



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Parish Church on Wednesday 31st August 2022 from 7:30pm to 9:15pm.

Present:

Cllr. B Heller (Chair) Cllr C. Page Cllr A. Rumble Cllr S. Edgington
Cllr B. Chipperton Cllr D. Figgis Cllr A. Gould (SBC)

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk), PCSO Pashov, PCSO Ashton and 22 members of the public

515 APOLOGIES

Cllr. T Valentine Cllr R. Lehmann (KCC)
Cllr P. Couzens

516 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

517 MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 27th July 2022 (502-514) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

518 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

- A. Following the previous full council meeting Mrs S McGuigan felt unable to complete the necessary DoI documentation and subsequently resigned. Following and advertisement for a new Councillor, Mr Figgis had put his name forward again and was the only applicant. Mr Figgis was formally invited to take his place onto the council. Cllr Figgis then signed the acceptance of office and took his place on the council. Mrs McGuigan attended this meeting and agreed to continue to assist the PC in her capacity as a parishioner, including Neighbourhood Watch.

519 DENISLAV PASHOV, (Police , PCSO, Swale Community Safety Unit)

- A. PCSO attended with his Colleague PCSO Ashton. PCSO Pashov gave the police report covering crime in the parish over the last three months, including criminal damage, theft of number plates and a dumped vehicle. He and his colleague engaged with those present to discuss speeding and dangerous driving on our rural roads and the recent traffic chaos due to closures on A299 and A2. After intervention by both the PC and Rich Lehmann, KCC has belatedly provided local access only temporary signs for those occasions. Anyone who observes an incident that is considered to be dangerous driving is encouraged to make a report to police on 101.
- B. Concerns were raised by parishioners with regards to Monkshill Road which has skip lorries using the road to head towards Cleve Hill. The road is narrow in a number of places making it difficult for cars/lorries to pass. It was discussed that the council would explore possible restrictions for lorries.

Cllr Edgington then left the meeting.

- C. Cllr Page then updated the meeting on the council's attempts to set up speed limits. He attended a virtual meeting on the 4th August with the KCC East Kent Highways community engagement officer with the meeting also attended by Rich Lehmann (KCC). Discussions continue about the suitability for various parts of the parish for 30 or 40mph limits rather than national speed limit as is currently the case. There was agreement for 20mph close to the school. The appointment of a project manager was still awaited which would be the next step for our application for speed limits. Parishioners were encouraged to write in with their complaints to KCC. Explanations were provided that speed limits applications were dependent on national guidelines based on history of accidents, housing density. The Speed watch scheme was also discussed.

The PCSO's then left the meeting.

D

520 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Ex chairman of the Parish council Jill Geliot made a statement to clarify her position following her son moving into a house in Forge Farm Row. Mrs Geliot stated that there was no favoritism and no undue influence involved. She stated that she resigned from the council as Chair in September 2021. Her son was then diagnosed with arthritis and had issues with stairs and the garden. At the end of 2021, her son registered with the SBC's Housing Register in January 2022. In 2022 a full application was made for the Forge Farm Row Local Needs Housing to bid on one of the properties. Following the application a formal interview was held via Zoom with English Rural, with the application then passed to an independent committee from English Rural for allocation. Initially her son was not successful in gaining a place. However, the first choice declined the offer and subsequently a bungalow was then offered to her son in the development.
- B. Mr Geliot raised that any discussion involving the Clerks Salary should be public as it was public money. It was agreed that any discussion would be in an open session.
- C. Following the previous council meeting, the PC had raised the issue for signage for the village hall committee as residents in Fostall were having to regularly redirect visitors as to the whereabouts of the village hall. The issue had occurred as the Post office had assigned a postcode the same as for those in Fostall rather than a postcode located closer to its true location. As it is extremely difficult to change a postcode with the PO once assigned, the Village Hall agreed to unofficially amend their postcode to that of a closer one and amended their website and booking details as well as including whatthree words. Requests have been made for brown signposts at relevant junctions but this would entail significant expense to voluntary organisations. The Clerk would speak to the headteacher at the school to explain the situation to see if a similar arrangement could be made.
- D. A parishioner requested for there to be refresher training provided in the use of defibrillators. The Clerk is to source some training.

521 PLANNING

- A. Planning Applications:
- 1) 22/503510/FULL PROPOSAL: Change of use of land for to siting of 4no. timber glamping pods, along with lighting, recycling/waste facilities, sustainable waste treatment package, parking/turning area suitable for 4no. cars, creation of footpaths, and landscaping of the site. Removal of existing

shed. ADDRESS: Mount Ephraim Gardens Mount Ephraim Staple Street
Hernhill Faversham Kent ME13 9TX

The applicant, Mrs Dawes summarised her application and the development including those for landscaping and general waste and recycling collection. The Chair had received a question on the development by a parishioner who was not able to attend in person on waste and recycling and answered by Mrs Dawes that it would be by the guest parking and would be designed to be small scale and aesthetically pleasing. The Council unanimously voted and agreed 'No Adverse Comments'.

