**SMARDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 09th OCTOBER 2017**

Present: John Lowings, Mark Wilson, Sarah Ellison, Jocelyn Craig, Cliff Ridley, Jo Morton Geraldine Dyer and Catherine Stanley (Clerk).

12 Parishioners present.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Marion Hudson Pete Watts and Brian Bristow

**2. LIST OF THE DEPARTED**

Doreen Sloman

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of 11th September 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman and publication on the website agreed.

The Minutes of the Post Office Public meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman and publication on the website agreed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Nothing to report

**5. PLANNING**

**Application No: 17/01476**

Location: The Grange, Bell Lane, Smarden TN27 8NT

Proposal: Single Storey Rear Extension

Comments: No Comment

Application No: 17/01477

Location: The Grange, Bell Lane, Smarden TN27 8NT

Proposal: Retrospective application for the recladding and reroofing of existing Annex. Reinstatement of Chimney

Comments: No Comment

**Application No. 17/01300/AS**

Proposal: Erection of 5 timber stables with concrete base and 20 x 35 menage with hardcore base and sand/rubber surface

Location: Site to west of Newenden, Pluckley Road, Smarden

Comments; No comment

**Application No: 17/01393/AS**

Proposal: Proposed new vehicular access and associated surfacing

Location: 3 Glebe Close, Smarden, TN27 8NG

Comments: No Comment

**Application No: 17/01489/AS**

Proposal: The work comprises the over cladding of Airey Style houses with an insulated reinforced render system

Location: 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,12 Green Lane, TN27 8NE

Comments: Confirm colour. Colour confirmed as cream. No Comment

**6. BURIAL GROUND**

Nothing to report.

**7. POST OFFICE**

Jocelyn gave an update on events to date. She advised that she had spoken to Cheryl Stitch about an Outreach Service. She will talk to Headcorn in the New Year to enquire as to whether that is possible. It was noted that Monday and Fridays are the busiest days. If this service is to be provided in the Charter Hall there will need to be a dedicated new phone line and 3 pin electric socket.

Jocelyn summarised the outcome of the Parish Meeting and noted that The Chequers' proposal received little support and is unlikely to be taken forward. The concept of a Community Shop and Post Office seemed to be popular and there were two site options proposed by Gary Mitchell:

The first being land adjacent to the Charter Hall. This was not his preferred option as it is not currently owned by The Charter Hall.

The second option was the Minnis.

Jocelyn advised that she has received 14 letters/e-mails to date, all objecting to building on the Minnis because it has designated “recreational status” and there are also significant concerns over traffic safety and congestion.

Marcus Palmer put forward a proposal that a new Community Shop and Post Office could be placed on the current Charter Hall car park. Marcus produced an indicative plan and said that there is the possibility of convening an extraordinary meeting of the Charter Hall Trustees should there be a need to discuss this matter further.

John declared an interest and left the room. Mark took the Chair.

A discussion then tool place and each Councillor gave their view.

Mark commented that he felt that the Parish Council should respect the original purpose of the purchase of The Minnis in 1929 which was for recreational purposes only.

Catherine read out an extract from Marion’s statement which had previously been circulated setting out her views.

There was a unanimous feeling that the Minnis and Cornes Meadow should be preserved for their original purpose. I.e. recreational space

It was proposed and agreed to take a vote from the Councillors on whether there should be the building of a Community Shop and Post Office on The Minnis. It was unanimously resolved that there should not be any building on The Minnis.

It was also agreed that subject to a viable business plan it would be the Parish Council’s preferred option for a Community Shop and Post Office to be on the Charter Hall car park. Subject to this to arrange a further public meeting.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council representative for Gary Mitchell’s steering group should be Marion, in the absence of Jocelyn.

Marcus confirmed that he would be willing to be on the group too.

The subject being finished John re-entered the room.

**8. MINNIS and CORNES MEADOW**

Nothing to report

**9. HIGHWAYS and LORRYWATCH**

John reported that Wealden Wheels are still in need of a Director and Catherine was asked to amend the Parish Magazine to include an article to address this need.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Catherine reported that she had received a letter from a Parishioner questioning if the Parish Council could approach Gladman to see if a Community Shop or Post Office could be built on the land with the benefit of Planning Permission. It was noted that this is a matter for the Developer to consent to. Catherine was asked to reply.

Catherine had received an email from Gary Mitchell asking if the Parish Council would support a planning application for a gym to be installed in the roof of the Pavilion. It was thought that there may be a commercial element to this. Catherine was asked to find out more information.

**11. FINANCE and MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

Accounts - Copies of the accounts for September were presented and the items of expenditure for October were approved.

Catherine advised that the External Auditors had been passed the Annual Return for the accounts although they had commented that there had been an error in the date of notification of accounts.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

Items for the Parish Magazine were agreed.

**13. REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED/FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Nothing to report.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed to place Ashenden back on the Agenda and to discuss next month the possibility of transferring management of the Estate back to Ashford Borough Council.

Catherine was asked to write to all residents at Ashenden to reiterate that loft conversions are not permitted.

It was agreed to buy a leaf blower for Viv to clear the leaves. Mark Wilson would deal with the purchase of this.

It was agreed to place Road Signs on the agenda for the next meeting.

Catherine was asked to write to the owners of the property where there is an overgrown hedge.

Sarah commented that there needs to be some clarity on the issue of planning permission and the Post Office. It was agreed that in the current circumstances should there be an application for the change of the existing use of the Post Office and Shop the Parish Council will not support such an application and will lodge an objection.

Sarah also clarified that as and when the monies provided as a result of the Community Infrastructure Levy payment (attributable to the land frequently referred to as the ‘Gladman Land’) such monies will be used for the development and improvement of the Children’s Playground and the Tennis Court /MUGA. The allocation of these monies will be separate from the Post Office and any Community Shop.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.