

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 July 2017 in the Finzi Room of the Village Hall, Riding Lane

PRESENT: Miss C Sheldon (chairman) Mr M Baker Mrs M Coles
Mr D Haugh Mr A McNeil Mr M Nairne

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr H Rayner Mrs P Gow (clerk)
Mrs P Cox (public session)

1. Apologies and reasons for absence

Mrs C Baker (home commitment), Mrs L Homewood (family commitment), Mr C Lewis, Mr N Simpkins (holiday)

1.1 Casual Vacancy

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council had informed the Parish Council that no election was necessary to fill the Casual Vacancy.

DECISION and ACTION: Following discussion it was agreed to co-opt Mr Mark White. The clerk to notify Mr White and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

2 Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests

There were none

3. Declaration of gifts and hospitality

There were none

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2017

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman, Miss C Sheldon

5. Matters arising from 21 July 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda

4.7.2 Fire precautions in the Village Hall: it was noticed that windows were being left open overnight during hot weather in order to cool the rooms down. The advice received from ACRE is that this is unwise as should a fire break out it would feed extra oxygen to the fire.

8.3 A request was made to have the bus shelter replacement added to correspondence awaiting reply

6.1 FINANCE

6.1.1 Account Balances as at 30 June 2017

Business Money Manager	£47,565.38
Current Account Statement	£5,039.49
Business Reserve Account	£37,009.22
Business Money Manager II	£4,013.04
Total	£93,627.13

Mr Baker, chairman of the Finance Committee, confirmed the account balances at 30 June 2017 as correct.

6.1.2 Payments made since 8 June 2017

The following payments were noted:

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Reason	Amount (£)
21 June	102793	Broxap	Seat	808.80
21 June	102794	PJ Richardson	Pavilion kitchen refit	5,195.00
26 May	102795- 102797	Employee Related	Salaries, expenses, HMRC	1,512.69
21 June	102798	T Richardson	Tree surgery	180.00
21 June	102799	Gaza Timber	Wood preservative	289.19
21 June	102800	N Simpkins	Plants for War Memorial	85.94
21 June	102801	Ballard Flooring	Flooring for Pavilion	1,970.00
5 July	10802	Cable Test Ltd	Lighting column repairs	2,136.00
5 July	10803	KCS	Kettle	61.50
5 July	10804	EJP Fire Protection	Fire extinguisher check	43.80
5 July	102805	HVH	Defibrillator training	50.00

6.1.3 Income received May 2017

The following income was noted:

Date	Organisation	Reason	Amount (£)
2 June	Hildenborough Tennis Club	rent	£750.00
June	Various	publications	£104.80
June	Interest on accounts		£1.71

The June interest on Business Money Manager Accounts had been omitted from the Agenda and was added to Income.

6.1.4 1st Quarter Income and Expenditure

The 1st Quarter Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were noted together with the Commentary on income and expenditure to date.

6.1.5 3 Year Development Plan

The updated 3-Year Development Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was noted.

It was queried whether item 12 should be included since a member felt that litter bins along Noble Tree Road would be useless since no one would use them. The bus shelter litter bin was instanced whereby litter was thrown on the ground a short distance from the bin.

DECISION and ACTION: It was agreed the quotation of £3,995 should be accepted for the removal and reinstatement of the concrete apron in front of the Pavilion. It was further agreed that 25 chairs should be purchased not to exceed £2,500. It was decided to retain item 12. but to revisit this again in the future.

6.1.6 Changes in Current Bank Account

HSBC is to discontinue the Current Account held by the Parish Council and is suggesting it is transferred to a Small Business Account. This is more costly than the current account, being approximately three times this year's annual charges. Other bank accounts were being investigated.

ACTION: The clerk to find details of charges made by suitable other banks for the September Parish Council Meeting.

6.2 OPEN SPACES

6.2.1 Proposals for Cycle Path in West Wood

A proposal for a cycle path in West Wood had been discussed at the Open Spaces Committee Meeting but firm proposals had yet to be received.

6.2.2 Managing the Village Green

ACTION: The Village Green would need cutting in the next two or three weeks. The Clerk would liaise with Mr Simpkins and the contractors on the exact timing.

6.2.3 Roundabout repairs update

ACTION: The clerk to contact the caretaker to remind him to liaise with the engineer who has agreed to work on the roundabout.

6.2.4 Tree Surgery update

Work on the tree surgery following the tree survey had been due to be undertaken two weeks ago. The Clerk had established this had not been done following illness of the tree surgeon. The work should not now be undertaken until after the school holidays.

6.2.5 Flood Alleviation Scheme in West Wood update

A meeting is to be held to discuss revised proposals for the FAS in West Wood on 27 July, 2017.

6.2.6 Report on Medway Flood Partnership

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Mr Haugh said he felt there was a lot of work being undertaken which will result in future flood events being managed much more efficiently.

