

**HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Harbledown.  
On Monday 25th March 2019.

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

**Present Councillors : A Blunt, R Beattie, A Cain, J Edis S Docherty, J Larkinson, R Perham, T Richards (and 2 members of the public present)**

**132/18 Confirmation of Summons**

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

**133/18 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.**

**134/18** Councillors John Cotterill, Jacqui Cotterill, Beatrice Shire, Canterbury City Councillors, Rob Thomas, Ben Fitter-Harding Amy Baker and George Metcalfe.

**135/18 Approval of Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor Larkinson and seconded by Councillor Edis that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2019 be signed as correct.

**136/18 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.**

**137/18 Planning applications.**

**CA/18/02545/FUL. Anester Cottage, London Road, Upper Harbledown.**

Proposed replacement windows to front elevation from timber flush to timber casement and replacement rear windows from UPVC to UPVC.

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

**Decisions. Granted.**

**CA/19/00052/FUL. 1 Churchwood Cottages, Rough Common Road, Rough Common.**

Proposed first-floor and single side extension.

**CA/19/00244/FUL. 3 Chaucer Mews Upper Harbledown.**

Proposed Single-storey rear extension.

**138/18 Committee Reports**

**Finance**

There was no report.

Councillor Perham asked for clarification of the use of Section 106 monies. Canterbury City Council has refused to reclassify use of the Section 106 money in respect of the Old Wyevale Garden Centre at Upper Harbledown, to be used for the community tennis court at the site. The Parish Council agreed at the last meeting that it would enter into a lease agreement with Persimmon Homes but has not agreed or allocated any specific sum towards the project. It was agreed that a solicitor be approached to look over the draft lease before signature or commitment from the Parish Council to pay any costs. The project is not yet completed and final costs are unknown.

It was proposed and agreed that:

Kent County Councillor Robert Thomas will provide £2,000 towards costs of completing the tennis court.

Section 106 money totalling £966.37, from old developments can be used towards the cost of the tennis court.

The Parish Council will set a ceiling for amounts given towards the tennis court.

Mr Nick Parker Chairman of the Upper Harbledown Association reported that the Upper Harbledown Association would give £1,000 towards the project. Mr Parker asked the Parish Council for an additional £1,000 for drain covers and bases for posts etc. Mr Parker said that he is hopeful that the project can be completed within three weeks and payment must be made to the subcontractor at that time. Councillor Perham said that he was in agreement that the Parish Council should commit up-to £1,000. The meeting was told that Persimmon Homes are paying for most of the

fencing. It has not yet been agreed who is paying the legal fees for preparation of the lease agreement. Mr Jeremy Baker asked if the section 106 agreement relating to the Old Wyevale Garden Centre, Canterbury City Council or Persimmon Homes to enable the money to be used towards the tennis court could change wording. Councillor Cain said that this was not possible because this is a planning issue, as the tennis court is not classified as a hard play area. Councillor Cain agreed to instruct the Clerk to contact the Head of Planning at Canterbury City Council. It is understood that Persimmon are happy to make changes to the classification. Mr Parker agreed that the Upper Harbledown Association will manage the tennis court.

There was a further query from Councillor Perham about when the Parish Council agreed to hold the lease as he could not find the agreement in any minutes, and he believed that councillors were not informed. Councillor Cain will email Kent Councillor Robert Thomas to confirm whether the £2,000 can be held over until the new Parish Council and Canterbury City Council committees are formed after the local election.

## **Open Spaces and Allotments**

### **Open Spaces**

Councillor Docherty gave his report:

Grass cutting is underway with the exception of Neal's Place Meadow. There are also brambles overgrowing in Neal's Place Meadow, which will need attention. The Pine Meadow play equipment and path need urgent attention; Landscape Services are dealing with the path. The Chestnut Palings at Cheney Field need some remedial work.

