

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 7.30pm in
St John the Baptist church

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr G Dean, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr V Foster, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Luck, Cllr J Sams and RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden (Acting Clerk)
1 Member of the Public

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Griffiths Cllr T Sams, Cllr R Dayes, Mrs A Broadhurst (Clerk)

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 29th September 2021 - The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Dean, seconded by Cllr Luck; with 5 in favour and 2 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 refused applications were noted.

5.3 Other Planning Matters

- Full Council decision required for - 21/504810/FULL - School House, Ashford Road (Erection of four detached dwellings with associated access and parking)

It was noted that this application required a response from the Council by the end of the next day (the 28th). The Acting Clerk read out the two positions, (one for and one against), and the floor was then open for discussion. Essentially, the "refuse" position revolved around the site being over-developed and with dangerous access from the A20, together with the general appearance and parking problems. The "approve" position centred on what was - and was not - likely to be accepted by MBC as being valid reasons, and it was felt that it would be better to recommend approval with a string of conditions than to object on grounds which were likely to be disregarded.

The matter eventually went to a vote, 5 recommending refusal versus 2 recommending approval. It was therefore resolved that the clerk be asked to lodge our objection with MBC using the grounds outlined.

The Highways agenda item (8) was then brought forward as Cllr Sams will shortly need to leave.

8. Highways

Cllr J Sams reported that there hasn't been a lot to add to last month's report. We are still waiting for KCC to come back to us about the Church Road footpath. She reported that there is a new difficult-to-use Highways Improvement form, replacing a much easier-to-use old version; this is under discussion. Councillors are now receiving Speedwatch reports from Cllr Roots and look forward to subsequent ones. The setting up of a Lorry Watch on the south side of the A20 continues to be in progress, and lots of potholes are still being reported.

Cllr Roots informed the meeting that he had contacted Network Rail in his capacity as a private citizen to ask about a light under the Church Road bridge, to be told that it would be a Highways matter, and although NR would be asked, consent was pretty much a formality.

Cllr Stanley observed that, yet again, road surface repairs, especially after the sort of gas works we are currently witnessing, seem to be sub-standard with potholes quickly appearing. Cllr Sams said she would relay that back to KCC.

ACTION: Cllr J Sams

6. Environmental

6.1 Other Environmental Matters

- Fencing required in The Shaws: The RFO had previously circulated a report outlining the quotations received from fencing contractors for the new fence round The Shaws. Both were from contractors we have previously

used, and both seemed to be offering the same solution. The prices quoted were £10,475 and £7,150. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should accept the cheaper option (Andrew French Fencing). Proposed Cllr Foster, seconded Cllr Sams, all in favour.

- **Chalk Treatment for the Lake:** The RFO had previously circulated a report concerning treating the lake in Woodlands Walk. Both were from contractors we have previously used, and both appeared to be offering equivalent treatments. It was therefore agreed that we should accept the cheaper option. Proposed Cllr Roots, seconded Cllr Stanley, all in favour. (Hawkhurst Fish Farm - £2,007)
- Cllr Dean noted that we usually close Woodlands Walk for one day a year, usually in November. She would liaise with the Clerk to arrange.
- It was noted that the adverts for the new Open Space contracts should be appearing in the Kent Messenger for two weeks, starting on Friday. Copies of the advert to go to Cllr Dean (for Facebook) and the Clerk (for inclusion on the website).

7. Finances

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

The Highways agenda item (8) had been discussed earlier.

9. Santa's Grotto

The Santa Suit, 2 gazebos and 240 selection boxes have now been purchased. It was noted that Cllr Griffiths is starting to publicise the event.

10. Additional Defibrillator for Village

Cllr Dean reported that the Co-op had been approached but they had declined to site it as they were concerned about insurance and safety implications. The Vets had been approached but not responded. Kent Medical had responded positively, but Councillors generally felt that it was too far away from the residential part of the village to be the right location (but better than nothing). Cllr Sams proposed that we acquire it anyway and have a site meeting at the parish office for all interested Councillors to review the possibility of putting it there. Seconded Cllr Luck, all in favour.

11. Big Platinum Jubilee Lunch

Cllr Dean stated that the Big Lunch is to take place on Sunday 5th June 2022, being the Sunday of the four-day Jubilee weekend. The Parish Council would need to arrange toilets, a band and other activities. Cllrs Dean, Foster and J&T Sams to arrange, with Cllr Griffiths to be asked to ask the school if we could borrow their tables and chairs.

ACTION: Cllrs Dean, Foster, T&J Sams & Griffiths

12. Lighting of the Beacon & Piper for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Thursday 2nd June 2022, (the start of the Jubilee weekend), the Parish Council would like to work with the church to light the beacon - RFO undertook to check with the PCC, but couldn't see a problem. A Piper has been provisionally booked to play the proscribed music prior to the lighting. The cost of this is of the order of £300 - proposed Cllr Powell, seconded Cllr Foster, all in favour.

13. Climate Change

Cllr J Sams noted that Climate Change is rapidly going up the agenda, and that the council should be considering ways in which we could operate in a more environmentally manner. It was suggested that each committee should formally consider what we could do to be so. Discussion then turned to the proposed use of green field country for the new Lenham Heath development, and Cllr Powell asked for as much support as possible to oppose it. The public should be encouraged to object both publicly and to MBC. Cllr Foster offered, in a private capacity, to review the environmental policies.

ACTION: All Cttees

Cllr J Sams then left the meeting.

14. Photocopier for the Parish Office

The RFO had previously circulated a report outlining the costings from three suppliers, each offering purchase or lease prices. He had then prepared a comparison for a 5-year cost. One supplier was a lot more than the other two, so could be discounted. The other two were quite close, with one being consistently slightly cheaper. Moreover, that company had offered to remove the old copier, and was known to us via a nearby site, which had received good levels of service. It was therefore agreed to accept the cheaper option, supplied by Sharp, based on a 5-year lease and 45,000 mono + 16,000 colour copies. Proposed Cllr Roots, seconded Cllr Dean, all in favour.

15. Future Events

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June 2022, with Beacon, Piper and Big Lunch
Remembrance Sunday (November) - it was noted that, as yet, it is not known if things will be back to normal, and whether the Parish Council would be asked to provide/lay a wreath. Just in case, it was agreed that, if asked, we should acquire one for a donation of £100. Proposed Cllr Roots, seconded Cllr Luck, all in favour.

16. Items for Future Consideration

Cllr Dean reported that the remaining Remix kit had been sold to a music project for deprived children in Kingston, Jamaica - and now, together with Cllrs T&J Sams, wondered if we should consider twinning with Kingston.

17. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday **24th November 2021** at 7.30pm in St John the Baptist Church

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.