

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Village Hall, Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AZ

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 4th April 2023 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Rushbrook - Chair, R House – Vice Chair,
Cllrs I Blackamore, , D Mitchell, C Page, M Stead, J Stewart

Cllr P McGarvey, SDC
5 members of the public including M Dunn, DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

182 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Moyle.

183 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

184 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the last meeting held 6th March be approved and signed as a true record.

185 MATTERS ARISING

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

147 Website/Social media/Newsletter: Request to re-site the green space sign in Saxon Place.

159 Halls Committee: Chairs have been purchased and delivered 2nd March.

All other matters were either completed or are on this agenda.

186 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & CORRESPONDENCE

Member of the public advised the councillors that the missing and damaged bollards in Lombard Street and The Street had still not been fixed.

MoP mentioned the large puddle that appeared after rainfall in the chicane into the Heathside plus access if using a wheelchair was impossible.

Cllr Stewart advised that this section would be looked at as part of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee (ROS) project to improve overall access from Horton Road.

M Dunn, DRiPS, asked Clerk if there were any updates regarding the river path from Station Road to Westminster field. Clerk replied that Jennifer Smith, DVLPS, had emailed to request suitable dates after the Easter break for a site visit with a view to upgrading the path as soon as all practicably possible.

There was no correspondence.

187 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough sent his apologies.

188 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr McGarvey confirmed that after 20 years' service, he would not be standing at the elections in May. He thanked Councillors for their support.

Following news that Sencio Community Leisure had ceased trading on 17th March 23, Cllr McGarvey advised that SDC were working with other stakeholders to look at re-opening the facilities as soon as possible.

189 POLICE MATTERS

No report was available.

No police were in attendance.

190 PLANNING**23/00623/LDCEX**

Beeches Farm Kennels

Canada Farm Road

South Darenth

Kent DA4 9LA

Use of entire building for kennelling purposes

NO OBJECTION

Action: Clerk

23/00680/HOUSE

69 New Road

South Darenth

Kent DA4 9AT

Part one, part two storey rear extension with roof lights. New front porch and loft conversion with rear dormer and two rooflights to front roof slopes. Removed Chimneys. Alterations to fenestration.

OBJECTION: Overdevelopment causing shadowing & loss of privacy. Increase in house size may result in increase in cars in an area already suffering with long term parking problems.

Action: Clerk

22/03195/FUL

Land South of Horton Wood, Mussenden Lane

Horton Kirby

Kent DA4

Erection of 2 x barns for animal housing, food storage, agricultural equipment and cultivation purposes.

OBJECTION: Inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Visual Amenity, Noise smells and disturbance. Traffic generation/highway safety.

ACTION: Clerk

191 KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cllr Hughes visited the site of the Bull Hill/Horton Road/The Street junction with a retired Police traffic Accident Investigator to review the proposals from KCC Highways to improve signage.

Councillors had received a copy of Cllr Hughes initial report and discussed at length.

The Parish Council are unanimous that

- It should not pay for signage that was incorrectly installed in the first instance and cutting back overgrown hedges that are the responsibility of KCC soft landscaping.

- KCC Highways department refusal to consider changing priority without visiting the site since October 2018 - they are failing to recognise and act upon a serious issue with the junction which requires immediate resolution.

Cllr Mitchell proposed, Cllr Stewart seconded and all were in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED: That following confirmation of which department would pay for the correction and improvement of signage this should be completed in the first instance.

Lodge a formal complain to the Local Government Ombudsman that KCC Highways department has not revisited the site since October 2018 to hear Councillors concerns and consider other options that may be available to improve the accident blackspot.

ACTION: Cllr Hughes and Clerk to collate video and historical evidence to support complaint.

192 ST. GEORGES DAY FETE

Cllr Mitchell confirmed that plans were well in advance for the St Georges day fete on Saturday 29th April at the Heathside but volunteers would be needed to help set up and clear away on the day. Cllr Rushbrook, Page and the Clerk indicated their availability.

Cllr Mitchell requested PCSO contact details, Clerk to contact SDFC Juniors to ask if they would like to take part, Clerk to locate banners for display and updated list of paid stall holders

ACTION: Clerk

193 OFFICE I.T.

Clerk had contacted 6 different companies to obtain quotes to redesign office computer layout, recommend new printer and install WiFi to Village and Jubilee hall whilst maintaining optimum security levels. Three potential contractors visited the office and two sent in estimates for the work.

Cllr Mitchell proposed accepting quote from Origin Technical Solutions of £570.00 net, Cllr Stewart seconded and all were in favour. It was therefore

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Origin Tech. Solutions to confirm to go ahead with improvements to office IT and Halls WiFi as soon as possible.

Cllr Hughes advised of a non-pecuniary interest.

194 FREEDOM OF PUBLICATION SCHEME

Councillors had received the updated scheme with the Agenda to read for review and approve.

Decision was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting as the majority of Councillors had not read it.

ACTION: Clerk to add to May 23 Agenda

195 ASSET REGISTER

The updated Asset Register was received for approval.

196 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Budget Monitoring.

The Clerk was unable to provide as NatWest Statements did not include March.

ACTION: Clerk to add to May 23 Agenda

197 HALLS COMMITTEE

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

198 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

After discussion it was decided that there would be no annual Parish Meeting due to lack of business.

199 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Clerk advised that an invoice for £700.00 net was received from Streetlights for two column on Holmesdale hill which had been vandalised by a catapult.

The bolt on the gate at Westminster Field car park had been cut through so that two vehicles, one small car and one small van which were still in the car park when it was locked, could drive out at approximately 7.15pm on Saturday 25th March. CCTV evidence and the registration numbers had been sent to the police.

As agreed at the January 2023 meeting, Minute 147, costs incurred by the Parish Council due to Anti-social behaviour would be noted at each monthly meeting to keep all residents and taxpayers informed.

Cllr Mitchell requested Councillors help on the 29th April for the St. George's Fete risk assessments updated payment list and local PCO's details from the Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk, as above, plus contact SDFC Jnr to ask if they will be taking part.

200 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd May 2023 – The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Cllr Rushbrook gave thanks to Cllr Roger House for 12 years of service as a Parish Councillor particularly with his knowledge of KALC, funding and grants and time taken in designing promotional material for the Parish.

Cllr Mike Stead had also served 12 years as a Parish Councillor and had been instrumental in IT, PROWS and litter picking.

Cllr James Stewart - Cllr Rushbrook recalled James' comments when he became a Councillor 8 years ago that he wanted to 'make a difference' which he certainly had, particularly as present ROS Chair in improving the Parish green spaces.

District Councillor Philip McGarvey was thanked for his continuous support, particularly in the planning department area and dry wit.

All were presented with litter pickers and a bottle of beverage. Unfortunately bespoke plaques had been delayed in the post but would be presented upon arrival.

Chair:

Date: