

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 14 October 2013 in the Jubilee Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr D Mitchell(Chairman)

I Blackamore, R House, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, C Willson and E Wilson

R Gough, County Councillor

11 members of the public

R Gentry

2 Police Officers

2 Post Office representatives

2 Hobbs Pharmacy representatives

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

P McGarvey, District Councillor , Cllr A Lewis

92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

93 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

94 MATTERS ARISING

Hedges along Rabbits Lane: remain overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Land Owner

95 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Ann Etter had attended in PCSO Pete Jones' absence. She was able to give an update of investigations to Stud Farm where approx. 300 cars had been broken all believed to be stolen.

Very recent burglaries to residential properties had given considerable cause for concern.

A number of the public present raised their own concerns; PCSO Etter encouraged people to visit the mobile unit when it visit the area to discuss any non urgent matters. Forthcoming dates are yet to be circulated.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

It was agreed to bear in mind any matters which needed to be considered in the light of the duties imposed by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act throughout the meeting.

96 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Flytipping in Franks Lane slip road: A member of the public reported this as an ongoing problem. The cost of taking rubbish to the dump was felt to be to blame for this

pushing people into acting irresponsibly. Cllr Gough offered to report back this view to KCC.

Horses being washed in the River at Franks Lane: a local resident asked for an update regarding the possibility of having this area fenced previously discussed. A land registry search is outstanding.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain Land Registry search

Website: it was noted that the Agenda had not been posted to the website however these are made available at the meeting and posted on the 3 noticeboards around the Villages.

Rubbish in Westminster Field after football matches: Cllr Stead reported that rubbish had been left on the field after matches. This is the responsibility of the Club to clear away.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Club and ROS Committee to monitor.

Pedestrian Access Horton Road to Scouts Hut/ Fishing Lakes:

Cllr Stead reported that this well used access point has no formal crossing in place and could be potentially hazardous. Cllr Gough suggested this be highlighted to KCC Highways

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC Highways

97 POST OFFICE CLOSURE

Martine Munby was invited to address the meeting by the Chair. The Post Office apologised for the closure of the service which has now been restored and it is the PO intention that it will continue. When the Chair queried what the long term plans were for keeping the PO open in the Parish Ms Munby stated that a sub postmaster was now in place, there was no vulnerability to the service as long as they have access to the premises, they are required by the Government to ensure a sound commercial basis for the business with the Government acknowledging the social and community value to the service.

Mr Younis the owner of Hobbs Pharmacy in which the PO is housed was also invited to address the meeting. He expressed his dissatisfaction with his dealings with the PO over the last few years. He felt the PO had dealt with him unethically and felt that the Guarantees he had to have in place were too onerous. He cited a recent case where a Post Master had been charged with fraud only for it to be discovered that a PO computer error had been to blame. He recalled that 400 sub postmasters are currently being investigated for fraud. Mr Younis has resigned as Post Master.

Ms Munby was able to put this into the context of 11500 outlets. Whilst footfall has decreased in recent years the PO in South Darenth was still viable and a temporary Sub Post master had been found to keep the service running. The PO is negotiating via the new Sub Post Master with Mr Younis. Any further disruption would be alerted to Cllr Mitchell. In the meantime Ms Munby stated that **for as long as the PO have premises available there will be a PO in South Darenth.**

98 THE BULL PUBLIC HOUSE

Mr Roger Gentry addressed the Council with his proposal that the Bull Public House be registered as a Community Asset. He explained why he felt this should be nominated with many Public Houses closing.

Cllr Wilson voiced his concerns that other Public Houses, of which the Parish have 5, could claim equal merit if they were to face possibly closure in the future.

It was felt that a group of local residents would be better placed to submit the application and suggestions were put forward to who Mr Gentry could contact for support.

99 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The District Councillors were not in attendance.

100 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough reported that he would be meeting with the Clerk in due course to discuss various issues which would be reported on at a future meeting.

101 HALLS COMMITTEE

The latest approved Minutes of the committee were received for information.

102 PLANNING

SE/13/02827/ADV
Co-op Food Store
Salle Building
South Darenth

2x fascia signs to front elevations, externally illuminated by overhead trough lights.

OBJECTION:

1. Request that only one side of the building (front facing commercial buildings) carry signage
2. Illumination is switched off outside of opening hours in consideration of neighbouring residential properties.

103 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Financial Planning meeting date had been overtaken by this evenings Parish Council meeting following the importance of the Post Office Closure and allowing time for representatives and public to be invited.

The anomaly in the Budget agreed at the beginning of the year had been attributed to a clerical error therefore the Budgets previously agreed were still workable. New software following installation of a new office computer is being populated and up to date finance reports will be available in December ready for budget setting for 2014/15.

The Clerk requested that she be accepted as a signatory to the General Bank account to ease administration.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be approved as a signatory to Nat West Bank Accounts.
Forms completed.

104 STREET LIGHTING

Direct Technical Services have changed their trading name to Streetlights; a replacement contract to reflect change of trading name was approved for signature and signed.

105 ANTHONY ROPER CHARITY

Gill Tripp has been the Parish Representative for many years. As her Term of Office has been completed the Charity requested that the Parish Council comment if Mrs Tripp is to continue in this role. The Parish Council were pleased to accept Mrs Tripp's offer to continue and asked the Clerk to write to the Charity confirming this.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Anthony Roper Charity and Mrs Tripp

106 RIVER PATH

Cllr Stead reported that the river path from Westminster Field to Franks Lane had eroded in several places into the river bank and was overgrown in places. An alternative path has emerged as a result following the boundary fence at the top of the bank. This was also reported as being unsafe in places.

ACTION: Clerk to report to KCC

107 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS

The suggested nomination form from Kent Association of Local Councils was adopted and will be placed on the website for Parishioners to download. Copies will also be available from the Parish Office.

108 FIREWORKS COMMUNITY EVENT

Cllr Mitchell reported on the costs of hiring a company to provide a 12 or 20 minute display. The concept of running this event for this year, rallying support from community organisations and advertising were discussed.

Councillors felt it was too short notice on this occasion however felt it merited further discussion for next year, along with any other proposed Community focused events, to enable realistic budgets to be in place.

ACTION: Clerk to add to Agenda for December

Cllr Page enquired if the Parish Council will be providing Maroons for the 11th November. This will be provided as in previous years, to help the Parish mark the 2 minutes silence.

The cost of laying a wreath from the Parish Council was approved at £50.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

Chairman

Date