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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th November 2021 at 19.30hrs**

**In the Village Hall Club Room**

**Present:** Cllrs J Smith (Chairman), S Mash, P Venning, C Sykes, L Brown, S Collins, five members of the public and Mrs Y Osborne (Clerk)

4287. **Apologies & reasons for absence:**  Cllr A Lloyd Smith, reason accepted & Borough Councillor M Burgess.

4288. **(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.

 **(iii) Reminder that this meeting is being recorded for publication.**

*At this point the meeting was adjourned for the Public Session. See the appendix at the end of these Minutes.*

4289. **To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2021.** Agreed and signed as a correct record.

4290. **Matters Arising:** None

4291. **Planning Applications:** (Previously notified to Councillors).

**21/01819/AS Land on the south side of Palstre Court Road** – Prior notification for change of use of agricultural building and land within its curtilage to office use. *After a full discussion it was agreed to* ***object*** *to this application. It is still not suitable premises on this piece of land.*

**21/01809/AS Mount Pleasant, Stocks Road.** Erection of detached residential annexe (retrospective). *Cllrs had listened to comments made during the public session explaining why this was a retrospective application. After a full discussion it was agreed to just* ***comment*** *on this application.*

**21/01738/AS The Old Stables (Piggery), Palstre Court Road.**Change of use of existing building to be used as holiday let (retrospective*). After a full discussion it was agreed to* ***object*** *to this application. It is now apparent that when this building was refurbished it was let as a holiday let before permission had been granted for change of use. A retrospective application was made for the building to become a living studio and ancillary accommodation to The Old Stables with a condition put on it for it to remain ancillary to The Old Stables. It remained a holiday let breaching the condition placed on it.*

4292. **To appoint: Cllr responsible for matters relating to GDPR:** Cllr P Venning.

 **Cllr responsible for matters relating to Safeguarding:** Cllr C Sykes.

4293. **To consider a project to safeguard the future of the Ewe & Lamb sign.** The Chairman explained that he had received an offer from a resident to investigate how the sign could be safeguarded for the future and there are safety issues regarding the post. It was agreed that it is part of the village landscape and as such should not be allowed to deteriorate further and to accept the offer to project manage its restoration.

4294. **Delegation.** The Chairman reminded Councillors that we have been operating under delegation since the end of March 2020. This was due to end once normal meetings recommenced. This evening is the first of those. However due to the uncertainty of future meetings being possible in light of the continuing pandemic Cllr Venning proposed, seconded by Cllr Sykes and agreed by all to resolve that the existing delegation continue until the Council resolves to vary or end it, or at the latest until the first normal meeting in 2023.

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4295. **To consider quote for ‘Scribe Cemetery’.** The Clerk had forwarded details and the quote to Councillors. This application works together with the Accounting package we are now using and would put the Cemetery records etc all in one place. The cost is £12 per month plus a one off set up fee of £97. Cllrs supported the opportunity to computerise cemetery records and agreed to this.

4296. **To consider the quote from PJC Consultancy to survey all the trees in the village that are the responsibility of the Parish Council.** This quote had been forwarded to Councillors together with the service provided. The quote (£860 plus Vat) was accepted on the condition that a hard copy of the report be made available.

4297. **Working Party Reports:**

a)Caretaker- The Clerk reported that the Caretaker had kept working all through the pandemic. It hadn’t been easy this year as the grass kept growing without its usual slowdown in the high summer of 2021. The War Memorial and Gardens are all ready for Remembrance Sunday.

 b) Finance – The Monthly Transaction Statement and Caretaker Monthly Transaction Statement were noted.

 c) Planning – Since the pandemic began the Clerk has prepared and inserted weekly lists in the Notice Boards and on the website. She expects to continue with this and hopes the public finds it useful.

 d) Highways – Clerk reported that the SID pole in The Street has been damaged by a hit & run driver in a van towing a trailer. She has asked for a quote for a replacement from KCC.

 e) PROWs – The Clerk reported that the KCC PROW officer had been out to look at problems reported recently and other outstanding issues. Letters had been sent to landowners. It is hoped that the problems will be rectified shortly. Chairman mentioned that it is hoped that it might be possible to get the two unmarked paths across the field to the side of Lloyds Green registered as a PROW but it would need help from residents. He will add this to his report for the Outlook on Oxney.

 f) Open Spaces – The Clerk had met with a new group interested in pursuing better play equipment at the current site. The Chairman reported that he had a discussion with the ABC Chief Executive asking if they would be interested in passing the Play Area to the responsibility of the Parish Council. She agreed that this might be possible and would pass this on the relevant officers at ABC. We have not heard anything further yet.

 g) Cemetery & Churchyard – Nothing to report.

4298. **Reports for nothing from representatives on outside bodies:**

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Collins reported that there were 6 new volunteers and they now had a Chairman and a Maintenance Manager. The boiler has been fixed and the roof repaired.

4299. **Date of next Parish Council Meeting:** 14th December 2021.

4300. **Items for information:**

a. The Chairman told the meeting of a new channel of communication between residents and Kent Police known as My Community Voice and encouraged people to sign up to it.

b. Lee Phelan has tendered her resignation to KCC as Volunteer Support Warden and thanks were given for all she has done in the community. It is hoped that she can be replaced.

c. The Chairman updated the meeting on the Greater Ashford Environment and Land Mapping Commission of which he is a member representing KALC.

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d. Cllr Brown explained that she is still working with ACRK on bringing the Coffee Caravan to the village and is hoping to find a suitable venue for it.

e. The Chairman informed the meeting that he would be writing to the Chief Executive of Southern Water asking him to support a joint campaign with members of KALC Ashford to alert residents to the problems of drains being blocked by flushing inappropriate materials.

f. Cllr Mash told Councillors that she is no longer a Governor at Homewood School or Wittersham Primary School.

g. The Chairman showed the meeting two posters he had received from the police via KALC, each directed towards keeping people safe. ‘Ask for Angela’ and ‘Making Holly your Guardian Angel’ which the Clerk will promulgate.

The meeting closed at 22.00hrs.

**Appendix to this meeting.**

Summary of Public Session.

Planning Applications

21/01809/AS Mount Pleasant. The Applicant was able to give further information together with the reason that an application hadn’t been made before the work was undertaken. The neighbours gave their views on it expressing their concern on the affect it had on their property.

Other Matters

Roger Parker expressed his continued concern over speeding in the village especially from drivers entering the village from the Stone/Rye direction and asked what the Council had done about it. *Restrictions over the last 20 months have delayed the progress that had been hoped for. Data is collected from the Speed Indicator Device but this has yet to be analysed and it had been hoped that a Speed Watch Group could be set up but this has yet to happen. It was suggested that perhaps the children and the school could help make adults more aware.*