

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Upper Harbledown
On Monday 26th November 2018

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Present Councillors : A Blunt, A Cain, John Cotterill, Jacqui Cotterill, , R Beattie, S Docherty, J Larkinson, R Perham, Canterbury City Councillor Robert Thomas, Clerk D Frost (and 4 members of the public present)

93/18 Confirmation of Summons

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

94/18 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.

95/18 Councillors Shire, Edis and Richards, Canterbury City Councillors: Ben Fitter-Harding, George Metcalfe, and Amy Baker (CCC meetings)

96/18 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Larkinson that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2018 be signed as correct.

97/18 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.

98/18 Planning applications.

CA/18/02208/FUL. 1, Glemsford Cottages, London Road, Upper Harbledown

Proposed dormer window with balcony to rear elevation and roof light to front elevation to create additional roof space for use as living accommodation.

CA/18/02221/FUL. Mindoea Heights, Mill Lane, Harbledown.

Retrospective application for changes to south and west elevations and change of use of ground floor from garage/car port to home office.

CA/18/02258/FUL. The Burrow, Faulkners Lane, Harbledown.

Proposed erection of a glass solar dome in rear garden.

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

Decisions. Granted.

CA/18/02207/LUP Rough Common Playing Field, Rough Common.

Application for lawful development.

99/18 Committee Reports

Finance

There was no report.

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Councillor Docherty gave his report:

Neal's Place Meadow.

The annual grass cut was made at last over the 8th/9th November, after much chasing.

More graffiti has appeared on a bench, which I shall remove.

I am in discussion with a local farmer who may take a cut in April/May next year-this would have benefits in reducing the vigour of the grasses and delaying the growth of weeds such as thistle and brambles. The summer/autumn cut in August will then help in the reduction of these weeds.

The legacy tree was planted on Saturday, which was the start of tree planting week (and also tree charter day) in Neal's Place Meadow next to the bench by the cycle path.

Jubilee Field.

Somebody had a bonfire and fireworks party a few weeks ago-I have cleared up the mess and will re-seed the burnt area when it is fit to do so.

Landscape Services

Contracts for 2019 season ground maintenance is due to be placed. I appreciate that we have had a couple of issues at Neal's Place Meadow this year but I am not too dissatisfied with the performance overall. I will arrange a site meeting with the contractor to highlight the problems and get them rectified for next season.

Invoicing which is currently July and November will next season change to monthly and reflect the work carried out that month.

This may be an opportune time to review the contract for 2020 and to look at alternatives and obtain quotations from alternative operators but I propose that we accept the current offer and I will look to receive assurances that we have no repeat of this year's issues.

Play Equipment

I have quotations for the repairs to the play equipment in Pine Meadow. The company that currently provides us with quarterly inspections and has previously done repair work for us is expensive. The alternative supplier is the one who actually manufactures the equipment and can do the work at 18% less, just over a £1,000 difference. A discussion then took place and the councillors agreed that Councillor Docherty would tape off the play equipment that was in need of repair and in the spring of 2019 a review of the play area and the needs of the village will be carried out. The amount of the section 106 monies accruing from the development at Upper Harbledown will also be known and it then can be decided how to apportion this money between the village tennis court and the play area at Pine Meadow.

Allotments:

There was no report.

100/18 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios

Footpaths:

Councillor Blunt gave his report:

Due to the heavy rain Councillor Blunt has not managed to check many paths this month however the ones that have been inspected seem to be in a reasonable condition for this time of year.

The footpath CB452 that runs through No Man's Orchard from Chartham Hatch towards Harbledown has, been very well used, which Councillor Blunt suspects is in view of the presentation of the commemorations of the armistice in 1918 and the very wonderful idea of the black crosses and servicemen's information on the apple trees. All that were involved in the

effort to show these representations should be proud of the fine work and Councillor would like to thank them for their hard work.

Footpath CB520 that runs from Bigbury Road down towards the railway line in Tonford Lane has again been targeted by littering, fortunately the rubbish was contained in supermarket bags and these have been disposed of. Quite why someone would want to walk half a mile down a footpath to fly tip small bags is a mystery especially as these could have been deposited in any public or private litter bin.

A member of the public again raised the matter of dog fouling footpaths in Rough Common. It was reported that the new lamppost in the area does not have a sign asking dog walkers to clear up after their animals. Another member of the public said that Meadow Road, close to Hillside allotments, needs a dog litterbin. Councillor Perham suggested that Mr Tom Witney should be consulted before any action is taken. The resident also brought up the question of rubbish being left by EDF employees when working on power cables in the same area.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Shire submitted a written report.

Applications to manage trees in the parish all involve crown thinning or reductions, or removing self-grown trees in a layby.

Hugh Williams, tree surgeon, plans to complete the crown reduction work on two oaks and a sycamore in Dukes Meadow in a fortnight.

Complaints have been received from a resident of Westgate Close about the sawdust and leaves in her garden and the rear passage behind the gardens when the rotten sycamore was felled. There was also some damage to her bird table, which Councillor Shire will discuss with the tree surgeon. Councillor Shire said that she would be told when the next work will happen and will notify residents. At least one resident was delighted with the extra light and air after the hedge was trimmed and is keen for the rest of the work to go ahead.

