

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Mary's Hall Upper Harbledown,
On Monday 27th November 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, R Perham, T Richards, B Shire, Canterbury City Councillor Amy Baker, (and 10 members of the public present)

93/17 Confirmation of Summons

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

94/17 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.

95/17 Apologies for Absence.

D Frost Clerk (Family sickness), Canterbury City Councillors, Ben Fitter-Harding (Meeting), Robert Thomas (funeral) and George Metcalfe (meeting), Kent County Councillor John Simmonds (sickness).

96/17 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Larkinson and seconded by Councillor Beattie that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2017 be signed as correct.

97/17 Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

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.

98/17 Planning applications.

CA/17/02473/FUL 40 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Proposed single-storey side and rear extension with 2 no roof lights, following the demolition of existing extension and garage.

CA/17/02498/FUL Ville of Dunkirk, Dover Road, Upper Harbledown

Proposed erection of a garage with storage over and illuminated tennis court.

CA/17/02557/FUL. 37 Ross Gardens, Rough Common.

Proposed rear and side two single-storey extensions, following removal of existing extension, with the addition of a parapet to a portion of the roof.

CA/17/02614/MIN. 3 College Place, Rough Common Road, Rough

Common.

Non-material amendment to planning permission **CA/17/01256/FUL**

CA/17/02484/FUL. Neal's Place Farm, Neal's Place Road, Harbledown.

Removal of condition 04 of planning permission **CA/17/01681/FUL** for change of use of land for the stationing of one caravan for residential use and the proposed installation of two poly tunnels to allow year round covering of poly tunnels.

It was resolved that no objection be raised to these applications. However Councillor Larkinson proposed that application CA/17/02498/FUL. Ville of Dunkirk should be qualified and that Canterbury City Council places a restriction to prevent the garage being used for accommodation, in the future.

Decisions. Granted.

CA/17/02066/FUL. Willow Down, Wingate Hill, Harbledown.

Proposed change of use and conversion of existing double garage to provide one self contained holiday let.

CA/17/01268/FUL 1 China Farm, Poldhurst Farm Road, Upper Harbledown.

Proposed single-storey side extension.

CA/17/02264/FUL 12 Fir Tree Close Rough Common.

Proposed outbuilding for ancillary accommodation.

99/17 Committee Reports

Finance

There was no report.

Councillor Richards asked that a cash balance be included in future reports

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Councillor Docherty gave his report:

The resident from Hillview Road whose garden backs on to Neal's Place meadow who asked for access through the meadow for a small digger has completed his work, with no issues to report.

Native Ecology who surveyed Neal's Place meadow for hedgehogs recently would like to return again next spring with a camera trap, set up along the allotments edge, under the hedge to monitor any activity.

The new benches are ready for installation at Neal's Place Meadow.

Allotments:

Councillor Perham reported that there are 2 allotments for rent at Hillside Allotments and that Mrs Helen Clark has received a letter concerning her selling produce and sub-letting her allotment.

Invoices for the year commencing 1st January 2018 have been issued and a number of tenants have paid.

100/17 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios

Footpaths:

Councillor Blunt gave his report:

At the last meeting I reported the problems I was having contacting Sero with reference to having the dog waste bin reinstated at the alleyway into Ross Gardens/Fir Tree Close, Ben Fitter-Harding has kindly taken this up on our behalf and quickly got some response.

The dog waste bin, according to Sero, was very rarely used and was removed and relocated, after requests from the RSPB, to the woods car park.

Sero's reply was that "if residents of the street were just using it occasionally for convenience they would now need to put the dog waste in their own bins".

However, I will monitor the situation and if dog fouling becomes a problem I will try them again.

The high stile that was reported at the October meeting along footpath CB485 at the bottom of Golden Hill I feel does require attention, as do 2 more stiles on this path. Interestingly the gates and stiles on this footpath were last inspected by KCC in 2005 so I am not surprised that they may need some attention. Due to the location and the available access I cannot carry all the materials down to repair them. I have reported to KCC and had a report number so hopefully, if experience is anything to go by, they will be repaired in the next 3 months.

I would ask that any resident that have a problem with gates or stiles on footpaths to report them to me or the KCC at the earliest opportunity.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Shire reported that there have been no new applications for work to trees in the conservation area.

Councillor Shire has sent an email to the head office of the organisation that runs Harbledown Lodge, and also visited the house where she spoke with one of the maintenance staff. No reply has been received but they are now aware of residents' concerns about the field.

Councillor Shire is still working to find a time when the tree surgeon can look at the trees in Dukes Meadow. He is also working on the hedge at the bottom of Neal's Place Meadow.

Councillor Shire is aware of a possible discussion about the trees by Garden Close bus stop and is prepared for that.

Highways:

Councillor Beattie reported that this month we have the National Speed Awareness week, November 20-24th. We hoped to be on the road every day; but Monday was too wet for safety. Tuesday to Friday has seen observations every day. There were 168 offenders over 4 days. The highest recorded speed was 50mph. We have bought some tally counters to measure the total number of vehicles and have found that between 650 and 750 vehicles pass Rough Common Village Hall going eastbound between 8 and 9 in the morning and 8% of all vehicles observed were doing 35 mph or higher.

