

## **HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Rough Common Village Hall.

On Monday 25th July 2016

All Planning Applications received since the last Parish Council meeting were on display from 7.15 p.m.

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

**Present, A Cain, B Beattie, Alex Blunt, John Cotterill, Jacqui Cotterill, J Edis, S Docherty, J Larkinson, R Perham, T Richards, B Shire, Canterbury City Councillors Amy Baker, Ben Fitter-Harding, Clerk D Frost (and 2 members of the public present)**

**54/16 Confirmation of Summons**

All Councillors had received their summons to attend this meeting and the public notices had been served correctly.

**55/16 Alterations to the Register of Councillors' Interests and Declaration of Interest on Items on the Agenda**

There were no alterations to the Register of Councillors' Interests.

**56/16 Apologies for Absence.**

Canterbury City Councillors, George Metcalfe and Robert Thomas, Kent County Councillor John Simmonds (meeting)

**57/16 Approval of Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor Edis and seconded by Councillor Beattie that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2016 be signed as correct.

**58/16 Matters Arising.**

Councillor John Cotterill reported that he had laid-down poison in areas of high rat populations in Harbledown and this seems to be solving the problem. Councillor Edis reported that there is still a problem with rats in Upper Harbledown.

**At this point the Chairman asked whether any resident of the Parish wished to address the Council or ask any question about any agenda item.**

## **59/16 Planning applications.**

**CA/16/01323/FUL. 1 Prospect Cottages, London Road, Upper Harbledown.** Proposed single-storey timber out-building for home office following demolition of shed.

**It was resolved that no objection be raised to these applications.**

**Decision Granted.**

**CA/16/01035/FUL. 7 Garden Close, Rough Common.**

Extension of single-storey rear and side extension.

**Canterbury City Council Draft Local Plan.**

Councillor Larkinson reported that she attended the first day of the Local Plan Hearing with Councillor Cain, to speak about two matters.

**Cockering Farm proposed development.**

The Parish Council has a direct interest in this, as we desperately want the 4<sup>th</sup> slip road from the A2 to be built. Without the Cockering Farm development this will not be possible. We want the developer to promise to fund the slip road and we have been trying to get the right wording in the Local Plan for the past two years. At the moment the wording agreed by the developer and Canterbury City Council reads that it will be a requirement for the developer to “fully fund the new A2 off slip and associated highway improvements, expansion of Wincheap Park and Ride and highway improvements at Wincheap Green” We asked that this wording was included in the Local Plan.

This was then followed by a lengthy discussion of the difficulties still to be solved to achieve a comprehensive traffic plan for Wincheap.

**Land at 51 Rough Common Road.**

We agreed that we would oppose the extension of this site for housing from 12 to 28. There has also been mention of 81 houses and flats on that site. The Canterbury City Council spokesman did not agree with our long held position that it would be the beginning of the destruction of the green gap between Rough Common and the city. However if or when a developer puts in a planning application we will be able to object.

**Old Wyevale Garden Centre Upper Harbledown.**

Councillor Larkinson reported that she had received a telephone call from Canterbury City Council regarding Section 106 monies payable by the eventual developer of this site; The Parish Council was offered the sums of £17,000 for play areas and £4,000 for semi natural planting.

Nick Parker, Chairman of the Upper Harbledown Association has asked residents for their views how this proposed monies should be spent and has received useful feed-back.

Councillor Richards asked whether this Section 106 money could be used in any part of the parish, such as Rough Common. Councillor Larkinson said that although this could happen it would in her opinion, be morally wrong to do so.

Councillor Cain asked the committee to vote on a proposal that this and

future section 106 monies should only be spent on projects where the development takes place. The committee voted 9 for the proposal and 2 against the proposal. The proposal was therefore carried by a majority of 9.

Councillor Larkinson said that there would be a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September where the University of Kent at Canterbury will speak to the residents about their development plan for the next 50 years.

## **60/16 Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

Councillor Perham reported that his role is facilitating the projects designated by Rough Common residents in the proposed distribution of the Park and Ride Fund for Rough Common, it is not part of his remit to obtain quotations, and that he is currently working on the bus shelter and The Green Rough Common.

Proposed lease St Mary's Mission Hall, Upper Harbledown.

