

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Harbledown.
On Monday 18th September 2017

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Present Councillors A Cain, J Larkinson A Blunt, R Beattie, Jacqui Cotterill, John Cotterill, S Docherty J Edis, T Richards, B Shire, D Frost Clerk, Kent County Councillor John Simmonds, (and 7 members of the public present)

67/17 Confirmation of Summons

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

68/17 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.

69/17 Apologies for Absence.

Councillor R Perham (Holiday), Canterbury City Councillors Amy Baker, Ben Fitter-Harding, Robert Thomas and George Metcalfe (Canterbury City Council meeting)

70/17 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Edis and seconded by Councillor Larkinson that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2017 be signed as correct.

71/17 Matters Arising.

A resident asked if there were details available on the lease of land at Limes Place, Upper Harbledown. Councillor Larkinson said that details of the lease are not clear yet.

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.

72/17 Planning applications.

CA/17/011681/FUL Neal's Place Farm, Neal's Place Road. Proposed change of use of land for the stationing of 2 caravans, one for seasonal workers to use 10 months of the year, the other for residential use. Proposed installation of 2 poly tunnels.

CA/17/01924/VAR Bigbury Hollow, Pilgrims Lane, Harbledown

Reversal of condition 11 (Code for sustainable homes) of planning permission CA/11/00660/FUL for the proposed underground environmentally sustainable dwelling with landscaping.

CA/17/01974/FUL. 15 Highfield Close, Rough Common.

Proposed two-storey and a single-storey rear extensions with roof lantern above. Single-storey side/rear extension to incorporate garage and utility

room with 3 roof lights, following demolition of detached garage.

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

Decisions. Granted.

CA/17/01256/FUL. 3 College Place, Rough Common Road.

Single-storey rear extension, together with 3 roof lights.

CA/17/01198/FUL. Woodside, Bigbury Road, Harbledown. Two-storey detached dwelling, following demolition of existing dwelling.

CA/17/01190/FUL. 37 Mill Lane, Harbledown.

Two-storey side extension with car port together with first floor extension to front elevation with roof lantern and alterations to existing vehicular access.

CA/17/01523/FUL. 14 Highfield Close, Rough Common.

Single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension.

CA/17/01625/LB. Duke House, Church Hill, Harbledown.

Application for listed building consent for 2 roof lights, installation of French doors and internal relocation of WC.

CA/17/01291/FUL. Kent College Whitstable Road, Harbledown.

Proposed detached three-storey building for use as a school hall.

CA/17/00810/VAR. 54 Mill Lane, Harbledown.

Variation of condition O2 of permission application CA/14/00327/FUL.

73/17 Committee Reports

Finance

There was no report.

Councillor Richards proposed that there should be open Finance Meetings on a monthly basis. Councillor Cain pointed out that financial information was published with the minutes on a monthly basis. The proposal did not find a councillor willing to second the proposal.

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Councillor Docherty gave his report:

Neal's Place Meadow.

Landscape Services have been chased up to cut the grass in the meadow. The graffiti on the sign at the entrance to the meadow from Dukes Meadow has been removed.

Two new 'please close the gate' signs have been installed on the gate at the entrance to the meadow from Meadow Close.

I have responded to James Ross from the City Council regarding Neal's Place Farm and the management plan for the meadow.

The supplier of the 3 benches destined for the meadow experienced a shortage of materials, which has been rectified, and they are currently being made for us. I will be contacted in the next week or so to let me know they are ready.

The result of the recent Hedgehog survey in the meadow concluded that there was evidence of Hedgehogs and small mammals.

Dukes Meadow and Jubilee Field.

Two small areas in Dukes Meadow and Jubilee Field have been re-seeded and have grown away well.

Councillor Edis said that a notice at Cheyney Field saying 'please clean up after your dogs' was misleading as in fact dogs are not allowed in the field. Councillor Docherty said that the notice will be taken down and a new sign will be erected at the entrance to the field saying 'no dogs allowed'

A resident reported that dogs are walked without leads in Blean Woods. Councillor Docherty said that he would contact the RSPB, who own the land.

There was a discussion regarding the provision of 'dog litter bins', raised by a resident. Councillor Blunt that he would contact Canterbury City Council about replacement and the provision of extra bins.

War Memorial

I have spoken to the Fifth Trust regarding maintenance of the war memorial in Harbledown. They could provide a service whenever we wanted at a cost of 16.50 an hour.

