

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Village Hall, Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AZ

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL Meeting held on 1st July 2024 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs, I Blackamore, D Hollands, T Moyle, C Page, D Wakefield
Sevenoaks District Cllrs L Ball, A White

Members of the public: 5 including Mr M Dunn from DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Rohard and Mitchell

Cllr Blackamore Chaired the meeting.

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

51 MINUTES

Resolved: the minutes of the last meeting held on the 3rd June 2024 were signed as a true record.

52 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 131: Strip of land at East Hill/Paddock Close. **In progress**

143 Public questions and Correspondence:

Clerk to arrange date with Cllr McGarvey copy to collect.

22 Toilet block, Heathside: Referred to the ROS Committee.

38 Final Internal Annual Audit Report

Accountability & Governance 4.1 Unspent budgets shall not be carried forward to any subsequent year.

No longer take cash once all black and clear sacks sold

Card reader for outside events

All other items were completed, referred to the relevant Committee or appear as an agenda item

53 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC and CORRESPONDENCE

There were no questions.

Correspondence was received from Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) regarding the chicanes at the Station Road entrance to the path alongside the river and at the entrance to Westminster field. It was accepted that the wooden chicanes installed didn't meet all expectations but thought as a good first choice as all materials were matching. Instead, motorcycle restrictors would now be considered for installation as it meets the required dimensions, leaving pram and disability users access.

Request for dropped kerb at the Station Road entrance would have to be made by Parish Council. **Completed.**

54 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Roger Gough gave his apologies.

55 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Alan White informed Councillors that he had been in touch with SDC planning enforcement department regarding several issues within the Parish.

56 POLICE MATTERS

None received

57 FIREWORKS EVENT SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

Further to discussion at the June meeting, the Clerk informed the Committee that they had not, to date, been able to source a fireworks or security company, who would be available or willing to provide all services for the annual firework event. It was not financially in their interest to send staff on one of their busiest weekends of the year. Clerk had found a hire company that provide crowd barriers and ground protection mats for vehicles at a cost of approximately £500.00.

Cllr Blackmore explained that in previous years at least three Councillors had arrived at 9am to set up barriers, mats, lighting and had dug out a hole for the bonfire, built it and then put it out afterwards and did not finish until approx. 11.00pm until everything had been collected up. At least 6 volunteers were need on the gates plus 6 more in the crowds. Cllr Page questioned suitability of volunteers and Clerk answered that Parish Council insurance company had a guide for this but they must be minimum 18 years old and have training on Parish Council policies and procedures.

Cllr Blackmore acknowledged Cllr Mitchells email that scout group leaders and parents had offered to take on the job of setting up/marshalling/clearing up for a donation but was not present and no further information had been received.

Cllr Moyle pointed out that the fireworks event brings money in to pay for other annual events which may jeopardize them. Clerk confirmed takings for the Fireworks event were factored into budgeting for the following year.

Councillors debated the time required to muster volunteers, prepare paperwork for the Safety Advisory group and future displays. Taking everything into consideration, Cllr Blackmore proposed that the firework event doesn't go ahead for 2024. Cllr Page seconded and all councillors were in agreement. It was therefore

Resolved: to cancel the firework display for the 3rd November 2024

Announcement to be in the next Newsletter. At the same time asking for volunteers to secure for 2025.

Clerk to ask Phoenix fireworks in the deposit of £575 could be transferred rather than forfeited.

Clerk collate neighbouring Parishes firework events for 2024 to publicise.

58 D-DAY COMMEMORATION EVENT 6TH JUNE

Cllr Moyle reported that it was a successful evening with approximately 130 people from the villages in attendance. The W.I. had volunteered their services, providing cake, spam and jam sandwiches, a photographic display had been made by the Local History Society. As it was a national celebration there was the inaugural lighting of the beacon, provided by former Chair Peter Rushbrook and lit by new Councillor Dave Hollands. The Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (DAODS) had entertained everyone with a selection of songs and tap dancing

and to this end Cllr Moyle proposed to send DAODS a donation of £100 as a thank you. Cllr Page seconded, all were in favour, therefore:

Resolved: to send a donation to DAODS of £100 from S137 Community benefit budget.

Cllr Moyle added that he had received information from Bruno Peek's office, former pageant master to the Queen, that there was to be an 80th celebration of VE Day on Thursday 8th May 2025 which would be discussed at the October Parish Council meeting.

59 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The schedule of accounts were received and payments to the value of £25,888.04 were approved for payment by the Council. Direct Debits and Standing Orders are listed and approved on a monthly basis.

This amount included £3550 taken by Npower without prior knowledge despite credit notes dating back to December 2022 being received. This is being disputed.

60 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The updated NALC Model Financial Regulations had been received by the Councillors. The Clerk deferred this until September 2024 due to lack of time to examine.

61 HALLS/ROS COMMITTEE RESOLVED MINUTES

All approved Minutes had been received by the Council for information only.

62 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Newsletters had been delivered to the Parish room. Councillors Moyle and Blackamore offered their help to bundle up and deliver to the volunteers which was gratefully received by the Clerk.

63 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd September. Parish Council is in recess for August

The meeting finished at 7.54 pm

Chair _____

Date _____