

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:
Sarah Moon

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PARISH

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

at Shoreham Village Hall on 6 April 2016 from 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs R Blamey, P Dodd, J Histed, R Inniss, N McDonell, M S Parkes and L Spence

Also Present: District Cllr J Edwards-Winsor, Rick Bayne (Darent Valley Landscape Partnership), Peter Waring (Environment Agency), 10 members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Roger Gough and Cllr Medlen.
2. No disclosures of interest were made.
3. The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 were agreed.
4. District/County Councillor Reports
District Councillor John Edwards-Winsor stated that Robin Cooper has replaced Mark Bradbury at Sevenoaks District Council on a part time basis. Regarding the sale of Timberden Farm, the exchange of the 'Heads of Terms' contract is expected in three to four weeks at which point the buyer will be announced. An extended licence for the owner of the sheep will be granted on a week by week basis. KCC will be adopting the footpaths and that aspect has been written into the contract. When all this has completed then Lot 1 (barns) will be further investigated and plans drawn up. They will be looking at the safety of the existing buildings and the suitability for conversion.

On a separate topic, Sevenoaks District Council will need to be involved with any yellow lines which may be implemented in Shoreham.

No County Councillor was present.

5. Chairman's Report
 - (a) To provide an update on the future of the Old Livery Store.
This will be adjourned until after the meeting once the public have been excluded.
6. Report from the Clerk.
 - (a) Invitations to the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April have been sent out.
 - (b) Rent letters for allotments are in the process of being sent out.
 - (c) Three quotations for tree surgery work have been received.
 - (d) April edition of the Shoreham Post has been published. Copies have been given to Mr Peek for distribution in Well Hill.
 - (e) Documents from the Land Registry relating to the transfer of the Cross from Sevenoaks District Council have been received. The process will be completed as soon as the documents have been sealed by Shoreham Parish Council and Sevenoaks District Council.
7. Darent Valley Landscape Partnership
Rick Bayne of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership and Peter Waring of the Environment Agency attended the meeting to talk about future projects, which will affect the parish. One item explicitly

mentioned for discussion was the Darent weirs. Management of the chalk grasslands, fly tipping initiatives and the proposed Samuel Palmer Trail were discussed more generally.

1. River Darent Project (Weirs)

Peter Waring explained how funding is in place for producing a hydraulic model (weirs). This aims to identify flow, flood water, flood management etc. Once the model has been produced further testing into flood improvement, flood prevention etc can be carried out. The principal objective of this is to reduce flood risk but also to gain improvements in biodiversity, particularly fish passage, the chalk stream being a valuable habitat. At present it is unclear as to whether the weirs actually serve a purpose so hydraulic modelling would be able to determine whether there is any benefit in removing them.

It was explained that the views of the Parish Council and residents with regard to these structures is important and their thoughts on how they feel about the structures is required. It is necessary to consider, amongst other things, whether the weirs have any heritage features and if so how these could be conserved.

At this point the meeting was opened up for public debate and the following questions were asked.

Q. Are the weirs at Shoreham house necessary? Is it possible that this could be removed?

A. One of the weirs is unsafe as it cannot be let down.

Q. How many weirs in private ownership?

A. Most of them. Any work can only be carried out with the owners' permission.

Q. If weirs were removed, would the flood water flow in the same place as the weirs?

A. Cannot know this until hydraulic modelling has been completed.

2. Rick Bayne of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership then gave a general overview about the Landscape Partnership Scheme, explaining that it is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund with a total budget of £3 million. It will operate for 5 years starting April 2017. The money has been given as the landscape is seen as being under threat due to large populations and proximity to London. The heritage and environment within the valley itself are also perceived to be at risk and the Partnership will therefore try to deliver projects to protect it. Some of the projects from the first stage of the application are as follows:

- a. Samuel Palmer trail
- b. Exhibition of palmer's works in the valley
- c. Tranquillity in the valley
- d. Moving cables underground
- e. Cleaning the canvass – dealing with flytipping strategically
- f. LYDAR survey – looking for archaeological features
- g. Shoreham Woods Country Park
- h. Lullingstone Park – veteran tree management (one tree over 1000 year old)
- i. Preston Hill
- j. Magpie Bottom
- k. Polhill Bank and Highways England
- l. Shoreham Cross
- m. Heritage orienteering courses
- n. Training courses to residents to enable people to take over once the 5 years has passed.

