



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th November 2019 from 8:00pm to 9:24pm.

Present: Cllr J. Geliot (Chairman of meeting) Cllr B. Heller Cllr. S. Edgington
Cllr P. Couzens Cllr A. Rumble Cllr C. Page
R. Parr (Clerk)

Also Present: Cllr A. Bowles (KCC), and 4 members of the public

97 APOLOGIES

Cllr S. Castle

98 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

99 MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 30th October 2019 (79-93) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
- B. The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18th November 2019 (94-96) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

100 MATTERS ARISING

- A. Local Needs Housing. English Rural have advised us that soil investigations will take place at the site in the next couple of weeks. English Rural are also in discussions with KCC Highways with regards as to the most appropriate location for the access to the development taking into account how much hedging might be required to be relocated. It is also likely that any planning application will not be submitted until the New Year. Mr D Brenchley request that if we were to receive final copies of the plans in advance of the planning application, could these be made available. Cllr Geliot commented that we may not receive any more plans ahead of the formal planning application but if received these would be available to view. There was discussion as to whether the PC would have sight of the plans to make further comment before planning application.
- B. Salt Bin. A new salt bin had been placed close to the entrance of Mount Ephraim at the top of the incline on Staplestreet Road.
- C. Neighbourhood Watch. There was nothing to report.
- D. Anti-litter signage. Update from SBC confirms that they have passed on the request for our location for the signs. We are now waiting.
- E. Dale Farm Oast The clerk has yet to receive any further update from the Conservation Officer despite chasing.

- F. Neighbourhood Plan - SBC confirmed that this will be represented at the next Local Plan Panel to be held on the 27th November. Assuming it is approved at the Local Plan Panel then it will be presented to the SBC Cabinet meeting on the 18th December. That will then provide permission for the consultation to go ahead. This start date of which will be agreed between ourselves and SBC. This is likely to be in the New Year, possibly at the end of January. It is intended for notice of the Consultation period to be published in the Hernhill News, PC website and noticeboards and also SBC websites. Cllr Geliot commented that consideration will then need to be given as to how we proceed in terms of a sub-committee and invite parishioners onto the committee.
- G. Village Speed Limits. Cllr Page said he had been in contact with Highways as to how to proceed in potentially obtaining speed limits within the parish at Dargate, Staplestreet and Church Hill, especially as two residents in Dargate had recently written expressing concerns as to speeding in Plum Pudding Lane. Cllr Page was advised to create a highways plan of which as template had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Page had also discussed the plans with Cllr Bowles, who was supportive and mentioned that there may also be a small budget available towards any potential costs. Cllr Bowles also mentioned that KCC were likely to initially demand a road survey and that the cost of which would fall to the Parish Council. Cllr Page will send the Highway Improvement plan to Paul Brand at KCC Highways department and ask for a meeting to discuss, which Cllr Bowles said he will also attend. Cllr Geliot said that on Church Hill, other than school traffic, there was little by way of other traffic and that the roads naturally cause most people to slow down. A comment was also made as to how effective any speed limit would be in terms of it being enforced. Costs at the moment are unknown although it is expected to be a considerable expense. There was a general consensus that Staplestreet Road being a straighter road had a greater problem with speeding than elsewhere in the parish. Alternative options were considered in providing signs saying 'Please drive carefully' but it was felt that the people it was aimed at were likely to ignore. In addition, speed bumps were not considered to be popular. It was agreed for Cllr Page to continue investigating the options and that if it transpired that costs were too prohibitive, then the council will stop pursuing the issue.
- H. 7.5t HGV Boughton, Dunkirk & Staplestreet - Cllr Gould who had set up the petition was looking to collate paper copies. The Chairman commented that there may be a number of people who had not yet signed and wished to do so. It was agreed that as the Transport Board meeting had been delayed until January that we would continue to collect signatories. Cllr Page reiterated his offer that he would visit anyone who contacted him who wished to sign a paper copy. The Chairman commented that the easiest way to find the petition online at Change.org was via a link on the Parish Council website.
- I. Monkshill Road stones - KCC Highways have confirmed that the ownership of the verges is private rather than belonging to Highways. KCC are still looking at what can be done.
- J. Allotments Vacancies - We have received a positive enquiry for a parish resident for the full plot. The half plot remains available.
- K. Overgrown hedge at Woodlands - This had been reported to KCC Highways by Cllr Castle.
- L. Village Green oak tree sign. This is undergoing conservation with Cllr Rumble, which will take some time. It was agreed to remove this from Matters Arising for the time being.
- M. Councillor Emails. All councillors have now successfully created new email addresses.
- N. Standing Order Amendments. Section 13 has been amended to correctly reflect the

process for declarations of interest and dispensations. The motion to pass the revised Standing Orders was supported unanimously.

- O. Allotment Prize. Feedback received from allotment holders suggested that there was not much interest in the idea and therefore it has been agreed to drop the idea.

