

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 6th March 2023 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Rushbrook, Chair,
Cllrs I Blackamore, , D Mitchell, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, J Stewart

Cllr R Gough, KCC
Cllr P McGarvey, SDC
7 members of the public including M Dunn, DRiPS

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

164 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

165 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Clerk requested the Chair to delete 'Eynsford' from February Minute number 155 and it was then **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the last meeting held 9th January 2023 be approved and signed as a true record.

166 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.

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

158 Financial Matters: Playground inspections are booked for March 23.

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

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

167 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident had contacted the Parish office to ask why the Parish Council is spending lots of money on things that are being abused most and asked what facilities were provided for the older generation in the Parish that is worth visiting or what help they could get supplied by the Parish Council that all tax payers are paying for.
Cllr House advised that funding for the hooped signs were approved as dementia friendly as a national exercise carried out by the National Association of Local Council and had been paid for by a Central Government fund. Vandalised facilities had to be fixed for health & safety reasons. Cllr Rushbrook pointed out that the signs are to be included into a walking map which is being paid for and developed by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership and the 2 extra benches had been purchased as a result of receiving National Lottery funding to pay for the Queens Platinum Jubilee last year. Clerk mentioned that the Heathside and Westminster field

were for all ages to enjoy and the Village hall hosts the Local history society, the Gardening Club, W.I. meetings, Short Mat Bowls and Table tennis at a subsidised rate to make the classes more affordable. Cllr House also pointed out that the Parish Council does its best to monitor and promote the care of its land and facilities and setting the budget is performed with the utmost care and consideration.

- Member of the public (MoP) asked if there was any update from Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) regarding planning enforcements notices at Oakview Stud Farm. Clerk advised no updates had been received at the Parish office.
- MoP voiced concerns about the eradication of the grass verge in Jacobs Lane caused by large tractor wheels and the bank opposite the church caused by cars parking.
- Clerk received correspondence from a resident of the Parish who was concerned that the path that runs along the River Darent from Station Road to Westminster field was not accessible for Motability scooters and prams as there wasn't a dropped kerb. A sign advertising the opening times of the car park at Westminster field was also requested.
- Further correspondence was received about the same path, which is a public right of way SD151 and managed by Kent County Council, that motorbikes, horses and pony & traps have been seen using the path to gain entrance to Westminster field as the wooden chicanes at either end have been illegally removed.

Clerk reminded Council that this section of the Darent Valley Path had been earmarked by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership for upgrading and are awaiting a start date. Discussion ensued regarding the long waiting time for any works to start and chicanes were needed to prevent further damage whilst trying to maintain accessibility for all.

Cllr Gough requested to be copied in on any correspondence and would be contacting the relevant departments in KCC for a response.

- Correspondence from Horton Kirby resident regarding ongoing problem with fly-tipping in School lane, suggesting a width restriction with a suitable key facility positioned just after the houses to deter 'vans' and asking if the Parish Council would support a request if made to KCC highways. Clerk to refer.

Cllr Gough had replied that due to budget restraints and restricting a public highway by any means it would be very doubtful that it would secure approval. He also pointed out that a joint project recently undertaken by KCC and SDC was successful and a prosecution against a fly-tipper caught in School Lane was forthcoming.

ACTION: Clerk to contact residents to update, DVLP, KCC Highways and other relevant departments.

Response had been received from Devon Road surgery to a letter sent on behalf of the Parish Council about many residents complaints that they could not get through to the Doctors surgery to make appointments and that a weekly visit to Southdowns had been cut.

Practice Manager replied explaining that telephony system had recently been changed and the GP weekly clinic at Southdowns was a change in provision but housebound patients would continue to have access to home visits either by the Paramedic Home visiting service or by GP visit.

Full reply is attached as *appendix 1*.

168 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough asked to be copied in on any correspondence regarding the Darent Valley river path and would be contacting KCC staff to request updates.

Cllr Gough stated that there had been a five fold increase in pot holes since the recent cold and wet weather and KCC had significantly increased the number of patching up of pot holes in the district.

The budget for the 23 – 24 financial year had been finalised and acknowledged that tough decisions had been made.

169 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr McGarvey had sent annual copy of council tax precepts for information to the Clerk and forwarded to Councillors for information.

Also received was recent training notes from Sevenoaks district council covering 'permission in principle' planning advice and suffix descriptions of applications.

Cllr McGarvey advised the Parish Council that April would be his last meeting as he would not be standing as District Councillor in the May elections.

170 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Ostridge was unable to attend but gave the following figures from January 2023 onwards;

3 attempt vehicle thefts

1 burglary

One RTC

1 Abandoned vehicle

1 fire

1 criminal damage

1 nuisance vehicle

1 shop lifting

1 obstruction

171 PLANNING

No planning applications had been received for consideration.

172 KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councillors had received proposed improvements for the Bull Lane/Horton Road junction from Nigel Rowe at KCC Highways for their consideration. Cllrs Blackmore and Hughes had studied the drawings and photographs and had several reservations about the recommendations.

Approximate cost of £6,500 plus a design fee of £1000 in advance was not accepted especially as it included cutting back over 40m of overgrown vegetation which KCC was responsible for and the wrong signs had been installed in the first instance.

Cllr Rushbrook expressed his frustration that despite the Parish Council asking KCC Highways to change the priority for several years, even before the emotive fatality that occurred last year, it appeared that Highways would not reconsider. Cllr Gough suggested that the Parish Council should go back to the department with its recommendations including analysis.

ACTION: Cllr's Blackmore and Hughes to work on alternative proposals and present to KCC Highways (West).

173 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.

Clerk had been asked by the W.I. if they were to cover refreshments in the Jubilee Hall as they had in the past, Cllr Mitchell advised it was being organised.

Clerk checked that the application was being logged with Sevenoaks District Council Safety Advisory Group (SAG). Cllr Mitchell also confirmed this was being dealt with.

Clerk advised that a budget of £1,500 had been allocated under s137 which would cover costs of the fete.

174 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

175 ANTHONY ROPER TRUST

Cllr Moyle proposed, Cllr House seconded, all were in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED: that Mr Roy Cockburn remain as trustee to the Anthony Roper Trust on behalf of HK & SD Parish Council for the period of one year from February 2023.

176 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

Clerk had sent all Councillors a copy of the updated risk assessment for approval. There were no questions.

ACTION: Clerk to Minute approval and add to website.

177 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Clerk explained that the survey had been carried out by 'Rural Kent, Action with Communities' on behalf of SDC in June 2022 after Royal Mail failed to deliver the survey to over half of Parish residents in January 2022. The survey is carried out periodically to identify needs of older residents and to ascertain if there are any shortfalls in affordable housing provision within the Parish. 1603 survey were distributed with 212 being returned, a 13% response rate.

The housing Manager was due to discuss the findings with Councillors but Clerk had not received a reply to invitation. The survey is to be made publicly available by publishing on the website.

178 SEVENOAKS OAKS CPRE COMMITTEE

Councillors unanimously agreed to decline an invitation to join the Sevenoaks District branch of 'Campaign to Protect Rural England'.

ACTION: Clerk to inform CPRE

179 ROS COMMITTEE

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

180 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Clerk advised that £227.50 had been spent in February on removing fly tip from the Top Paddock, South Darenth and repairing the door and lights on the toilet block in the Heathside which had been vandalised.

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 tax-payers informed.

181 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th April 2023

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chair:

Date: