

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 7.30pm
in the Booth Hall.

Cllr Dean welcomed all present to the meeting.

Community Warden: Martin Sherwood reported on a rise of catalytic converters being stolen in the Tonbridge and Malling area. He added that if anyone is aware of a crime, this should be reported on 101.

Cllr Moore commented that she was aware of door knocking in the Challock area, with the person claiming to be a prisoner on day release (selling items). A resident present reported that this has also occurred in Harrietsham in the past week.

Police Report: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, there have been 5 crimes. These included 1 of cultivation of cannabis, 1 assault on an emergency worker along the A20 and 3 thefts from the Co-op. All of these are currently under investigation. There have been RTCs reported in Chegworth Road, The Hampshires and Dickley Lane.

Public Discussion

A resident queried whether the hanging basket competition is going ahead this year. The Clerk responded that this would need to be discussed by the Environmental Committee. **ACTION: Env. Cttee**

Representatives from Harrietsham Pre-School spoke briefly about their current situation, including that they have now been served notice at Hollingbourne Village Hall. A resident has offered to place a building in their back garden for use by the Pre-School.

A resident queried whether s106 money from the Bellway development will be used to deal with the issues being caused by lorries travelling at speed through the village. The Clerk responded that the money from the Bluebell Walk development is already earmarked for the second phase of the A20 Improvement Scheme. It was also noted that the streetlights will be included in this work, which is due to start in the Spring.

1. Present

Cllr G Dean, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr V Foster, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr J Moore, Cllr C Roots, Cllr R Dayes, RFO Mr M Cuerden, Community Warden Martin Sherwood and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst
3 Members of the Public

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr E Powell, Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, PCSO J Boyd, Lenham Representative Cllr A Ratcliffe

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 29th January 2020 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Moore; with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

4. Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no interests to declare.

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:

Cllr Dean reminded all present that a report had been circulated to all Councillors, following a meeting with Harrietsham Pre-School. Cllr Dean reiterated that a planning application would be required for the Planning Committee to comment further. The Clerk read out a comment from Cllrs T & J Sams as they had been bemused by part of the report and wished to give further clarification.

The Clerk reported on an application that has received a further comment from the Planning Officer (The Malthouse, East Street). After discussion it was felt that the Parish Council's comments should remain unchanged, but that the reporting of the application to the Planning Committee should be withdrawn.

ACTION: Clerk

6. Environmental

6.1 Other Environmental Matters:

- **Kent Downs AONB Tree Packs:** The Clerk reported that, following the discussion at the last meeting, Borough Cllr J Sams had given the Parish Council a grant of £500 to cover the cost of the trees to be purchased. Unfortunately, the particular packs that were to be purchased are out of stock, with the offer coming to an end imminently. It was noted that there is sand approximately 1/2mtr down, so this particular pack would still be suitable. The Amenity Manager offered to discuss this with the contractor with a view that the packs will be ordered before the deadline (2 days after the meeting). Due to the time constraint, it was agreed by all present that the contractor be asked whether the trees can be delivered straight to them so that they can plant them. **ACTION: Amenity Manager/Clerk**

There was brief discussion about the Parish Council's wish to be able to plant a community orchard and Cllr Moore stated that she had previously investigated this with Brogdale, who had been able to provide information on Heritage Trees. Cllr Moore offered to contact them again to see whether this can be progressed. **ACTION: Cllr Moore**

7. Finance

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

8. Highways

- 8.1 **Highways Issues:** The Clerk reported that Cllrs T & J Sams have spent a vast amount of time dealing with issues in Church Road, following recent flooding. They arranged to have emergency sandbags and physically cleared the gutter to allow water to pass into the ditch at the bottom of Stede Hill. They had spoken to KCC and Kent Police about the position of the flooding on A20 and the ramifications for property owners opposite Harrison Drive when traffic was diverted along Church Road, which was nearly a foot under water, and the impact this was having on property. They have since reported the drainage issues at these points and MBC and KCC did deal with the buildup in the drains at the time. Having met with KCC Officers, there is now protocol in place to have direct contact with a particular officer from KCC for this issue. Cllrs Sams have highlighted that the ditches in Church Road are a bit of a bone of contention, and they feel that the Parish Council needs to reiterate our belief that KCC are responsible for keeping them maintained, with a 6 monthly check being scheduled. The affected resident did contact Helen Whately MP and County Cllr Prendergast so they are fully aware of the situation. After further discussion, as requested by Cllr J Sams, it was resolved that an email be sent to Grace Sladden at Kent Highways, which states "*Following the recent floods in Church Road, at the junction with Harrison Drive, the Parish Council would request that KCC maintains the ditches on Stede Hill and Church Road, as has happened historically, with 6 monthly checks being put in place.*" **ACTION: Clerk**

- 8.2 **Church Road Footpath:** The Clerk reported that the invoice has now been paid to progress with the feasibility study for the footpath.

