

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

The Chairman, Cllr Powell, welcomed the Lenham Parish Council representative Cllr John Britt and members of public to the meeting.

Community Warden Report: Martin Sherwood reported on a few recent incidents that had occurred in Harrietsham and Lenham. In Lenham, two people, posing as Council workers, had obtained money from a resident and there had been a similar incident in Harrietsham. There has been a burglary and damage in Chippendayle Drive. Martin, again, asked that resident report anything suspicious immediately. If anyone has workmen arranged to visit their home, and they are vulnerable, they should always ask a family member, friend or neighbour to be present when they come.

Police Report: The Clerk read out a report from the PCSO. The following crimes/issues had been reported:

- A house was burgled with the car being stolen; the vehicle has since been recovered - this is under investigation.
- Attempted burglary of dwelling - under investigation.
- There has been a report of nuisance youths at Goddington Lake - the PCSO has linked in with the owner and the Rural Task Force as something we are aware of.

A further item to be noted: Hare coursing on insecure fields or fields that are easy to access. There have not been any reports but when they do come in a relatively large impact is felt throughout the village. Significant financial loss can be incurred by the vehicles damaging crop. The rural task team are deployed to these calls when they are on duty. Most smallholdings/farms have direct contact with the rural team via mobiles. He asked that villagers report suspicious vehicles.

Some of the factors to consider when deciding if a vehicle is suspicious:

1. Is the vehicle passing by properties, gateways or outbuildings slower than necessary?
2. Does the vehicle have headlights on during darkness?
3. How many people are in the vehicle?
4. Are the occupants paying more than the usual amount of attention to the surrounding area?
5. Is the vehicle suitable to the area? For instance, is a hatchback driving on a road/lane/track that is only suitable for a 4x4/hardy vehicle?

The PCSO asked that valuables, equipment, vehicles and properties be as secure as possible, within reason (not advocating spending hundreds or thousands on security equipment). He asked that doors be locked, security lights and alarms are used and valuables kept in suitable locations.

Public Discussion

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would be entering a team in the Harrietsham in Bloom quiz on the 13th April. Councillors commented that they would discuss this.

A resident asked a question regarding Pilgrims Retreat, which the Council responded to.

The installed bollard on the A20, which had been mentioned at the previous meeting, was discussed and Cllr Roots confirmed that, the day after the meeting, the area had been sectioned off. This will all be resolved as part of the improvement scheme. A resident commented that the lower 30mph speed limit wasn't working and Councillors felt that there are mixed views, with residents commenting either way.

1. **Present**
Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr C Roots, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood, Lenham Representative Cllr J Britt and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst.
2 Member of the Public
2. **Apologies for absence**
Cllr J Moore, Cllr V Foster, Cllr T Sams, PCSO John Boyd, Kent County Cllr S Prendergast
3. **Minutes of the last meeting**
Parish Council Meeting 27th February 2019 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Roots; with three in favour and three abstentions.
4. **Disclosures and confidential items**
Changes to the Register of Interests
No changes were submitted.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

5. Planning

- 5.1 The current planning applications were noted.
- 5.2 The approved planning applications were noted.
- 5.3 The refused planning applications were noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters:

The Clerk asked that the Planning Committee confirm their comments for the outstanding planning application (19/500968/FULL - Lenhurst, Fairbourne Lane) at the end of the meeting.

Cllr J Sams reported that the Parkwood House application (18/506223/FULL) will be heard before the MBC Planning Committee on Thursday 25th April. It was confirmed that Cllr Powell will speak on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr J Sams will speak as a Borough Councillor and Cllr Dean stated that a resident will also be attending.

6. Environmental

- 6.1 Minutes from the Meeting held on 14th March 2019: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Stanley (the two Councillors present at the meeting).

6.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- That the Clerk be given delegated authority to enter into a 2-year contract for the maintenance of the amenity land at the rear of the Saxon Place development, subject to three quotes (or refusal quotes) to a maximum value of £5,000 across the period. It was proposed by Cllr Dean that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Powell, with all in favour.

6.3 Other Environmental Matters:

- Christmas Tree to be planted on the Village Green: This item was deferred as Cllr T Sams had given apologies.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Income/expenditure finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

7.2 Other Financial Matters:

There were no other matters to discuss.

