

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

at Well Hill Mission Church on 5th July 2017 from 7:30pm

Present: P Dodd (in the Chair), R Blamey, A Collins, A Hibbins, B Jeffery, N McDonnell, L Spence

Also Present: 9 members of the public
District Councillor John Edwards-Winser
County Councillor Roger Gough
John Bennett - KWT

Clerk: Sarah Moon

Question Time: No questions were raised by members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Histed (work commitments) and Cllr Parkes (holiday).
2. There were no disclosures of interest from members.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 7th June (copies previously distributed) were received and signed by the Chairman.
4. Actions arising from the meeting held on 7th June were reviewed.
5. District/County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Roger Gough confirmed the following:

- That he will seek to take forward the traffic schemes as proposed in the last meeting. He advised that it is important to approach it as a single set of measures rather than individual schemes.
- That Crown Road has been resurfaced but the old style yellow lines have been zealously repainted. He has conveyed his distress at this and they should hopefully soon be replaced with primrose lines.
- That on Monday 3rd July he chaired a meeting of the Lullingstone Liaison Group. At this point in time, Preston Hill has still not come back to Country Parks so he is in process of writing to Property Group, GEN2 to try and bring it back. Options about its future can then be discussed.

- That following an OFSTED inspection in March 2017, Childrens' Services in Kent obtained a result of GOOD, ranking them third amongst counties throughout the country.

This followed several questions from both members of the Council and members of the public.

Q : What has happened to the finger post in Well Hill ?

A : This was supposed to have been done ages ago but will now have another look into it.

Q : Triangle in East Hill being used as a roundabout. Can we put kerb stones there?

A : Will look into this.

Q: Also at the junction of Fackenden Lane and Magpie Bottom, the corner is getting worn away. Can it be rebuilt?

A : Will also look into this.

District Councillor:

The Planning Team at SDC appear to be getting the vast majority of their decisions correct as less than 2% of appeals are successful.

Q : Will SDC follow the normal planning procedure regarding the development of the barns at Timberden Farm?

A : Yes.

6. Chairman's Report

There was no report from the Chairman.

7. Report from the Clerk.

- (a) The Conservation Officer and Building Control at Sevenoaks District Council, Historic England and the owner of 4 Mill Lane have been written to in respect of the state of disrepair of 5 Mill Lane.
Enforcement have been once again and do not feel that any action is required other than a coat of paint on the woodwork and clearing of the garden.
The owner of the property, who was present in the audience, confirmed that he had undertaken this work and the windows and doors had been painted and new curtains hung. The garden had been cleared a while ago. He stated that he was unable to fully refurbish the property until he had sold another house but as soon as this has occurred, he will be sorting it out.
In the meantime, Cllr Dodd requested that both the District Councillor and the County Councillor look into any schemes which may exist to assist owners in bringing empty properties back into an acceptable standard. KCC have an initiative 'No Use Empty'.
- (b) Pinden Quarry have been contacted asking whether they can provide a sample of chalk in order that we may trial laying it on the Cross.
- (c) The July edition of the Shoreham Post has been produced.
- (d) A stone mason has been contacted and asked to quote for repairing the holes in the stonework of the war memorial. £250 – read out email.
Cllr Edwards-Winser to provide Clerk with details for the people who repaired the Palace at Otford.
- (e) Owners of the land bordering the road at the northern end of the High Street have been written to requesting that they cut back the vegetation which is encroaching on the highway.
- (f) County Councillor Roger Gough has been notified of the following traffic proposals with which we would like to proceed and has been requested to bring them to the next JTB.
- A single primrose line along the High Street from the steps next to the Recreation Ground extending 27m towards village shop (opposite Two Brewers) prohibiting parking between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

- Reflective yellow backing to chevron signs on the approach to the George Bend
- 6'6" width restriction signs at all entry points to the village.
- A 20mph speed limit through the village. Signs required at the Vicarage/Shoreham Place, Filston Lane, where the current 30mph sign is located and outside Oxbourne House.

- (g) The broken panels on the slide in the playground have been replaced.
(h) I shall be taking a week's holiday from 8th July to 15th July.

8. Filston Lane Car Park

- (a) The terms of the proposed lease offered by Kent County Council to Shoreham Parish Council in respect of the car park at Filston Lane were discussed. KCC had suggested an annual rental of £725 but were expecting a counter-offer from Shoreham Parish Council. Having taken into the consideration the additional on-going costs which the Parish Council now have to bear (see 8b below), it was decided to make a counter offer of £250. This was decided by majority vote of 6 in favour of paying £250 and 1 in favour of paying £350. Resolved that the Clerk write to KCC with a counter offer of £250 per annum.

- (b) Annual costs for taking on the car park excluding the lease were estimated as follows:

Business rates	£725
Lighting	£100
Hedgecutting and strimming	£250
Increase in lengthsman's hours	£204
Replacement of signage	unknown but may not be applicable
Replacement of map	unknown but may not be applicable
Resurfacing	unknown but it is thought that this will remain the responsibility of KCC
Total known costs	£1279

9. Amenities

As there were too many items to be discussed at this meeting, it was resolved that an Amenities & Services meeting be scheduled for the third week of September. Members will need to be co-opted to the meeting in the event of there being an insufficient quorum.

10. Timberden Farm

The spraying of the fields at Timberden Bottom and around the Shoreham Cross was discussed.