101 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- A. Cllr Page reported that he had attended the meeting along with Cllr Tutt from Dunkirk regarding the lorry parking at the A2 Gate services. Details were provided with regards the experiences at Ashford. Clamping did not work as this just moves the problem elsewhere. The Police confirmed that they had other priorities than trying to move lorries on. Essentially there was a requirement for more official lorry parks but this also gives rise to the issue of where to site them. It was commented that there was no natural solution and that a nationally agreed approach was required that required KCC, Highways England and Central Government to support.
- B. Cllr Page commented that he had obtained from Cllr Tutt at Dunkirk a copy of the Duchy of Cornwall's high level housing plans for south east Faversham. This covers areas of Faversham, Boughton and selling Parish.

102 PLANNING

- A. Planning Application. None received.
- B. Planning Decisions. None received

103 FINANCE

- A. The bank reconciliation report dated 19th November 2019 was approved and signed by the Chairman..
- B. The following payments were approved by those present:
 - Chq-1459 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing) £133.16
 - Chq-S/O R Parr (Advice Only - Clerks Salary and expenses) £240.13
 - Chq-1460 Hernhill Bookings (October Hall Hire) £23.00
 - Chq-1461 KALC (March 2017 Invoice Planning Conference) £72.00
 - Chq-1462 R Parr (Stamps and envelopes) £37.30
 - Chq-1463 Hughes and Son Gardening Services (Church Mowing) £130.00
- C. Consider 2020/2021 Budget. 2019/2020 year end position had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. This confirmed that the year end position is predicted to be payments of circa £10,144 against a precept of £10,000. Although we had budgeted for possible election spends, unbudgeted money had been spent on a litter bin, noticeboard and church mowing. The forecasted requirements for 2020/2021 show a minimum spending requirement of just over £9000. The reserve position is deemed to be circa £14,000. It was agreed to request a precept of £10,500, a £500 increase on the previous year in order to cover any potential long term projects.

104 ADMINISTRATION

- A. KALC AGM - 30th November Cllr Heller attending.
- B. KCC Transport Seminar 28th November - Cllr Page attending.

105 CORRESPONDENCE

- A. KALC Community Award. The Clerk reported that nomination forms for the KALC Community Awards Scheme will be circulated with copies of the upcoming edition of the Hernhill News.
- B. Air Ambulance. The Clerk had received a thank you letter from the air ambulance for our £100 donation.
- C. Staplestreet Road Closure. Road closure 5th December 2019 at Staplestreet for 1 day

between 9.30am and 15.30pm. This is between the junction of Bull Lane and Staplestreet Road. The alternative route is via Staplestreet Road, Whitstable Road, Homestall Lane, Canterbury Road, The Street, Bull Lane and visa versa. This is to enable BT works.

- D. Brenley Corner. There are signs out for works at Brenley Corner for 16 weeks. This is in relation to the installation of a pedestrian crossing. We are still waiting on full details of the works from KCC Highways.
- E. Church. A request received from Rev. Burrows for a Cllr to read a lesson at the joint Benefice Lessons and Carols at Graveney Church on the 22nd December 4.30pm and Cllr Page had agreed to do this. There is also an invitation for all members of the parish to attend. There will be refreshments after the service.
- F. Rural Crime. Kent Rural Police reported cases of illegal poaching and hare coursing in the area. In addition, in Faversham, there have been a couple of cases of Night Hawking Heritage Crime. Also to bring attention to the Country Eye app. This is a free App for people living and working in the rural community. The app allows users to record and share information on crime, suspicious behaviour and damage in their home community or whilst out and about. The app has been supported by Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Kent, National Farmers Union and BTF Partnership. Categories include Theft, Farm Crime, Animal, Wildlife Crime, Heritage Crime.

106 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Mr P Wilson wished for thanks to be recorded to the organisers of the wonderful Halloween event at Summer Lees Farm. The Chairman expressed her thanks to the organisers of the wonderful event.
- B. Mr P Wilson commented upon the poor road service in the dip at Butler's Hill by Woodlands. The Clerk is to investigate.
- C. Mr P Wilson suggested as to the requirement for a mirror to allow for easier exit from the village hall. The clerk is to investigate.
- D. Mrs A Butler raised that despite the works scheduled to clear the road drains near Mount Ephraim Cottages in Staplestreet Road, no actions appear to have been taken. The Clerk is to investigate.

106 CHAIRMAN & CLERK's SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. No reports.

108 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NOVEMBER'S AGENDA

- A. Local Needs Housing
- B. Neighbourhood Watch
- C. Neighbourhood Plan
- D. Village Speed Limits
- E. 7.5t HGV limits Boughton, Dunkirk & Staplestreet
- F. Monkshill Road Stones
- G. Dale Farm Oast
- H. Allotment Vacancies
- I. Overgrown hedge at Woodlands
- J. KALC Community Awards
- K. Precept

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 29th January 2020. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.24pm.

CHAIRMAN