

# Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Harrietsham Parish Council held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Due to the elections held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, all Councillors present signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the meeting commenced.

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

## Public discussion

A resident reported that some of the potholes in Goddington Lane and Hom Mill Lane had been repaired. A resident asked whether the precept could be raised to cover the cost of cleaning at the hall. The Clerk explained the legal and financial situation in which the hall currently finds itself in. There will be a report for Councillors to consider in the near future, ahead of discussions with the Charity Commission.

A resident queried what the strips across the A20 are, as they are located from Bearsted and through the village. It was explained that there is a Kent Highways survey being undertaken to assess the safety of the A20.

## **1 Present**

Cllr E Powell, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Luck, Cllr S Brown and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst  
3 Members of Public

## **2 Apologies for absence**

Cllr T Griffiths, RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood, County Cllr S Prendergast

## **3 Election of Chair & Vice-Chair**

Chair - Cllr T Sams nominated Cllr Powell as Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Roots. With no further nominations, Cllr Powell was duly elected as Chair for the forthcoming year and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Vice-Chair - Cllr Powell nominated Cllr T Sams as Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Stanley. With no further nominations Cllr T Sams was duly elected for the forthcoming year.

## **4 Minutes of the last meeting**

Parish Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024- The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Luck, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour.

## **5 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.

## **6 Review of Committees, Working Parties & PC Representatives**

The current committees and working groups were discussed.

- Cllr Stanley wished to stop being the KALC representative and Cllr Brown offered to take on this role.
- The Clerk stated that the Staffing Group would become a Committee, in line with the Parish Council's recently adopted employment policies.
- Ms Sharon Amos had confirmed that she would remain as a co-opted member of the Environmental Committee.
- Cllr Luck wished to step down from the Communications Committee.
- Mrs Hazel Roots had offered to be co-opted onto the Communications Committee to assist with the Parish Council's Facebook page.

The Clerk then read out the draft Committees list (as detailed below) and it was proposed by Cllr T Sams to approve this for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

Chair	Cllr Eddie Powell	
Vice Chair	Cllr Tom Sams	
Finance & GP Committee	Cllr T Sams Cllr Stanley <i>Vacancy</i>	Cllr Roots Cllr S Luck RFO
Planning Committee	Cllr Powell Cllr Stanley Cllr Roots	Cllr T Sams Cllr Luck Cllr Brown
Environmental Committee	Cllr Brown Cllr Dayes Amenity Manager + co-opted Sharon Amos	Cllr Stanley Cllr Luck <i>Vacancy</i>
Highways/Transport (inc Church Rd Footpath & Lighting)	Cllr T Sams Cllr Luck	Cllr J Sams Cllr Roots
Law & Order	Cllr Stanley	Cllr Griffiths
Youth Provisions	Cllr T Sams Cllr Stanley Cllr Griffiths	Cllr J Sams Cllr Dayes + advisors
KALC	Cllr Brown	Cllr Roots
Village Charities (inc. Booth & Baldwin)	Cllr Roots (Chair) Cllr Brown	Cllr Dayes ( <i>Booth &amp; Baldwin</i> )
Village Hall Trust	Cllr Stanley Cllr Powell <i>Vacancy</i>	Cllr Griffiths Cllr J Sams
Staffing Committee	Cllr J Sams Cllr Dayes	Cllr Griffiths
Communication Liaison Committee	Cllr Griffiths <i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Vacancy</i> + co-opted Hazel Roots

The Clerk reminded all present that, once the Parish Warden commences employment at the end of May, Councillors should only be making him aware of any welfare/ASB issues in the village directly. Anything else would need to be discussed with the Clerk, as his Line Manager, to progress as necessary.

## 7 Planning

7.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

24/501549/FULL - Hawthorne Place, Greenway Forstal

Siting one 1no. static caravan for gypsy/traveller use with associated touring caravan and parking (retrospective)

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr T Sams to refuse the application. This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with 6 in favour and 1 against. The reasons for refusal were as follows:

- The proposed development is within the setting of the Kent Downs National Landscape and the intrusive development will harm the landscape and views to/from the KDNL.
- This location is not an approved Gypsy/Traveller site in MBC's adopted Local Plan (2024).

