



## HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th September 2019 from 8:00pm to 9:59pm.

**Present:** Cllr J. Geliot (Chairman of meeting) Cllr B. Heller (minute taker)  
Cllr S. Castle Cllr P. Couzens Cllr A. Rumble Cllr C. Page  
Cllr. S. Edgington

**Also Present:** Cllr A. Gould (Swale BC) and 8 members of the public

#### 62 APOLOGIES

Mrs R. Parr (Clerk)

#### 63 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

#### 64 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 28th August 2019 (minutes 52-61) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman with one minor typo changed.

#### 65 MATTERS ARISING

- A. Local Needs Housing. Following a query at the last council meeting regarding the potential exchange of residents. Alison Thompson at English Rural confirmed “English Rural does permit mutual exchanges, provided the incoming tenant meets the local connection criteria set out in the s106 agreement; the local connection is never waived. An example of a permitted mutual exchange is where the incoming tenant is perhaps returning to the village and still has close family members living there.”
- B. Salt Bin The clerk has obtained a number of quotes for a salt bin. Various designs and sizes. Quotes for a 200 litre bin were as follows:  
£162.00 (incl delivery) from “British Bins”  
£126.00 from Kingfisher Direct  
£242.76 Sealey Grit Bin (ESE Direct)  
£116.70 Standard Bin (ESE Direct)  
The Councillors chose a suitable bin in green made by British Bins to be purchased by the Parish.
- C. Noticeboard at Waterham. The original post cannot be found. The manufacturer of the noticeboard can make a post with bracket welded on and painted black for £80 for which the councillors agreed to. The proposed new location is along the verge slightly to the east of the previous location.
- D. Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Castle has received emails with news from community policing and will make regular reports for the Parish News. Most recently OAPs have

been targeted by phone and door knocking in a TV licence scam.

- E. Autumn Litter Pick This has been arranged for the 28th September and it is hoped that many people will support it. Volunteers are to meet at the village hall at 2pm. Notices asking for volunteers to join in have been placed on noticeboards and on the internet. The clerk is to contact SBC and KCC regarding anti-litter signage. Cllr Tutt informed us when asked that the notices on the verge in Dunkirk are not the work of Dunkirk PC.
- F. Fostall Turn-off - No HGVs. There was no update. We are still waiting on signage.
- G. Thirwell Farm. The Environment Agency is placing the following paragraph in the October Hernhill News. "Since the trial, the Environment Agency have received further reports of activity at Thirwell Farm, including a number of fires. The more information available, the more likely it is the Environment Agency can take further action, so we would encourage anyone who witnesses any waste activity at the site to report it to the Environment Agency's 24 hour incident number 0800 80 70 60 and any fires to Kent Fire & Rescue Service on 999". Daniel Kettridge will attend the October Parish Council Meeting.
- H. George Bell Farm The Council have reported a potential planning breach at George Bell Farm online (Ref: DIG144920471) in breach planning condition 2 of application 18/501918/AGRREQ. In addition, following the Parish Meeting in August, Cllr Bowles also contacted the Planning Enforcement Office at KCC who was planning to do a drive by and approach the owners. We are still waiting for an update.
- I. Dale Farm Oast The Clerk has spoken to the Conservation Officer Simon Algar at SBC, who is now investigating the case and is likely to send a letter to the landowner.
- J. Footpaths. All footpaths issues had now been cleared.
- K. Neighbourhood Plan The Clerk has now sent the letter to SBC informing them of our intention to create a Neighbourhood Plan. We wait to hear from them. Councillor Tutt and Terry Fidgett from Boughton gave a brief presentation with a hand out on their lengthy experience of producing the two parishes plan which is about to come to fruition and has already been of great service in gathering evidence for planning decisions. They emphasised the development focus required and the need to run alongside Swale BC local plan. The availability of a grant of £9000 was noted. Councillors asked several questions and thanked them for their help and offer of continued support.
- L. Update of church yard maintenance. The Local Government Act 1972 says very clearly in section 214(6) that a parish council may lawfully contribute to the upkeep of a burial ground maintained by another person. Many rural parishes contribute to the maintenance of their churchyards, whether open or closed, reflecting their value as a public space. The Chairman had received from the Clerk an updated position of the budget for the current financial year which confirmed that there were sufficient funds to cover the expense. It was unanimously agreed by the councillors that the Parish Council is to provide £130 per month to the church for the maintenance of the grass in the churchyard.
- M. Allotment Prize This was adjourned until the October's meeting.
- N. Speed signs The Clerk had been in contact with Highways. The present devices are past life of 6 years and cannot be relocated. Alternative is portable signs purchased at a cost of circa £7000 by the parish located in 30mph zones only (which Staplestreet isn't) and moved after a period of 2 months by the parish themselves. The cost and practicalities are not possible.

