an account to be able to add it. Cllr Roots commented that the event has been advertised on Facebook in the surrounding villages.