- It will have a detrimental impact on the residents in the neighbouring Garden of England.
- There is limit information submitted with the planning application relating to transport and highway matters.

Councillors also requested that, if the Planning Officer was minded to approve the application, it should be reported to the Planning Committee. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.2 The refused applications were noted.

### 7.3 Other Planning Matters

Cllr Powell commented that it was too soon to know whether the new Borough Council would look to review the recently adopted Local Plan.

## 8 Environmental

8.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Stanley; with those in attendance at the meeting in favour.

### 8.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- To request that Mike Phillips revisits and assesses Teers Meadow's progress and to possibly commission some re-runs of the studies completed as part of the National Lottery funding (expected cost £750-£1,000): It was proposed by Cllr Brown to contact Mike Phillips as recommended by the Environmental Committee, with a likely cost of up to £1,000. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with all in favour.

### 8.3 Other Environmental Matters

- Aerator Dispute in Woodlands Walk: The Clerk had circulated the history on the current issue with the aerators which had been replaced and subsequently failed, resulting in further aerators being purchased. Hawkhurst Fish Farm (HFF) had now reduced their original invoice of £1,360 by 25%, as a goodwill gesture, to £1,020. There was involved discussion on the matter, with Councillors raising concerns that the aerators purchased, following the failure of the original ones, had been expensive and it was queried what had happened to these, as the ones now installed are less powerful. Cllr Brown stated that there should have been a warranty to repair/replace them if they failed and spoke about the concerns surrounding the electrical supply issues. Cllr J Sams proposed that the invoice be paid, to ensure that the working relationship with the companies involved could be maintained; 3 Councillors were in favour. Cllr Brown proposed that the invoice not be paid at this time and that discussions continue; this was support by 4 Councillors. Cllr Brown offered to discuss the matter further with Mr Cuerden to assist him with responding to HFF.

**ACTION: Cllr Brown**

## 9 Finances

9.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets: The Clerk stated that, as this month's meeting was earlier, this item would be deferred. The figures will be circulated as usual at the end of the month for approval at the June meeting. All Councillors were in agreement.

### 9.2 Other Financial Matters

There were no other matters to be discussed.

## 10 Highways

No report had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

The Clerk reported that there is an electrical supply fault along the A20, leading to the defective lights by the West Street/Goddington Lane junction. Crest Nicholson has now escalated this to UK Power Networks for further investigation.

## 11 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Big Lunch

Cllr T Sams reported that a meeting is to be held on the following evening to finalise the arrangements for the event. The Clerk offered to purchase 50m of mesh fencing with stakes, which would be needed for the event but would allow enough spare for if there are ever any issues with the play equipment. The cost would be around £60 + vat and all Councillors were in agreement with this being ordered.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 12 Future Events

Ploughman's in the Church - 8<sup>th</sup> June (12 - 2pm)

North Downs Walk - 9<sup>th</sup> June

Harrietsham's Big Lunch inc. D-Day Commemorations - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June (12 - 4pm Glebe Field)

Friend's of St Johns Jazz Evening - 6<sup>th</sup> July

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

Welcome to Coffee Morning - Every Monday in the Booth Hall (10am - 11am - open to all residents)

**13 Items for Future Consideration**

Cllr Roots queried when the Council would be discussing producing a Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk confirmed that this was for a future Planning Committee meeting (next meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> June).

**14 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall**

*With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.27pm.*

Items raised during Public Discussion:

- The aerators in Woodlands Walk
- Speeding on the A20 (especially around the Petrol Station which is in Lenham Parish)
- Whether Speedwatch will restart, once the average speed cameras are removed. Cllr Roots confirmed that it would return, if the volunteers are happy to continue.