The Shoreham Society had met with the tenant farmer and Kent Wildlife Trust to discuss the ragwort situation and to try and come up with an alternative to spraying the fields. The tenant farmer stated that he had been written to by the parish council requesting that the ragwort be removed. (The Clerk confirmed that she had actually written to the land agent stating that the ragwort was starting to grow and that the field needed to be grazed quickly.) The tenant farmer had stated that the owner would eventually need the fields to be in good condition in order to graze cattle. It would also need to be fertilised. The tenant farmer agreed to grant the ten days to see if the ragwort could be removed by hand. If sufficiently removed, then he agreed not to spray. There are also negotiations going on about stewardship which had lapsed under SDC.

Regarding the fields which have already been sprayed, John Bovington has offered to bring hay from Magpie Bottom to spread on them in order to reinstate the wild flowers.

John Bennett from Kent Wildlife Trust : We are trying to find out what damage has already been done by the spraying. If fertiliser is put down, the grasses will prosper but the smaller flowers will suffer. Sprayed fields can be brought back but this takes time and attention. Kent Wildlife Trust did try to buy the meadows behind the village from Sevenoaks District Council but never received a response.

Public Discussion:

Shoreham Society : It does not appear that cattle will be there for a while as Mr Muscat needs the farm buildings first. It is also important to work with the local farmer and to co-operate with him, Kent Wildlife Trust, Shoreham Parish Council and John Bovington.

KWT were so short with their bid and it is disgusting that SDC did not inform us of that, particularly as they gave an indication that they would look sympathetically upon the local community buying the land. Instead, the bid from a local farmer and KWT was refused and the land sold to a commercial bidder for a marginally higher price.

Parish Council : The Parish Council supports the move that all parties work together and backs up comments regarding the lack of information from SDC about the bids.

District Councillor Edwards-Winsor : SDC members were not party to the bidding process and would have been prohibited from disclosing the bids even if they knew, as they would have been deemed confidential information.

11. Freighter Service at Well Hill

A there may be a problem in the future gaining access to the Kent Hounds Car Park, an alternative location for the freighter service may be required. The car park at Lullingstone Golf Club was suggested as this is owned by Sevenoaks District Council.

Resolved that the Clerk contact Sevenoaks District Council asking whether this car park could be used for the freighter in future.

12. Extra Dog Bins

The provision of several extra dog bins along the footpath through the golf course was discussed. This came about following an email from a resident and golf player, who had noticed many plastic bags being thrown in the bushes as well as dog mess being thrown in the rubbish bins belonging to the golf course. Locations suggested were at the entrance to the footpath on Station Road, at the footpath junction near the Quadrangle and further along the footpath towards Otford.

Cllr Hibbins agreed to take a look and see whether any of these locations may be suitable and whether the existing bin on Station Road is being used.

13. Community Payback

In preparation for a meeting on 20th July with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Rehabilitation team, potential tasks which could be carried out by the group were discussed. Some suggestions were :

- To cut back the undergrowth around the tennis shelter
- To cut back brambles to the right of the footpath at the southern side of the recreation ground (up from Mildmay Place)
- To paint the slide
- To paint bench in tennis shelter
- To tidy up car park

Hedges on the footpath through the vineyard are also getting quite overgrown but in the first instance, the Mount should be asked to cut these

14. Updates from Working Groups

(a) The following updates from the Emergency Planning and Resilience Group were received :

- Vicky Hitchcock has stood down as Head of the Resilience Group. A new co-ordinator is required. Re-advertise in next Gazette.
- The Emergency Plan needs to be updated and a date for a table top scenario sorted.

(b) There were no updates from the Traffic and Parking Working Party.
None.

15. Community Infrastructure Levy

Due to lack of time, it was resolved to include this item in a prominent position on the September agenda.

16. Correspondence/Information
- (a) A request for a grant for the sum of £500 has been received from the Church in respect of the purchase of a new mower for the churchyard.
Agreed to donate £250 towards this cost.
 - (b) A letter has been received from Rod Shelton, Chairman of the Archbishop's Palace Conservation Trust asking for written support in their aim to 'regenerate a fresh awareness of this heritage landmark by restoring it to a heritage building and developing it into a hub of education, discovery and information about the palace, the Tudors and the Darent Valley'.
The Trust already has full support of Otford Parish Council and the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership.
Resolved that the Clerk write a letter of support on behalf of Shoreham Parish Council.
 - (c) The first newsletter has been received from the Old Chalk New Downs project, confirming that they have been officially given 'Permission to Start'.
 - (d) The Summer 2017 edition of LCR (the magazine of the National Association of Local Councils) has been received.
 - (e) A copy of the Sevenoaks Local Housing Needs Strategy has been received and circulated to all members.
17. Financial Matters
- (a) Accounts/Payments: The schedule of payments was authorised.
 - (b) Internal Auditor: Update on vacancy for internal auditor. Kathryn Mallet.
Resolved that the Clerk write to Kathryn Mallet thanking her for volunteering to do this.
18. Dates of next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated)
- (a) Planning Committee Meeting: Wednesday 19th July 2017, Shoreham Village Hall
 - (b) Planning Committee Meeting : Wednesday 2nd August 2017, Shoreham Village Hall (if required)
 - (c) Planning Committee Meeting : Wednesday 9th August 2017, Shoreham Village Hall (if required)

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council

Closed at 22.02.