

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 9th January 2023 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 8.00 pm

Present: P Rushbrook, Chair, R House Vice Chair
Cllrs I Blackamore, G Hughes, D Mitchell, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, J Stewart

Cllr R Gough KCC,
7 members of the public including M Dunn DRiPS, D Holland and S Dove SCPA

In attendance: L Johnson, Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

132 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received in advance from SDC Cllr P McGarvey

133 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

134 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the last meeting held 5th December 2022 be approved and signed as a true record.

135 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

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

136 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & CORRESPONDENCE

Resident advised the council that two bollards had from Lombard Street and one at the bottom of Bull hill had been knocked over/pulled out. Cllr Gough will look into this.

Resident asked if there were any updates regarding the person(s) living in the motorhome on Lombard Street, Excessive non-stop lighting, advertisement banners and parking problems in and around Oakview Stud Farm. Clerk said that there had not been any correspondence from Sevenoaks District Council or relevant KCC department s and will look into.

Resident had requested a salt bin at the junction of Rays Hill/Lombard Street/Eglantine Lane as cars had slid into nearby property during recent cold snap. Clerk reported that an extra salt bin had been requested last year at the bottom of Rays Hill after witnessing cars and bicycles hitting the wall at the on the tight bend but was informed by SDC that there were insufficient funds. Cllr Rushbrook added smaller but at regular interval salt bins may be beneficial. Cllr Gough will look into this.

More potholes had appeared throughout the village, Clerk to post pot-hole reporting website page on website and local notice boards to encourage more people to report them.

ACTION: Clerk <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

137 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gough asked for the latest on the Parish council's Highway Improvement Plan (HIP). Cllr Stead said that a zoom meeting had been held in November and Highways would only install more signage

on the Bull Hill/The Street bend which was very disappointing. Clerk added that an actual site visit had yet to take place and historically it was believed that Bull hill down to the entrance of Westminster field was the main road with the Junction stop being on Horton road just prior to the bend in the road.

Cllr Gough enquired about flooding in Lombard Street to which Cllr Rushbrook replied that the soakaway seemed to be working again and the problem had disappeared.

Chevrons were still in place which Cllr Gough was pleased to see.

He cautioned the PC that the member grant, which can be used for parish councils within his ward, for the next financial year was likely to be greatly reduced. Also, County Council would shortly be putting their 23-24 budgets forward for approval but were facing a difficult time with costs and social care overspending.

Cllr Gough left the meeting at 8pm

138 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr McGarvey had given his apologies.

139 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Ostridge was unable to attend and no report was available.

140 PLANNING

No planning applications had been received for consideration.

Cllr House informed Councillors that he had a site visit with Tim Chambers from Franks Farm with regards to the application for poly tunnels, cold storage facility and new access road from the A225, which had now received approval. Houses closest to the cold storage will be able to see it and screening hedges would take approximately 5 years to mature. Tim Chambers is more than happy to speak to public to explain the operations of the farm. Cllr Mitchell suggested inviting him to the St. Georges fete to not only sell their products but also to engage with the public.

ACTION: Clerk

141 WESSEX SOLAR PARK PLANNING APPLICATION

Cllr House report attached. *Appendix 1*

142 BUDGET SETTING

The budget for 2023-24 as prepared by the RFO, Committees and Council members was ratified. The precept request for this period shall be £116,443.00. The tax base for this period has slightly increased to 1277.99 which means for a Band D property, the Parish Council portion will equate to £90.03 per year which equals £1.73 per week, an increase of 13 pence per week. *Appendix 2*

RESOLVED: Precept of £116,443.00 is raised for this Parish

143 KALC AWARD NOMINATION

Clerk advised that the awards scheme for 2023 was open to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community. The person/group must live or work within the parish boundary. Councillors/public wishing to put someone forward should note the closing date to inform the Clerk of Tuesday 28th February

144 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

145 HALLS COMMITTEE

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

146 ROS COMMITTEE

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

147 WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA/NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Deadline for copy for the March Newsletter is 31st January 2023.

Cllr Blackamore said that further to the damaged 'Shrubbery Road' sign, which was reported via Facebook, 4 more signs had been stolen within days of being installed and at present there was no budget to replace them. Along with constant fly tipping on Shrubbery Road and both Top and Lower paddocks in South Darenth perhaps the Parish Council, to which all agreed, should publish the costs involved so that residents could see how much of the Parish Council portion of the council tax was spent on a regular basis. A member of the public mentioned the graffiti on the bus stop in Horton road near the viaduct which is also the responsibility of the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to include anti-social behaviour costs and reports on a monthly basis.

With reference to the new hooped signs, D Hollands of the Saxon Place Community Assoc. asked if it could be repositioned to the main green.

ACTION: Grounds Maintenance

148 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th February 2023

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chair:

Date:

APPENDIX 1

HKSD PC briefing PC meeting 9 Jan 2023 Agenda Item 10

Since the meeting of the PC of the 5 December the Working Group can advise the Council as follows as to the progress of the planning application and the continuing work of the WG.

Shortly after the 5th December meeting, District Councillor McGarvey attempted to make amendments to some of the conditions agreed and signed off by the PC, as he felt it was his “professional duty” but did so without any prior reference or consultation to or with the WG or the PC. The WG rejected those amendments and pointed out that he had no authority to make such changes to a formally agreed document. The Planning Officer has however taken general note of Cllr McGarvey’s opinion.

Following further correspondence between Cllr McGarvey and the WG, the referral of the planning application to the SDC’s Development Control Committee was withdrawn on the 15th December 2022; consequently a planning decision could be made as early as 11th January 2023.

The WG sought further clarifications, as to the status of the conditions that the PC attached, as planning obligations, to any planning agreement.

The Planning Officer has advised as follows:

“I have considered the suggested and have amended them accordingly or have made the following appropriate comments. That said, I consider them meet the aspirations of both working party and Cllr McGarvey. Obviously the wording of them are different, as they have been amended to meet the national guidance”. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/use-of-planning-conditions>).

On that basis and in accordance with the PC’s revised consultation response, we have advised the SDC Planning Officer that the PC considers that objections would lapse and that the PC has no objections.

On the 19th December KCC Highways and Transportation responded to the SDC Planning officer and advised:

“Consequently, I refer to the above planning application and confirm that provided the following requirements are secured by condition or planning obligation, then I would raise no objection on behalf of the local highway authority.”

The planning obligations referred to in the letter are, in part, consistent with those the PC seeks to establish. (copy available on SDC planning portal)

On the 19 December 2022 the Unilateral Undertaking between the HKSD PC and WSE Horton Wood Limited (the subsidiary operating company of the project) was signed, (copies available for inspection from the office)

The WG is now working on the suitable Charitable Trust structure to manage the funds as they become available. The WG will provide a comprehensive report with suggestions and options for the PC to fully consider in due course.

All the best for the New Year

Cllr Roger House

WG Chair.