Councillor Beattie and Councillor Shire met Daniel Kemsley (Soft Landscapes, Highways) about planting of trees in Highfield Close. He will be sending details in due course and hopes the planting of five flowering cherry trees will be done this year. They will be planted with root barriers to avoid damage nearby.

These trees will have fifteen watering sessions from Highways to make sure they settle in well. He is also keeping an eye on the trees in Rough Common Road with a view to replacing any failed trees (in particular he was looking at the oak on the left of the entrance to Oaks Park, which has not suffered lack of watering but is not thriving as it should). He will also watch carefully the two birch trees in Rough Common Road. We considered the light enclosed by a tree in Oaks Park and there seemed to be some uncertainty about the ownership of the tree However, some

pruning is proposed.

Highways:

Councillor Beattie reported that:

Street Light in Oaks Park placed too close to a tree.

This has been on-going since a fault was logged on 15th June 2018 under ref 366233, where KCC say the problem has been resolved with the customer and notice served on Canterbury City Council. No contact information or feedback has been provided and no action taken.

Councillor Beattie reported that he has discussed with Hazel Walters (KCC Highways Manager, Canterbury) and Lydia Norris (KCC Street Light Maintenance Team Leader) at the KCC.

This was discussed at the Highways seminar held on the 9th November, and they are looking into it.

Councillor Beattie reported having met with Councillor Shire and Daniel Kemsley on the 16th November. It was said that a little judicious pruning would prevent the tree from damaging the light. This will be the long-term solution.

Bollards outside of number 59a Rough Common Road.

Councillor Beattie met with the senior Highways Engineer-Kevin Abell-at the KCC Annual Highways Meeting and he assured Councillor Beattie that he would look at the problem of bollards which the Parish Council have requested to be installed in the verge outside of number 59a Rough Common Road.

Street Light upgrade completion.

At the same Highways meeting Councillor Beattie discovered that the street upgrade programme is expected to be finished by May 2019.

Benches in Oaks Park.

Councillor Perham and Councillor Beattie met Rebecca Booth (CCC Planning and Environment) about the proposal to supply some benches and/or tables on the green in Oaks Park. She confirmed that Canterbury City Council owns this land and she has no objection to our plan. A survey of residents will be conducted to see what they want.

Bus Shelter opposite 159a Rough Common Road.

Councillor Beattie has been in touch with Sam Richardson (RSPB Warden at Blean Woods) to discuss whether we could use some of their land to site a bus shelter. A meeting has been arranged for 29th November.

Due to the size of the design suggested by KCC, Councillor Beattie has asked the Department of Transport for clarification on what is required for a shelter where there is no existing footpath or disabled access.

There have been several responses to the survey of residents requested by KCC. Currently 50 are in favour of a shelter and 6 against.

Councillor Beattie has contacted a local manufacturer (Kent Sectional Buildings) and they are able to make a small shelter which may fit on the KCC – owned land next to, rather than behind the bus stop which will only require a level piece of ground and a surface to get from the shelter to the bus stop. A quote has been received for a shelter made from red cedar at a cost of £3,415.

Once a decision is made we need to discuss this with KCC and Stagecoach to see if it meets their requirements, and whether planning permission is required.

Councillor Larkinson reported that parking in Church Hill Harbledown near the Kent College junior school is causing a problem on days when events are being held, and this is making it difficult for buses to access Church Hill.

Councillor Larkinson asked for a letter to be written to Kent College pointing out the problem and for them to ensure that illegal parking does not take place again.

Newsletter:

There was no report.

Councillor Beattie said that a list of 2018-2019 meeting dates does not appear on the Parish Council website and asked Councillor Jacqui Cotterill to contact Webmonkey about this.

101/18 Reports of Councillor representatives

No Mans Orchard.

There was no report

Police Liaison:

There was no report.

Rough Common Village Hall:

Councillor Cain reported that there had not been a meeting of the Management Committee.

The installation of the play equipment at Rough Common Village Hall field will commence on the 17th December 2018, weather permitting.

KALC:

102/18 Update status on other items:

An update on the proposed bollards outside of 59a Rough Common Road will be given to the committee after information has been received from the senior Highways Engineer.

An update on parking in Church Hill Harbledown will be given to the committee after a reply is received from Kent College.

103/18 Correspondence:

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

104/18 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 £128,656.46**

105/18 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 14th January 2019 at Rough Common Village Hall commencing 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

Schedule of Authorised Payments 26th November 2018.

PAYMENTS

Cheque

0.00

BACS

D Frost	Salary & expenses NOV 2018	578.77
HMRC	PAYE/NI NOV 2018	180.45
Webmonkey	Website maintenance NOV	72.00
Wicksteed	Play area inspection	54.00

Total Payments 885.22

Significant Receipts

HMRC VAT Refund Sept 2018 3,147.29

3147.29

Cash Balance 26th November 2018 **£128,656.46**