

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

at Shoreham Village Hall on 9th May 2018 from 7:30pm

Present: R Blamey, A Collins, A Hibbins, J Histed, B Jeffery, N McDonnell, N Powell,
L Spence

Also Present: 15 members of the public
District Councillor John Edwards-Winser
County Councillor Roger Gough

Clerk: Sarah Moon

Question Time:

Sheila Birkin thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Shoreham Society for allowing the Duck Race to use the Recreation Ground and for opening the barrier to allow access for the trailer.

A member of the public once again brought to attention the overgrown hedges belonging to 2 Bowers Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners once again requesting that the hedges be cut back, emphasising that the vegetation is obstructing the line of sight on the Highway as well as the bus stop, which is used by numerous school children. County Councillor Roger Gough also advised informing KCC of the matter so that they may be able to take some action if the Parish Council's request is ignored

1. Election of Chairman
Cllr Histed was proposed by Cllr Spence and seconded by Cllr Blamey.
Cllr Histed was re-elected as Chairman of Shoreham Parish Council.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Parkes (holiday).
3. Election of Vice Chairman
Cllr Hibbins was proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr McDonnell
Cllr Blamey was proposed by Cllr Histed and seconded by Cllr Jeffery.
Cllr Blamey was elected as Vice Chairman of Shoreham Parish Council by 5 votes to 3.
4. Co-Option of Members
No applications for co-option were received.
5. Appointment of Committees and Working Parties
Members were appointed to the following committee and working parties:
 - a) Planning Committee : Jonathan Histed, Brian Jeffery, Sarah
Parkes, Roy Blamey, Norman McDonnell, Andrew Hibbins,

- Richard Boyle
- b) Amenities and Services : Lesley Spence, Roy Blamey, Sarah Parkes, Brian Jeffery
 - c) Finance Committee : Roy Blamey, Lesley Spence, Jonathan Histed, Alison Collins, Brian Jeffery
 - d) Complaints and Grievance Committee : Agreed to appoint according to the nature of the complaint/grievance.
 - e) Emergency Planning Group : Lesley Spence, Roy Blamey, Sarah Parkes,
 - f) AONB Working Group : All councillors plus Clerk
 - g) Allotments Working Group : Lesley Spence, Roy Blamey, Alison Collins, Brian Jeffery
 - h) Community Warden Contact : Andrew Hibbins
 - i) Footpaths Group : Sarah Parkes, Sarah Moon, Norman McDonnell, Neil Powell
 - i) Internal Auditor : Clerk to check whether Kathryn Mallet is willing to stay on in this role.
6. Terms of Reference
It was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference for the Planning, Amenities & Services, Complaints/Grievance and Finance Committees at the first meeting of each individual committee.
7. Representation on Other Bodies
Representatives to the organisations listed below were appointed as follows:
- a) KALC : Roy Blamey, Sarah Moon
 - b) Shoreham Allotments Association : Lesley Spence
 - c) Shoreham Society : Sarah Parkes
 - d) Shoreham Village Hall : Alison Collins
 - e) Lullingstone Liaison Committee : Sarah Parkes
8. Annual Subscriptions
Annual subscriptions to the following organisations were approved:
- a) KALC
 - b) Action with Communities in Rural Kent
 - c) SLCC
 - d) CPRE
9. No disclosures of interest from members in respect of items of business included on the agenda for the meeting were received.
10. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 (copy previously distributed) were received and signed by the Chairman.
11. Due to time constraints the actions arising from the meeting held on 4th April 2018 were unable to be reviewed. The Clerk agreed to receive updates from members by email.
12. District/County Councillor Reports
District Councillor John Edwards-Winser gave the following report.
- ‘As you are probably aware SDC income is derived from Council Tax, Car Parking and until last year The Govt Rate Rebate Grant Scheme. Since I have been a councilor (2011), the Rebate Grant has been reduced from £6M to zero in 2017. This means that the Council has had to become more self-sufficient. They have achieved this by sharing services and working in partnership with other councils; they have cleared out senior management and staff – reducing the 4 directors to zero and the staff from 650 to 425. Unfortunately, this means that a lot of experience has also been lost. To offset the loss of Govt revenue SDC has been proactive by opening an investment portfolio and have purchased several business opportunities from which

they receive a 6%-7% return on the investments instead of the 0.5% they received from the banks.

