

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Rough Common Village Hall
On Monday 29th April 2019

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Present Councillors A Blunt, A Cain, J Edis, J Larkinson, R Beattie, S Docherty, T Richards, B Shire, Clerk D Frost (and 30 members of the public present)

1/19 Confirmation of Summons

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

2/19 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.

3/19 Councillor Jacqui Cotterill, Councillor John Cotterill Canterbury City Councillors Ben Fitter-Harding, Amy Baker, Robert Thomas and George Metcalfe. There was also an apology from Mr Arthur Finn who was not able to attend the meeting.

4/19 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Blunt and seconded by Councillor Beattie that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2019 be signed as correct.

5/19 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. The Chairman thanked the councillors for their hard work over the past four years, and especially Councillor Janet Larkinson who has given thirty years of service to the parish.

6/19 Planning applications.

CA/19/00566/FUL. The Burrow, Faulkners Lane, Harbledown.
Proposed use of garage as ancillary accommodation.

CA/19/00752/FUL. 3 The Green, Plough Lane, Upper Harbledown.
Proposed single-storey side extension

It was resolved that no objection be raised to this application.

CA/19/00752/FUL. 3 The Green, Plough Lane, Upper Harbledown.
Proposed single-storey side extension.

The planning group was unable to look at this application in time for

the meeting so the decision was deferred.

7/19 To receive the list of assets of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Blunt and seconded by Councillor Beattie that the list of assets be accepted.

8/19

To receive the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2019.

The Annual governance statement and audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2019 was received and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Blunt. The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer signed the Statement on Internal Control for the year ended 31st March 2019

9/19 To review the value of goods and services above which three or more estimates are sought.

It was agreed that this should remain at £1,000, with the proviso that this figure can be exceeded by agreement of the Finance Committee should it not be possible to obtain three quotes. It was proposed by Councillor Docherty and seconded by Councillor Shire.

10/19 To review the list of approved contractors.

It was proposed by Councillor Shire and seconded by Councillor Beattie that the list of approved contractors be accepted with the proviso that Firwood Fencing be added to the list.

11/19 Committee Reports

Finance

There was no report.

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Councillor Docherty reported that Neal's Place Meadow has now dried out sufficiently to allow for the paths to be cut across it.

Notices from the City Council have appeared at Neal's Place Meadow and many other open space locations in the Canterbury area, advising that the land is subject to a court injunction order. This is in order to prevent entering or occupying the land by caravans or mobile homes for the period 10th April to 3rd June.

Apparently one set of goalposts from Dukes Meadow was removed yesterday and were seen deposited behind the bench at the top of the hill. I assume this was some kind of prank as they have been replaced today. We may need to ensure that they are sited more securely.

Councillor Docherty said that he plans to meet with Landscape Services next week with site visits to discuss a few issues including:

Strimming the boundary between Neal's Place Meadow and the rear gardens of Hillview Road; siting the benches and bin at Rough Common Village Hall playing field; replacing the bench on the green at Rough Common; the path at Pine Meadow and the fence that needs replacing at Cheyney Field.

Allotments:

There was no report.

The Clerk said he will continue to keep in contact with representatives of both allotments.

12/19 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios

Footpaths:

Councillor Blunt reported that footpath CB504 still has a fallen tree semi blocking it and he has again been in touch with the farmer on whose land the tree stands and he has made assurances that he will indeed use a tractor and chain to remove it, as the only thing holding it up is the tree onto which it has fallen on the other side of the path, although this land is owned by the same farmer.

The way marker post in Oaks Park that has recently been erected by the KCC which we felt was not in the correct position will not be moved as although not actually on the marked footpath KCC feel that if placed nearer the path it would not be seen and where it is situated at the moment it is undoubtedly very visible.

Despite being informed by email that he would be contacted during April by Canterbury City Council's Strategic Contracts and Commissions Manager Sarah Randall after several contacts with her since January he is still awaiting more news on dog fouling signs and dog waste bins. I can only hope that the new councillor that replaces me will have more luck.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Shire reported that three new applications to work on trees in the parish.

11, Summer Hill Harbledown. To fell a holly tree at the rear of the property to ground level.

Harbledown Lodge, London Road, Upper Harbledown.