The play equipment at Pine Meadow will need repair or replacement. The replacement cost would cost around £12,000. Councillor Docherty told the meeting that there should be a survey of residents in Upper Harbledown to ascertain what is wanted. It was agreed that this matter should be left to the new council. However the council agreed that the play equipment should be replaced eventually with new equipment rather than repairing the existing equipment.

### **Allotments:**

It was reported that there has been a complaint regarding Hillside Allotments about running water from adjacent fields, as a result two allotments cannot be used. The water may be coming from St Edmunds school or the nearby pond. It is unclear who is responsible. It is also reported that the end allotment is being used as a dumping ground which needs clearing. The ditches also need clearing.

## **139/18 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios**

### **Footpaths:**

Councillor Blunt gave his report:

A resident reported that a way marker, gate and post had rotted and fallen into the footpath on CB505 near Neal's Place Road, Councillor Blunt reported that he had removed the rotted parts and dug a fresh hole for the footpath sign marker and refitted this and secured it also to the metal gate.

The farmer that has taken over the Neal's Place Farm has had an on-going problem with trespassers accompanied with dogs not on leads cutting across his land that contain livestock and is worried about the safety of his animals and the ramifications of this behaviour if dogs were shot. A meeting has been held with the farmer and agreed that he can re-fence footpath CB518 that runs from Neal's Place Road to Dukes Meadow. It was agreed to follow the very old fence line as much as possible although he may have to divert around some trees that have matured in years since the original fence was put in place. This was agreed provided the new fence does not encroach onto the path, it certainly should not. The Farmer is carrying this out at his own expense so there is no charge to the Parish.

A sign- post has been vandalised and snapped off on footpath CB507 at Mill Lane to Summer Hill Harbledown, this has been examined but could not find the broken part to repair it. As there is a footpath sticker on the way marker post and the other two signpost arms are still in place, it is felt that it is a waste of money to replace the arm. However, if any resident feels strongly about this this decision will be re-visited and approach Kent County Council.

A tree has been blown down and is being held up by the fence partially blocking footpath CB504. The landowner has been consulted and he is going to remove it with a tractor and chain.

At the last meeting the problem of dog waste bins was discussed, the replacement of the one now missing in Rough Common and the possibility of a new one sited at the bottom of Neal's Place Meadow.

Councillor Blunt said that he has finally heard from the City Council and he has been assured that a review of his requests will be made at some point in April. For the Parish Council to purchase these bins would cost £675.18 inclusive of VAT and the fitting would be approximately £124.70 per bin so if they were emptied weekly this would represent an outlay of over £1,500 a year. Councillor Blunt feels that this would be an expensive answer that may not resolve the problems that we have. Most local councils are now removing dog waste bins totally, Maidstone already has, and Ashford is following suit. It probably is only a matter of time before our City Council copies this as all the local guidelines are for owners to pick up dog waste and place it in the household waste bins. For the few thoughtless owners that allow their dogs to foul the footpaths without disposal the placement of new bins will probably not help. However, enforcement and fines for bad owners would help. It may be prudent in view of costs to await the City Council's decision before definitely making any plans, but Councillor Blunt said that he would be guided by the thoughts of the rest of the Parish Council. The footpath sign by St Gabriel's Church Rough Common is in the wrong place.

#### **Tree Matters:**

Councillor Shire submitted a written report.

A meeting took place with Mr Nick Parker in Upper Harbledown when he called to report trees being cut in the grounds of Harbledown Lodge. The workmen were asked to stop, which they did willingly as it was lunchtime, and Mr Vic Harmer drove over from Densole to explain the situation. He is now aware that it is a conservation area and will continue the clearing of overgrown grounds in Harbledown Lodge and apply for permission to fell or trim large trees. The work that has been done is not a problem and the grounds will be much tidier as a result. Mr Harmer's staff are now employed by Harbledown Lodge, and have cut the hedge by the road which we have been requesting for some time.