Cllr Gould informed the meeting of a proposal to take a joint parish approach to work with KCC to address the problem of increased volume of traffic and the speed of cars going through villages and country lanes. This would include petitioning for a 20/30mph speed limit. Councillors supported this idea. Cllr Castle reinforced the importance of retained HGV access for fruit farming.

## 66 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- A. Cllr Castle reported an overgrown hedge at the entrance to Woodlands cul de sac. He will explore further and ask the clerk to send a letter.
- B. Cllr Couzens raised the closure of the Mt Ephraim craft centre and asked what should become of the book about the history of the craft centre. Cllr Castle agreed to raise the issue with Mr Dawes. He reminded us of the need to ask Matt what has become of the Oak Tree sign on the village green.
- C. Cllr Heller has received the KMOTT report and will ask the Clerk to put this on the Parish Council website. Cllr Heller will follow up the actions suggested in the report with Mr Rawlins. Cllr Heller also asked if the Parish Council would be interested in holding an event in the village for Tree Charter day on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Woodland Trust will provide trees to be planted provided suitable sites are available plus a variety of supportive materials. Councillors agreed that we should take part in this and Cllr Heller will pursue it.

## 67 PLANNING.

- A. Planning Application. Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage building (as approved under 17/501081/FULL but with minor amendments) and associated car parking. First floor to be used as holiday accommodation. (Resubmission of 19/503604/FULL). *Elm Tree Cottage Butlers Hill Dargate Faversham Kent.*

The clerk had received by email objections from Mike Pearce, Valerie and Peter Rook, Felix Krish and Ian Grant, which were all passed to the councillors. A statement of objection was made at the meeting by parishioner Michael Pearce, also representing the views of 3 other parishioners and outlined in letters and photographs submitted. Anita Marsh attended and made a statement in support of her application. The council noted that planning permission for a replacement garage was given in 2017 and the Parish Council registered no objection at the time. This still stands. By a majority vote the Parish Council objected to the holiday let on the grounds of over development of the site in recent years and little evidence that a further holiday let is needed in the parish.

- B. Planning Decisions: None received.

## 68 FINANCE

- A. The Chairman confirmed that prior to the meeting that the Clerk had showed the bank reconciliation report dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which was approved and signed.
- B. The following payments were approved by those present:
  - Chq-1445 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing) £133.16
  - Chq-S/O R Parr (Advice Only - Clerks Salary and expenses) £240.13
  - Chq-1446 Hernhill Bookings (August Hall Hire ) £15.00
  - Chq-1447 KALC (Clerks Conference) £72.00
  - Chq-1448 KCS (Photocopier) £84.07
  - Chq-1449 A Chapman (Hernhill News Mileage) £28.35
  - Chq-1450 Jill Geliot (Hernhill News Stamps) £61.00
  - S/O-1451 A Chapman (Hernhill News Paper) £19.99
  - TOTAL £653.70
- C. The Clerk had advised the Chairman that she had been notified by Nat West that the new signatures of Angela Rumble, Steve Castle and Chris Page have now been added to the account.

## 69 ADMINISTRATION

A. None.

## **70 CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Citizens Advice- A letter thanking the Parish Council had been received for their donation.

## **71 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

- A. Robert Wraight (Junior) informed us that earth, turf and rocks have been placed on the roadside on Monkshill road from Brookhill farm down to the railway crossing with the effect of significantly narrowing the carriageway and endangering vehicles. Cllr Edginton agreed to visit the site and provide photos to enable the clerk to write to Highways.
- B. Cllr Gould raised that there was a Swale BC consultation about local area committees split into Sheppey, Sittingbourne, Faversham etc. and requested that Councillors use the feedback form on the website to make their views known. This is just the beginning of the process. A more formal application is due to follow this and the Parish Council will then have an opportunity to put forward their views.

## **72 CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS**

- A. The Chairman reminded Councillors that all correspondence and meetings should be copied to the Clerk and that all Declarations of Interest must be considered based on the upcoming agenda and if applicable noted at the beginning of each meeting.
- B. The Chairman also mentioned that the Clerk had recently attended the KALC Clerks training course.
- C. The Chairman raised the issue of the ownership of the private road and verges around the village green and next to the church which have traditionally been maintained by Parish Council. Cllr Page and the Clerk will review the documentation in the light of the risk register.

## **73 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON OCTOBER 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. Neighbourhood Plan
- K. Update on Church Yard Maintenance
- L. Allotment prize
- M. Speed signs
- N. Allotments
- O. Village Green oak tree sign
- P. Phone Masts

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 30th October 2019. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.59pm.

CHAIRMAN