



## 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 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Rushbrook Chair, I Blackamore Vice, D Holland, D Mitchell, C Page, H Rohard

District Cllrs L Ball

Members of the public: 3

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.34pm

#### 215 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Terry Moyle.

#### 216 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

None received.

#### 217 MINUTES

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the last meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were signed as a true record.

#### 218 MATTERS ARISING

##### 64 Matters Arising

**Minute 131:** Strip of land at East Hill/Paddock Close. Purchase from SDMC for peppercorn amount. **Action:** Client agreement forms returned to Surrey hill solicitors 30 Oct 23. **In progress**

##### 143 Public questions and Correspondence

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

##### 184 Questions and correspondence

KCC Highways Holmesdale and Rays hill HIP - Correspondence

##### 202 Police Matters

Agenda Item. Attending in May

##### 203 Public Q's and Correspondence

Fly-tipping, contacted – 2 enforcement officers coming pre May meeting, questions from Councillor please in advance. Cllr Mitchell asked why they couldn't stay for the meeting to face public questions. Clerk will investigate.

##### 207 Youth Provision

Provide a key and rules for Heathside access

PC to review after 3 month trial

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

## **219 POLICE MATTERS**

PC Wayne Owen had visited the office earlier in the day to introduce himself. He will be present at the May meeting and hopes to attend some of the St. George's Day fete on the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

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

A Franks Lane resident explained to the Councillors how frustrated he and other neighbours were with the lack of any action from the Environment Agency (EA) regarding clearing the blockage to the River Darent in Franks Hall land. Despite telling the EA the location of the problem 3 to 4 months ago, nothing had been done which had resulted in Franks Lane being underwater for approx. 6 weeks. The cost to repair Franks lane as well as rotting fencing would increase the longer the problem remained. The EA had advised that should he or the landowner take it upon themselves to remove the fallen trees and debris, they could be prosecuted.

Cllr Alan White added that along with himself and the Parish Clerk, numerous emails had been sent to KCC Highways. The EA and Cllr Roger Gough to reconfirm what the problem was and it was a matter of urgency so that residents could use Franks Lane to access and leave Horton Kirby as exiting from Eglantine Lane onto the A20 was precarious at best. Cllr White added that he had seen 5 EA trucks parked along Eglantine Lane earlier in the day and was hoping that they were there to clear the blockage.

Correspondence had been received from Wessex Solar Energy to advise they were sending fliers out to local residents regarding an additional Solar Park adjacent to the south west side of the M20 and wholly within the Farningham Parish Council boundary.

Cllr Hollands had accepted an invitation to a meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> April in Farningham and would report back next month.

## **221 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

In addition to dealing with the long term flooding of Franks Lane and other properties, Cllr White had contacted the Environmental Health department and Planning enforcement on behalf of a resident of Horton Kirby with reference to the build up of old vehicles, new structures and rubbish on land just behind Eglantine Farm and adjacent to some Saxon Place residents, which had become an eyesore. Bonfires were being lit more often causing obnoxious smells drifting across nearby houses. Both departments have said they will look into and report back.

Cllr White was still looking into getting the damaged bin replaced in the Heathside. With reference to why enforcement officers could only attend prior to the next PC meeting, he explained that as they started work at 7am, to stay until 9pm or later would be unreasonable and some of the information they might share could be confidential and not for the general public, such as ongoing investigations and covert operations.

Cllr Ball was on holiday.

## **222 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Gough was not present but had sent further correspondence regarding Rays Hill/The Street and Holmesdale Road & Hill bends in the road:

Thank you for your email of 8 February, and my apologies for the delay in replying.

I have sought advice from my colleagues in planning and advice. The key criterion is the degree to which a bend (or other road feature) has problems that are deemed to be safety critical; in such cases the responsibility would, as you suggest, be that of the County Council as highways authority. While I am very much aware of and understand concerns about the Holmesdale Hill/ Holmesdale Road junction, it does not meet this criterion, especially when compared to other sites. Since the 1 June 2020 there has only been one damage only

collision which was a vehicle turning too sharply and scraping the wall. There are no incidents reported of vehicles struggling with the sharp bend.