Traffic surveys will be carried out in December at Rough Common Village Hall, Roman Road, Upper Harbledown (opposite Chaucer Mews) and Church Hill, Harbledown (by the sign) from 7th to 13th of December.

There is a problem with water running down Palmars Cross Hill. This is something to do with telephone cable/gas connections. KCC Highways are investigating.

Limes Place Upper Harbledown.

It was reported that there has been no action on the requested footway at Limes Place. Paul Leary of KCC believes that it is unnecessary, as dropping some kerbs will allow access to the bus stop without having to install a pavement on the corner. It will be difficult to assess the need until there is a significant footfall to get details of requirements.

Councillor Larkinson reported that she has noticed a KCC plan to put a protection surface on the footway between the Lodge and Kent College

Junior School in Church Hill. This footway has a very light footfall and Councillor Larkinson has suggested to Highways that a new footway at Upper Harbledown at the Limes Place site is more important. She requested that this should be given priority and that it might be possible for the Parish Council to contribute towards the cost.

Councillor Larkinson said that no additional work was needed on the pavements in Church Hill and Wingate Hill as they are not used much, so that money saved could be allocated to Limes Place.

Bus service in Rough Common.

Residents attending the meeting complained that the bus service has become unreliable.

Two residents said they had waited over 30 minutes at the Garden Close bus stop; The bus did not arrive as per the published schedule. A letter will be sent asking if the service timetable has been amended.

Proposed bus shelter near Garden Close.

There was a discussion after concerns was raised by members of the public about the impact of the proposed bus shelter near Garden Close. Worries were aired about the destruction of oak trees and roots, and the disturbing of nightjars. Councillor Perham explained that the recent survey showed that the shelter would not be built on RSPB land, but would be on the existing hard standing, and no trees or roots would be damaged. Councillor Shire confirmed that the nightjar nests in a different location.

One of the members of the public asked if the Parish Council have heard about the ‘ Canterbury Western Link Road’. No one on the council was aware of this so it needs to be investigated.

Newsletter:

Councillor Jacqui Cotterill reported that Facebook and website are all ok apart from the usual plea to let us know if there is an event arranged so we can put it on web page. That does not seem to happen and there are a lot of Christmas related activities going on in the villages that we do not have information for.

The Emergency plan is coming along following the template from Kent Fire and Rescue. Rough Common Village Hall and St Michael’s Church Hall are still awaiting to be assessed.

Councillor Jacqui Cotterill said that there is an island off Vancouver island British Columbia, Canada that is named after Harbledown. There is an email address and Councillor Cotterill asked permission To send greetings to them. The Committee unanimously agreed.

101/17 Reports of Councillor representatives

No Man's Orchard:

The next committee meeting is on Tuesday 23rd January 2018.

Police Liaison:

There was no report.

Rough Common Village Hall:

The hall will be used as a local part-time Post Office on Monday afternoons from 15.00 to 17.00. Blean Village Hall will use the same Post Master for Mondays and Wednesdays 12.30 to 14.30 from the end of December.

The hall will be redecorated over Easter 2018. A flyer has been produced asking for volunteers to assist. Windsor Décor has been recommended.

KALC:

Councillors Larkinson, Cotterill, Beattie and Shire attended the AGM on 18th November. There was a new programme this year so the meeting began with two speakers. Lord Sackville spoke about the new repairs and conservation at Knole. Amanda Cottrell, former High Sheriff of Kent spoke about tourism in Kent. She exhorted us to make the most of events in our villages to encourage participation by residents and visitors. She was also enthusiastic about twinning which started us thinking.

After the business there was one motion put forward by Wingham Parish Council. The KALC to take action to ensure that all rural villages and isolated communities in Kent have the right to impose 20 mph an hour speed limits.

After discussion a large majority passed the motion.

102/17 **Update status on other items:**

Development items.

The ownership of the sports field needs to be established and the name of the Village Hall charity needs to be changed to reflect the change in ownership.

The Rough Common Village sign design needs modifying to replace the existing butterfly with a Heath Fritillary and then arrange producing a finished sign for installation.

Tubs with plants are recommended for The Greens and residents have agreed to water them. It was that crocuses be planted in the corner of The Green, The Gardeners club will be approached to recommend the best type.

103/17 **Correspondence:**

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

104/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment: It was resolved to accept the accounts, proposed by Councillor Edis and seconded by Councillor Larkinson.

The total of balances held at bank amounted to £127,101.59.

105/17 Future Issues.

Rough Common Village Sign.

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Emergency Plan.

Rough Common Playing Field

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 8th January
2018 St Michael's Church Hall, Harbledown commencing 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed 8.30 p.m.

Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

Schedule of Authorised Payments 27th November 2017.

PAYMENTS		Cheque	
South East Water	Hillside Allotment Water	429	79.50
			<hr/>
			79.50
		BACS	
D Frost	Salary & expenses Nov 2017		603.20
HMRC	PAYE/NIC November 2017		153.15
Webmonkey	Website maintenance Oct 2017		72.00
Webmonkey	Website maintenance Nov 2017		72.00
Wicksteed	Play area inspection Oct 2017		54.00
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	Total Payments		1033.85
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	Significant Receipts		
Payin 24/25	Allotment rents 2018		157.37
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			157.37
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