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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th February 2022 at 19.30hrs**

**in the Village Hall Club Room**

**Present:** Cllrs J Smith (Chairman), S Mash, A Lloyd Smith, L Brown, P Venning, one member of the public and Mrs Y Osborne (Clerk)

4312. **Apologies & reasons for absence:**  Cllrs S Collins & C Sykes, reasons accepted, and Borough Councillor M Burgess.

4313. **(i) Declaration by Members of any interest, Pecuniary or Other than Pecuniary, in accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct and its Guide to the Declaration of Councillors’ interests and related matters.** None.

 **(ii) To approve or reject any application put to the meeting by the Chairman in respect of Members seeking a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011,s.33.** None.

4314. **To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th January 2022.** Agreed and signed as a correct record.

4315. **Planning Application:**

 **22/00052/AS The Otter Channel (field beyond Blackwell Bridge)** – Change of use of land for campsite including 15 tent pitches operational May-September. The Applicant had sent further details*. After a short discussion Councillors agreed to* ***support*** *this application.*

4316. **Agree revised scheme of delegation under LGA 1972 s.101** The Chairman had drafted a revised scheme explaining that now we should be back to holding normal meetings a more limited scheme was required. All councillors had received a copy of the revised scheme and a couple of suggestions were made. The Chairman was thanked for putting it together. In addition, it was agreed that the comprehensive scheme operated during the Covid crisis would remain in force under a conditionality that would bring it into effect if future conditions once again prevented the council from meeting normally. Cllr Venning proposed, seconded by Cllr Brown that the revised scheme, with a few alterations, be accepted. All agreed. The final text will be put before the next meeting.

4317. **Tree Survey – Discuss and decide upon action to be taken.** Cllrs had seen the survey with the recommendations. It was agreed that the Caretaker would look at the trees affected by Ash die back but the Clerk will need to get someone to give a quote for removing the deadwood in the crowns of Lime Trees. It was agreed that only one quote be required. It was also agreed to have the dead stems removed from the southern boundary with the orchard with the landowners permission.

4318. **‘My Community Voice’ – Request from PCSO Kate Richards to publicise it.** Kate has asked that all councillors sign up to this mode of communication as it will be replacing her monthly report. Posters will be put in the Notice Boards and a short piece will be put forward for inclusion in the next issue of the Outlook on Oxney. It will also go out on Nextdoor and on the website.

4319. **Ewe & Lamb post & sign – To agree a budget for the repair/renovation.** During the public session Kate Miller had briefed councillors on the action she, Greg Penoyre and Karl Terry propose to take regarding the sign and councillors had been able to ask questions. After a full discussion a budget of £950 was agreed. Clerk to control it. A plaque will include the Queen’s platinum jubilee wording.

4320. **To put in hand arrangements for the registration of a new Public Rights of Way.** We have spoken of registering the paths between Lloyds Green and Woodland View before, but this needs input from residents. Agreed to put an article in the next issue of Outlook on Oxney.

4321. **Discuss arrangements to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on June 5th.** A suggestion of a ‘bring your own picnic and join everyone on the Sports Field’ has been made to the Sports Club. A response

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is awaited. Should a road closure be required for a street party, applications must be made to KCC by 31st March. Notice to go in Outlook on Oxney and Nextdoor.

4322. **Correspondence:** Mavis King – Request to move the Library Van to a more prominent position in the village. Deferred to next meeting.

4323. Working Party Reports:

 a) Caretaker – A request for a new mower to replace the original Toro used for in between graves has been agreed under delegation at £1070 inc. Vat from Lister Wilder. All other suppliers were dearer. The support wires on a door to one of the ABC garages we use had snapped and have been replaced.

 b) Finance – Monthly Transaction Statement including Caretaker’s Monthly Transaction statement noted.

 c) Planning – None

d) Highways – Clerk reported that the pothole on Stocks Road and damaged storm gully close to 7 Poplar Road had been reported. Highways initially carried out a clearance of vegetation along the base of the footway from the Old Gaol towards the Triangle and now further cleared by Hilary Pettifer and her group of ladies which is much appreciated by all.

e) Public Rights of Way – Clerk reported that AT245 from Poplar Road towards Owley is now open and waymarked. Letters of enforcement have been sent out by KCC to landowners who have not complied with requests to install/correct/repair stiles. We are waiting for contractors to deal with two other problems.

e) Open Spaces – There have been a lot of complaints about dog poo on footways in the village. Chairman to write a piece for Outlook on Oxney.

 f) Cemetery & Churchyard – Nothing to report.

4324. **Reports for noting from Representatives on outside bodies.** Chairman reported that a new Chief Executive had been appointed at KALC.

4325. **Date of next Parish Council Meeting:** 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm

4326. **Items for Information:**

a) Southern Water update – Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended with them following which he received data on the last 4 years of blockages in Wittersham.

 b) Land Mapping Commission update – The Chairman informed the meeting of the last meeting he had attended.

 c) The Swan – Chairman reported on progress with refurbishment for a Spring 2022 opening.

 d) Clerk reported that the Council had been left a legacy of £3,000 from the estate of the late Margaret Hutchings for the maintenance of her parent’s graves.

Meeting closed at 21.44hrs.