Rick Bayne finished his talk by stating that the Partnership is in need of an office, ideally to be situated in valley. He also stated that whilst much money has been given by the Lottery Fund, further fundraising is required to obtain the full amount necessary to undertake all the projects and Parish Councils from within the valley are therefore being asked to make a contribution to the scheme.

The meeting was once again opened for public questions.

Q. What will happen after the five years are up and the Partnership leaves the valley?

A. Legacy planning in place for each project after the 5 years is up.

Q. What are tranquillity zones?

A. These are hard to define and measure but are something that people value immensely.

Q. The village requires a safe footpath from the station to the village for reasons both of safety of residents and to improve the connectedness of paths into the village and elsewhere. As well as benefitting the village as a whole, it would also ensure the safety of visitors and encourage visitors to travel by train. Is provision of such a footpath something which the scheme could consider?

A. This is definitely something that the scheme look at assisting with and we will make sure that it is considered.

8. Amenities

Following the Amenities & Services, the following points were discussed in further detail:

(a) Tree Surgery Works

All three quotes for the work highlighted in the Tree Survey have been received and circulated and a contractor is required to be appointed. A decision was made to defer appointment of a contractor until the next meeting. The Clerk was instructed to contact Down to Earth to obtain a price for the missing item and also to get a fourth, fully itemised quote from Treeability.

(b) Memorial Benches

A recommendation was made by the Amenities and Services Meetings that no memorial benches were to be permitted. It was agreed that whilst no *more* memorial benches should be permitted at this point in time, there could be scope to replace existing benches with a memorial bench when they fail. There is one in need of repair on the terrace.

9. Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that doors would open from 6.30pm to allow people to come and set up their stalls. The meeting would start at 7.30pm. Refreshments shall be provided from the Chairman's Allowance. As well as wine and beer, teas, coffees and soft drinks will also be provided.

10. Traffic and Parking

The recommendations and suggestions laid out in the report provided by the Traffic and Parking Working Party were discussed. One of the recommendations was to display notices on inconsiderately or illegally parked cars. Different notices have been suggested for different offences and areas. Whilst the logistics of how to best implement the notices needs further consultation, the principle of the notices was agreed by four votes to two. It was decided that Cllr Spence notify the Working Party to inform them of this decision and to ask them for some recommendations on how best to put up the notices.

In addition to this, the Golf Club has been written to ask to trim back vegetation. It was also decided that the Clerk contact Kent County Council to help reinstate the gap over the white line.

Regarding the bollards outside the Old Post Office, the Council agreed with recommendation that KCC investigate the matter.

11. Communication

Nothing to report.

12. Correspondence/Information

(a) A letter has been received from Sevenoaks District Council in response to election costs due for the Election of Parish Councillors in May 2015. Although no election took place in Shoreham last year, a cost was still charged. Sevenoaks District Council have however agreed to waive the costs this year as Parish Councils were not aware they would be charged but this will not happen again in the future.

(b) The Spring 2016 edition of Oast to Coast has been received.

(c) The Spring 2016 edition of LCR, magazine from NALC, has been received.

(d) Spring/Summer 2016 edition of Kent Voice has been received.

(e) Spring 2016 edition of the Countryside Voice has been received.

13. Committee Reports

(a) Planning Committee: To receive and adopt minutes of the meetings of this Committee held on 2nd March and 16th March 2016.

(b) Amenities & Services: To receive and adopt minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 16th March 2016.

(c) To receive the Report of Finance and General Purposes Advisory Group (part referred to confidential part of meeting). It was agreed that in future Finance meeting should be held on 3rd Wednesday's of month after a planning when no Amenities meeting is scheduled.

14. Financial Matters
 - (a) Accounts/Payments.
The schedule of payments was agreed.

15. Dates of next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm)
 - (a) Planning Meeting: Wednesday 20th April, Shoreham Village Hall (if required)
 - (b) Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 27th April 2016, Shoreham Village Hall
 - (c) Planning and Annual Council Meeting: Wednesday 11th May 2016, Shoreham Village Hall

16. Motion that 'In view of the special, confidential or commercial nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw'.
Motion seconded.

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council

The meeting was closed at 21.41 pm.

Public question time
No questions.