The Clerk reported that he had heard from Boys and Maughan that the Harbledown PCC will have to make changes to their constitution to allow them to grant a 99-year lease on the hall. Work is continuing but is likely to be some time before the lease is eventually granted.

### **Open Spaces and Allotments**

#### **Open Spaces**

Councillor Docherty gave his report.

#### **Dukes Meadow.**

The long meadow grass was cut last week and about 10 days ago a motor cycle was set on fire on the playing field area close to the bridge over the road to Canterbury. I had to chase the council a couple of times, but the debris was removed at the end of last week.

Pine Meadow.

Some bramble and ragwort is appearing in the uncut part of the meadow, which I shall deal with.

The play equipment was recently inspected and the work required is as was reported last month. I was unable to be with the inspector this time as I was away on holiday-I will see him next time –though I don't think we should take any action until we have discussed the funds that could be available from the old Wyevale Site.

Councillor Edis asked if a part of the meadow could be left to wild flowers.

#### **Neal's Place Meadow.**

I spoke to landscape Services last Friday and grass cutting has been arranged for this week.

Another Email has been received regarding why the signage was erected at entrances – I have responded as before.

A quotation has been received for clearing the ditch and replacing the pipe under the footpath at the bottom of the field entrance – at £1,165, which I consider reasonable.

Councillor Perham reminded the meeting that 3 quotations must be obtained because the work is likely to exceed £1,000.

With the on-going issue of water run-off from the meadow I have undertaken a flood warden-training course.

I have arranged a site meeting for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July with the Ditches and Land Drainage engineer to discuss the responsibilities of water entering the meadow and how it leaves. He does though say that it is our responsibility to keep the ditches clear which will help to remove water from the site before we get heavy rainfall and a flood event. I will report to the committee at the next meeting.

#### **Benches and Boards.**

Quotations have been received from Landscape Services for different options for benches and notice boards. I will obtain some more for comparison.

Councillor Jacqui Cotterill reported that the Harbledown War Memorial garden is overgrown and needs a long-term maintenance plan to improve and keep in good condition. Councillor Jacqui Cotterill will arrange to talk to Councillor Docherty about this.

#### **Allotments:**

Councillor Perham said that he had met with Mr Witney at Hillside allotment to look at the state of the plots. One plot is being kept mown by Mr Witney because the plot tenant is neglecting it. There are some other plots that are in need of attention, and it was agreed that The Clerk should write to the tenants concerned asking them if they wish to relinquish their plots, especially as there is a waiting list of 4 people. The Clerk asked Councillor Perham to provide the plot numbers, so that the letters can be written.

### **61/16 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios**

#### **Footpaths:**

Councillor Blunt reported a complaint of overhanging vegetation on the footpath between Summer Hill and Harbledown Park. Although the footpath is moderately overgrown it is still easily passable, and Councillor Blunt reported back to the resident after his inspection. This particular footpath is very long with a variety of hedge types. The overhang onto footpaths seem to be mainly from residents gardens and Councillor Blunt has drafted a letter and is delivering these to residents whose gardens adjoin the most severely affected footpaths. Hopefully this may start to help alleviate this problem.

Councillor Blunt has now recovered tools and equipment from Martin Skeet. The petrol operated strimmer/ brush cutter is inoperative. There is a question of who owns this piece of equipment, as it is felt that the Blean Preservation Society may own this.

Councillor Perham reported that the part of the North Downs way, 100

yards down from Faulkner's Lane badly needs clearing. Councillor Blunt will investigate.

Councillor Cain said that a long-term plan must be formulated to maintain footpaths within the parish.

Councillor Larkinson said that she had been told that the stile at the end of Fir Tree Close is in need of repair, and that iron gates have been put up near the entrance to the bridal path at Ross Gardens. Councillor Blunt will investigate both of these reports.

### **Tree Matters:**

Councillor Shire reported that a request from occupants of 71/73 Westgate Close to trim trees and hedge at side of Dukes Meadow, and asked if a quote could be obtained from Landscape Services to carry out the work in August.

A tree leaning onto path has been reported at the end of Glen Iris Avenue. Could be maintained and cut back where necessary.

A request to raise crown and cut branches of a Norway Maple opposite 2 Little Meadow Upper Harbledown was made. The work appears to have been done already without waiting for permission.

