

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 7th October 2024 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr D Mitchell Chair, H Rohard Vice, Cllrs I Blackamore, T Moyle,
C Page, D Wakefield

Sevenoaks District Cllr A White, L Ball
KCC Leader Cllr R Gough
Members of the public: two including Mr M Dunn from DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk
The meeting started at 7.30pm

81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Hollands

82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

83 MINUTES

- **Resolved:** the minutes of the last meeting held on the 2nd September 2024 were signed as a true record.

84 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 131: Strip of land at East Hill/Paddock Close. **In progress**

Mn 59 Financial Matters: Complaint acknowledged 3/07/24 from Npower regarding £3550 deducted from bank account despite receiving 18 months' worth of credit notes for unused MPAN. Eight week ack. letter rec'd 30/08/24. Named complaint handler provided.
In progress

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

85 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC and CORRESPONDENCE

There were no questions.

Correspondence was received from a resident of Horton Kirby asking for speed bumps on Forge Lane due to an increase in the number of vehicles travelling too fast along the narrow road.

Cllr Mitchell said that for Kent County Council (KCC) to consider any works to public roads, evidence must be provided to Highways such as speed monitoring traps which could be loaned from Sevenoaks District Highway and members of the public can ask for directly. Cllr Rohard added that the black cables could be used for a set period of time and will collect a larger amount of data. These are called 'monitoring tubes' which record number of vehicles and speed.

Member of public commented that the same situation existed for Holmesdale Road and Hill, south Darenth, with vehicles using it as a cut through when the M25/Dartford Tunnel were congested. Many vehicles were not aware of the tight bend at the bottom of the hill and as there is no pathway, pedestrians were vulnerable. Clerk had brought this to the attention of Kent Highways but was advised it did not meet the criteria to have extra signage.

Action: Clerk to contact resident and advise accordingly.

86 POLICE MATTERS

PC Owen was not present and no report was received.

Cllr Gough had not arrived and so Agenda item 9 County Councillors Report was brought forward:

87 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Ball reminded Councillors that Sevenoaks District Council had informed residents via the 'In-shape' magazine of the roll out of the new bag for life green recycling sacks, they were weighted down, waterproof and would probably hold up to the equivalent of 3 non-recyclable bags.

Council were aware that there had been several ongoing planning enforcement issues within the Parish and following a meeting with District Councillors and representatives from SDC, Cllr Ball reported back that the enforcement department would look at how to improve their systems.

Cllr Ball extended his invitation to his Race Night at the Village hall this Friday 11th October

88 SOLAR FARM WORKING GROUP REPORT

The report and recommendations, from the Solar Farm Working Group (*Appendix 1*) to the Parish Council, concerning the establishment of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO") to be called the Horton Kirby and South Darenth Community Village Trust (HK&SDVT), was circulated to all councillors 10th September.

The report provided information on the background and development of the WG, the constitution, objectives, trustees and finally, recommendations for the PC to consider.

A question had been received, by the office, and forwarded to the WG 2nd October. A response from the WG was received on the 4th October for the meeting (*Appendix 2*).

Cllr Rohard proposed to accept all the recommendations on page 5, point 4.

Cllr Michell counter proposed, Cllr Page seconded and Cllr Moyle was in favour therefore it was;

Resolved:

- To approve the constitution as set out in 4.1.
- Authorises the WG to proceed to make alterations as may arise during the submitting, 4.2.

Not to appoint Cllrs Blackamore and Wakefield as Parish Council Founder Trustees or Roger House as Resident Founder Trustee as recommended by the Working Group 4.3 until all Councillors had the opportunity to consider if they wanted to put themselves forward.

- **Action:** Clerk to report the above resolutions to the WG.

Cllr Roger Gough arrived, therefore Agenda item 7 was returned to (non-procedural motion)

89 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Roger Gough gave a brief update:

Franks Lane bridge would have another set of reflective narrow bridge signs affixed using tamper proof screws.

No further updates regarding the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with Kent Highways response to another accident at the Bull Hill/The Street junction and missing or broken gates on public footpaths SD154/155

90 GOV.UK DOMAIN AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Included in the conclusion of the 2023-24 annual external audit, Forvis Mazars advised that to assist with compliance with GDPR, Clerks must create a Gov.Uk domain and councillor email addresses prior to 31st March 2025 otherwise this could result in a 'matter' being recorded on the 24/25 AGAR. As of October 2024 all UK Government services will be monitored for WCAG2.2 compliance/accessibility. From a list of approved registrars who had signed the new agreement with Nominet, clerk had contacted Aubergine, Parish Online, Easy Websites and Hugo Fox for details and prices.

Hugo Fox had been used in the past and would offer the most competitive pricing structure to rebuild the Parish Council website and provide up to 10 email addresses. A grant from the Governments Central Digital and Data Office, CDDO, of £100 would bring the cost of 1 year of emails to £109.99 net and the website £199 net to transfer all data and update.

- **Action:** Clerk to forward summary of web providers prior to final decision.

91 PLANNING

To consider any planning applications including those received by the Clerk after the agenda had been served to Councillors.

24/02400/MMA

Land North West of Horton Wood
Canada Farm Road
South Darenth, Kent

Minor Material Amendment 22/02599/FUL – amendments to site layout, additional PV arrays and removal of a section of the new access track.

- **Action:** No Objection/No further comments

92 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Following retirement of Blue Skies accountant Mike Platte, Clerk had asked neighbouring town and parish councils for their auditors. However, none were taking on new clients. Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd., who act in accordance with the accounting practices set out in the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioner Guide

were contacted and can provide the required services for £70 per hour net plus the HMRC standard travel charges of 45p per mile.

Councillors had no questions and were in agreement.

- **Action:** Clerk to appoint Mulberry LAS Ltd as internal auditors for the Parish Council.

93 CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT (*Appendix 3*)

Previously noted at the Hall Committee meeting on the 17th September, Clerk informed the council that the Notice of conclusion of the audit for the year ended 31st March 2024 was published on noticeboards and the website on the 19th September 2024 along with Annual Internal Report, Section 1, 2 and External Auditors Report and Certificate for 2023/24.

94 ANNUAL INSURANCE POLICY

Noted at the Hall Committee meeting on the 17th September 2024. Clerk advised that following an update from Clear Councils, the premium for the 2nd year of a 3 year long term insurance agreement was £5293.17 plus administration fee of £25 and Insurance Premium Tax of £635.18. This had increased by £1146 due to the recent claims for vandalism.

- **Action:** Clerk to instruct payment

95 FINANCIAL MATTERS

September schedule of accounts

Were received and payments to the value of £20,598.06 were approved for payment by the Council., including direct debits and standing orders.

Budget & Reserves Monitoring

Cllr Rohard asked if other nominal codes could be looked at to see if reductions could be made now that there would be no fireworks event income.

Clerk produced document (*Appendix 4*) which showed reserves were down by 30% since March due to new fencing and extensive playground repairs prior to the vandalism incident.

- **Action:** to discuss further at budget meetings, Clerk to investigate reserves rules

96 RESOLVED HALLS/ROS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Halls July 2024 and ROS August 2024 approved Minutes had been received by the Council for information only.

97 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Newsletter will be going to print w/e 11 October in time for November distribution.

98 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday November 4th 2024.

The meeting finished at 8.33 pm

Chair _____

Date _____