



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th August 2019 from 8:00pm to 9:50pm.

Present: Cllr J. Geliot (Chairman of meeting) Cllr B. Heller Cllr S. Castle
Cllr P. Couzens Cllr A. Rumble Cllr C. Page
Cllr A. Bowles (KCC)

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

52 APOLOGIES

Cllr A. Gould Cllr S. Edgington

53 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

54 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 (minutes 40-51) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

55 MATTERS ARISING

- A. Local Needs Housing. The Chairman confirmed that she had regrettably received an email from the Hernhill Conservation Group, which had been forwarded to all councillors, stating that they no longer wished to participate in joint meeting with the Parish Council and English Rural. Ms Thompason at English Rural had also been in contact to advise that following feedback from the council, that they were willing to change one of the houses to that of a single storey. The chairman also confirm that there are currently no vacancies at Jack Bailey Row.

Cllr Page advised that he had been in contact with 10 Parish Councils across Kent and East Sussex who have English Rural properties in their parish to enquire as to their working relationship with English Rural. Querying whether the properties were maintained and the quality of tenants. A number of responses were received, which in the main were positive and raised minor issues. There was one responses where the policy of requiring a local connection appeared to be waived when a tenant does a swap with another English Rural housing tenant in another area. The Clerk is to contact English Rural asking for clarification. .

- B. Annual Allotment Inspection. The annual allotment inspection took place on the 17th August with a visit by some of the Councillors. No issues were raised. The plots concerned are a mix of maintenance standards and also varied in items grown. Concern was raised with regards to the lack of water supply. The Chairman advised that there was little that could be done as previous attempts had been unsuccessful to

arrange such a supply. There was a discussion as to whether the Council would consider offering a small annual prize following the inspection for the most tidy plot or the most varied and interesting plots. It was agreed for the Councillor to consider this and bring back for discussion in September.

- C. Update on the salt bin at Staplestreet. The council representative had visited the site to assess the requirements for a salt bin as per SBC's point allocation system that considers, things such as gradient, sharp bends, number of houses, density of traffic amongst others. Unfortunately, despite a number of accidents on that stretch of road in winter time, the site did not attract enough points in the assessment to qualify for a new salt bin. It was advised that the council could consider obtaining a bin privately. The Clerk is to investigate costs. SBC should be able to fill it with salt should one be obtained by the Parish Council.
- D. Noticeboard at Waterham. The board has been made and is currently with the Clerk. The owner of the house where the board is located has agreed for the board to be returned but asked if it could be sited away from the house and further along the verge in line with the junction, which is suitable. The Clerk is liaising with John Barnes, who made the board, regarding suitable fittings and brackets in order to erect the board.
- E. Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Castle had approached his contact at Police headquarters and was awaiting a response. Peter Wilson had nothing to report.
- F. Risk Assessment The Risk Assessment had been completely revised by Cllr Page. The revised version had been circulated to all councillors ahead of the meeting for review. Cllr Page talked through the key changes made and it was agreed that a couple of areas would be further amended to reflect that the Council was not responsible for reporting vegetation or potholes and that the members of the public are always encouraged to report these themselves. The Chairman proposed to adopt the revised version. Cllr Castle seconded. All agreed.
- G. Autumn Litter Pick Cllr Rumble had been in contact with SBC and agreed the loan of the equipment for the litter pick. The date has been agreed for 2pm Saturday 28th to meet at the village hall. September. Cllr Edgington is to prepare suitable road safety signs. The Clerk also confirm that following the previous litter pick, SBC are still looking to donate some equipment to the parish, which should be with us shortly.
- H. Fostall Turn-off - No HGVs. The Parish Clerk had been in contact with KCC Highways who confirmed that obtaining a sign was in progress.
- I. Thirwell Farm. An update was provided by the Parish Clerk who had been in contact with Daniel Ketteridge at the Environment Agency to pass on evidence reported by parishioners. Mr Ketteridge confirmed that they wanted to encourage the reporting of all cases of illegal waste activity or burning via their 24 hour reporting line. Mr Ketteridge also offered to attend one of the parish council meeting and this was tentatively agreed for September. The Clerk is to continue to liaise with Mr Ketteridge to arrange. The issue previously raised concerning at George Bell Farm was also discussed. A parishioner commented that they had seen many tipping lorries visit the site usually with a mix of rubbish and hardcore. KCC Cllr Bowles reported that there was a KCC meeting on the 25th September on Planning Enforcement and that Cllr Bowles would seek feedback from the Environment Agency regarding George Bell Farm.
- J. Dale Farm Oast The clerk had chased for a response and was waiting on the return of the conservation office from annual leave.
- K. Footpaths. The Clerk had not receive any update from Cllr Edgington.
- L. Neighbourhood Plan The Chairman had reviewed a number of letters sent out by parish councils to the Borough Councils of the intention of the Parish Council to start the NP process. The letters varied enormously but since we are a single parish and

the boundary is that of the parish boundary, the letter should be relatively simple. Cllr Heller commented that we should be proactive rather than reactive and did not feel we needed to wait for the visit by Mr Tutt at the September's meeting. This was agreed and the clerk is to prepare and send such a letter to initiate the process.

The Chairman also mentioned that we would need to consider sending out an invite for an open meeting for people and forming a sub-committee asking for volunteers from key stakeholders in the parish. The sub-committee should be Parish Council led but not every councillor would necessarily need to be involved. The Chairman asked the councillors to consider the sort of sub-headings they would like to consider for the NP. It was agreed that the open meeting should be once the Council had heard from Mr Tutt in the September meeting.