6.2.7. Use of Recreation Ground for Playscheme

A rental agreement had been signed and evidence of insurance cover had been received from the company organising the Summer Playscheme which is to be held on the Recreation Ground due to construction work being undertaken at both local primary schools. The company had undertaken to protect the newly refurbished Pavilion and to hold art/craft activities in a separate gazebo

6.2.8 Any other matters arising from the Minutes of 5 July 2017.

6.2.8.1 The artificial grass has been installed in front of the benches in the Activity Zone.

6.2.8.2 The Great Kent Bike Ride

The first stop was in the Recreation Ground and was successful on 14 July. Cycle training was given to school children during the morning by Andrew Goodwin of Live Biking Ltd. Kent Sports Trust emailed a thank you for letting them use the Recreation Ground

6.2.8.3 Fire Hydrant map and notes

KALC, following our request, had forwarded to us information on inspection of fire hydrants in Hildenborough and a map of their positions.

DECISION: It was decided not to undertake inspections of the fire hydrants as these are too numerous.

6.2.8.4 Churchyard Oak Tree Report

A report had been received on the oak tree which the Parish Council had agreed to have undertaken. This had been forwarded to St John's for future action.

6.2.8.5 Meeting with Hildenborough CEP School

The Parish Council had accepted the invitation from Hildenborough CEP School to discuss the problems with the swimming pool. It was explained that after very careful investigations it had been decided the swimming pool should be demolished. This was because a considerable amount of asbestos had been found in the roof, boiler room etc. and it would be extremely costly to have it removed and replaced. The school would not be able to fund this and consequently the very difficult decision had been taken to demolish it. The PTA had agreed to fund its demolition and it was proposed to use the space as an outdoor learning area. Plans had yet to be drawn up. However this too would require funding and consequently they were looking at ways to raise funds for this. They were interested in how the Council funded the Activity Zone and information was exchanged. They also enquired whether the Parish Council would be able to give any financial support. It was suggested that when plans had been drawn up they should formulate a specific item which the Parish Council would consider contributing towards.

6.2.8.6 Half Moon Football Team

The team were not able to gain a place in the Sevenoaks league and consequently would not need to continue with their request to use the Recreation Ground football pitch throughout the winter. It is hoped that a league place would be possible in 2018.

6.2.8.7 Item 3 : caretaker's report

A member was concerned to see the Rowan tree on the Village Green was, once again at an angle. The clerk had endeavoured to straighten it with temporary fixings. It was noted that the caretaker had yet to remove the grass and apply mulch as requested in the Minutes.

ACTION: the clerk to contact the caretaker and ask the tree be properly fixed to the stakes and the outstanding work completed quickly.

6.2.8.8 A member queried why the Land Registry would require a plan of the extended area to be rented to the scouts. It was noted that a temporary boundary had been set out and the area had been cleared by the scouts. This is all pending a rental agreement.

ACTION: The clerk to query this with the Council's solicitors once the plan has been received and instructions are given for the variation in the lease.

6.3 PLANNING

6.3.1 Applications received

The following planning applications were noted: Details of comments made are available from the clerk. There was a declaration of interest on 1414/FL.

1370/FL	Meadow Hse Mill La	extension	no comment
1375/FL	The Mill Hse Mill La	new cross over	comment
1379/FL	21 Ashley Rd	roof extension	comment
1413/FL	33 Knowsley Way	extension	comment
1442/FL	Noble Tree End Philpots La	extension	comment
1414/FL	5 Riding Park	replacement conservatory	comment
1235/FL	Coldharbour Farm Coldharbour La	extension	comment

The following planning applications were considered at the meeting. There was one declaration of interest on 1515/FL.

1515/FL	The Croft 22 Coldharbour La	two storey extension	no comment
1592/FL	Hawthorn Cott Mill Lane	new roof	comment
1625/FL	32 Riding Lane	new dwelling	comment
1662/FL	Barn Opp Horns Lodge Bungalow	conversion of barn to dwelling	comment

6.3.2 Any other planning business

6.3.2.1 There had been one query raised by a local resident but this planning application had yet to be received. They were referred to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

6.3.2.2 Following an enquiry by the Parish Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council had responded that any possible extension of the Recreation Ground car park would not be covered by permitted development rights and planning permission would be required.

7. Reports from representatives on outside bodies

7.1 Community Safety Partnership Representative

A response was still awaited on the mobile speed monitoring display equipment.

7.2 Village Hall Representative

It was reported that Mr Haugh will be dealing with all business and bookings associated with the Village until the end of August. He was looking into getting all the invoicing updated.

7.3 Highways Coordinator

Notification had been received that the Technical Services Manager would be dealing with our enquiry regarding the replacement bus shelter within 10 days.

7.4 Parish Council Public Consultation (Farmers' Market)

7.4.1 Feedback from 11 July

Mrs Richardson was fund raising in the village to show appreciation to Mr Sira, retired chemist.

