



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 3rd June 2024 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs D Mitchell Chair, I Blackamore, D Holland, T Moyle, C Page,

County Councillor R Gough
Sevenoaks District Cllrs L Ball, A White

Members of the public: 8 including Mr M Mayhew and Mr M Dunn from DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Rohard.

28 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

Councillors unanimously voted to accept Dawn Wakefield as a co-opted member of HK & SD Parish Council.

Declaration of acceptance of office was duly signed by Dawn Wakefield and the Clerk.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Dawn Wakefield's disclosable and Non-disclosable Pecuniary interests forms were accepted and will be sent to the Monitoring officer at Sevenoaks District Council (SDC).

Chair motioned for Item 9 from the Agenda to be moved next.

30 POLICE MATTERS

PC Wayne Owen introduced himself to Councillors and members of the public (MoP) and apologised for not attending before today's meeting. He stated that he has been a police officer for 19 years covering Swanley and the Sevenoaks area. His new role is to cover 6 parishes with another officer who is yet to be assigned along with him.

He was aware of the recent damage carried out to the allotments and the Heathside, the ongoing investigation having been referred to Tonbridge, and ongoing anti-social behaviour in Esparto Way. Identifying those responsible was key and the police often visit local schools to help with this. Juveniles over 10 can be arrested, the Youth Justice system is a key factor in steering young people away from recurring offences.

PC Owen said that there would be a more visible presence of police in the village and was keen to engage with residents by carrying out more foot patrols.

District Cllr A White commented that MoP had noticed more police attendance and suggested a public meeting might be beneficial.

31 MINUTES

Resolved: the minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th May 2024 were signed as a true record.

32 MATTERS ARISING

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

143 Public questions and Correspondence:

Clerk to send Cllr McGarvey copy of PC burial ground map. **In progress**

22 Toilet block, Heathside: Referred to the ROS Committee but clerk was waiting for another quote to repair the vandalised toilet.

Clerk advised the Council that Npower had sent invoices and matching credit notes dating from December 2022 to 30 April 24 which effectively resolved the ongoing dispute with the energy company, a saving of £3,662.00.

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

33 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC and CORRESPONDENCE

A Saxon Place resident asked if following a car parking survey, was anything going to be done about the lack of space to park. Cllr Mitchell replied that as the Parish Council had not instigated a survey about this it was difficult to answer such a question.

Correspondence was received from a Shrubbery Road resident who had sent photos of fly tipped rubbish near to the green. Clerk pointed out that unless the person responsible removed it, the Parish council would have to take it away ultimately at tax payers expense.

Horton Kirby Bowls Club had replaced the hedge that bordered Horton Road which whilst returning the path to its original width, contractors had left roots growing up through the pavement and cracks and uneven surfaces had been exposed. Clerk had reported to KCC Highways and repairs had already been completed, removing any trip hazards.

Twinkletoes Nursery, which is based in the Village hall, had sent a poster in advertising for stall holders to attend their Summer fete to be held at the Heathside on Saturday 20th July. Those interested should contact Toni Edney or Louise Cheshire at twinkletoes_preschool@yahoo.com

34 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Updates from Cllr Roger Gough included;

A steward would be visiting Oakview Stud Farm with reference to the water spilling onto Lombard Street.

Another chevron was due to be fitted at the bottom of Bull Hill.

A meeting with the Environment Meeting was still to be scheduled following the length of time taken to clear the debris in The River Darent causing long term flooding in the Franks Lane area.

Cllr Gough would make further contact with Cllr Rohard regarding a community bus.

Cllr Blackamore advised that the chevrons were again missing from Franks Lane bridge.

Cllr Roger Gough left at 7.40pm to attend another meeting.

35 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Alan White had received positive feedback about the new path from Westminster field to Station Road and snagging was due to be carried out to imminently. A suggestion to clear some vegetation so that the river could be better viewed was made.

Cllr Page was informed that a wooden chicane had been installed at either end of the path.

Cllr Moyle advised that the broken fence to the fishing lake had been repaired.

Cllr White had discovered that there had been a turnover of staff at SDC planning enforcement department which had resulted in a delay in following up some cases.

36 PLANNING

24/01151/HOUSE

The Leas
Dartford Road
Horton Kirby
Kent DA4 9JE

Demolition of existing kitchen. New wall facing courtyard, new single storey side extension with rooflights, removal of stone balustrade and gate. Alteration to fenestration.

Resolved: No Objection, no comment.

As Cllr Rohard was absent from the meeting, Clerk advised she would obtain her findings as Cllr Hollands had only recently joined as Planning Inspector.

37 FIREWORKS EVENT

Councillors who had previously set up and ran the fireworks evening were not available for this year's event and current numbers of Councillors availability meant there would be insufficient number of safely marshalls.

Cllr Mitchell had seen various companies on the internet who could provide barriers, marshalling etc. and suggested this should be investigated further and that the fireworks event would go ahead as scheduled.

The Clerks advice was that the event could not go ahead should adequate numbers of volunteers/marshalls be guaranteed.

Cllr Hollands emphasised that all marshalls should have radios and high vis jackets and regular patrolling of crowds to prevent sparklers being lit were of vital importance.

It was agreed that further discussion was required for pre-sales tickets, queues on the evening and a mobile card machine.

Action: Clerk to source companies that provide barrier/marshalling services.

Add to July Agenda

38 FINAL INTERNAL ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2023-24

Final Audit Report was received. Cllr Mitchell noted that the auditor had recommended that the Parish Council should no longer accept cash. Clerk agreed that once rubbish/recycling bags were no longer sold, this would not be a problem.

Action: Clerk to notify public that card only payments accepted once rubbish/recycling bags sold out.

Auditor had also recommended reducing number of bank accounts by cancelling NatWest, opening savings account with Unity Trust and one other.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Mitchell asked clerk for balances left in nominal codes at the end of the financial year.

Action: Clerk

39 ASSET REGISTER

The updated fixed asset register was received and accepted. There were no questions.

40 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Statement of Internal Control was received and duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.

41 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Section 1 – the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 was received and approved by the Council. Chair and Clerk signed the document. The explanation for ‘no’ against box number 5 was also received. The Parish council Risk Assessment was received in May 2024, Minute 15, instead of being approved in the April 2024 meeting.

42 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2023/24 were approved and signed by the Chair. The Clerk had previously signed the document.

An explanation of variation to box 6 was also provided.

43 EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

The Clerk proposed that the dates for the exercise of public rights were to be from Monday 10th June through to Friday 19th July. A total of 30 working days.

44 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The schedule of accounts were received and payments to the value of £15,167.00 were approved for payment by the Council.

Direct Debits and Standing Orders are listed and approved on a monthly basis.

45 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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

46 HALLS/ROS COMMITTEE RESOLVED MINUTES

The Halls Committee approved Minutes from March 2024 were received by the Council for information only.

47 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The deadline for copy to go into the summer newsletter had been delayed due to lack of time to prepare.

Cllr Mitchell advised that it was not necessary for Committee Chairs to submit a report.

The allotment inspection was due to be carried out week beginning 17th June. The findings would go to the ROS Committee.

Cllr Page to establish whether the Church of St. Mary were going ahead with their annual Christmas Bazaar.

Twinkletoes summer fete is to be held on Saturday 20th July 2024.

48 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st July 2024.

The meeting finished at 8.26 pm

Chair _____

Date _____