8. Highways

- 8.1 Highways Issues: Cllr J Sams informed all present that potholes are still being reported. The recent windy weather had caused trees to come down in Holm Mill Lane and on Stede Hill; with Hollingbourne Hill also being blocked. KHS had responded quickly to these. Cllr J Sams asked that something be placed on Facebook, when issues are reported, to save KHS receiving lots of reports for the same thing. Cllr Dean responded that, usually, Harrietshamites and Next Door are updated with this kind of information by residents, as these sites are viewed more than the Parish Council Facebook page. Cllr Stanley raised concerns that the road being blocked could have caused problems for vulnerable residents, if the emergency services could not reach them. It was noted that blocked roads cannot be reported on the website, they have to be phoned through to KHS so that they can deal with the issue as an emergency. The Clerk added that KHS would usually resolve these within 1-2 hours. Cllr J Sams confirmed that the road was still had access coming from the other direction.

- 8.2 Church Road Footpath: Cllr J Sams reported a response is still outstanding from the Booth & Baldwin Trust, adding that residents do still want a footpath for safety.

9. Lenham Parish Council

Cllr Powell reported that the majority of the meeting had related to the MBC Local Plan. There is a dispute over a parcel of land which may not be signed over for development. Car parking and ASB were also discussed. Lenham's representative Cllr Britt added that the parcel of land requires sensitive handling as, if it is removed from the Neighbourhood Plan, the Inspector may find that the plan isn't sound. A meeting has been held regarding the Highways England EIA which covers a 3 mile radius around the Sandway/Platts Heath area, with 180 people attending.

10. Notice Board for the New Parish Office

The Clerk had previously circulated details of three quotes obtained and added that Company 1 did not offer a corkboard option (£688.00 + £10 delivery). Company 2 can arrange a time and date for deliver (£697.00 + £68 delivery). Company 3 was so expensive that the Clerk had not asked any further questions regarding delivery (straight header £1,336 & shaped header £1,538). The Clerk informed all present that she had managed to obtain a grant from MBC of £300 towards the cost of the notice board. After brief discussion Cllr Griffiths proposed that

Company 2 be approved to supply the new notice board. This was seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour. The Clerk stated that Company 2 was Earth Anchors. **ACTION: Clerk**

11. Update regarding the Village Hall Trust

The Clerk read out an email which had been received from the Chairman of the VHT stating that either the Parish Council take over the running of the hall or the hall will need to close after the AGM as there will no longer be a management committee in place. Following this discussion, the Clerk had contacted KALC who had confirmed that the Clerk had been correct with her thoughts that the Parish Council could not make any decisions on this matter, due to the forthcoming elections and also because residents may come forward to be elected at the VHT AGM. This had all been relayed back to the Chairman in an email. A letter had then been received asking for the Council to nominate its 3 representatives by the 30th April. The Clerk again explained that the Council was not in a position to be able to do this, as the elections are after this date and the representatives would be approved at the May meeting (due to be held on the 15th May). After brief discussion Councillors agreed that no decision can be made at this stage and that the situation needs to be monitored. Cllr J Sams added that, at this stage, no one knows who may stand and the AGM needs to be heavily advertised. Cllr Dean commented that it would be a gross failure if no bookings were taken after the 8th May. **ACTION: Clerk**

12. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the deadline has now passed for articles to be included in the booklet. Cllr T & J Sams have confirmed that they will arrange the refreshments. The Clerk reminded all present that the Alzheimer's Society will be the speaker for the evening.

13. Future Events

30th March - Friends of St. Johns AGM (Looking for volunteers to join)
6th April - Annual litter pick from 9.00am on the Village Green
13th April - HIB Quiz 7.30pm in the Ambrose hall (£7)
24th April - Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm in St John the Baptist Church
5th May - Bluebell Walk (Cllr J Sams confirmed that Cllr Foster has offered to unlock/lock)
8th May - VHT AGM
19th May - Harrietsham Primary School's Fair
2nd June - The Big Lunch

14. Items for Future Consideration

There were no further items.

15. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 24th April 2019** from **7.00pm** in **St. John the Baptist Church**, followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm**

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.18pm.

Public Discussion:

A resident queried whether there is to be a Hanging Basket competition this year and the Clerk responded that this would need to be discussed at the next Environmental meeting. **Action: Environmental Cttee**