

# Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm in  
The Scouts Hut

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

## Public discussion

A resident queried the lack of members of the public attending meetings and it was felt this is because people do not have the time and generally only come when there is an issue to raise. A question was raised regarding the access point for the old School site. It was noted that The Friends of St John's are currently selling Christmas cards (£3.50 for 5).

## **1 Present**

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr R Dayes, Cllr S Luck, Cllr S Brown, RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst  
1 Member of Public

## **2 Apologies for absence**

Community Warden Martin Sherwood, County Cllr S Prendergast

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

Parish Council Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Griffiths; with 6 in favour and 4 abstentions.

## **4 Disclosures and confidential items**

### Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes.

### Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

### Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

## **5 Planning**

5.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved applications were noted.

### **5.3 Other Planning Matters**

- The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Officer for the outstanding Pilgrims Retreat applications to receive an update on the progress made to date. **ACTION: Clerk**
- Cllr Dean raised concerns regarding the appeal for the Firwood Lodge & Jays View application, which had been refused by MBC. She had noted that both sides are using Barristers from the same 'Landmark' chambers and had raised concerns with the Planning Officer, due to a potential conflict of interest. Mrs Geary had felt that this was acceptable and, when the Clerk had raised this with the Head of Planning, he too had no issue with the arrangements. Cllr Roots commented that, as the Barristers are self-employed, he wasn't concerned about this situation. There was brief discussion relating to the awarding of costs, as part of the appeal hearing. It was also noted that both parties have agreed with the KCC Transport Report, which states that the development will not affect the A20 in any way. Cllrs T and J Sams confirmed that they will be attending the hearing, which is to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## **6. Environmental**

### **6.1 Other Environmental Matters**

- The Amenity Manager reminded all present that the Parish Council had approved the purchase of a Tommy statue and given permission for a poppy display to be sited on the green in West Street. Whilst Tommy is owned by the Parish Council (and covered by insurance), the poppy display isn't and there are concerns that the area is quite dark. The organisers are to purchase some solar lights and fencing, but the poppies could still be a trip hazard. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Dean that the Parish Council formally adopts the display as a Parish Council activity, during the Remembrance period, but that the display be handed back to the volunteer group, after the Commemoration period has ended. This was seconded by Cllr T Sams, with 9 in favour and one abstention.
- Cllr Dean then reported that the volunteers need a couple of afternoons in the Booth Hall to continue the work of sewing all of the poppies on to the cascade. Cllr Dean proposed that the Parish Council pay for the hire

for both sessions, to support the wonderful efforts of the volunteers. This was seconded by Cllr Luck, with 9 in favour and one abstention.

## **7. Finances**

**7.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets:** The finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Luck; with all in favour.

## **8. Highways**

Cllr T Sams reported that 16 items have been reported to KHS. One being the rippled road along the A20, at both ends of the village. The damage is extensive and dangerous, especially for bikes. It was noted that there are emergency roadworks springing up everywhere, which is causing issues with the required diversion routes, as some of the lanes are unsuitable for the volume of traffic using them. Cllr T Sams reported that he will be checking the streetlights next and it was noted that potholes seem to be being repaired quite quickly.

- **A20 Average Speed Camera Surveys:** The Clerk reported that 500 surveys had been hand delivered to properties along the A20 and approximately 140 had been received back and inputted to the KCC survey link. There have been issues with the postcodes included on the survey and a 'Postcode not listed' box has now been added. The closing date for completing the survey is the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Roots reported that, whilst the temporary average speed cameras are in place, Speedwatch will need to be suspended, unless new locations can be found.

Cllr Stanley commented that motorbikes seem to be travelling very fast along the A20. Cllr Roots reported that Speedwatch had found that most stick to the limit, but that volunteers are not out all of the time, resulting in some that ignore the limit. It was noted that the noise of the bikes may make them sound as though they are speeding.

