



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 2nd October 2023 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Rushbrook Chair, I Blackamore Vice, G Hughes, D Mitchell, T Moyle, C Page, D Pedley, H Rohard,

Cllrs A White and L Ball, District Councillors

Members of the public: 6, including; D Hollands and S Dove, SPCA

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Gough.

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

101 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held 29th August 2023 were signed as a true record.

102 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 131: Strip of land at East Hill/Paddock Close. Purchase from SDMC for peppercorn amount. **ACTION:** Clerk contact solicitor. Invicta Law no longer deals with PC, SDC no, Martin Tolhurst no, Furley Page emailed 16 7 25 Aug. Brachers, Thomson Snell, Passmore, Whitehead Monckton. **Thomson Snell & Passmore replied 18 Sept. Approx costs £1,500 + vat and disbursements (land registry £45) – undertake searches?**

Cllr Mitchell asked if KALC had been committed as she thought that they provided legal advice as part of the membership.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KALC and follow up their advice.

191 KCC Highways HIP:

GH to Collate video and factual evidence Bull Hill/Horton Road junction improvements. Clerk 27 Jul – Nigel Rowe will call to set up date. chased Nigel Rowe KCC highways for site visit date and contact re. Bull Hill 25 Aug. **Chased 12 Sept.**

Cllr Mitchell queried why a complaint to KCC had not already been sent as previously agreed. Cllr Hughes replied that although video and written information had been collated, as a non-professional he was not satisfied and would rather back up a letter of complaint with qualified information and evidence.

ACTION: Cllr Hughes information be circulated to all Councillors with assistance from Clerk for their consideration.

85 Q's and Correspondence

Broken swing was referred to ROS and is being dealt with

86 Planning

Completed

93 Insurance Renewal

Completed BHIB Council (now Clear Councils) effective 01 October

94 Website Provider

Agenda Item 13

95 Accountant for 2024-5

Completed – April skies

97 Confidential/SDC

Garden bags increase in price by £5 effective 01 September 23

103 POLICE MATTERS

PC Gareth Mahoney was unable to attend. No additional information was received.

104 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC and CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman of HK Bowls reported that access to their car park had been withdrawn from SDFC due to the gates being left open to their car park, the amount of rubbish left, a bowls club member being threatened and reports that the football club had made copies of the key. The car park was also being used during bowls open season, contrary to the agreement.

A contact from SDFC had requested a meeting to which the Chairman had agreed and will update the parish council.

The chairman asked if the parish council had any objections if they requested KCC to paint double yellow lines over the entrance as cars had been parking and blocking entry into their car park. The Parish council had none and would support their request by also contacting KCC Highways.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC Highways

Roots from trees on Parish Council land were starting to damage the path around the bowls green and the shade was damaging the grass. Would the PC allow the club to trim the trees.

ACTION: Cllr Blackmore will contact Treestyle and arrange a date for a site visit.

105 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Alan White reported that he had met PC Gareth Mahoney at the Farningham Parish Council meeting. Police had referred the matter of a number of damaged cars to the Metropolitan police as that is where the offender lives.

The pony & trap situation would continue to be monitored and it was not an offence for them to be using the highway at night time

Nuisance quad bikes had not been specifically identified and the police would welcome any information from the public.

Lombard Street pot holes had been repaired although the road immediately outside the entrance to Oakview Stud Farm would require re-surfacing.

Damaged bollard had been reported.

The 'Horton Kirby' sign at the junction of Eglantine/Mussenden lane and Rays Hill had been damaged by cars skidding on ice. Cllr White will be pursuing a salt box and repaired sign.

Meeting similar to 'Call for Sites' had been held and further information will be available shortly.

106 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

There was no report from Cllr Gough

107 PLANNING

To consider any planning applications, including those received by the clerk after the agenda had been served to Councillors;

23/02097/FUL

Land opposite Mussenden Farm

Mussenden Lane

Horton Kirby

Kent

RESOLVED: Objection as previously reported to Sevenoaks District Council

109 WESTMINSTER FIELD CAR PARK

Cllr Rushbrook explained that at the August meeting of the ROS Committee (Minute 112), it had been resolved to put the installation of an ANPR system at Westminster Field car park on the full parish council meeting agenda for all parish councillors to consider following a majority vote. Residents living within the parish boundary would not have to pay – they would be able to register their car details at the Parish office creating a ‘white’ list.

Charges would be minimal and decided by full parish council.

The barrier and closing times would still be in operation.

There would be no cost to the Parish Council who would receive 70% of the net revenue. This would go towards the upkeep of Westminster field, including maintenance and asb costs.

Concerns were raised by Councillors that cars would be displaced and would park on The Street.

Cllr Rushbrook replied that the football representative had been at the ROS Committee meeting and agreed that car sharing would be encouraged. Swanley Town Council had a similar scheme within a housing estate and had no problems with displaced cars.

It was agreed that should the project go ahead, proper designated spaces with clear marking including hatching lines at the entrance and exit of the temporary overflow car park.

Cllr Mitchell requested that a clause should be applied to the contract stating that if a parking fine was mistakenly issued, the Parish Council reserve the right to request that the Car Park installation company should cancel the tickets forthwith.

Cllr Rohard advised the Councillors that business rates would be due if a paid car park was in operation.

ACTION: Clerk to consult with other councils that had a paid and ticketed car park. Clerk to establish if business rates would increase. Clerk to investigate if a trial was feasible. Motion to appear on November Agenda.

