



**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  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr D Mitchell Chair, H Rohard Vice, N Gurr, D Hollands, T Moyle,  
D Wakefield

Sevenoaks District Cllrs A White, L Ball  
Members of the public: two including Mr M Dunn from DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

**131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Blackamore, Page and Roger Gough.

**132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

None received.

**133 MINUTES**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the last meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 were signed as a true record.

**134 CLERKS REPORT**

64 Matters Arising

Minute 131: Strip of land at East Hill/Paddock Close.. Solicitor awaiting response from SDMC

68 Correspondence

Clerk to complete new Highway Information Pack for extra bollards, The Street and dropped Kerb, Station Road. Nigel Rowe KCC to assist.

Clerk to arrange meeting with new Community Mobilisation Officer Megan Glen

59 Financial Matters

Npower – case closed. Completed

90.GOV.UK Domain and Email Addresses

To go live January 25

119 Public questions: Malcolm Dunn concerned about the state of the weir. Clerk to contact The Street residents who previously raised concerns. 7 Jan 25. Response received 07 Jan – resident had reached out to Millen Court residents but no interest.. Completed

Clerk to write to Laura Trott regarding petition for more services at FNR and to advertise on website. To be actioned.

Wooden chicanes PROW – KCC PROW aware and will make temp. repairs whilst looking at more robust alternatives. Clerk emailed 20 Jan with pram and mobility scooter friendly alternatives.

Complete

Mat Honeyset, Manager of Kent community Warden Service had introduced himself to the Clerk recently and explained that the parish would be allocated a warden in the near future.

Update received from working Group regarding all Solar farms to be added to website.

completed 21 Jan **Appendix 1**

Part of Horton Woods now covered by TPO – PC confirmed they are happy to pursue getting the rest of the ancient woodland covered. To be actioned.

Traffic island pa for wood cutting/log selling – REFUSED. Newsletter planning applications to be updated.

Completed 21 Jan 24.

Update from Pav Ramewal SDC to Clerks regarding reorganisation of local government & devolution programme. Fwd to all councillors. Completed 16 Jan 25

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

### **135 POLICE MATTERS**

Temporary PC was not available and no report was received.

### **136 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC and CORRESPONDENCE**

Further to the update from the clerk concerning the weir in Horton Kirby, DRiPS representative Malcolm Dunn added that after a brief inspection with district Cllr Alan White, he could confirm that after noting that all the mechanisms were in place, the options were to a) leave it as it is which would result in the weir disintegrating causing flooding further downstream, b) carry out some repairs or c) give it a complete overhaul and bring it back to its original working order. Unfortunately, until the residents of Millen Court could make any agreements, the first option was the most likely.

### **137 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Gough sent his apologies along with a short report:

Bridge at Franks Lane - Since our last meeting, the bridge at Franks Lane has been vandalised twice following KCC undertaking works to reinstate it. I have taken this up with the KCC Structures team, who were looking to undertake some short-term safety measures and then review how best to proceed. I have discussed with Alan and others whether CCTV may help in future. However, the support KCC provides Districts in relation to use of

cameras can only be applied in cases of fly tipping (I have discussed this with our officer who leads in this area); criminal damage issues are led by the Police.

I am proposing bringing together the various organisations involved in this to plan next steps. Nigel Rowe would be happy to assist with a review of your HIP.

### **138 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

I'm planning on arranging a community litter pick on Sunday the 23rd March at 10am. It would be good to have the support of Parish Councillor's at this event.

There has been no further update regarding the planning activity at the old fire station in South Darenth. The owner of the premises has been advised of the action required by Sevenoaks District Council, and their response was to provide an update in early January, but nothing to my knowledge has been shared. If Any further building activity is seen this needs to be reported to SDC planning.

The bridge at Franks Lane has been vandalised for the second occasion. I have brought this matter to the attention of KCC, SDC, neighbourhood policing and also Kent PCC. I did raise the use of cameras to catch the criminals but they can only be used in line with regulations to enable a successful outcome.

The entrance of Oakview stud farm has often had water running off the farm and into the road. With the recent cold weather this cause a significant buildup of ice across the footpath which is then a hazard. We may not see a recurrence due to the warmer weather, but I still feel that this constant run-off should be dealt with once and for all. This has been reported to SDC.

I attended St Mary's eucharist service that was conducted by the Bishop of Rochester which also marked the start of celebrations of the church's 800th year.

I've been approached by a resident regarding possible support from Parish Council's regarding installing a defibrillator at the pavilion in Westminster Field.

There has also been repeat flooding of the footpath near to Westminster Field, with the fallen trees from neighbour and properties being a contributing factor and backfilling the flow of water. Not only does the landowner need to be approached to remove these obstacles but also repairs to the footpath are needed as The level of the river and footpath are at equal heights and requires a barrier to prevent flooding.

Both myself and councillor Hollands attended River walks with representatives from DRIPS. In addition, they viewed plot 4 Horton Road From both sides and submitted their views regarding the recent planning application for this site. Further to this, I engaged with a number of residents near to this location to gain their support in registering their opinions on this application.

I have been chased by a resident regarding the mobile home situated land in Mussenden Lane. SDC are aware and are speaking to the land agent - 24/00900/FUL

Apologies for this rather long update, but I hope it's useful.

### **139 PLANNING**

To confirm planning inspectors comments sent to Sevenoaks District Council prior to deadline of 5th January 2025 for the following planning applications.

24/02239/FUL

Plot 1 Grazing Land South of Viaduct Terrace

Horton Road

South Darent

Change of use of land to Gypsy/Traveller site comprising the siting of 2 mobile homes and 2 touring caravans and the erection of 2 day rooms alongside ancillary works including provision of new parking and hard standing.

#### **OBJECTION – Appendix 2**

Cllr Hollands thanked DRiPS (Darent River Preservation Society) for their time, advice and additional objection lodged with SDC for this planning application.

24/03094/HOUSE

9 Carleton Place

Horton Kirby

Kent DA4 9DL

Demolition of existing rear extension. New two storey side extension, part two-storey and part single storey rear extension with Juliet balcony and rooflight. Demolish and replace front porch

#### **No Objection/Comments**

### **140 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The latest approved ROS Minutes from Halls, October 2024 were received for information.

### **141 2025-26 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

Councillors met prior to the meeting for further discussions including future project and reserves. The Clerk had entered all figures received from Halls, ROS and HR Committees and was presented to all Councillors. Once estimates had been received for maintenance items, Clerk was confident that the full budget and therefore precept request could be ratified at the 3<sup>rd</sup> February meeting.

The increase in cost to supply the streetlights in the parish had increased significantly due to suppliers no longer offering fixed deals for electricity.

The increase in NI rates to employers would be detrimental to the final figures as would the new three year maintenance contracts once the ROS Committee had chosen the successful contractors.

- **Action:** Clerk advise SDC that precept would be ratified at 3<sup>rd</sup> February meeting.

### **142 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**The Schedule of Accounts** was formally received for December 2024. Payments totalling £15,358.19 were approved for authorisation. There were no questions

### **143 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Deadline for copy to go into the March 2025 Newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> January 25.

The Working group for 2025 events – St. George's Fete on Saturday 3rd May, VE Day 80 on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and the Fireworks event on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November was agreed:

- **Action:** Clerk, Cllrs Hollands, Mitchell, Moyle, Page and District Cllr Alan White to form events working group.

### **144 2025 CALENDAR**

- Clerk was in the process of finalising and will send out once completed.

### **145 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_