- **West Street 20mph Scheme:** The Clerk reported that she had chased the progress of the scheme with KHS and it appeared that it had stalled due to staffing issues and the fact that 12 residents had objected. An Officer will be writing to the 12 objectors to discuss the scheme and see whether they will withdraw their objection to the proposals. If there are still more than 5 objectors, after this process has been completed, the scheme will need to be referred to the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board (JTB) for discussion at their next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The Clerk reported that, due to the delays in progressing with the scheme, the Team overseeing the project would now like to fund the installation at no additional cost to the Parish Council. The Design & Delivery Team will start working on the designs, which they hope to share by the middle of November. Councillors were very grateful for the offer and asked for their thanks to be conveyed. Cllr Dean queried whether something should be added to Facebook to try to assist with the process of explaining to residents (and hopefully the objectors) of why the scheme would be beneficial. This may speed up the process, to assist the Team. The Clerk offered to contact KHS to see whether they could offer some wording to use as a statement.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **9. Defibrillators**

Cllr Griffiths reported that the defibrillator has now been installed at the office and will be live with the Ambulance Service within the next 24 hours. It was noted that there are now 3 publicly accessible defibrillators in the village (outside the Post Office in West Street, at the Parish Office and also the Village Hall). The RFO reported that there is also one at the station on Platform 1.

Cllr T Sams thanked Cllr Griffiths for his work on this project.

## **10. Harrietsham Organisation's Christmas Event**

Cllr Griffiths proposed that, due to the volume of work that the Parish Council has taken on recently, the event be postponed until after Christmas. This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with all in favour. It was agreed that this would be removed from the agenda for now.

## **11. Christmas Lights**

The Clerk reported that approval needs to be given by KCC for the festive motifs to be installed on the streetlights. However, before the application can be submitted, accounts need to be set up for the electrical feeds with UK Power Network. The Clerk raised concerns that, due to the length of time it takes for UKPN to respond to emails, this is slowing the application process down and it is unlikely that KCC will be able to give approval before the lights need to be installed at the end of November. With this in mind, the Clerk has spoken with Gala Lights to make them aware of the situation, to ensure that we are not charged for this Christmas as Year 1 of the contract, as the lights have already been made. Gala Lights have no issue with deferring to Christmas 2023.

## **12. Santa's Grotto**

Cllr Griffiths gave a brief update on the arrangements for Santa's Grotto on the 18<sup>th</sup> December and added that he will write a short piece to be included in the December Network magazine. The event will be advertised on Facebook and families will be able to book a slot via email or text to Cllr Griffiths. The Clerk stated that Councillors would need to help with setting up and taking down of the grotto, as it is time consuming and the gazebos are heavy. Cllrs T & J

Sams and Cllr Roots offered to assist on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December (5pm) to set up and further volunteers will be needed for the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup>. Cllrs Stanley & Luck offered to oversee the refreshments during the event. The Clerk asked for volunteers to assist with wrapping the selection boxes and Councillors will contact her by email to confirm.

**ACTION: All Cllrs**

Cllr Griffiths also reported that there will be a couple of Christmas stalls set up in the Ambrose Hall.

As both halls will need to be used, but only the Booth Hall is available free of charge for children's events, it was proposed by Cllr Roots that the Parish Council cover the cost of the Ambrose Hall hire for the day. This was seconded by Cllr Powell, with all in favour.

**13. KALC Climate Change Carbon Footprint Calculator**

Cllr J Sams reported that she had circulated the information from the workshop and Cllr T Sams added that it was quite complicated. He suggested that he bring a proposal to the next meeting for Cllrs to discuss, which will be mindful of climate change and air quality. This was agreed by all present.

**ACTION: Cllr T Sams**

**14. Parish Council Policies**

Cllr Roots asked for this item to be deferred, as he felt a couple of the policies needed amending slightly.

**15. Future Events**

Poppython (to produce the Poppy Cascade) - 28<sup>th</sup> October & 4<sup>th</sup> November (1-3pm in the village hall)

Poppy Display Installation - 6<sup>th</sup> November - 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> November

Ploughman's in the Church - 12<sup>th</sup> November (midday - 2pm)

PTFA Christmas School Fayre - 3<sup>rd</sup> December (Harrietsham Primary School)

Santa's Grotto - 18<sup>th</sup> December (Village Hall)

Coffee Morning - every Friday in the Booth Hall (10am - midday)

A query was raised regarding the purchasing of a wreath for the Remembrance Sunday service and the Clerk reported that she had not been contacted, as usually happens. After brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries and purchase the wreath online with the RBL if needed. It was then proposed by Cllr T Sams to add a further donation to the cost of the wreath, to bring the total to £100 (as has happened in previous years). This was seconded by Cllr Roots, with all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**16. Items for Future Consideration**

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme - Clerk (when further information is available)

**17. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Scouts Hut**

*With no further matters to discuss the main meeting was adjourned at 8.35pm.*

***Minutes of Confidential Agenda Items 18 (Staffing Matters) and 19 (Village Hall Trust) will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.***