

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

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Harbledown  
On Monday 30th July 2018

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

**Present Councillors A Cain, R Beattie, S Docherty, A Blunt, J Larkinson, R Perham, T Richards, Canterbury City Councillor Amy Baker, Clerk D Frost (and 2 members of the public present)**

**54/18 Confirmation of Summons**

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

**55/18 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.

**Apologies for Absence.**

**56/18** Councillor Shire, Councillor Jacqui Cotterill, Councillor John Cotterill, Councillor Edis, Canterbury City Councillors Ben Fitter-Harding, George Metcalfe, Robert Thomas (CCC meetings), Kent County Councillor John Simmonds.

**57/18 Approval of Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor and seconded by Councillor that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2018 be signed as correct.

**58/18 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.**

**59/18 Planning applications.**

**CA/18/01184/FUL Harbledown Service Station, Dover Road A2**

Proposed single-storey side and rear extension to sales building and associated external alterations, re-siting of water bay and installation of 2 no electric vehicle charging bays.

**CA/18/01331/FUL. Whitehall Farm, Whitehall Road, Harbledown.**

Proposed replacement garage/workshop and stable block following demolition of existing garage and stable block.

**CA/18/01567/FUL. 49 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.**

Proposed first floor extension and two-storey side extension.

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

**Decisions. Granted.**

**CA/18/01184/FUL 60-62, Rough Common Road, Rough Common**

Proposed two-storey rear extension and cladding to exterior.

**CA/18/01045/FUL. 9 Churchwood Close, Rough Common.**

Proposed first floor side and single-storey rear extensions and pitched roof to front.

**CA/18/0603/VAR. Whits End, Mill Lane, Harbledown.**

Proposed single and two-storey extensions to front and side use of garage and ancillary accommodation and erection of 3 bay garage.

**Amended plans/additional information received.**

**Application CA/18/01041/FUL. Running Water, Wingate Hill, Upper Harbledown**

Councillor Larkinson reported that she had spoken to the planning officer at Canterbury City Council and was informed that the application was likely to be rejected.

A representative of the Parish Council will speak about this application at the next Canterbury City Council planning meeting. The application was discussed at the June 2018 Parish Council meeting and the committee had no objection to the application.

Councillor Larkinson reported that a letter had been received asking for a donation towards the cost of a judicial appeal regarding the proposed Mountfield Park development and the breach of the air quality guidelines. The committee discussed this request and decided that it could not agree to a donation being given.

Councillor Larkinson reported that a letter has been received from Canterbury City Council advising that properties in Bigbury Road, Chartham Hatch would now be in the parish of Harbledown & Rough Common Parish Council.

**60/18 Committee Reports**

**Finance**

There was no report.

## **Open Spaces and Allotments**

### **Open Spaces**

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

Councillor Docherty reported that he had reported to the contractor who installed the benches for us that one fixing was not particularly secure and he has now fixed the issue.

Some of the fencing from around the site where we had the water leak has now gone but I will contact the contractor to get the rest removed.

The hedge bordering Neal's Place Road and the Meadow has been cut making it look a lot tidier.

A member of the public said that a dog litter bin was needed at the bottom of the meadow by the large gate. Councillor Blunt said that he had contacted Serco regarding repositioning of dog litter bins and will contact them again regarding this and also the possibility of providing an additional bin for the meadow.

#### **Pine Meadow**

The pedestrian gate somehow appears to close again- I will monitor it in case we need to repair it. There is an overhanging hedge just on the meadow which obstructs entry, which I will sort this week. I spoke at the end of last week to the man from Wicksteed, who inspects the play equipment. He suggests that I need to cordon off the piece of equipment that has a broken climbing net and put up some 'keep off' signs. He is also sending through an updated quotation for the work to be done.

Serco don't appear to be emptying the waste bin, so I will be in touch with them.

#### **Jubilee Field.**

There appears to be evidence of motorbikes at the entrance to the field.

The Jubilee Field sign has spray paint on it, which I will remove, and in a month or so I will re-seed the area by the bench where there has been a bonfire. There is also a lot of rubbish at the bottom of the hill which I shall clear up.

Councillor Perham reported that graffiti has appeared on one of the benches. Councillor Docherty said that he would look at the problem.

#### **Allotments:**

There was no report.

## **61/18 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios**

### **Footpaths:**

Councillor Blunt reported that the overgrown area at the front of 65A Rough Common Road, which is a student let, that was reported at the last meeting has now been attended to after a request to the landlord.

