

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Public discussion

A resident queried why the draft minutes had not been added to the website and it was clarified that they had yet to be approved and this was to be discussed under Agenda Item 8.5.

A representative from Harrietsham Primary School spoke regarding an application to KCC to divert a footpath, close to where they wish to creating a forest school. The aim is to teach children about native species; the issue of ASB in the area was noted. The Parish Council should receive notification of the application imminently.

A resident gave an update on the Local Plan Review, as an additional consultation is underway. It was noted that the 5 proposed wetlands in the Heathlands Garden Settlement will cost £30m to create, which may make the scheme unviable.

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Brown, RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst
5 Members of Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Sams, Cllr S Luck, Cllr R Dayes, Community Warden M Sherwood, County Cllr S Prendergast

3 Minutes of the October meeting

Parish Council Meeting 25th October 2023 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr J Sams, seconded by Cllr Griffiths; with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

4 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 29th November 2023 - The minutes (as amended) were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley, seconded by Cllr Brown; with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions.

5 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to the register.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr C Roots: Agenda Item 8.3 (Finance - Recommendations Grants & Donations - Harrietsham in Bloom) as he is the Treasurer of HIB.

Cllr S Brown: Agenda Item 8.3 (Finance - Recommendations Grants & Donations - Harrietsham Fish Scheme) as he is the Advertising Manager for the Network magazine.

Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

6 Planning

6.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

6.2 The approved applications were noted.

6.3 Other Planning Matters

- Licensing Application for a Fish & Chip Van at the Village Hall (1 day a week): It was noted that Cllr J Sams is a member of the MBC Licensing Committee and would not take part in the discussion. It was noted that there has been one objection to the application from a business in Lenham. Cllr S Brown queried the parking arrangements and this was clarified by the Clerk. Cllr Roots informed all present that there were 2 errors in the application form which should be mentioned in the Parish Council's response. Cllr Powell proposed that the Parish Council support the application, this was seconded by Cllr Roots; with 5 in favour and 1 abstention. **ACTION: Clerk**
- MBC Local Plan Update: Cllr Powell reported on the 4-week public consultation which is currently underway. This mainly focuses on Junction 3 of the M2, which will be affected by

the Lidsing Garden Settlement. The Planning Committee submitted a letter to the Planning Inspector regarding the short consultation period and clarification has been received in response.

7 Environmental

7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held 22nd January 2024: The Minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Stanley; with those in attendance at the meeting in favour.

7.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- **To Engage Brogdale to Survey & Prune the Community Orchard (£400):** It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to accept the quotation at a cost of £400. This was seconded by Cllr Cllr Griffiths, with all in favour.
- **To Consider a Proposal to Remove the Bollard Padlock Box on the Glebe Field:** After discussion it was agreed that this item should be referred back to the next Environmental Committee meeting for further options to be sought. **ACTION: Environmental Cttee**
- **To Freeze the Annual Allotment Rental Fee for 2024-2025:** It was proposed by Cllr Roots to freeze the annual allotment fee for the forthcoming financial year. This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with all in favour.
- **To Continue with the 'Best Kept Allotment' Award:** Cllr Brown explained that the Gardening Society are no longer giving out awards and asked that the Parish Council continue with the award to encourage tenants to look after their plot. The prize is £25 and the winner is also present with the salver for the year. It was proposed by Cllr Roots to continue with the award. This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with all in favour.

7.3 Other Environmental Matters

- **Play Area Repairs:** The Clerk reported that work had previously been approved on various items of play equipment on the Glebe Field, but there were two items that required more involved repairs:
The combination swing required 8 pairs of bushes but HAGS no longer supply these separately resulting in the top joints needing replacing. This has been quoted at £586.50, which is £289.50 more than previously agreed. The second item is the multi-play junior equipment where a link had broken on the net. On inspection the complete chain has worn, requiring a full replacement at a cost of £875. It was noted that, if the repairs were not carried out, the equipment would have to be taken out of service. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths to approve the required repairs, this was seconded by Cllr Powell; with all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**
- **Spring Litter Pick:** Cllr J Sams suggested that the Spring Litter Pick be arranged for Saturday 23rd March, 9am-11am (meeting on the West Street green). All Councillors were in agreement.

8 Finances

8.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets: The financial document was proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour.