However, they have still managed to keep front-line services. Sevenoaks is the only council in Kent that still has a weekly rubbish collection that is fairly simple to understand.

The council is making sure that the wellbeing of residents is a major consideration in all its planning. They are taking direct action through its HERO services to supply home adaptations for disabled residents which are carried out whilst they are in hospital, so they could return to their own homes quicker, thereby freeing up time having to be spent in hospital.

They employ 'One You' advisors – I hate that terminology - who work in GP surgeries and the CAB office tackling issues such as anxiety caused by debt, asthma caused by damp housing and air pollution, stress caused by overcrowding, loneliness and health issues caused by bad diet and/or lack of exercise.

Next time I will tell you what I do.'

He also confirmed that he sat on the followings committees/boards : Joint Transportation Board, Planning Advisory Committee, Community Infrastructure Board.

Roger Gough : In addition to the report read out at the Annual Parish Meeting (see Appendix A), the County Councillor confirm that KCC would be seeking to take forward a restrictive approach to the 20mph zone through the centre of the village. Numerous pot holes are also being reported and there has been a lot of activity in this field.

13. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the two following items:

Timberden Farm

Firstly, an email received from Mr Muscat regarding his intention to graze the land at Timberden and his desire to acquire the woodland bisecting his two grazing sites was read out (see Appendix B). Cllr Histed also stated that he had met with Mr Muscat and his planning advisor last week regarding the re-siting of his barns. Mr Muscat confirmed that he did not want to site his barns in the middle of the valley and would much prefer to site them in a location which would have the minimum impact on the valley and surrounding AONB. His preferred option would still be to purchase the existing barns from SDC but, as that does not seem to be likely, his second preference would be to site them behind the existing barns on the right hand side of the road if travelling towards Shoreham. He stated that he would excavate enough earth so as to hide the barns as much as possible and they would be built in a traditional style, using traditional, reclaimed materials similar to those used at Hungrydown.

Fly tipping and cameras.

Cllr Histed confirmed that he had been in contact with both the Met and Kent Police to obtain advice on how to deal with fly tipping. He was told that councils, unlike private individuals can install security cameras without any permission but the only way in which an individual can be prosecuted is via the fly tipping officers at SDC or KCC. The police will only prosecute if they physically catch a person in the act of fly tipping. In order to try and collect evidence to pass to the fly tipping officers, the best solution would be to install wildlife cameras at strategic locations, including the car park at Filston Lane. These cameras work at night and should be able to pick up number plates. They are motion activated and cost between £80 and £250. The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership have also stated that they may be able to help fund fly tipping initiatives and so they should be contacted before any cameras are purchased.

14. Report from the Clerk

- a) The Year End has been completed and data is ready to be sent to the auditor to prepare Annual Return

