

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 5 August 2013 in the Parish Room, South Darenth at 8 pm

Present: Cllr I Blackamore (Chairman), Cllrs R House, A Lewis, C Page, E Wilson

In attendance: Heather Rohard, Parish Clerk

56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr D Mitchell, Cllr M Stead, Cllr T Moyle, Cllr Roger Gough, Cllr P McGarvey, Cllr C Willson

57 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Blackamore declared a pecuniary interest in item Number 11

58 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 1st July 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair

59 MATTERS ARISING

Funding: The Clerk had requested the Criteria from Cllr McGarvey; Cllr House and Wilson requested a copy for information

Finance meeting date: Cllr Page gave her apologies for the 10th September.

Horses being washed in the River at Franks Lane: Owner of Franks Hall has offered to fence the area once ownership has been established

ACTION: Clerk - Land Registry search

60 POLICE MATTERS

Cllr House reported that he had a very productive meeting with PCSO P Jones, Chief Inspector S Cook and Area Inspector. He highlighted local concerns and secured PCSO Jones' presence at Quarterly meetings Parish Council meetings, which was welcome news.

He reported that extra PCSO's have been recruited and that the Mobile Police Contact Points will be visiting the Parish as advertised for local people to visit. This is a marked Police Van which will be parked in Esparto Way. Notices are displayed on 3 Notice boards and will be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

61 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

Cllr Page, responding to complaints that she had received, asked that all promoters of events being held in the Village Hall give the correct title of 'Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall'. The Clerk explained that this issue had been raised already and a note of apology would appear in the next Advertisement in the Parish Magazine.

62 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no District Councillor present due to holidays.

63 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough had arrived for the usual start time of 7.30pm but had to make his apologies as he was due to attend another meeting.

64 HALLS COMMITTEE

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

65 PLANNING

The following plans were considered.

SE/13/02198/HOUSE
Burcot, 18 New Road
South Darenth
DA4 9AR

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

NO OBJECTION

The following were received for information only:

SE/13/01077/HOUSE
91 Saxon Place
Horton Kirby

Demolition of existing Single storey extension and erection of a new single storey extension and side porch

REFUSED

SE/13/01427/HOUSE
31 Churchill Road
Horton Kirby

Erection of a first floor side extension

GRANTED

66 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Schedule Of Accounts

The schedule of accounts were received, payments approved and cheques authorised to be signed.

The Clerk had a list of Planned Expenditure arising from previous Parish Council meeting and from the Halls Committee. The following were discussed;

New Office Computer: Resolved that the cheaper computer be purchased at £514 + VAT as this was adequate for needs. Resolved that the installation costs be approved at £135

Skip Hire: to facilitate groups and the Parish Office clearing out unwanted items. Resolved that £160 + VAT be approved

Village Hall Sand and Seal: the quote of £481.50 was approved and resolved that work should be completed during August to minimise disruption to Hall users.

Office Cabinets: Resolved that new cabinets be ordered as part of the Office refurbishment at a cost of £426.35

Office Front Door: Resolved that a new UPVC half glazed door should be purchased to provide a more welcoming office for the public to visit and that it be hung on the left side enabling easier access. Concerns were raised about the security of not having an enclosed letter box on the back of the door were discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate one that will fit a new door when opened against the wall of the office

Office Carpet: Resolved that a new hard wearing carpet be purchased costing £295 + VAT which will include an entry mat free of charge.

Office Redecoration: Resolved that the work be carried out during the Clerks Annual Leave to minimise disruption to the Clerk and residents while the Office is closed. The cost of £260 was approved.

Extensive Decorating and small repairs throughout the Village Hall: Resolved that the work be completed during August at a cost of £2140

Halifax Stepped Income Reserve Account

The Council had been informed by Halifax that this type of account was no longer available due to changes in products by Halifax. The Council resolved to close the account and transfer the funds to the Nat West Current Account.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange for letter to be signed by existing signatories to close account

Transfer of Funds from Reserves

As the Halifax Account would be closed and transferred to the Nat West Current Account and transfer from Reserves were unnecessary.

67 STREET LIGHTING

Column 58: situated in Eglantine Lane has had no lantern for several years, however as the box is still connected the Parish Council is still paying for electricity to be supplied to it. Direct Tech Services advised that disconnecting it would cost approx £250 and reinstating it £370. Councillors were not familiar with this Column and asked the Clerk to give more information as to its location.

ACTION: Clerk – find Column 58 and advise Councillors

Column 51: Situated in The Street opposite Kirby Cottage was referred in January with a broken Lantern but Direct Tech Services have not had instructions to replace. Councillors felt that as the recent report was so extensive this should have been included in this overall cost.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with DTS.

68 WATER RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cllr Willson was due to report back with further quotes from other companies regarding remedial work which needed to be carried out. Cllr Willson however was stuck in traffic and could not attend the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to add to Agenda 2nd September 2013

69 ROYAL PHOTOGRAPH

Cllr Page requested that a Photograph of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince of Cambridge for the Village Hall. Councillors felt this would be a fitting tribute to the new arrival and were happy to resolve that a framed picture be acquired when official pictures are available.

ACTION: Cllr Page to advise when a suitable picture is available

70 NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

Cllr House and Cllr Stead (in his absence but via Cllr House) offered to temporarily act as webmasters for the website with the intention of handing responsibility back to the Clerk in the future. The Clerk was very grateful for this help.

71 CONTRACT CLEANING

Cllr Mitchell had reviewed in detail the cleaning needs of both halls with the Clerk and with the help of Cllr Page and the existing post holder. The quotes received were compared to the current costs and projected costs if hours were increased in house. Councillors agreed to meet again on the 13th August so that the Chair and other absent Councillors could be involved in discussions.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange meeting 13th August 2013

72 FLY TIPPED RUBBISH IN PRIVATE ALLEYWAY

Cllr McGarvey had copied the Clerk into e-mail correspondence with a resident who was experiencing problems with a neighbour dumping rubbish in an access alleyway. This was causing his elderly neighbour great concern as this was the only means of access to her garden.

Whilst Councillors were sympathetic to the issue this is a Civil Matter and should be reported to the Police. An article in the next Parish Magazine will urge residents to be considerate of their neighbours.

ACTION: Clerk to contact resident to advise.

The meeting ended at 10.03pm

Heather Rohard
Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Date