110 SOLAR FARM WORKING GROUP

Cllr Hughes produced a report for the council as a result of a working group (w.g.) meeting held earlier that day:

This item is to update the PC upon the current situation regarding the Working Group and to describe the planned future actions proposed by it.

As previously reported the WG consists of four persons, two councillors, Glyn Hughes and Ian Blackamore, and two residents Neville Machin and Roger House. as our Chair due to his experience in these matters.

The WG was set up by the PC to create a charitable trust to manage and distribute where appropriate, the funds to be received from WSE Horton Wood Ltd. Also known as Wessex Solar Farm.

The WG is currently working through the complicated matter of drafting a trust deed, outlining the structure, and workings of the Trust. This needs to be a legal document and to be compliant with the law and Charity Commission regulations. Once this document has been finalised the WG will seek legal advice. This will entail some legal fees, details of which we do not yet have. But it should be noted that the cost will be significantly reduced due to the WG carrying out the initial drafting.

The constitution details who will sit on the board of trustees, how long for, how they will be appointed and who can apply for funds and for what purpose the funds within the trust can be used.

It also details the administrative structure required to set up and run the Trust. Once the document has been completed and ratified it will be presented to the parish council.

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

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council supports the ongoing investigations of the w.g. to:

Draft the Trust deed and ancillary documents

Obtain legal scrutiny

Set up the trustees

Register the charity

Set up banking arrangements

Cllr Hughes asked if the Parish Council would agree to loan the w.g. a sum of money for a solicitor to scrutinise the draft trust deed they were currently working on in order for a charitable trust to be created. Cllr Hughes proposed a sum of no more than £3,000 to be paid from reserves to which Cllr Blackamore seconded and all were in favour.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council would loan the working group a sum of no more than £3,000 for legal costs incurred to produce a Trust deed.

Cllr Hughes asked that should a different planning application be submitted for a similar scheme, would the parish council wish for the current w.g. to continue to investigate the submission and present their findings to full council.

It was established that each potential application would be judged on its own merits and represent the parish council's views and be reported independently of the current Wessex Solar proposal.

Cllr Hughes proposed that the current w.g. should continue on behalf of the parish council, Cllr Blackamore seconded the motion, 4 for 2 against and therefore

RESOLVED: that should any future planning applications similar to Wessex Solar Farm be submitted to SDC, the working group on behalf of HK & SD Parish council, would establish communications with the applicant and gather information to present to full council.

111 EVENTS

Cllr Moyle reported that for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings, there would be a national beacon lighting ceremony at 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June. A professional musician would be in attendance to sing 1940 popular songs, there would be posters/slides and D-Day photos on show in the village hall and the W.I. would be dressing up 1940's style and selling refreshments. Dave Hollands, Saxon Place Association was looking into a gas lit beacon. Full details would be in the March 2024 Newsletter.

Cllr Rushbrook confirmed that the Fireworks and Bonfire event was confirmed for Sunday 5th November. Fish & Chips, Sweets, Candy Floss, Ice Cream W.I. hot beverages were all confirmed and were awaiting confirmation from the Scouts regarding BBQ. St. Johns Ambulance had been confirmed and Clerk had forwarded all documents received from Cllr Rushbrook regarding the Safety Advisory Group department at Sevenoaks District Council.

Leaflets would be distributed with the October Newsletter.

N.B. Timings were confirmed after the meeting as: Gates open 5.00pm. Lighting of bonfire 6.00pm.

Fireworks Display 7.00pm

112 WEBSITE PROVIDER

Clerk advised the Councillors that an alternative website provider had been found costing much less than Hugo Fox at £100 per year. Spectulise are based in Sevenoaks and provide websites for Farningham and Eynsford parish councils as an example. All Councillors had been forwarded the link prior to the meeting and the Clerk was hoping that Cllr Pedley could become an administrator to help with content.

ACTION: Clerk to action Spectulise to take over management of website and arrange SSL certificate, ongoing support and updates to the platform.

113 ANTHONY ROPER TRUST

Cllr Moyle explained the background to the trust which was now known as 'Roper Charity'. It had been established over 400 years ago by Anthony Roper who, through selling land in London in the late 19th century, created a trust for the interest to be distributed between Farningham, Eynsford & Crockenhill (as the parish was originally) and Horton Kiby & South Darenth. Each parish would receive an annual proportion of the money which is to be split equally between education needs, the poor and pensions. Representatives of HK & SD should be 3 trustees of which 2 should be nominated by the parish council. As Roy Cockburn will be retiring February 2024, the Council need to start considering who should take over – they need not be a councillor but should have access to online banking. The trust was also in need of better publicity to prevent the annual amounts rolling over.

ACTION: Parish Council to ratify new Trustee by January 2024

114 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Schedule Of Accounts

The schedule of accounts were received and payments were approved. There were no questions. Chair was unable to sign reconciled bank sheets as September month had yet to be reconciled.

115 INTERNAL AUDIT 2021-2022 WITH COMMENTS AND FINDINGS

The Certified Annual Governance and Accountability return and the External Auditors Certificate were received for information only. The report showed no major or minor issues or scope for improvement for 2023/24. there were no questions.

ACTION: Documents had been posted to website

116 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Pending costs plus labour for replacement swing at Saxon Place.

117 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Cllr Mitchell was awaiting Chair report and Planning Applications prior to print run which would be Wednesday 4th October.

ACTION: Clerk

118 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th November 2023

Meeting closed at 9.23pm

Chair _____

Date _____