A Holm Oak in Harbledown blew down into the road and was removed on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. Councillor Shire received a telephone call about branches falling in Rough Common Field behind the village hall. These had been tidied to the edge of the field by the people who cut the grass and this was reported to the person who contacted her, also mentioning that the field is run by the Village Hall Committee.

There has been an application this month from Alderley, London Road, Upper Harbledown to reduce a Leylandii hedge at the front of the property to 2m. No problem as this is a normal requirement for hedges,

The tree given by the tree council, which was planted in November by the seat at the top of Neal's Place Meadow, is now growing well. Thanks to our Open Spaces officer for his help with that.

**Highways:**

Councillor Beattie reported that:

Speedwatch has been restricted this month due to the weather. The Speedwatch conference this year will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 but Councillor Beattie will not be able to attend, so two spaces are available.

**Parking**

Following the survey of residents the Parish Council asked Canterbury City Council to add double yellow lines in St Michael's Close outside numbers 20 to 28, Rough Common. Since Canterbury City Council received objections during public consultations this proposal had to be considered by councillors. Following the Joint Transportation Board meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March it has been decided that the proposed change should be implemented. The new restrictions will come into force in a few weeks time and the necessary road markings and/or signs will be installed as soon as our contractor is able to carry out the work.

It was also reported that parking outside of Kent College Junior School on double yellow lines continues to be a problem. The telephone number for Canterbury City Council Parking Enforcement is in the newsletter.

Councillor Beattie is awaiting feedback from Kent County Council regarding the proposed bus shelter opposite number 159a Rough Common Road.

Newsletter:

**No Mans Orchard.**

Councillor Larkinson said that undergrowth is being allowed to develop under trees to increase the biodiversity of the Orchard.

**Police Liaison:**

Councillor Edis reported that the PCSO has moved to different responsibilities, so the Community Support Unit is a good place for information.

**Rough Common Village Hall:**

Councillor Cain reported that the AGM date has been changed to 6<sup>th</sup> April at 3.30 to 5.00pm.

Cricket Club Lease. The Rough Common Village Hall Management Committee will pay for a solicitor to complete the legal details.

The management Committee have requested two benches and a waste bin to be sited near the new play equipment. The cost will be about £500 to £600. They will also need a concrete plinth. The Rough Common Village Hall cleaner will empty the bin so no collection costs will accrue. The parish Council have been asked to fund the benches and waste bin. The funding of the benches and bin was proposed by Councillor Cain and seconded by Councillor Beattie. There were six votes in favour, none against and two abstentions.

Councillor Perham raised a question about what happens if the Rough Common Village Hall Management Committee is dissolved. If this happens the Parish Council will take over the management of the hall and playing field.

**KALC:**

There was no report.

**141/18 Update status on other items:**

Mr Baker has contacted Canterbury City Council about the proposed new development levy, instead of the current Section 106 provision. Under the proposed new scheme the City Council would retain 85% of the contribution from developers for central spending and only 15% would go to Parish Councils. The deadline for the feedback is 5<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk has responded to Canterbury City Council expressing the concern of the Parish Council.

The main concern is the money coming from the proposed development of the new Salvatori plot in Rough Common. There was an original request for 12 houses on the brownfield site, which now looks like a substantial number will be requested on the green field site.

Councillor Perham said that the Parish Council would need to look at the eventual retirement of the Clerk and ensure that when required there is a smooth transition process in place.

**142/18 Correspondence:**

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

**143/18 Finance and Accounts for Payment:** It was resolved to accept the accounts, proposed by Councillor Blunt and seconded by Councillor

Larkinson. **The total of balances held at bank amounted to £101,098.70**

**144/18**

**Future Issues.**

Rough Common Village Sign.

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Emergency Plan.

Rough Common Playing Field

Induction of new councillors after the 2<sup>nd</sup> May election.

Dog waste bins.

Tennis Court at Old Wyevale Garden Centre.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 29th April 2019 at Rough Common Village Hall commencing 7.00 pm, followed by the Annual Parish Assembly.**

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

