

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 5th September 2022 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: R House (Vice Chair)
Cllrs I Blackamore, D Mitchell, T Moyle, C Page,

Cllr R Gough
Cllr P McGarvey,
8 members of the public including M Dunn, DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received in advance from Cllr's Hughes and Stead.

60 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

61 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held 4th July 2022 be approved and signed as a true record.

62 MATTERS ARISING

188 CCTV Policy: Clerk to produce CCTV Policy. **In progress**

189 COMPLAINTS POLICY: Clerk to review Complaints Policy. **In progress**

131 2022 Calendar: Strip of Land on East Hill/Paddock Close – awaiting response from Mar 22

25 Westminster Field Report: Cllr Stewart to produce summary of Parish council's involvement with football pitches at WF. **In progress**

All other matters were resolved.

63 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & CORRESPONDENCE

Member of the public (MoP) questioned police visibility as there had been an increase of anti-social behaviour in the villages such as quad bikes in the river, motorbikes and being ridden along footpaths and in the Heathside. The Chair replied that the local PCSO's had been given an even bigger area to police and were stretched to capacity. He advised that reporting via 111 or online was still the best process as this logged the number of incidents reported and would then trigger a response.

MoP asked if planning permission was required to install advertising on the fences surrounding Oakview Stud Farm and that dogs were heard barking at the weekend. Both matters should be referred to the planning enforcement team at Sevenoaks District council.

UK Power networks had closed Lombard Street for essential repairs. MoP was concerned that the recently installed wooden bollards would be damaged and queried responsibility of repairs. Cllr Gough confirmed it would be UK Power networks.

Correspondence

The Billings group had created a questionnaire via Facebook, regarding the need for a public car park to be built on the field in Jacobs Lane, opposite the school. This would be funded through 'enabling development' – proposal to knock down the red barn on Stack road and build 10

homes. The Parish Council were asked if they would like to be included in future discussions. PC agreed but noted it would still oppose to this application.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Tom Billings and request survey results.

An open letter was received from a Horton Kirby resident regarding the recent open day held by Wessex Solar and their plans for a solar park on Court Lodge land adjacent to the ancient Horton wood. It's aim is to assist the debate for the Solar park and it's impact on the Parish infrastructure and its residents. Councillors thanked the author for the detailed and informative document and would refer to its contents at the appropriate time. The author wished it to be available to the public. Clerk agreed that a copy would be emailed to those that requested one. MoP wrote to council requesting that the Bridges pub should be considered and added as an asset to the community. Cllr House said that this was a good idea but it should be for the community to arrange as it was not for the Council to do so.

MoP wanted to know who was responsible for maintaining the bank adjacent to the footpath in Lombard Street towards Northfields Cottages.

ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries

64 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough stated that with reference to the text accompanying the survey for a car park on the field in Jacobs Lane, there had been no meetings with Billings without the Parish Council's involvement and it was absolutely not the case that a KCC representative thought the plan had some merit. Cllr Gough reiterated that the statement was not accurate and was misleading to the public. Referring to the upcoming zoom meeting with representatives from KCC, SDC, Parish council and residents of Horton Kirby concerning the ongoing situation with Oakview Stud Farm and Lombard Street, Cllr Gough confirmed he would be present along with Mike Payton, KCC Highways. Cllr Gough confirmed that 29 new wooden bollards had been installed along Lombard Street and the remaining black & white plastic ones would be replaced with wooden by the end of the year. Bull Hill/Horton Road junction – there had been some delay with the Highways Improvement Plan(HIP) due to the restructuring of the highways teams at head office but was hopeful that a site meeting would be arranged in due course.

Cllr Rushbrook advised Cllr Gough that 4 chevrons were missing off Franks bridge as the sharp edges could harm horses and that tethers had been fastened into the bridge for washing of horses. It was suggested that the poles left from the missing chevrons could be painted in a reflective material rather than replacing with the chevron signs.

ACTION: Cllr Rushbrook and Stewart to investigate painting the poles.

Cllr Gough left the meeting at 8.10pm

65 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr McGarvey had nothing further to add.

66 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Ostridge was unable to attend.

67 OLD SCHOOL BUILDING

The results of the questionnaire were previously discussed at the ROS Committee meeting on the 1st August 2022, Minute 25:

Questionnaire was available at the Queens Platinum Jubilee fete on the 2nd June, had been advertised on the Parish Council website and Facebook page, posted onto noticeboards, available from the Parish Office and was printed in the July Newsletter which was posted through every household in the Parish: Final results were:

QUESTION	YES	NO	BLANK	TOTAL
I AGREE THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL PROCEEDS TO INVESTIGATE A LOAN OF £800,000 FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD	64	6	10	80
I AGREE THAT THIS MAY GENERATE ADDITIONAL COST TO THE PRECEPT TO ASSIST IN REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN	49	4	27	80
I AGREE THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD FUND THIS THROUGH A COMMUNITY BUSIN	43	7	30	80
I WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUNDING	19	20	41	80
WE SHOULD HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS	57	12	11	80
I BELIEVE THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT PROCEED FURTHER	39	19	22	80