Allotments:

There was no report.

74/17 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios**Footpaths:**

Councillor Blunt gave his report:

I have inspected some of our footpaths and most seem to be in fair condition.

The camper van, I reported on at the last meeting, that was burnt out and dumped on the entrance to the Pilgrims Way has been removed although some broken glass and debris has been left behind.

The stile on the alleyway from Ross Gardens to the woods had sunk due to the heavy rain. I have repaired this.

The overgrown ivy that had fallen and blocked the footpath from St Michael's Close to Garden Close has been removed so this path is usable again.

At the last meeting, I reported the complaint from a parishioner about the overhanging trees on the footpath from Garden Close to the village hall, which was right over the path from number 2 to number 3. The residents at this house have now had the offending tree lopped back and the problem is solved.

I again approached the residents of number 60 and 62 Rough Common Road with reference to the overhanging hedges making visibility bad exiting from Ross Gardens and am pleased to report a 50% success in as much number 60 have trimmed theirs back. I will retry, again with a printed diagram of how the hedge should be kept, with the occupants of number 62.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Shire gave her report

Highways have trimmed 3 oak trees beside the road through Rough Common:2 on Palmars Cross Hill whose branches were below pedestrian head height and the one by Garden Close bus stop whose branches were hitting buses.

Highways have been asked to trim the branches around the LED light in Oaks Park, which was installed in the crown of a tree, so it is less effective than it should be.

Highways plan to re-stake the bird cherry outside 1 Garden Close as the stakes have become loose. A request has been made to Highways to do the same for the rowan outside 103 Rough Common Road for the same reason. There has been a reply or action so far to this request.

A Tree Surgeon has cleared the willow overhanging the path between St Michael's Close and Garden Close. The cost of this work was £75.00. The occupant of 3 St Michael's Close paid for the trimming over her garden and the reaction to the work from local residents has been very positive.

A resident in Hillview Road has a tree in Dukes Meadow causing problems. This is a dead tree left as standing dead wood and has blown over to rest against the residents fence. A Tree Surgeon has been asked to remove the tree. This hasn't been done yet.

A request for a quote has been made to a Tree Surgeon to trim other trees in Dukes Meadow. These trees have not been trimmed for several years. These are sycamores by the gardens of Westgate Close, where many branches have grown up in and around the hedge, and some of the higher branches are hanging over the gardens; also ash trees by the bridleway CB519A above the gardens of Westgate Court Avenue. One of these was declared dead by a resident in the spring, but it has produced leaves just a little later than the others, the Tree Surgeon will advise how they should be reduced to prevent any branches falling over resident's gardens.

There are two applications to the City Council concerning trees in a conservation area.

2 Little Meadow in Upper Harbledown has a large sycamore growing beside a garage and wall, which are being disturbed. Aidan Potts suggests this is a self-sown getting out of hand. Councillor Shire said that she has no objection to cutting it down as requested.

Whits End Mill Lane Harbledown have many large trees in their rear garden and wish to turn it into a pineatum, so wish to fell a number of broad leaved trees as well as one leylandii. Aidan Potts has advised that the ground here isn't really suited to conifers unless well watered and acid. So far the Douglas fir and scots pine are growing well and the owners want them to have more space. None of the trees can be seen from the road and the council has already granted permission to fell a Leyland cypress, cherry, sweet chestnut and walnut, and to trim a hawthorn and rowan.

Residents in Rough Common wish us to reduce the crowns of the oaks by the path to Oaks Park beside the chapel to give their gardens more light and air. The trees have TPOs and belong to the City Council. Councillor Shire has asked the City Council and they say they do not have a budget to go beyond their legal obligations, which do not include providing residents with light, air or TV reception. They do not regard the trees as a safety hazard. Councillor Shire asked the Parish Council if they wish to pay for or towards this tree work. Councillor Larkinson said that this is not an appropriate use of Parish Council funds and that these are fantastic trees and to cut branches out will destroy their impact. The committee supported this view.

A complaint has been received from a resident of Upper Harbledown about the state of the field on the north of the road into the village towards London, just before Harbledown Lodge. We would need to refer to the Land Registry to find out who owns this. It appears neglected and needs properly fencing and using as it gives a derelict impression of the village. Perhaps the Upper Harbledown Association could help, and any comments from the Open Spaces Officer would be welcome. The Chairman of the Upper Harbledown Association informed the Clerk that Harbledown Lodge owns the land and Councillor Shire is going to send an email to the owner.