- b) The plaque on the war memorial has been removed and is being taken to engravers in Erith this week or next.
 - c) The wording written for the lectern at the cross has been handed to graphic designer who is doing the artwork
 - d) I would like to take a week's holiday at half term (w/c 28th May 2018)
15. Community Award
A Community Award was presented to Lorna Robinson in recognition of the extensive research she has undertaken to commemorate the soldiers and residents of Shoreham who died in the First World War.
16. Working Parties
- a) AONB Working Group
See Chairman's report for an update on Timberden Farm.
 - b) Allotments Working Group
The Allotments Association have requested that, rather than blocking up the small gate on the High Street boundary, it be replaced with another gate. The Parish Council RESOLVED that this would not be considered when obtaining quotes, preferring to respect the wishes of the allotment plot holders who asked for security to be improved.
17. Car Park
See the Chairman's report for an update on fly-tipping and installation of security cameras.
18. Marquee
Due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
19. Centenary Wood
Due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
20. Correspondence/Information
- (a) The Spring/Summer edition of Kent Voice magazine (CPRE Kent) has been received.
 - (b) A request of financial assistance has been received from Citizens Advice, North and West Kent. It was agreed to award a sum of £25 as per last year.
 - (c) Issue 2 of the Allotment & Leisure Gardener has been received.
- A motion was passed to extend the meeting past 10.00pm.
- (d) A request for a grant for the sum of £300 has been received from the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance.
It was resolved to defer making any decision on this application until a review of the Grants Policy is undertaken at the Finance Committee on 23rd May.
 - (e) The May 2018 of 'The Clerk' magazine has been received.
21. Financial Matters
- (a) Clerk's Remaining Holiday : Payment to the Clerk in lieu of week's holiday was authorised.
 - (b) Accounts/Payments: The schedule of payments was authorised.
22. Dates of next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated)
- (a) Planning Committee and Finance Meeting: Wednesday 23rd May 2018, Shoreham Village Hall
 - (b) Planning Committee and Council Meeting : Wednesday 6th June 2018, Shoreham Village Hall
 - (c) Planning Committee and Amenities Meeting : Wednesday 20th June, 2018, Shoreham Village Hall

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council

Appendix A : County Councillor's Report from Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2018

I am very sorry not to be able to be with you this evening, but hope nonetheless to give you an account of my work over the last year. Last May, because of boundary changes that came into effect at the County Council elections, Shoreham became part of the new County Council Division of Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley. This is a large, rural and banana-shaped Division – the second biggest in the County by electors per County Councillor – which runs from Swanley Village to Seal Chart, and it is my privilege to represent it.

I also serve as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, overseeing the Council's work with schools, Early Years, children's social services, youth services and much else.

Highways issues are always an important part of my local Member role. With money ever tighter – in particular, with social services making ever greater demands on the budget and so putting pressure on areas such as Highways – it is fair to say that the approach taken is inevitably cautious and more restrictive (for example, tighter adherence to Department of Transport guidance) than was the case in the past. This, coupled with various practical constraints, has meant significant delays in getting things done. Nonetheless, we are finally moving ahead on yellow lines in the High Street opposite The Two Brewers. In trying to progress a 20mph zone, this will have to be restricted to the very centre of the village; the traffic counts and speed checks that I funded several years ago demonstrated that speeds were too high to make a 20mph zone effective on the edges of the village, but should be feasible in the centre.

The recent severe weather was of course a big test for Kent Highways. Their focus was on keeping primary routes open; these are, as the name implies, quite major roads for which the County Council is responsible, such as the A225. Secondary routes will often get attention too, but on this occasion the pressures of continuous cold and recurring snowfalls on the primaries meant that efforts were focused on them. Clearly this raises problems for people living (as I do, and many residents of Shoreham Parish do) on more peripheral roads, and it is something that I will always seek to help through salt bins, deployment of hand salting crews and the like – but there is little scope for deflecting Kent Highways from their core mission when conditions are very severe.

What we can do is, firstly, to ensure that all primary routes get the treatment they are promised. In the case of Row Dow, this did not happen on at least two occasions. This was in spite of my having raised with Kent Highways at the start of winter that Row Dow should be considered a primary route – and, most unusually, it was agreed to change its designation mid-winter. Representations did get some action when the salting was not delivered there, but this should not be necessary. Secondly, we can try (and I will) to get some routes considered as primaries, though realistically there are severe limits to this; it would be self-defeating for Kent Highways to add too much to the primary network, and I don't think they will do that. Finally, I will be taking up the question of the philosophy of when and how secondary routes are treated.