Cllr House said that the Parish Council could borrow money but a distinct process had to be followed of which conducting a public poll was the first step. Considering that only 80 questionnaires returned the number was far too low to proceed further as it was not representative of the Parish. He had worked on a funding bid with Sevenoaks Town Council to include the property as part of a portfolio of buildings that could serve the district council in a number of ways but this had been turned down. Cllr Stead added that public response was insufficient as it could mean the vast majority were not in favour of the Parish Council pursuing the purchase of the Old School. Cllr Stewart stated that the same day that Wide horizons ceased trading, he approached Lewisham Borough Council to offer the PC taking on the building at a peppercorn rent and had explored different options but had received no interest.

In summary, the ROS Committee concluded that with the utmost reluctance, it was not in the Parish Council's interest to proceed with exploring options to purchase the Old School building, Horton Road

68 LOMBARD STREET PARKING AND OAKVIEW STUD FARM

It was noted that the next zoom meeting for all stake holders was via zoom on the 13th September 2022 at 5.00pm.

69 PLANNING

The following were considered and comments resolved. None were received by the Clerk after the agenda had been served to Councillors:

22/021257

11 Forge Lane
Horton Kirby
Kent DA4 9DR

To create a front and rear dormer loft extension. Replacement of the existing windows and doors to the front and rear elevations.

Plans have been amended to reflect a change in the proposed layout of the loft conversion

Proposal for front and rear dormer extension

ACTION: No objection/no comment.

22/00372/LDCEX

Woodlands Park
Three Gates Road
Fawkham
Kent DA3 8NZ

Confirmation of use of land for mixed use wargames, caravan and camp site and 3 no. mobile homes

ACTION: Objection with comments as previously recorded.

22/02053/FUL

Plot 4 Grazing Land

South of Viaduct Terrace

Horton Road, South Darenth, Kent

Change of use of the land for the stationing of 3 touring caravans for occupation by an extended Romany gypsy family

ACTION: Objection – Cllr Rushbrook thanked Cllr Mitchell for the time taken to examine the application and write up a detailed report listing numerous objections. Cllr McGarvey requested a copy.

Clerk to finalise report and submit to SDC and send copy to Cllr McGarvey

70 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Cllrs had received copy of the ‘Civility and Respect’ pledge which has been created in collaboration With SLCC, NALC, OVW and County Associations. Its purpose is to show that the council agrees to treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.

Cllr Mitchell pointed out that there is already similar in place in the Parish Council’s Standing Orders.

The motion was not carried

71 COMMERCIAL WASTE

Clerk had brought to the attention of the Council information from SDC regarding commercial waste and provided quotes from three different companies offering similar services. After discussion, Cllr Rushbrook suggested delaying a decision until more evidence was available.

72 CARD MACHINE

Cllr Blackamore said that following a private party having their damage deposit retained, it was now urgent that a card machine be made available to the parish office to avoid potential damage. Cllr House added that it was ridiculous that this had taken so long to arrange and it was imperative. Clerk apologised as she hadn’t the time to make sure previous figures were up to date.

ACTION: To be resolved at next Halls meeting

73 HR COMMITTEE

The approved Minutes from July 2022 were received for information only.

74 ROS COMMITTEE

The approved Minutes from March 2022 were received for information only.

75 INTERNAL AUDIT 2021-2022 WITH COMMENTS AND FINDINGS

The internal audit for the last financial year was received and the following highlighted findings were Noted:

P5. Nest scheme in place for Clerk. The Employers contribution is based on the minimum rate of 3% of salary. Many of my Clients have reviewed the employers contribution rate and increased the rate to at least match the employee contribution of 5%.

P6. I have suggested a suitable template to following preserving the confidentiality of the tenderers and their tenders, but the resolved Minute should always quote the name of the successful tenderer and amount.

P9. The Practitioner’s Guide on Accountability & Governance published in March 2021 provided a summary of the 2021 changes, which includes reference to a new section on local councils using secure email systems encouraging every Council to have its own email address owned by the Council

rather than relying on the use of personal email addresses. This will reduce the risk of correspondence going astray or delayed.

The Clerk advised that there was 1 Cllr who had NOT adopted the generic email address and 1 Cllr who does not use email.

76 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The schedule of accounts and payments were approved for payments to be made electronically.

77 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Date for copy was for November Newsletter will be 30th September. Cllr Mitchell advised there will not be a Parish Council Christmas Craft Fayre in December as St. Mary's church had already booked a Christmas fair for Saturday 26th November. Clerk confirmed the burial inspection was to be held on 14th September at 10.00am.

78 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd October 2022

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chair:

Date: