



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 30th October 2019 from 8:00pm to 9:54pm.

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

Also Present: Cllr A. Gould (Swale BC), Daniel Ketteridge (Environment Agency), Alan Dengate (Environment Agency) and 18 members of the public

79 APOLOGIES

Cllr J. Geliot

80 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

81 MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 (minutes 62-73) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- B. The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2019 (minutes 74-78) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Vice Chairman.

82 MATTERS ARISING

- A. Thirwell Farm - Daniel Ketteridge and Alan Dengate of the Environment Agency spoke at the meeting to provide an update on Thirwell Farm. They explained the current position with the prosecutions. There were a number of questions from the public regarding the handling of the case and the length of time for action to be taken, expressing their frustration, which the Environment Agency respected. The Environmental Agency provided a detailed explanation as to their powers and resource limitations, The ownership of the site remains unclear and that any future prospective owner of the site would be responsibility for any future clean-up. This was estimated by the Environment Agency to be a considerable sum. They then reiterated their previous message that the more information that was available, the more likely it is that the Environment Agency can take further action (albeit with the limited powers available to them). Therefore anyone who has information or evidence and is a witness to any waste activity at the site or indeed anywhere else is to report it to the Environment Agency's 24 hour incident number 0800 80 70 60 and any fires to Kent Fire and Rescue on 999.
- B. Local Needs Housing. The plans are being finalised, which the council have

reviewed and asked for amendments to ensure all relevant features are shown and incorporated from previous discussions. Once the final plans are available, these will be published on the website as per previous versions. The council is not currently aware of any details regarding timetables.

- C. Salt Bin - Following the agreement to purchase a salt bin at last months meeting, Cllr Heller has seen KCC Highways, who were measuring the location for a bin. Despite not having enough points to be allocated one at that location, KCC Highways has since decided to grant us a bin. It is not known when it will be installed. In addition, a request has been submitted to ensure all bins are topped up ready in time for the winter. Please note that the salt in the bins in the parish are for use on the public roads and not for private use.
- D. Noticeboard at Waterham. The post has now been installed and the erection of the board will be undertaken in November by the clerk who currently has the noticeboard.
- E. Neighbourhood Watch. There was nothing to report.
- F. Autumn Litter Pick - Cllr Rumble commented that there were 12 volunteers and 32 bags of rubbish collected. Since the litter pick, the clerk has received a donation from SBC of litter pickers and hoops. Only hi-viz and bags would be required from SBC for future litter picks. It was agreed that the clerk would send a letter of thanks to Vikki Sedgwick at SBC. Following the litter pick the provision of anti-litter signage was raised with SBC. SBC confirmed that they are put out by KCC. However, KCC have asked SBC if we have any locations we feel would benefit. Cllr Rumble has responded that they be placed on the three bridges across the Thanet Way. The Clerk is to follow-up in due course. A member of the public queries whether the litter pickers and hoops would be available to parishioners for their own litter pick. IT was discussed and agreed that they could be on the understanding that it is entirely their own responsibility for health and safety and to ensure the rubbish is disposed of appropriately.
- G. Fostall Turn-off - No HGVs. KCC Highways has now placed a sign at the Fostall / Thanet Way junction.
- H. George Bell Farm - SBC Enforcement Agency have visited the site and found all in order in relation to the planning for the forestry road. The road was measured and is the permitted 4 metres wide, a larger area has been created at the end for the turning of lorries and this will be removed once it is no longer needed. Whilst the storage building did have windows, we have asked for these to be boarded up and this has been completed, there is no first floor in the storage building only the ground floor and all equipment held within is required for the purpose of forestry use.
- I. Dale Farm Oast Following initial discussions, the clerk has yet to receive any further update from the Conservation Officer despite chasing.
- J. Neighbourhood Plan - The Clerk has received a letter of acknowledgement from SBC confirming our intention to create a neighbourhood plan and providing the boundaries of said plan being that of the parish. The next step is for SBC to take this to their Local Plan Panel on the 28th November 2019.
- K. Update of church yard maintenance. The church were extremely grateful for the Parish Council agreeing a monthly donation of £130.00. First invoice has been received for this month, although the invoice details require amending to show that it is for Hernhill Parish Council.
- L. Allotment Prize - This was adjourned until the November's meeting.
- M. Speed signs - Following on from the discussion at September's meeting, a letter had been received from a parishioner concerned over speeding in Dargate. The Cllr Page commented that he felt this was an area of concern for the parish as a whole and that the Council should explore their options with regards to having a 30mph or even 20mph speed limits in the villages. Cllr Gould mentioned, that the Council would