The heavy snowfall has, of course, also worsened the pothole position – very visible in Shoreham as indeed elsewhere. Each year, in the spring, KCC puts together various funding sources for the 'Find and Fix' campaign, also known as the pothole blitz. In the last financial year, some £5.2 million was committed, and we covered the equivalent of 18 Wembley pitches, or 117,000 square metres. However, in January we were already seeing 4,000 pothole enquiries – the highest level since the floods of January 2014 – and that was before the Beast from the East. Recently we have been running at some 1,400 notifications per week. The Leader of the County Council, Paul Carter, announced in our February budget debate, that a further £2 million is being released, taking the total pothole and drainage budget for 2018-19 to £8.1 million. This will be reviewed in the summer to see if more funds are needed. Work is under way, though there is recognition that there is a huge amount to be done.

The County Council has invested heavily in recent years in supporting the development of faster broadband in those parts of the County to which the commercial market would not come unaided.

There are particularly severe problems – affecting broadband and, in some cases, telephone services – in parts of Well Hill, and we have made strenuous efforts to resolve this, though so far a resolution has proved difficult. The approach has been to work via a new Cabinet at the bottom of Rock Hill – but this fell foul of a complex aspect of competition rules; it was followed by proposals to use the Cabinet to deliver Fibre to the Premises in Well Hill – this has now been caught up in a messy process of changes to our contract with BT. This is immensely frustrating, but I am working with a very dedicated KCC officer who continues to pursue this and we will seek to get resolution as soon as possible. More positively, we have succeeded in rolling out superfast broadband elsewhere in the very rural edges of the Parish.

With regard to Education, the County Council faces growing pressures on secondary school places as the increased number of children in primary school moves into the secondary phase. On National Offer Day last month, we were able to meet some 80% of families' first preferences, and over 95% of families secured one of their preferences – broadly in line with last year, in spite of a significantly larger cohort. Nonetheless, numbers are forecast to continue to grow; in response to this, we are looking to an expansion of Trinity School in Sevenoaks by what is called 2 Forms of Entry – in other words, taking an extra sixty pupils for each school year, starting with the current Year 7s and gradually, year by year, adding the extra numbers through the entire school. This builds on a temporary expansion begun last year. In addition, last September saw the new Weald of Kent Grammar annex in Sevenoaks open its doors.

Earlier this month we saw National Offer Day for Reception Year in our primary schools. We have expanded primary schools – the closest to the Parish being Otford – significantly in recent years to meet rising numbers, and as a consequence of that we have this year been able to offer almost 90% of families their first choice of school. Almost 98% have been offered one of their preferences, and the number of those 'allocated' a place – in other words, who have been offered a school that was not one of their choices – is at a record low.

The County Council has recently set its budget. Over recent years, with government grants declining and with ever-growing pressures on social services budgets, both for children and for older and vulnerable adults, we have had to realise savings now of the order of £600 million. In the budget, we have raised council tax by 5% (the maximum 3% allowable without a referendum, plus the 2% 'precept' for local authorities with social care responsibilities. This is clearly something that we undertook very reluctantly, but the recent example of what has happened in Northamptonshire makes it very clear what the financial risks are now facing local authorities and County Councils in particular.

Appendix B : Correspondence from Mr Muscat to SDC Regarding Timberden Farm

Dear Mr Stirling,

Thank you for taking time yesterday to discuss Meenfield Wood, the parcel of woodland situated between two of my areas of grassland. As explained, I have now introduced cattle on to Timberden Farm and intend to have built up a herd of around 60 cattle by the end of this summer. At present, should I wish to move the cattle from one area of our grassland to another I am required to move the cattle along the road, which brings with it inconvenience to the public and also danger to the animals and anyone looking after them. I am hoping to establish a way to avoid moving cattle along a public highway and one solution would be to cut through the woodland. I understand that Meenfield Wood is in the ownership of Sevenoaks District Council. I write to enquire whether Sevenoaks District Council would consider selling the woodland to me. I understand that there are numerous public rights of way running through the woodland and that the wood will also require ongoing stewardship. I would be prepared to enter into any reasonable agreement that the Parish Council or Sevenoaks Council deem necessary to protect any interests the public may have.

As an alternative, less preferred by me, would Sevenoaks District Council be prepared to grant me a legal right to cross the woodland with my cattle and possibly allow me to stockproof that access between my two parcels of land.

An acknowledgement of this email would be appreciated

