



## **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> January 2024 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs P Rushbrook Chair, I Blackamore Vice, D Mitchell, T Moyle, H Rohard

District Cllrs A White and L Ball

Members of the public: 21 including D Hollands & S Dove SPC

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.40pm

#### **160 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Were received from Cllrs Page and Pedley

#### **161 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

#### **162 MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were signed as a true record.

#### **163 MATTERS ARISING**

##### ***Appendix 1***

#### **164 POLICE MATTERS**

Clerk advised that an email had been sent to PC O'Callaghan inviting him to this or any future Parish council meeting but had yet to receive a reply.

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

Clerk informed Councillors that notice had been received from Cllr Glyn Hughes that he would be resigning as Parish Councillor with immediate effect. Chair had thanked him for all of his help and wished him well.

Due to large number of member of the public attendance, Chair moved to bring forward item 10 of the agenda;

#### **166 PLANNING**

##### **23/03181/FUL**

Chimmens Solar Farm

Speedgate Farm

Mussenden Lane

Horton Kirby, Kent

Construction and operation of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains. New Access track.

Following Cllr Hughes resignation, Cllr H Rohard had agreed to join the working group for Solar Farm applications as already planning inspector for the Parish Council.

Cllr Rohard read out the recommendations received from the working group that the Parish Council should submit to Sevenoaks *Appendix 2*.

Members of the public sought clarification of the Parish Council's position and Cllr Rohard and Rushbrook confirmed that the PC would be objecting and would also request that this planning application be considered by the Development Management Committee at District Council Level. Green belt land, effect on listed buildings and conservation area were discussed and Cllr Rohard verified that other material considerations would be added to the Parish council's official response. Clerk advised she would post information on the PC website about conditions that SDC would accept and how residents should respond online to the Solar Farm application. Cllr Mitchell reminded the public that each person, not just each household could raise their objections should they wish to do so.

**Action:** Clerk to submit the Parish Council's objection to SDC before the deadline

#### **167     REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr A White informed the Council that at a Fawkham Parish Council meeting, landowners of the Chimmens Solar Farm planning application were present and questioned about the proposal. A meeting regarding SDC 'Plan 2040' concerning the proposal to build up to 2,500 homes at Pedham Place at Farningham Village Hall was well attended. Along with other local Parish Councils, Farningham PC would be publishing their objection in order for the public to view.

Cllr White had received correspondence from a Millen Court resident concerning the weir and damaged fence within the weir. Re-opening of lines of communication was urged between the Parish Council and Millen Court residents to make progress with the condition of the weir.

The 3 extra salt bins that had been funded by Cllr White had been well received for which he was thanked.

Cllr L Ball explained the planning procedures for Pedham Place and as he is a member of the Development Management Committee he would not be commenting due to 'predetermination.' KCC had informed Cllr Ball that following resurfacing of East Hill, the dropped kerbs will be raised.

Cllr Ball was questioned why SDC had collected household rubbish 2 days later than advertised over the Christmas period. Refuse lorries had to return to Dunbrik depot to empty their loads as they had not anticipated the amount to be collected.

#### **168     REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Apologies were received from Cllr Gough. No report was received.

#### **169     EVENTS**

Cllr Mitchell requested St. George's day fete to be moved to 4<sup>th</sup> May from 27<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr H Rohard, D Mitchell and the Clerk will form working group to plan all aspects of the event.

**Action:** Clerk to amend date to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Action:** working group to arrange virtual/in person meeting to discuss the event as soon as possible.

Cllr Moyle advised an article would be written for the March Newsletter to highlight the celebrations planned for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. These will include authentic 1940's food from the W.I., local performer to sing songs from the '40s and visual displays.

Dave Hollands was asked about sourcing a gas beacon to which had been unsuccessful.

**Action:** Cllr Rushbrook to investigate beacons.

**Action:** Cllr Moyle to supply item to Newsletter before 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Clerk asked the Council if they wished to consider planning an Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Councillors agreed that this wasn't necessary and to just hold the statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Should any awards be given, they can be included in this meeting.

#### **170 2024 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME**

No nominations from councillors or the public had been received. Closing date is 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

#### **171 BUDGET REPORT AND 2024-25 PRECEPT**

The latest 'budget v actual' report to end of month 9 was received. *Appendix 3.*

The budget for 2024-25 was prepared by the RFO, Committees and Council members. The precept request for this period shall be £128,087. The tax base for this period has slightly increased to 1297.57 which means for a Band D property, the Parish Council portion will equate to £98.71 per year which equals £1.898 per week, an increase of 16.67 pence per week. *Appendix 4*

Cllr Blackmore proposed, Cllr Mitchell seconded and all were in favour. It was therefore

**RESOLVED:** that a precept of £128,087.00 is raised for this Parish.

#### **172 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The schedule of accounts were received and payments to the value of £15,244.81 were approved for payment by the Council.

Pre-authorisation Damage deposit of £300.00 incorrectly taken was signed by the Chair.

Month 2 payments had been presented May 2023 and the report to the value of £14,837.75 plus regular direct debits was retrospectively signed by the Chair.

Chair signed reconciled Unity Trust and NatWest bank sheets to date.

#### **173 INTERIM AUDIT REPORT**

The interim audit report from April Skies was received. It stated that 'overall Council has successfully maintained a satisfactory system of financial control.'

#### **174 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approved Minutes from the ROS Committee October 2023 were received for information only.

Approved confidential Minutes from the H.R. Committee July and November 2023 were received for information only.

#### **175 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The updated Terms of Reference were received from the HR Committee, noting that dates for meetings had changed.

#### **176 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

There was no information or costs to receive for November.

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

**Action:** Clerk to forward updated timetable of regular halls activities to Cllr Mitchell. All copy from Councillors and regular hirers to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> January for inclusion in the March edition of the Parish Council Newsletter.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Chair will pass a procedural motion to exclude the public from the following agenda item because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**178 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 5<sup>TH</sup> February 2024

Meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

## Appendix 1

MATTERS ARISING	
COMMITTEE	Parish Council
DATE	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
UPDATED	28 <sup>th</sup> November

### 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 Kate Jackson 30 Oct 23

**191 KCC Highways** HIP: Bull Hill Jn, Holmesdale Rd/Hill, Rays Hill/the Street – **Dec Agenda Item**

**107 Planning** – Mussenden Lane Stables – OBJECT. Completed

**128 Youth Work Provision** – In progress

**130 Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Rohard in progress, no further update to date.

### 132 Financial Matters

Salt bins had been purchased – waiting for grit delivery before putting in situ  
Jungle Swing Trail for HS. Start date of 02 Jan 24