

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council at Rough Common Village Hall

On Monday 24th September 2012

All Planning Applications received since the last Parish Council meeting were on display from 7.35 p.m.

Meeting commenced at 7.45 p.m.

Present

Councillors W Gregory (Vice Chairman), A Cain, J Conway, S Denham, , B Golding , B Shire, Mr D Frost (Clerk) there was not any members of the public present.

89/12 Confirmation of Summons

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

90/12 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.

91/12 Apologies for Absence.

Councillor Larkinson(Holiday), Councillor Perham (Holiday), Councillor Wright (Holiday), Councillor Edis (Other Engagement) Canterbury City Councillor Michael Dixey and Kent County Councillor John Simmonds

92/12 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Cain and seconded by Councillor Denham that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2012 be signed as correct, with one minor amendment.

93/12 Matters Arising.

Old Wyevale Garden Centre Upper Harbledown, item 81/12

Councillor Gregory thanked everyone concerned for delivering the affordable housing survey leaflet, and said that the survey has now gone to all households in the parish. The closing date for the return of the survey is 3rd October 2012.

Highways

Councillor Gregory reported that the redundant telegraph poles in Upper Harbledown have now been removed

Finance

Councillor Conway reported that he has written a strong letter to the Estates Officer of Canterbury City Council seeking assurances of continuing guaranteed funding for maintenance of Neal's Place Meadow should the Parish Council enter into a leasing agreement with the City Council. Councillor Conway said that he is still awaiting a reply to this letter

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.

94/12 Planning applications.

The following planning applications were received. It was resolved that no objections be raised to these applications.

CA/12/01424/FUL. Land at Woodside House London Road, Upper Harbledown.

Erection of detached dwelling with parking & access (revised scheme)

CA/12/01448/FUL. Upper Harbledown House, London Road, Upper Harbledown.

Conversion of garage into games & garden room and erection of detached double garage.

CA/12/01449/LB. Upper Harbledown House, London Road, Upper Harbledown.

Alterations in connection with conversion of garage.

CA/12/01491/FUL Plough Inn, London Road, Upper Harbledown.

Change of use from Public House to single dwelling.

CCC Notified Decisions:

Granted:

CA/12/00960/FUL Longtye, Church Hill, Harbledown

CA/11/01143/FUL 124 Rough Common Road, Rough Common

CA/12/01240/FUL Kent College, Whitstable Road, Harbledown.

CA/12/01211/FUL 1 Glemsford Cottages, London Road Upper Harbledown.

CA/12/01353/FUL 102 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Withdrawn

CA/12/01360/FUL Anester Cottage, London Road, Upper Harbledown

Committee Reports

Finance

The Clerk reported that the Audit Commission has completed the audit of the 2011-2012 accounts and has issued an unqualified audit certificate to the Parish Council. Because of changes to the role of the Audit Commission the 2012-2013 and Littlejohn LLP will carry out subsequent audits.

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Councillor Conway reported that a complaint had been received regarding weeds encroaching on a neighbouring property garden from Pine Meadow. Councillor Conway has replied to the complainant and also asked Landscape Services to cut the weeds around the border between Pine Meadow and the neighbouring garden.

Council Conway reported that the Clerk has had difficulty in receiving the monthly play area inspection reports from the contractor who was employed to do this along with minor repairs. Councillor Conway has also asked the contractor to carry out minor repairs to the play areas but has not received a response.

Councillor Conway proposed that Digley Associates be approached to carry out quarterly inspections, to put the inspection regime on a more professional basis. All of the Committee were in favour of this proposal. Councillor Conway said that a maintenance person able to carry out minor repairs to the play equipment would need to be identified. The Committee instructed the Clerk to write to the present contractor informing him of the Committees decision and to pay him for the work that he has performed in this current financial year.

Allotments.

There was no report.

95/12 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios

Footpaths:

Councillor Golding reported that a North Downs Way marker-post that had been uprooted at Hospital Farm has been replaced, together with another post nearby.

The large bridleway footbridge at Upper Harbledown is giving cause for concern and will be inspected by the Public Rights of Way Officers. Councillor Golding has already looked at this with nearby residents and noted that deteriorating planks were resting on rotten timber, which would suggest a big job. Meanwhile one plank has gone and it seems sensible to replace this without delay. The Public Rights of Way office will reimburse the cost of new timber. There is also concern with a slamming gate but responsibility would be with the field owner who may keep livestock there.

Councillor Golding reported that ivy has been strimmed and clipped-back from footpath CB500, which runs beside Old London Road Upper Harbledown. Finding the style unsafe, it was removed and re-way marked in the hope that walkers would make use of the proper path rather than accessing it from further down the road, through a gap in the hedge which is unofficial and therefore could in future be closed.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Shire reported that work on the Holm Oak in Harbledown Rectory to trim rather than fell was agreed with Canterbury City Council Arboricultural Officer.

