

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2024 at 7.30pm
in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting and announced that Mike Williams, who had been a Councillor in 2015/16 had sadly passed away.

Before the meeting commenced, the Clerk asked that Councillors contact her to arrange a convenient time to come into the Parish Office, as visits can sometimes clash with other planned meetings. The Clerk gave each Councillor a copy of the latest training available from KALC and stated that the Councillors who have not attended a Dynamic Councillors course would need to be booked onto the session being arranged for September 30th.

Public discussion

A resident raised concerns that there is a large amount of ragwort in the village. The Amenity Manager confirmed that the Parish Council land is being kept mostly clear, however nothing can be done about it appearing on private land.

A resident reported that on the 5th August there will be roadworks on the A20 to connect the 5G mast.

1 Present

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

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr R Dayes

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 26th June 2024: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr T Sams, seconded by Cllr Roots; with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

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.

The meeting then closed at 7.39pm to members of the public

5 Co-option of Parish Councillor

Councillors asked a number of questions and then went to a vote by ballot; the result was confirmed by the Clerk and RFO. Mrs Dean was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council and signed the Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Dean confirmed that she was happy to join the Environmental and F&GP Committees, along with the Communications Group. These appointments were agreed by all present. The Clerk stated that she would ask Cllr Griffiths to add Cllr Dean to the Parish Council's Facebook page. **ACTION: Clerk**

The meeting the re-opened at 7.52pm to members of the public

6 Planning

6.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

6.2 Other Planning Matters

Cllr Powell spoke briefly regarding the recent SOHL meeting, which had been attended by Helen Whately MP, County Cllr Prendergast and Lenham Parish Council. Cllr Roots reported that, whilst the Heathlands Judicial Review is not progressing, the one for Lidsing is moving forward. Cllr Stanley queried the expenditure involved in the Heathlands project, now that the Government will

not underwrite the cost of the station and also the fact that there should have been cost protection for the Judicial Review progressing under the Aarhus Convention. Cllr Powell responded that everything is up in the air presently.

Cllr Dean queried the Parish Council's response to The Mellows application and Cllr Powell offered clarification on the Committee's discussion and the current layout of the site.

7 Environmental

7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held 9th July 2024: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Stanley; with 2 in favour (those at the meeting).

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- To accept a quotation from Brogdale for maintenance to the Community Orchard: It was proposed by Cllr Brown to accept the quote of £1,700 for maintenance work required to the Community Orchard. This was seconded by Cllr Luck, with all in favour.

7.3 Other Environmental Matters

- New Burial Ground: The Clerk reported that, with the RFO, she had met with the contractor who will be assisting the archaeologists with the forthcoming dig. The work is more involved than previously thought, each of the 5 trenches measures 30m x 2m, therefore a much larger digger is required. It was confirmed that the Church has kindly offered the use of their facilities for the duration. The dig is to take place over 3 days from Monday 19th August. The Clerk added that the site needs to be secured beforehand with locks on the gates, fencing across the access point to the field from behind the church with appropriate signage. Something will also need to be put on the website and social media etc. Cllr T Sams offered to assist with the fencing required.
- Saxon Place Play Area: The Clerk reminded all present of the ongoing issues relating to the s106 money still outstanding from the Saxon Place development, which amounts to approximately £103,000. An email had been received from MBC to say that they are not intending to chase Barratt Homes anymore for the Deed of Variation. Having then contacted Karen Dunn, she had stated that she would chase her solicitors, as she thought all outstanding issues had been resolved. The Clerk will continue to monitor the situation.

8 Finances

8.1 Income and Expenditure Spreadsheets: The finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with 7 in favour and 1 abstention.

8.2 Minutes of the F&GP Meeting held 11th July 2024: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots and seconded by Cllr Stanley; with 2 in favour (those present at the meeting).

8.3 Recommendations from the F&GP Committee:

- To Re-appoint Audit Solution for 2024-2025: It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to re-appoint Audit Solutions for the current financial year, this was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

8.4 Other Financial Matters

- Village Hall Trust: The Clerk reported that, having contacted the Charity Commission regarding the future of the hall, their response had been unhelpful. Mrs Broadhurst reminded all present that she had previously spoken to a solicitor at a KALC course and had subsequently made contact for initial advice from him. A quote of £600 (+vat) had now been received and the Clerk asked for this to be approved so that she could speak with him further. It was proposed by Cllr Powell to accept the quotation of £600, seconded by Cllr Roots; with 7 in favour and 1 abstention.

9 Highways

It was noted that a highways report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr T Sams asked that a letter be sent to County Cllr Prendergast regarding the flooding issue in Church Road, outlining that the Parish Council is very disappointed with the lack of action from KCC to resolve the matter. This has a major effect on pedestrians and drivers who are trying to access the doctor's surgery, hall and A20. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr J Sams reported that, following the most recent flooding, Church Road needs to be swept and added that she would report this to MBC. **ACTION: Cllr J Sams**

Cllr Stanley queried whether there was any update regarding the bus stops required on the A20. The Clerk reminded all present that the most recently updated HIP has been circulated and most of the items

had been removed, following the work which the Parish Council has recently paid for. The bus stops are one of the few items remaining, but there would be a significant cost to the Parish for their installation. The Clerk offered to ask the Highways Officer if there was any update from the Bus Stop Team.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Roots gave an update on the average speed cameras on the A20, having received some data through Speedwatch. In the 3 months to April, over 830 vehicles had triggered the cameras and these instances were mostly at the weekend. There was discussion relating to the survey which will need to be completed by residents, once the cameras are removed. Cllr Roots felt that this should be sent to a wider area, rather than just those houses along the A20 corridor. He offered to investigate reply paid envelopes as a cheaper option to using 1st Class stamps.

ACTION: Cllr Roots

Cllr Luck reported that the 7.5t sign at the Lenham Road end of Fairbourne Lane was in the wrong place and covered by vegetation. The Clerk reminded Cllr Luck that this was the only location that would be approved by the design team at KCC and that the vegetation would need to be reported to Highways. Cllr T Sams offered to report this.

ACTION: Cllr T Sams

10 80th Anniversary of D-Day Big Lunch

Cllr T Sams reported that, whilst the group had been unable to meet, it was now too late to hold an event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

11 Purchase of a Goal Post for the Glebe Field

Cllr T Sams explained the background to this agenda item and proposed that the Council purchase a goal post at an approximate cost of £100. This was seconded by Cllr Roots; with all in favour.

The Clerk was asked to make the purchase.

ACTION: Clerk

There was then discussion regarding a football group using the Glebe Field each week for training, without any permission from the Parish Council. This activity is not something that would be approved by Councillors, as only a small number of charities are given permission for annual events. The Clerk was asked to write a letter asking who the group is, as they have not been given permission. This will be passed on to the organisers, when they are next on the field.

ACTION: Clerk

12 Adoption of Policies

The Clerk had circulated the Councillor-Officer Protocol policy, which is part of the Civility & Respect Pledge and also a Staff Sickness policy. It was proposed by Cllr Roots to adopt both policies, this was seconded by Cllr Luck; with 7 in favour and 1 abstention.

13 Future Events

28th September - Invicta Concert Band in the Church (7pm for 7.30pm start). Tickets are available from Chris Roots, Steve Brown or Audrey Joy

26th October - Bingo Night in the Village Hall (7pm start)

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

(No Ploughman's Lunch in the Church during August but will return in September.)

14 Items for Future Consideration

There were no items for future consideration.

15 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

(No meeting in August)

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

Cllr T Sams asked for thanks to be noted to the Parish Warden for his meeting report, adding that it shows how valuable the role is to the village.