7.4.2 Attendees: 8 August – Mr Nairne + another
12 September – Miss Sheldon/Mr Baker

8. Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence requiring action not covered elsewhere

8.1.1 Mike Taylor had reported a request for an item on the next Joint Standards Committee giving four proposals under the heading Parish Hearing Panels. This followed the resignation of one member and the removal of another.

8.1.2 Leigh United Charity.

ACTION: The Parish Council representative trustee, Mr C Sawyer had resigned as trustee. This was accepted. The clerk to find more details of the Charity and what was required of a trustee. Two members expressed an interest in taking on the role.

8.2 Matters arising from other incoming and outgoing correspondence

There were none.

8.3 Correspondence awaiting reply

The reinstatement of the bus shelter was to be added to the list.

9. Lighting

9.1 Update on repairs

It had been decided not have the faulty lantern in Noble Tree Road replaced as notification had now been received that the conversion to LED should occur before the winter.

9.2 Lighting report

This had not been received due to holiday.

10.1 Management of Twitter Account

DECISION: It was decided to discontinue this account.

10.2 Activity on Facebook Account

There was no activity during this month.

11. Local Public Transport

Mr Nairne reported that changes were afoot this weekend with Arriva producing a new timetable which involves the withdrawal of their service to Bromley via Weald. There would be the introduction of a Go bus, number 345 between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks via Weald. The current Arriva timetable does not work. There should be buses every 20mins. but often two arrive within a short time.

The Underriver service, introduced in 1932 had been cut back but seemed to be underused.

Mr Nairne further made the point that if the services are not used, they would not be viable and urged that residents should be made aware of the services, and encouraged to use them. One problem was the high cost of fares and it is clear that most passengers do have bus passes.

The point was made that the Leigh Auto Car bus was well supported. It was suggested that all bus services should be promoted. Cllr Rayner suggested contacting the Borough Council to ascertain who held bus passes (see Public Session). Services are already promoted during the Farmers' Market when the Parish Council make all timetables available.

A further point is the lack of the replacement of the bus shelter outside the Vicarage. This has been missing since an accident resulted in its removal six months ago. This is the most heavily used bus stop in the village. The Borough Council had reported that its Technical Services Manager would be responding to our enquiry regarding its replacement within 10 days.

There is a consultation on rail timetable changes which will close on 9 August. There were not any radical changes which affect Hildenborough.

The services to London would be reorganised and cut back between 26 August and 2 September due to the London Bridge modernisation scheme. Charing Cross, London Bridge and Waterloo East would all be closed with rerouting to Blackfriars, Cannon Street and Victoria. Details are given in leaflets.

ACTION: The clerk to alert Cllr L Homewood to the consultation.

12. Delegation of authority during the summer break

DECISION: It was agreed that the Chairman or in her absence the Vice Chairman or Chairman of the Finance Committee will have the power to make decisions on the council's behalf during the summer break.

13. AOB

13.2 NALC sent out a bulletin drawing attention to 11 November 1918, suggesting Local Councils should support lighting a chain of beacons.

ACTION: Information on this would be passed to Hildenborough History Society and to Mr Gorham

13.2 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is asking that any instances of fly tipping is reported to them.

13.3 It was reported that the Borough Council is considering making extra charges for collection of the green bin. A member expressed concern over this as it will almost certainly result in fly tipping. Another member pointed out that the proposal included an expansion of the recycling scheme to include glass etc.

13.4 Meetings

Draft list of meeting for 2018 was distributed to members.

ACTION: The question of moving the monthly meeting earlier in the month was raised. The clerk to investigate this.

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public expressed concern at the demise of Hildenborough CEP School's swimming pool. They wanted to save it for all the children and felt it was far better than travelling to Tonbridge Swimming Pool. Further they felt that from the teacher's point of view it would mean they could carry on teaching half the class whilst the other half were swimming.

Hildenborough's County Councillor, Harry Rayner, reported that he had been contacted on the issue of the swimming pool at Hildenborough CEP School. He also reported the school had recently received a good Ofsted report.

He went on to report that he had been elected on 5 May and had taken on responsibilities on Committees for planning including mineral extraction, regeneration, business and scrutiny.

He further reported that he had a meeting with Highways as there was clearly a problem at the western end of Riding Lane and that alleviation of the traffic problems was under consideration.

He gave reassurance that the flood alleviation schemes for Hildenborough and the Leigh Barrier were progressing and that both projects would be moved ahead together. There is another meeting in November.

He said that he had £20,000 of grants available to support community projects and more details would be available soon.

A discussion followed on local bus services (see 12. above for detail) and it was suggested that contact should be made with the Borough Council who may pass on information regarding bus passes in order that marketing of services could be targeted..

He said he would attend Parish Council Meetings as often as possible.