Councillor Blunt reported that he has cut back both hedges and undergrowth on footpath CB505 that runs from Whitstable Road at the side of Kent College to Neal's Place Road and footpath CB512 that runs

down the side of Vernon Holme in Harbledown, these are now clear and very passable.

The on-going saga of the fencing that was Councillor Blunt removed two months ago that was blocking the pathway by the cycle path CB519A is still not resolved. Kent County Council have now decided that as the offending fence was on the side of the path nearest Dukes Meadow it is not their responsibility. Kent County Council did send an officer to inspect it but he could not see the fencing in question. As this is not causing any real problems Councillor Blunt proposes to leave the remnants of the hedging where they are.

### **Tree Matters:**

Councillor Shire reported that the trees along Rough Common Road and in Oaks Park are coping with the drought, thanks to watering by a number of residents, Thanks very much to them for their public spirited help. The parish Council has been asked by a resident to consider adding to the display of daffodils between the oak trees on Palmars Cross Hill, and leaving more of the grass uncut while flowers bloom there. Councillor Shire would be grateful for Parish Council support and permission to complete a 'cultivation licence' for this area, as she believes this is required. If not, then wild flower seeds could be scattered or more bulbs planted.

The plot holder has cut the overgrown conifer hedge by the Hillside Allotments to an acceptable level. Thanks for him for doing work that should have been done by the householder.

Councillor Shire has completed an application to fell one of the sycamores on the edge of Dukes Meadow, on the advice of our tree surgeon, as well as to crown reduce the neighbouring oaks to give more light and air to residents further up Westgate Close. The work will not be done until nesting is over. Councillor Shire said that she wonders whether the hedge in which these trees grow is part of Landscape Services contract for keeping it cut to a reasonable height and thickness. It does not appear to have been cut for some time and this is causing the residents to complain about lack of light and air. If Landscape Services could trim the hedge it will save some of the tree surgeon's work.

Also when nesting is over Councillor Shire will cut a section from the ivy climbing a birch tree in Cheney Field that is becoming top heavy with ivy. The Highways authority is doing some crown lifting of old oaks, and removing stakes and mulching young oaks in Oaks Park. There have been no further applications for work to trees in the area. Councillor Shire will, over the summer, be seeking agreement from residents of Highfield Close for the planting of trees in the verge outside those houses whose owners have requested them. If agreed a plan for planting will be organised.

The committee discussed the possibility of planting daffodils between the oak trees on Palmars Cross Hill and agreed that Councillor Shire be given permission to complete a cultivation licence for this area.

**Highways:**

Councillor Beattie reported that:

**Bollard outside 59a Rough Common Road.**

I have been in contact with Michael Heath, our new Highway Steward. He has rejected the plan to put two bollards into the verge outside number 59a Rough Common Road on the grounds that it would 'affect sight lines for vehicles exiting the junction'. A further consideration is both the on-going maintenance of the bollards and the future grass cutting requirements. As this plan is specifically intended to allow clear sight lines by preventing vans from parking on the verge, has a clear mandate from the Parish Council, has the required bollards in stock, is completely funded by the parish Council and will enable grass cutting in the same way as the grass around the trees and the bollards on the green is cut, I am very surprised at this response. I have asked Amy Baker to look into it.

**Empty buses using Rough Common Road as a rat run.**

I spoke to Philip Lightowler. Head of Public Transport for Kent. He told me that an empty double decker bus weighs 18 tonnes so is happy to help in reducing their presence on a road with a 7.5 tonne weight limit. Buses will be instructed to use London Road, St Dunstons Hill, and Whitstable Road (A290) to get to the coastal towns when empty. The London Road prohibition sign has been removed.

**Bus Shelter on Palmars Cross Hill.**

There are new grants for bus shelters available. I have spoken to Jean Molloy and she has agreed in principle, and the Clerk has sent in the grant application. The plan was previously rejected by Michael Heath, so this time we need to focus on implementing the democratic will of the people. We can apply for a new grant every year, so if we can justify it and have money in our budget we can apply for shelters at all the bus stops in our villages. One per year, or we can fund them on our own.

**Speeding buses**

As Rough Common Road sees many buses travelling at high speed, we need to get them to slow down. Philip Lightowler will look into this problem.

**Illegal lorry use in Rough Common Road.**

A lorry has been carrying building waste through a 7.5 tonne weight limit. Councillor Shire has identified the offender and contacted their employer.

We have received an assurance that the driver will use a different route.

**The big conversation – concerns the future of public transport in villages without enough buses.**

**There were three options-**

- 1) A people carrier to get people to a main bus route, scheduled to link to main-route bus timetables.
- 2) Demand responsive transit (DRT), which is a bookable and advertised taxi service, so that all users can share the cost.
- 3) A scheduled ‘Taxi-Bus’ service which people can use for a small fee or donation, subsidized by KCC. The Taxi-Bus was the most popular.