require community support should they wish to proceed with any application for speed limits. Cllr Gould also mentioned that they was a KCC Highways seminar on the 28th November, which may be useful if the Council was to explore its options. Cllr Page offered to attend if the Clerk was able to secure a place and he would take the idea forward to explore the options. The heading for the November's meeting would be amended to that of 'Village Speed limits'.

- N. 7.5t HGV Boughton, Dunkirk & Staplestreet - Cllr Gould has now set up a petition which can be signed on Change.org. The Council is working with Cllr Gould, and also Boughton and Dunkirk. Cllr Page has agreed to be a point of reference for a paper version of the petition and to announce in the Hernhill Newsletter that if anyone wishes to sign that does not have internet access (or didn't want to use the online petition) to call Cllr Page on 01227 750284 and he will visit them. Cllr Gould has also found a potential opportunity for grant money for the proposed scheme from a Bexit fund at SBC on the basis that Brexit is likely to make the lorry situation worse. A budget to cover the Transport Regulation Order and restriction signs is likely to amount to circa £10,000. The Clerk signed a letter drafted by Cllr Gould, that is also to be signed by Boughton and Dunkirk Parish in request for the grant.
- O. Monkshill Road stones - The Clerk mentioned that she had also received from the Clerk at Graveney Parish with their concerns over the stones and safety. The Clerk is in correspondence with KCC Highways and is currently waiting to hear whether verges are private or Highways. Highways had explained that if the verge is privately owned, then they do not have any authority to act. If the verge is classed a Highways responsibility, then there is an advisory 450mm rule of items being back from the edge of the carriageway.
- P. Allotments Vacancies - The Clerk stated that there is currently one half plot available now and one full plot available at year end.
- Q. Overgrown hedge at Woodlands - Cllr Castle confirmed that this was still an issue and would report it on the Highways website.
- R. History of Craft Centre book - Cllr Couzens commented that this had been passed to Brain Jelfs and it was agreed to ensure it is passed to Sandys Dawes for safekeeping.

83 PHONE MASTS

- A. Cllr Page raised that there was a Government consultation notified by NALC regarding 5G phone masts and whether planning consent should be required for the increase in height and base width involved. The Council discussed and agreed that such increases in mast size should require planning consent and that Cllr Page would respond to the consultation accordingly.

84 VILLAGE GREEN OAK TREE SIGN

- A. Matthew Cooper has returned this plaque to the Clerk who brought it along to the meeting. The Councillors discussed various options including potential placing a brass plaque over the wooden plaque so that the underlying carving could be preserved. It was agreed that the wood itself appeared in good condition. It was felt a specialist carpenter would be too expensive. The possibility of just repainting the letter white was considered and Cllr Rumble, who is an artist agreed to undertake the task.

85 CHURCH HILL YELLOW LINES

- A. The Clerk was pleased to report that the white lines had now been replaced with yellow ones at the junction of Staplestreet and Hernhill.

86 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- A. Cllr Heller had reported that the deadline for trees with the Woodland Trust had been missed and that we would consider trying again next year.

87 PLANNING.

- A. Planning Application. Planning Application 19/504983/FULL: Minor Material Amendment to condition 2 of Planning Permission 17/504077/FULL - to allow a larger building with increased floor area and height. *Smiths Transport Yard Highstreet Road Hernhill Faversham Kent ME13 9FA*

Cllr Edgington commented that there was an increase in the footprint and that the height increase was minor from 5.3m to that of 5.5m. This was somewhat lower than the original 7m height in the 2015 application. A vote was taken and the Council agreed to support the application/

- B. Planning Decisions: Change of use of land and development of 34 no. general industrial units, a secure lorry park, cafe and associated landscaping. (Resubmission of 18/504147/FULL) as amended by drawings received 13/03/2019; 04/04/2019; 05/04/2019; 12/04/2019; and 02/05/2019 *Land South East Of A299 Slip Road Off Thanet Way Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent*. SBC had agreed to grant planning permission.