The Parish is registered a Tree Charter Parish and copies of the Woodland Trust newsletter was distributed at the meeting. Councillor Shire reported that she has asked for a 'Tree Charter Legacy Tree (a hornbeam to plant) in the space at the bottom of Palmars Cross Hill in November.

Highways:

Councillor Beattie gave his report.

Councillor Beattie said that he was pleased to report that all the old streetlights in Oaks Park have been replaced with new LED lights.

Speed watch sessions are continuing, and the team try to get out once a week. As the winter approaches it is necessary to pay particular attention to safety aspects of the changing weather, as recent sessions have had to be cancelled recently.

Councillor will be looking at overgrown hedges now that the birds have finished nesting, and looking at the issue of grass verges being overgrown and blocking pavements so that prams/wheelchairs are having difficulty.

Councillor Richards reported that an email has been by Councillor Perham from Chris Maw, Highway manager for Kent County Council, regarding the proposed bus shelter at Garden Close Rough Common. Mr Maw is seeking a second opinion regarding shelter size and access and will report to Councillor Perham in due course.

Councillor Beattie said that a detailed costing was required for the project and asked Kent County Councillor John Simmonds to speak to Chris Maw to get this done, before the project can continue.

A resident asked about a speed indication sign in Rough Common Road. Councillor Cain said that this matter is in hand and that Kent County Councillor John Simmonds will arrange a survey to ascertain a suitable location.

A resident enquired about the ownership of the road leading up to St Michael's Church Hall, which is in need of repair. Councillor Larkinson

said that the church owned this road and that she together with Councillor Jacqui Cotterill will help investigate where funding could be found for the resurfacing of the road.

Councillor Shire and some residents expressed their concern regarding the pedestrian crossing island by 'The Hole in the Wall'. The reflective signs are completely obscured in both directions. Invisible at night.

Green moss covering the signs. This is a hazard as drivers will not be able to see that it is a pedestrian crossing in the middle of the road.

Councillor Blunt reported this problem in April 2017 and it appears that no action has been taken.

Newsletter:

Councillor Cotterill reported that the website is up and running. The Tree Charter will be uploaded and links to local associations will be added, for the benefit of residents.

Councillor Cotterill reported that emergency planning is continuing. She also said that a survey is needed for identifying amenities to provide places of safety in the event of an emergency.

The Parish Council representatives have attended training courses on the subject and the next course is due to be held in 2018.

75/17 Reports of Councillor representatives

No Man's Orchard:

Councillor Larkinson reported that the next meeting of the Orchard Committee will be held on 25th September..

Police Liaison:

Councillor Edis has spoken to the PCSO and was told that 5 or 6 cars have been broken into, during the past week, in Rough Common.

Rough Common Village Hall:

Councillor Cain reported that the next village hall committee meeting would be held on the 20th September.

Councillor Cain will report on the refurbishment progress at the October

Parish Council meeting.

KALC:

There was no report, but Councillor Larkinson said she would be attending the Community Governance review meeting on 26th September, together with Councillor Beattie.

76/17 Update status on other items:

77/17 Correspondence:

The digest had been circulated and was available for Councillors to read.

78/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment: It was resolved to accept the accounts, proposed by Councillor Larkinson and seconded by Councillor Edis

79/17 Future Issues.

Park and Ride monies distribution

Rough Common Village Sign.

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Emergency Plan.

Website.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 30th October 2017 Rough Common Village Hall, commencing 7.30 pm

The meeting closed 8.55 p.m.

Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

Schedule of Authorised Payments 18th September 2017.

PAYMENTS

Cheque

0.00

BACS

D Frost	Salary & Expenses August 2017	583.72
HMRC	PAYE/NIC August 2017	165.15
LCS	First payment 2017. Ground maintenance	4807.09
Webmonkey	Website maintenance August 2017	72.00
Wickstead Leisure	Play Area Inspection August 2017	54.00
PFK Littleohn	External Audit 2016-2017	240.00
D Frost	Salary & Expenses September 2017	597.86
HMRC	PAYE/NIC September 2017	152.95
WebMonkey	Website maintenance September 2017	72.00

Total Payments 6744.77

Significant Receipts

HMRC VAT repayment June 2017 Quarter 3235.01

3235.01

Cash Book Balance at 30th September 2017

£128,028.08