To maintain and top laurel trees to make a hedge, to fell five self-sown ash and sycamore trees, to fell one yew tree, four ash trees and crown lift one yew tree beside the drive.

There is no objection as long as work proceeds to residents' satisfaction. A comment has been made on the Council planning website.

Upper Harbledown House, London Road, Upper Harbledown.

To repeat work done in 2005 trimming, reducing height by approximately 25% and shaping a row of conifers on property boundary.

Councillor Shire said that she was grateful to residents in Rough Common and hope they will continue to water the verge trees during dry spells, and hopes that those in Highfield Close will do the same. Councillor Shire said that that she is glad that we have managed to acquire many trees in the verges; people may notice there is a gap around the possible 'Salvatori development' (odd numbers of Rough Common Road between 27 and 59) to avoid any new trees being taken out. Councillor Shire hopes that more will be planted there once the development has happened. Highway staff with Soft Landscapes, who are keen on trees, has supported the Parish Council and long may this continue.

Highways:

Councillor Beattie reported that:

Double yellow lines have been painted in St Michael's Close, Rough Common. This is on the corner outside numbers 20 to 28, to ensure access for bin lorries, fire engines and ambulances. The final plan is not what Councillor Beattie was expecting, but it is hoped that after the survey of residents, everyone will be aware of the issues and will leave enough space in the rest of the road.

The Parish Council continues to do regular speedwatch sessions, and, together with the new speed indicator sign, are increasing awareness of the speed limits in our villages. We are grateful to the police for their regular attendance in the van where they issue tickets and fines.

Newsletter:

There was no report.

13/19 Reports of Councillor representatives**No Man's Orchard:**

Councillor Larkinson addressed the meeting and said that the orchard is full of bloom and flowers. Now is the time to make sure to visit this unique venue, looked after by our parish council with our partners Chartham Parish Council. Many of the original trees are coming to the end of their lives but they are gradually being replaced with old Kent varieties so that we keep the look and diversity of fruit trees, flowers and wild life. You could sponsor one of the trees and join our world-wide group of donors.

Four members from Harbledown and Rough Common join with Chartham Parish Council to manage the orchard and the next meeting on 18th June is to be held at Upper Harbledown Village Hall.

Police Liaison:

Councillor Edis has spoken to the PCSO and apart from the HMRC scams there is nothing else to report.

Rough Common Village Hall:

Councillor Cain reported that the AGM was held earlier in the **month**,

and that two Trustees stood down. A new Chair will be elected in May. The Village Hall Management Committee are pleased with the new play equipment on the field and expressed their gratitude to the Parish Council for providing funds for the new equipment.

KALC:

Councillor Larkinson told the meeting that the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) is a branch of a national organisation to which twenty-five of Canterbury's twenty-six parish councils belong.

The Canterbury branch meets four times a year and is a very good chance to hear a speaker such as the Chief of Police, Canterbury City Council Leader of the Council or most of all to network with other parish councillors. The last meeting was on Friday morning when Councillor Larkinson went to meet our MP Rosie Duffield, and had an excellent chat with her about our common problems, speeding through the villages, the way we are funded from the City Council and local transport.

We have always been good attenders at these meetings and at the AGM in November and hope that the new council will find them interesting, as is the City Council's Rural Forum at the Guildhall where we have a chance to put forward our views and meet with ward councillors and other local parish councillors.

**14/19 Update status on other items:
Rough Common Village Sign.**

The sign is to be sited on the village green and it is understood that delivery is imminent.

Village Green. The green still awaits the re-instatement promised by British Gas. A resident said that contractors van are still being parked on the green, and the contractors I and G of Hersden need to be contacted. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor.

Proposed Bus Shelter in Rough Common Road. Councillor Beattie said that another meeting has been held at the site of the proposed bus shelter and that another grant application is being made to Canterbury City Council.

Rough Common Playing Field. The Clerk reported that he is still awaiting a quote for legal work in drawing up the lease with Harbledown Cricket Club.

15/19 Correspondence:

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

16/19 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 £127,416.75**

17/19

Future Issues.

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Rough Common Playing Field

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 20th May 2019 at
St Mary's Hall, Upper Harbledown commencing 7.00 pm**

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