8.2 Minutes of the F&GP Meeting held 9th November 2023: The minutes were proposed as accurate (with amended) by Cllr T Sams, seconded by Cllr Stanley. Those present at the meeting were in favour.

8.3 Outstanding Recommendations from the November F&GP Meeting:

- **Grants & Donations:**
Harrietsham in Bloom - £100 (Decision deferred)
Harrietsham Fish Scheme - £1,000 (Decision deferred)
It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to award £100 to Harrietsham in Bloom, this was seconded by Cllr Brown; with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.
It was proposed by Cllr Roots to award £1,000 to Harrietsham Fish Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

8.4 Minutes of the F&GP Meeting held 11th January 2024: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stanley, seconded by Cllr Roots; with those present at the meeting in favour.

8.5 Recommendations from the F&GP Meeting

- **To Publish Draft Minutes after the Meeting, once checked by Councillors:** It was proposed by Cllr Roots to publish draft minutes once checked by Councillors. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths, with 5 in favour and 1 against.

- That the precept for 2024/2025 be set at £107.24 per Band D property, generating a Precept of £147,723: It was proposed by Cllr J Sams to set the precept for the forthcoming year at £107.24 per Band D property, generating a precept of £147,723, which is an increase of £11.77 (12.33%) per Band D property. This was seconded by Cllr Powell, with all in favour,

8.4 Other Financial Matters

- To Confirm the Bank Balances have been checked since the January F&GP Meeting: Cllr Powell confirmed that he had checked the bank balances before the meeting.
- Approval for RFO to open one or more Investment/Deposit Accounts: It was proposed by Cllr Roots to open accounts with either CCLA, Unity Trust Bank, Skipton Building Society, Cambridge Building Society (or any other suitable body). This was seconded by Cllr J Sams, with all in favour. **ACTION: RFO**

9 Highways

It was noted that a report had been circulated before the meeting.

Cllr Roots asked that KCC Highways be chased regarding the streetlights which are still not working around the West Street/Goddington Lane junction. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk reported that the defective light on the A20, close to the Church Road junction, has been reported and is awaiting repair.

10 Update on Santa's Grotto

Cllr Griffiths reported that the event had been a huge success and thanked everyone who assisted.

11 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Cllr Griffiths reported that Cllr Brown will be focusing on incorporating the D-Day theme into the Big Lunch. The main event will follow the usual format with residents bringing a picnic. The dog show will be run by the Dog Trainer this year and as the usual band cannot perform, Cllr Griffiths is looking for singers to attend instead. Cllr Brown added that he is hoping that children from the school will come along to read poems and a fish & chip van is being arranged, as this meal was not rationed during the war.

Cllr Griffiths requested that 2 additional gazebos be purchased at an approximate cost of £300 (for both). It was proposed by Cllr Roots to purchase two gazebos, this was seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr J Sams left the meeting at 8.39pm

12 Village Hall Trust Representative

The Clerk asked whether any Councillors would be able to join the VHT and no one came forward. Cllr Griffiths stated that physical help was required and a general discussion took place on the work required on a daily/weekly basis.

13 Renewal of the Annual Subscription to CPRE

The Clerk reported that the annual subscription for CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) is due for renewal at a cost of £60.00. However, Parish Councils have been asked to consider paying £84 for the year, which represents an increase of over 130% in two years. Cllr Powell proposed that the subscription be renewed at a cost of £84 however no Councillors seconded the motion. Cllr Roots proposed that the annual subscription be renewed at the current amount of £60. This was seconded by Cllr Stanley, with 4 in favour and 1 against.

14 Request to Use the Glebe Field for a Fun Fair

The Clerk had previously circulated an email requesting use of the field for a 3-day fun fair during the coming months. After discussion it was agreed by all Councillors that the Glebe Field was an unsuitable location for a fun fair. **ACTION: Clerk**

15 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Meeting is due to be held on the 24th April. It was agreed that the booklet should be created and Councillors would think of a suitable speaker. **ACTION: Cllrs**

16 Future Events

Soup Saturday - Cancelled for February but returning 9th March (St John the Baptist Church)

Friends of St John's AGM - 22nd March (7pm in St John the Baptist Church)

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

17 Items for Future Consideration

No items for consideration

18 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Public Discussion

A resident asked whether people attending the D-Day Big Lunch could be in fancy dress and it was noted that this would be a good idea and could be a competition. This will be discussed at the working party's next meeting.

ACTION: Big Lunch Group