Thus this location has been suggested for some minor changes to enhance the existing warning sign on the bends rather than a safety critical improvement, which in turn affects how any measures may be funded.

I hope this clarifies matters – with best wishes

## 223 BENCHES IN SOUTH DARENTH

Cllr Rohard had received and proposed to accept a request from South Darenth residents to place a small plaque on the bench nearest Paper Mill Green in memory of the late Karl Payne, who was well known and liked by villagers and would sit on the bench and chat to anyone who wished to pass the time of day with him. Cllr Page seconded and all were in favour and it was **Resolved:** that a small plaque could be affixed to the bench as described above in memory of the late Karl Payne.

Cllr Rohard added that the benches were 'gifted' to the village as part of the Mill development and have cost very little in terms of maintenance over the last 15 years. Cleaning and painting them would lengthen their service and enhance the village centre. If public support was there to volunteer, would the Council grant permission to revarnish and paint the benches again, to increase their longevity.

**Action:** the Council were in agreement with Cllr Blackamore adding that a breathable varnish should be applied and the work should take place towards the end of summer to allow the benches to completely dry out following the wet Winter & Spring.

## 224 PLANNING

23/03534/FUL

Tranby Croft

The Street

Horton Kirby

Kent DA4 9BY

Further information and report regarding the risk to surface flooding

**Action:** No further comments

24/00497/LBCALT 24/00513/LBCALT

The Co-Operative Food Company

The Mill

Esparto Way

South Darenth

Kent DA4 9FF

To replace the existing old Co-op signage with the new branding specification/

**Action:** No objection/comment. Very sympathetic signage update to conservation area.

24/00432/HOUSE

The Stables

Mussenden Lane

Horton Kirby

Kent DA4 9JW

Conversion of existing garage into office and storage space, internal works to main dwelling, construction of pergola link and construction of garden pergola.

**Action:** No objection/comment. Very little external impact and in keeping with original footprint of the building.

## **225 CCTV and DATA PROTECTION POLICIES.**

The CCTV and Data Protection policies were adopted with no questions or amendments.

## **226 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The updated policy, also known as 'The Transparency Code', compliant with current NALC guidelines was adopted with no questions or amendments.

## **227 FIXED ASSET POLICY & REGISTER**

The updated Fixed Asset Policy & Register was adopted with no further questions or amendments.

## **228 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The schedule of accounts were received and payments to the value of £ 19,675.41 were approved for payment by the Council.

Clerk asked the Council to consider the invoice received from the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership of £1,000.00. In previous years this had not been paid as previous Cllr House had deemed it not value for money within this Parish.

Cllr Rushbrook added that although the public footpath from Station Road to Westminster field was currently being worked on, as type 1 stone had been used rather than being tarmacked as originally promised, the stones would be washed into the river with more heavy rainfall and or the stone would be thrown into the river. It would become rutted as no provision had been made to prevent motorbikes/horses from using the path and would not be the same condition within 1 year. Cllr Rushbrook proposed, Cllr Mitchell seconded and all were in favour and it was

**Resolved:** to reject the 'invoice' of £1,000.00 stating the reasons why.

The Sales Ledger Aged Account Balance report was not received due to insufficient time to prepare.

## **229 HALLS/ROS COMMITTEES MINUTES**

The Halls approved minutes for January 2024, plus the ROS approved minutes for December 2023, February and March 2024 were received for information.

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

Discussion took place about reducing the number of editions that were produced per annum due to the time it took to distribute and this was reliant on volunteers. Cllr White pointed out that several people who joined in the Annual litter pick did so because they read about it in the Newsletter. Clerk added that residents of Sutton-at-Hone always phoned to see if the latest edition was out to collect and it provided information for residents of Southdowns. A suggestion was made to include this subject on the questionnaire that would be available at the St. George's day fete on the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

## **231 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_