88 **FINANCE**

- A. The bank reconciliation report dated 19th October 2019 was approved and signed by the Vice Chairman..
- B. The following payments were approved by those present:
- Chq-1452 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing) £133.16
 - Chq-S/O R Parr (Advice Only - Clerks Salary and expenses) £240.13
 - Chq-1453 Hernhill Bookings (September Hall Hire) £15.00
 - Chq-1454 John Barnes (Noticeboard Post and Bracket) £80.00
 - Chq-1455 RBL Poppy Appeal (Wreath Donation) £50.00
 - Chq-1456 Kent Air Ambulance (Donation) £100.00
 - Chq-1457 P Hughes (Church Grass Cutting) £130.00
 - Chq-1458 R Parr (5 hours Overtime Expenses) £50.80

89 **ADMINISTRATION**

- A. None.

90 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Volunteer Swale Awards - Nominations for the SBC awards are now open until the 22nd December This is for the recognition of the hard work of any individuals who give their time to put something back into the community.
- B. HGV issue at Staplestreet due to Brenley Corner Works - The Clerk had received from Mr Revealey letters regarding ongoing communications with Highways over issues of poorly signposted diversions and lorries passing by Mr Revealey's house in significant numbers as a result. Cllr Gould has also been involved and advised that any signage is advisory and not mandatory. As Mr Revealey was expecting the latest communication from Highways, it was agreed to wait on their response.
- C. KALC AGM - The AGM is due on the 30th November and we are entitled to send two representatives. Cllr Heller volunteered to attend and the Clerk handed over the relevant AGM papers to Cllr Heller.
- D. Lorry Parking Gate Services - An Invite from Cllr Tutt at Dunkirk to be involved in a potential meeting on the 15th November with campaign for Lorry Parking Gate. The Council discussed whether we should be involved. There were concerns raised by the public that there could be a knock on effect in our parish with lorries seeking other places to park if they were unable to park at Gate Services. It was therefore agreed that it would be prudent for Cllr Castle to attend depending on the time of the

meeting.

91 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Chairman with their comments on Parish matters. No comments were forthcoming.

92 CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. Personal Emails Personal emails should no longer be used for councillor business due to GDPR. The Clerk had explored various options as follows: 1)- Pay circa £150pa each for a KCC (@gov.org.uk) email address. 2) Looked at website provider, Wix. They use G Suite at £4.14 per user per month tailor @ part of email address. 3) Another option is to set up on Outlook or GMail for free. Clerk currently uses GMail. No storage issues. It was agreed to create new email address for the councillors on GMail fusing the following format: cllrhellerhernhillpc@gmail.com.
- B. Standing Orders - The Clerk commented that these are in the process of being revisited to ensure that they are up to date in terms of the process of Declaration of Interest and dispensations. It is anticipated that these will be available for reviewing by the Councillors during November in anticipation of signing off in November's PC meeting.
- C. Website Accessibility There is a legal requirement to meet accessibility standards by September 2020. Issues are concerning the formatting of text, pictures and document attachments. The Clerk will continue to investigate requirements.

93 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NOVEMBER'S AGENDA

- A. Local Needs Housing
- B. Salt Bin
- C. Neighbourhood Watch
- D. Anti-litter signage
- E. Update on Dale Farm Oast
- F. Neighbourhood Plan
- G. Village Speed Limits
- H. 7.5t HGV limits Boughton, Dunkirk & Staplestreet
- I. Monkshill Road Stones
- J. Allotment prize
- K. Overgrown hedge at Woodlands
- L. Village Green oak tree sign
- M. Councillor Emails
- N. Standing Order Amendments.
- O. 2020/2021 Budget

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 27th November 2019. There being no further business, the Vice Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.54pm.

CHAIRMAN