44 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

A. Cllr. Page had attended the Dynamic Councillor Meeting held by KALC and found it very worthwhile and provided interesting information.

B. Cllr Heller had met with the Kent Men of Trees on the 1st August and was awaiting a report as well of having a copy of the report from the 2016 visit. Cllr Heller had also been in contact with Mr Rawlins, chair of the Village Hall committee and DCA on the 16th August to act as a liaison regarding the mowing. Cllr Heller also commented that she had now received the minutes of the joint Parish Council's meeting of the 21st July and that these would be circulated to the other councillors. KCC Cllr Bowles commented that the next meeting is to be hosted by Selling Parish Council and that a date is being finalised. Cllr Heller commented that she would potentially be willing to attend.

Cllr Heller commented that she had received correspondence from the CEO of NALC regarding their Tree Charter Project where a free tree is potentially offered. Cllr Heller would like to take them up on the offer of a free tree and discussion was had as to where this may go. As a tree had recently been lost on the village hall playing fields, it was agreed that this would be the best location. Cllr Heller is to continue the process regarding the Tree Charter to obtain the tree.

Cllr Heller also mentioned that there was a national NALC conference at Milton Keynes on the 28th/29th October and a local area conference on the 9th September. Depending on costs Cllr Heller is considering attending the NALC Conference.

C. Cllr Couzen mentioned that the plaque providing information regarding the oak tree on the village green was missing. It was recalled that this had potentially previously be removed by Mr M Cooper and taken away for restoration. The Clerk is to contact Mr Copper as to enquire about its whereabouts.

D. The Chairman had received a request as to whether a 30mph speed warning sign could be placed at the eastern end of Staplestreet. There are already solar powered speed signs at the western end of Staplestreet as you enter the village and also in Hernhill. KCC Cllr Bowles commented that the council would need to contact Deborah Harrison at KCC who will be able to provide the correct application form. The clerk to email Deborah Harrison2@kent.gov.uk.

45 PLANNING

A. Planning Application. **19/503518/FULL** - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a single storey building to be used as a self-contained holiday accommodation with associated parking to front (revised scheme to 18/504141/FULL). *The Barns Kemsdale Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9JL*. The Parish Council object to the revised application in the change from clay tiles to that of zinc in that the proposed zinc roof is not in keeping with the area.

B. Planning Decisions: None received.

56 **FINANCE**

- A. The Clerk showed the bank reconciliation report dated 19th August 2019 which was approved and signed.
- B. The following payments were approved by those present:
 - Chq-1444 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing) £133.16
 - S/O- R Parr (Advice Only - Clerks Salary and expenses) £240.13

57 **ADMINISTRATION**

A. None.

58 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Road Closures - Road closures had been notified regarding Brenley Corner Roundabout bridge repairs, which were over number of different dates consisting of Monday to Friday overnight closures and also two full weekend closures. Full details will be added to the Parish Council website.
On the 21st September between 11am-5pm, there would be a road closure at Denstroude Lane, Denstroude in aid of the Woodland Trust Victory event to take place.

59 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the Chairman with their comments on Parish matters.

- A. A parishioner raised that there had been damaged to fencing on the corner in Plum Pudding Lane on a number of times. This was due to lorries that were missing the turning just after the A299 dual carriageway bridge into the Young Bros depot and had inadvertently travelled towards Plum Pudding Lane and then turning right. They damaged was caused by the lorries having to turn around. Despite previous requests, to the company asking if they could place a sign at the junction into the industrial estate from the bridge road highlighting their position, the parishioner had not been successful. The parishioner asked if the council could approach the company requesting that they do so. The Clerk is to write a letter to Young Bros.

60 **CHAIRMAN & CLERK's SUNDRY REPORTS**

- A. The Chairman raised that she had been informed that it is likely that the church could no longer afford to continue paying from maintenance to the churchyard. The Chairman was concerned particularly regarding those areas at the front and side of the church that were within the visual setting of the village green. Circa 30 years ago, the site would have been maintained by volunteers but this was no longer the case and it cost the church £150pm. There was a discussion as to whether the Parish Council could support the church like they do the village hall playing fields as a form of goodwill. It was mentioned that there was less concern regarding the rear of the churchyard which could probably be managed by the church as an area for biodiversity. It was commented that the Parish Council have sufficient funds and that we would consider making a part or full contribution towards the cost of the front and side areas. This was agreed in principal. The Chairman is to speak with the Vicar to discuss.
- B. The Clerk mentioned that she would be unable to attend the next Parish Council meeting on the 25th September due to prior commitments. Whilst the Clerk would be able to provide the agenda ahead of the meeting a volunteer was required to take the minutes on the night concerned. Cllr Heller agreed to undertake the task. The clerk is to liaise with Cllr Heller ahead of the meeting.

61 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON SEPTEMBER'S AGENDA

- A. Local Needs Housing
- B. Salt Bin
- C. Noticeboard at Waterham
- D. Neighbourhood Watch
- E. Autumn Litter Pick
- F. Update of Fostal No HGVs
- G. Update on Thirwell Farm
- H. Update of George Bell Farm
- I. Update on Dale Farm Oast
- J. Update on Footpaths
- K. Update on Young Bros
- L. Neighbourhood Plan
- M. Update on Church Yard Maintenance
- N. Allotment prize
- O. Speed signs

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 25th September 2019. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN