

## **HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 2 April 2013 in the Jubilee Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr D Mitchell (Chairman)

Cllrs I Blackmore, A Lewis, C Page, M Stead, C Willson and E Wilson

P McGarvey, District Councillor

I Chetham, District Councillor

R Gough, County Councillor

1 member of the public

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs House, Moyle and Wilson

Declarations of Interests: None

#### **148 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March be approved and was signed as a correct record.

#### **149 MATTERS ARISING**

**Post Office Step** still remains unpainted and Cllr Wilson offered to chase up with the owner.

**ACTION BY – Cllr Wilson**

**Water Leak in Millstone Mews** still ongoing. Cllr Roger Gough had established with KCC that this was regarded as Dartford Borough Council's responsibility and awaited their involvement.

**ACTION BY – Clerk to monitor and liaise with Cllr Gough on progress**

**Rotaspikes on Village Hall** extension of deadline for Planning Application had been extended by SDC to enable Council to submit application.

**ACTION BY – Clerk to progress application**

#### **150 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO was on Annual Leave and could not attend. The Clerk reported to the Council how the Theft of the Fire Extinguisher from the Village Hall lobby had been handled and the Police Officer's advice to 'report everything' – as the Police have limited resources covering a wide area they will only patrol areas that are known to have experienced problems. This advice will be published in the Newsletter to encourage residents to report crime.

**ACTION BY – The Clerk newsletter and website item**

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

It was agreed to bear in mind any matters which needed to be considered in the light of the duties imposed by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act throughout the meeting.

### **151 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr Maurice Tripp referred to his letter to the Chairman and subsequent response from the Clerk regarding the Anti Vandal Measures installed at The Village Hall.

He reiterated his great disappointment at the Council's decision to install them. He felt in a low crime area the visual impact of the spikes gave a different message which could be detrimental to Hall bookings. In hoping to reduce vandalism he felt the Council had committed an act of vandalism itself. He asked that at least painting the spikes be considered.

Cllr Blackamore explained that the powder coated option for the spikes had been considered but was ruled out as too expensive. To paint the existing spikes would be very time consuming, hazardous and not be a permanent solution; they would need to be repainted in time. Also as galvanised steel weathers it will become less eye catching.

After some further discussion it was agreed that Cllr Blackamore test some spare spikes with various paints to see the results.

**ACTION BY – Cllr Blackamore**

### **152 REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- Cllr Philip McGarvey reported changes to Sevenoaks District Council's Planning Dept personnel.
- He also reported that fibre optic broadband is coming to the area and that Dark Green Cabinets are being installed to house this.

### **153 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- Cllr Roger Gough reported his conversation with Jamie Finch at KCC regarding the Water Leak previously mentioned and that he hoped DBC would act within the next 5/6 days.
- Kent Fire Service will be coming back to the Parish Council later in the year to discuss the use of the fire station building once services start to be transferred to Swanley Fire Station. He believed closure is inevitable for late this year or early 2014.
- Dartford Grammar Schools are changing their admissions criteria by removing named Parishes but to include LB of Bexley. Cllr Gough will be raising opposition to this as it could disadvantage local school children and will keep the Parish Councils informed via e-mail.

**ACTION BY – Cllr Gough**

### **154 PLANNING**

The Parish Council considered the following plans.

SE/13/00616/LBCALT

Franks Hall, Franks Lane

Internal alterations to facilitate reversion of building from office use to original residential use as a single dwelling

Resolved NO OBJECTIONS

**The following were received for information only:**

SE/13/00636/WTPO

Tree Tops, Holmesdale Hill

Consent for Tree work to be carried out to tree covered by Tree Preservation Order

The following decision notices have been received:

SE/12/03321/HOUSE

66 East Hill

Erection of second storey to side and rear extension. GRANTED

SE/11/01874/FUL

The Red Barn, Stack Road

Conversion of barn to residential use. GRANTED

## **155 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **Schedule Of Accounts**

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts, as submitted, be approved and payments made accordingly.

### **Budget vs Actual Update**

This document was received for information.

The Clerk reported that there will be future expenditure not accounted for regarding Rates payable on the Westminster Field. The building is to be surveyed and once the details have been established the Clerk will report back. The Building may be eligible to receive 'Community Sports Club Relief'.

### **ACTION BY – The Clerk**

Also a change to the provision of Black Sacks which are made available for sale to the public must be first bought from Sevenoaks District Council depots, not obtained for free. The Council felt the cost was negligible and as it is recouped from the sale of the Black Sacks which are sold at no profit, this should be continued so as not to inconvenience residents.

RESOLVED to continue to supply black sacks to residents for purchase in line with clear sacks and garden sacks.

#### **156 LINE MANAGEMENT OF CLERK**

As the Clerk is new the role and has asked that the Council appoint 1 or 2 Councillors as a point of contact for day to day issues that may arise.

Training needs were highlighted and the extra hours that have accrued over the first month. Cllr Page and the Chairman volunteered to be on call with the Chairman having already met with the Clerk to discuss how she was settling into the job. The extra hours worked in March were approved and paid.

Cllr McGarvey recommended the Clerks at West Kingsdown, Eynsford and Crockenhill as helpful sources of information as they operate in similar sized Parishes.

The Clerk was grateful for all offers of support.

#### **157 ST GEORGES DAY EVENT**

The Chairman reported that everything was progressing as it should and hoped for sunshine! Leaflets had been delivered to homes in the Parish and the event extensively advertised on Notice Boards, in shops, schools etc. The plans to have a Parish Council stand and a questionnaire for residents would give the Parish Council a great opportunity for public engagement.

#### **158 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME**

The Council considered a request from KALC as to whether it wished to adopt the awards scheme which is supported by the High Sheriff of Kent and Chairman of KCC. The award aims to acknowledge and give recognition to those who have made a significant contribution to their local community.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would adopt the scheme and advertise for nominations.

**ACTION BY – The Clerk**

#### **159 STREET LIGHTING**

The latest Service Inspection Report detailed a great deal of work which needed to be carried out. As the last maintenance bill recently cost in the region of £7,000, this new report outlining similar costs was most unwelcome.

Cllr McGarvey reported that similar problems had been encountered in neighbouring parishes and was due to the previous Contractor failing to deliver sufficient care and attention to maintaining these lights over a long period of time.

After much discussion it was decided that as some of the work was deemed as emergency measures to prevent further dilapidation the Council should agree to having the suggested necessary works and review how this issue had arisen.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The suggested urgent works be carried out
- 2) The history of the lighting maintenance be reviewed.

**ACTION BY – The Clerk**

- 1) **Instruct Direct Technical Services**
- 2) **Review past paperwork and report back to Council.**

**160 SDC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

Cllr Wilson had reviewed this Draft document and with input from Cllr McGarvey outlined the proposals for the Council for information.

**161 WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER**

The following items were put forward for publication:

- Police advice as previously discussed (Newsletter and Website)
- Details of the new website (Newsletter)
- Previous Minutes to start from Jan 2013 (Website)

Cllr Page and Cllr Moyle have volunteered to proof read the Newsletter before it goes to print.

**ACTION BY – The Clerk**

- 1) **Website management**
- 2) **Oversee newsletter progress with Michele Ellis**
- 3) **Liaise with Cllrs Page and Moyle when proof ready**

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

Chairman

Date