An application has been made to remove and trim conifers at Helford Lodge, Plough Lane, Upper Harbledown. A) to remove conifers beside a neighbour; b) to reduce conifers beside driveway to 15 feet and c) to reduce leylandii on rear boundary to 2 metres. No objection to any of this

work.

A veteran oak suffering from a virulent fungus attack outside 8 Oaks Park has been reported to Kent Highways and has subsequently been visited and felled by them. A neighbouring tree is being investigated as it shows sign of a similar attack. New saplings will be planted to replace trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders; it is hoped that this will be done later this year so the trees have a better chance of surviving than those planted in the spring. Two residents in Oaks Park have expressed concerns and have been informed about what is being done.

There was a discussion about a large ash tree in Harbledown, as it will be affected by the granting of a planning application for a 4-bedroom house. The City Council has given consent for the tree to be felled and the roots removed. In addition an overgrown laurel hedge will be trimmed and 3 blackthorn trees in the hedge cut to ground level.

Highways:

Councillor Gregory reported that traffic monitoring data is now available from Canterbury City Council. As a consequence of closing Westgate Towers to traffic there has been an increase of 15 per-cent of traffic south bound towards Palmars Cross Hill during weekdays and 5 per cent at weekends. The North bound traffic has increased 1.5 per cent during weekdays and decreased by 8 per cent at weekends.

Councillor Gregory asked the Councillors for their opinion on what would be the preferred option to stop cars parking at the bus stop in Summer Hill Harbledown. There was an unanimous vote for painting the bus stop signage on the road surface. Councillor Gregory said that she would e-mail Bob Pollard, Street Enforcement Manager at Canterbury City Council to inform him of the decision.

Councillor Denham reported that the railings at the top of Church Hill, Harbledown, near the war memorial are in need of repair. Councillor Gregory said that she would contact Kent Highways, to report this.

Councillor Shire said that there was a need for grass cutting from Christchurch to the Red House at the London Road roundabout.

Councillor will be reporting this and will also make enquiries about the work being carried out at the bus stop by Garden Close.

Councillor Gregory will be attending the Kent County Council Highways & Transportation Parish Seminar on 10th October 2012.

Park and Ride:

There was no report.

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Newsletter:

There was no report

96/12 Reports of Councillor representatives

No Man's Orchard:

Councillor Gregory reported that a school party from Ashford has expressed interest in visiting the orchard. Councillor Larkinson is awaiting further details.

Police Liaison:

It was reported that there is still no news on the return of the PCSO or a replacement.

Councillor Shire reported that illegal parking is starting to happen again in Rough Common Road, and Councillor Gregory said that she would speak to Bob Pollard of Canterbury City Council about this.

Rough Common Village Hall:

Councillor Cain reported that it is hoped that work can start on the new toilet block within the next couple of months.

Work has not yet started on the new gas central heating system for the hall and that negotiations are taking place on getting the necessary grant in place, and talks with gas suppliers is also on-going. It would seem unlikely that the heating system will be in place for this winter.

KALC:

The next meeting will take place on 10th October when the speaker will be Chief Inspector Steve Barlow. Councillor Larkinson will attend and Councillor Shire has also expressed a wish to attend also

97/12 Update status on other items:

No discussions took place

98/12 Correspondence:

The digest had been circulated and was available for Councillors to read. The Councillors instructed the Clerk to contact the Clerk of Thanington Without (Civil) Parish Council to express the Parish Councils willingness for co-operation between linked Parishes.

99/12 Finance and Accounts for Payment: It was resolved to accept the accounts for payment. Proposed by Councillor Denham and seconded by Councillor Shire.

100/12 Future Issues: Park and Ride
Neal's Place Meadow

The next meeting will take place on 29th October 2012 at St Mary's Hall, Upper Harbledown commencing at 7.30pm. Planning Applications will be on display from 7.15 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

HARBLEDOWN & ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AUTHORISED AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 24th September 2012

PAYMENTS

Date		Chq	£	
02-Aug	Cllr J Larkinson	243	25.60	
02-Aug	Upper Harbledown Assoc (INS)	244	508.76	
07-Sep	D R Frost (re: OCH) Mickle	245	256.00	
07-Sep	Print	246	32.00	
	Cancelled Cheque	247		
20-Sep	Audit Commission	248	372.00	
20-Sep	D R Frost (Sept Salary & exps)	249	506.30	
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			1700.66	
	HMRC	PAYE Month 4 July 2012	BACS	134.80
		Paye Month 5 August		
	HMRC	2012	BACS	138.40
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	Total payments			1973.86

Significant receipts

BALANCES	
Lloyds TSB Bank	1,592.73
LloydsTSB Bank Corporate Deposit	27371.27
NS&I	96812.09
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TOTAL FUNDS HELD	125776.09