9. VE Celebrations

Cllr Dean reported that she had looked into the cost of bunting (£4.50 for 33ft or £8 for 90ft). After brief discussion it was felt that the Parish Council should look to have bunting around the village green and that the Co-op be approached to see whether they would have some outside the shop. Residents can be given the details of where to purchase the bunting, if they wish to have some outside their homes. It was proposed by Cllr Moore to set aside £200 for bunting. This was seconded by Cllr Foster, with all in favour. Cllr Dean also reported that she had contacted the Spitfire Hanger at Biggin Hill, who have logged that Harrietsham is lighting the beacon and will see whether they can arrange a fly past. This will be dependent on the weather and booked events.

10. Big Lunch

It was noted that Cllr T Sams would need to bring the costings for insurance and toilets to the March meeting, so that the grant can be approved. **ACTION: Cllr T Sams**

11. Santa's Grotto

Cllr Griffiths reported that this will need to be held on a Saturday now, as there is a regular hire on a Sunday morning. Cllr Foster commented that, at the last VHT meeting, they had discussed approaching the hirer to see whether the session could be cancelled for the day that the grotto is to be held. After brief discussion about the amount of time the hall would need to be hired for, it was proposed by Cllr Foster that Cllr Griffiths should book 7 hours at the standard rate, to ensure the booking is secure. This was seconded by Cllr Moore, with all in favour.

ACTION: Cllr Griffiths

12. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that Mike Phillips has been booked as the Speaker for the evening. He will be giving an update on Teers Meadow and the events that are planned in the coming months. The Clerk reminded all present that various reports would be required for the booklet (Planning - Cllr Moore, Environmental - Cllr Foster, Highways - to confirm whether Cllr J Sams will complete this).

13. Harrietsham Pre-School

This had been discussed under agenda item 5 and the Clerk confirmed that she would ask Cllr J Sams if she wished for this to still be on the agenda for March. **ACTION: Clerk**

14. Future Events

7th March - Morning at the Meadow (Teers Meadow) - 9.00am - 11.00am meeting in Marley Road

11th March - Friends of the Meadow (Teers Meadow) - 7.00pm - 9.00pm in the Parish Council Office

13th March - McMillan Cancer Support Race Night (Village Hall) £25

14th March - Soup Saturday (in the Church)

21st March - The Invicta Concert Band (7.30pm in the Church)

28th March - HIB Quiz Night (7.30pm in the Village Hall)

4th April - Friends of St. Johns AGM (7.00pm in the Church)

26th April - The Wild Spaces of Harrietsham (Teers Meadow) - 2.00pm - 4.00pm meeting in Marley Road

Cllr Dean reported that she had contacted the organiser of the McMillan Cancer Support Race Night and asked whether Councillors would consider making a donation of £25. This was agreed by all present.

15. Items for Future Consideration

- Climate Change - *Cllr T Sams*
- Cllr Foster queried whether she could add the Community Fridge. The Clerk suggested, that as this is not being organised by the Parish Council, it may be more appropriate for Cllr Foster to circulate a report to all Councillors, for their information.

16. Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday **25th March 2020** from **7.30pm** in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

There was further discussion, after the meeting had closed, regarding Harrietsham Pre-School covering the following points:

- Alterations to Woodlands Walk in order for the Pre-School to be relocated to the resident's back garden.
- Protracted discussion relating to the Booth and Baldwin Trust and the Pre-School's disappointment with being unable to meet with them to discuss their ideas.
- The Pre-School wishing to relocate to the garden for a minimum of 10 years and to become a Youth hub in the village to include groups such as the Scouts.
- Empty commercial premises being too expensive due to the rates.

It was noted that the Parish Council is very supportive of the Pre-School, but that it needs to be in the right location.