2 ash and 1 sycamore in a rear garden in Upper Harbledown need work to give air and light to get into the garden. Work should wait until the bird nesting is definitely over.

The birch trees in Rough Common Road and cherry trees in Garden Close have been watered by Kent Highways.

The leaves on oak trees in Oaks Park outside of Moat House Garden are turning brown.

With regard to further tree planting in Highfield Close and Rough Common Road, the contact at Kent Highways will be in touch later in the year.

### **Highways:**

Councillor Beattie reported the successful painting of yellow lines in Oaks Park and Highfield Close.

Six sets of Speedwatch measurements have been taken in June and early July.

Street lights in Oaks Park have been addressed by John Simmonds and we are expecting to get some details of replacement with new style LED lights. A communication has been received from Steve Lanaway (Canterbury City Council) that they are working on this issue.

Grass cutting of Palmars Cross Hill, including road edges and footpaths is progressing, just waiting for overgrowing hedges to be dealt with. It is understood that it may need more than one cut per year.

The Estates Department at University of Kent at Canterbury have been contacted regarding HGV's going to their site. They have agreed to instruct delivery drivers to use A290 Whitstable Road instead of Rough Common Road for HGV access.

Councillor Edis asked if she could receive Speedwatch data for passing onto the PCSO.

The blue lorry signage at London Road is misleading. Canterbury City Councillor Ben Fitter-Harding suggested that the Parish Council should contact Kent County Councillor John Simmonds.

**Park and Ride:**

There was no report.

**Newsletter:**

Councillor Jacqui Cotterill reported that she is continuing to post events on the Parish Council Facebook page.

**62/16 Reports of Councillor representatives****No Man's Orchard:**

Councillor Larkinson reported that a meeting was held in the Orchard on 19<sup>th</sup> July, and that grass cutting was in progress.

Councillor Docherty had as promised, grafted some Bramley cuttings onto M25 rootstock, which we always use. He showed us pictures of healthy looking plants. Councillor and John Conway planned a site near the cider trees, which will be used as a nursery. These cuttings will save us money as the old trees are rapidly coming to the end of their life and we are planting new ones nearly every year now.

**Police Liaison:**

Councillor Edis reported that she has not received stats from the PCSO.

**Rough Common Village Hall:**

Councillor Cain reported that the committee organised a "Garage Sale" for the village, which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July. 12 households took part and were well supported by the public.

The committee will be holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 10.30 to 12.30 pm with the intention to have one each month on the first Wednesday.

The play area requires some work. Some weeding has already taken place and quotes are being obtained for bark to top-up levels and remedial jobs following receipt of the latest inspection report.

Jennie Bradbury cancelled her meeting with the committee and has re-scheduled for September.

The grass cutting on the field has been done.

The next committee meeting will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, commencing 7.30pm.

**KALC:**

**63/16** Councillor Larkinson reported that she attended the AGM of the Canterbury District on 12<sup>th</sup> July. The speaker was Mr Balfour, Kent County Councillor portfolio holder. He spoke mainly on devolution.

**64/16 Correspondence:**  
The digest had been circulated and was available for Councillors to read.

**65/16 Finance and Accounts for Payment:** It was resolved to accept the accounts for payment. Proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Larkinson.  
The Clerk reported that the balances held at bank and deposit, after the June payments amounted to £166350.19

**66/16 Future Issues..**  
Park and Ride Fund distribution.  
Bus Services in Rough Common Road  
Local Plan

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 19th September 2016 at St Mary's Hall, Upper Harbledown commencing 7.30 pm. Planning Applications will be on display from 7.15 pm.**

The meeting closed 8.50 p.m.

## Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

### Schedule of Authorised Payments 25th July 2016.

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	Cheque	
Unipar Services. Speed monitoring eqpt	404	1222.64
South East Water. Hillside Allotment	405	25.25
Dean & Chapter of Canterbury. Archives to 31.03.17	406	50.00
C W Lyons. War Memorial Cleaning Deposit	407	120.00
Cllr Simon Docherty. Materials to repair bench	408	34.03
South East Water. Cheyney Field	409	5.33
		<hr/>
		1457.25
	BACS	
Cllr R Beattie. Speedwatch jackets		74.61
A Round GogRoasts. Harbledown Hogroast 11.06		810.00
David Frost June salary and expenses		585.43
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Total Payments		2927.29
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