It is suggested that large buses that run nearly empty for most of the day are replaced with ‘people carriers’ to save cost and environmental impact. Surveys can be completed by 8<sup>th</sup> August, obtainable from [Kent.go.uk/bigconversation](http://Kent.go.uk/bigconversation).

**Speedwatch.**

Due to the excessive heat we haven’t done a speedwatch this month.

**Fly-tipping at 1 Fir Tree Close.**

The agent managing this site has dumped furniture onto the garden and onto the pavement. There were pallets on the council-owned land to the left of the property. These have been removed. Amy Baker has been asked to check if this illegal fly tipping by the estate agent will be prosecuted.

Councillor Perham said that the occupant of 112 Rough Common Road appeared to be running a business selling cars from this address. Complaints have been made that ‘visitors’ are illegally parking on verges and pavements. Councillor Cain asked that a letter be written to the occupier reminding him that cars must be parked on the road and that a commercial business should not be run from a private residential address. Councillor Perham questioned the placing of two benches on the green space at Oaks Park, which was suggested by a resident of Oaks Park at the last meeting.

Newsletter:

There was no report.

**62/18** Reports of Councillor representatives

No Mans Orchard.

Councillor Larkinson reported that the displays provided by Chartham Parish Council and Harbledown & Rough Common Parish Council look impressive and she would encourage people to visit the orchard and have a look.

**Police Liaison:**

There was no report.

**Rough Common Village Hall:**

Councillor Cain said that the Village Hall Committee would be meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Amy Baker submitted her report on the proposed children's play area at Rough Common Village Hall field, which contained the results of the survey of residents and a quotation from Playdale of £19,974.33 exclusive of VAT. Amy Baker asked the committee if they would purchase the equipment and recover the VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Blunt and seconded by Councillor Richards that the Parish Council should support

purchasing the play equipment using the ring-fenced funds allocated to Rough Common, from the Park and Ride Fund. A vote was taken with 6 in favour and one abstention.

Councillor Cain reported having received a complaint about the 'biffa' bin at Rough Common Village Hall that was overflowing with rubbish and causing an odorous problem to the neighbour of the hall. Councillor Cain said that this problem is being addressed.

Councillor Cain also reported that she has received an email complaint about the proposals for new play equipment on the playing field.

Councillor Cain has responded supporting the purchase of new equipment as supported by the survey of residents in 2016 and subsequently by the Parish Council.

**KALC:**

There was no report.

**63/18 Update status on other items:**

Councillor Cain reported that Father Peter would like some work to the area around the War Memorial. Father Peter also expressed his concern about motor-cycles using the bridle path past the Church and St Michael's Hall, which is causing a concern for the safety of legitimate users of the path. Councillor Blunt reported that the law on footpaths and bridle paths does not allow the erection of new barriers. Councillor Blunt suggested that Father Peter should look into the possibility of installing a CCTV camera.

Councillor Cain reported that she had received an email from Father Peter who requested that the terraced triangle at the war memorial be repaired and replanted. Councillor Docherty agreed to inspect and report back. Councillor Cain reported that the Village Sign People, who have been asked to produce the sign for Rough Common, are on holiday until the 6<sup>th</sup> August. Councillor Cain said that she would in touch with them when they return from holiday.

**64/18 Correspondence:**

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

**65/18 Finance and Accounts for Payment:** It was resolved to accept the accounts, proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Larkinson. **The total of balances held at bank amounted to £147,791.27**

**66/18 Future Issues.**

Rough Common Village Sign.

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Emergency Plan.

Rough Common Playing Field.

Parish Council elections May 2019.



**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 17th September  
2018 at Rough Common Village Hall, commencing 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 8.52 p.m.

## Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

### Schedule of Authorised Payments 30th July 2018.

<b>PAYMENTS</b>		Cheque	
Hugh Williams	Tree work Westgate Close	437	640.00
Water Choice	Cheyney Field Allotment	438	31.61
Serco	Emptying litter bins	439	128.58
Kent Air			
Ambulance	Donation 2018-2019	440	250.00
Mr D Greenstreet	Art work RC village sign	441	100.00
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		BACS	
D Frost	Salary & expenses July 2018		620.74
HMRC	PAYE/NI July 2018		180.45
Webmonkey	Website maintenance July 2018		72.00
Mickle Print	2018-19 Meeting Cards		35.00
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			<b>£147,791.27</b>