B. Planning Decisions:

21/502972/FULL | Change of use of land and erection of 35no. general commercial units (use classes E(g), B2 and B8 with allocated parking and associated landscaping | Land South East Of A299 Slip Road Off Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EN - Permitted

C. Other Planning Issues

- 1) Redrow Homes - The Clerk confirmed that she had received notification from Boughton Council that Redrow Homes were wishing to discuss a potential application located between the eastern end of Staplestreet and Bounds Lane. Despite part of the area falling within Hernhill Parish no direct contact has been received from Redrow.
- 2) Thatch Cottage. A new planning application had been received and that the council would be discussing this at an extraordinary meeting on the 8th September 2022 at 7.15pm to be held at the Church. The Clerk reiterated that the applicant had offered a site visit to Thatch Cottage should one be required.

522 MATTERS ARISING

- A. Affordable Housing. It was reported that all residents now appear to be in.
- B. Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report. .
- C. Village Speed Limits - Covered earlier in the meeting.
- D. Allotment Gate- Cllr Heller and Cllr Rumble had obtained quotes, with the Clerk expecting a further quote shortly. The quotes would then be discussed at the next full council meeting. .
- E. Neighbourhood Plans - Cllr Tuff from Dunkirk Parish who was part of the Dunkirk and Boughton Neighbourhood Plan committee has agreed to attend September's meeting to discuss his journey of the process and to provide guidance.
- F. Staplestreet Bin -Cllr Heller confirmed that the request had been made to English Rural for a contribution towards a replacement bin., which was declined as English Rural and focussing on supporting residents in light of the fuel cost issues. It was discussed and agreed at present that replacing the bin was not considered to be a priority in light of potential speeding costs and to take forward for the budget next year. SBC should be contacted for additional collections if overflowing.
- G. Grass Cutting Contract - The Clark had received three quotes, all of which were identical in their quotes. Following a discussion it was agreed to remain with the existing contractor.

523 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

A discussion occurred regarding the way in which dissemination could be

improved. It was noted that there was also an active Facebook Group for the village. There were concerns whether FB would be an appropriate forum. The PC website needs to have greater visibility and this was to be highlighted in the next Hernhill News. In addition, the Chair would make the Hernhill News article more ‘punchy’. It was agreed that the Clerk will set up a PC Facebook page with posts on there linking to the relevant posting on the website. Greater use is to be made regarding the outlying noticeboards across the parish.

524. DALE FARM OAST

No update had been received from the SBC Conservation officer regarding Dale Farm Oast and a potential visit which was supposed to have occurred in February 2022. This is despite chasers from the Clerk and Also Cllr Gould on our behalf. Cllr Gould is to continue to request for an update.

525. HIGHWAYS UPDATE (THANET WAY CLOSURE, MONKSHILL)

This issue had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

526. USE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN BY THE RED LION

The Red Lion had recently changed hands and it had been observed that pub furniture was being moved onto the village green for music events. The council discussed that whilst it was ok for visitors to set up their own chairs on the green, it was not appropriate for pub furniture in relation to the council’s insurance and liability. It was agreed that Cllr Heller and Rumble would visit the new owners to explain the situation and that it should then be followed up by a formal letter. It was noted the the PC would like to encourage use of the pub and a key village amenity

527 COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

A. None

528 FINANCE

- A. The August Bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
- B. August’s 2022 cheques for payment were approved and signed.

For Payment August 2022		
Chq-1633 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing August)		£144.02
Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Salary & Expenses)		£250.32
Chq-1634 Hughes and Son (July Church Mowing)		£130.00
Chq-1635 Village Hall (July hire)		£15.00
Chq-1636 KALC (Clerks Conference)		£30.00
Chq-1637 Tony Chapman (Paper and Mileage)		£50.35
		£619.69

529 CORRESPONDANCE

- A. The Clerk highlighted a number of KALC training courses in relation to Dynamic Councillor for new Councillors and Planning for others. The clerk reiterated that there was a budget available for training.

530 CHAIRMAN & CLERK’S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. The Clerk confirmed that extraordinary meeting for the 8th September at 7.15pm at the church.
- B. The Clerk confirmed that notice had been given and that there was half of an allotment available, which would be advertised in the Hernhill News and website.

531 CLERKS SALARY

The clerk had prior to the meeting made a case which was circulated to all Councillors for an increase in salary having not moved a salary point in over 3 years in holding the job. In addition, a neighbouring council of similar size was paying a higher salary point. Following a discussion, it was agreed for the salary point to be raised from 7 to 17 with immediate effect.

532 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON SEPTEMBER'S FULL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Neighbourhood Watch
- B. Village Speed Limits.
- C. Allotments
- D. Neighbourhood Plans
- E. Defibrillator trianing
- F. Use of the Village Green by the Red Lion
- G. DaleFarm Oast

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed.

CHAIRMAN