

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Harbledown.
On Monday 24th June 2019.

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Present Parish Councillors: R Beattie, S Docherty, R Perham, E Richardson, D Frost Clerk.

City and County Councillors and members of public present.
Canterbury City Councillors Alex Ricketts, Matthew Jones-Roberts.
There were 4 members of the public present.

54/19 Confirmation of Summons

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

55/19 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.

56/19 Councillor David Salvatori, Councillor Tania Salvatori and Councillor Edis.

57/19 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Perham and seconded by Councillor Docherty that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2019 be signed as correct.

58/19 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.

59/19 Planning applications.

Brought forward from 24th June 2019 meeting

CA/19/01160/FUL. 61 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.
Proposed ground and first-floor extensions to rear.

CA/19/01204/FUL. 28 Churchwood Close, Rough Common.
Proposed two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing garage and conservatory.

Planning Applications received since 24th June 2019.

CA/19/01327/FUL. 55 Mill Lane, Harbledown.

Proposed change of use from single dwelling house to house of multiple occupation.

CA/19/01414/FUL. 143 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Proposed single extension to front elevation.

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

CA/19/01123/FUL. Old Coach and Horses, Church Hill, Harbledown

Proposed 3 terraced two-storey dwellings with accommodation in the roof-space together with accommodation in the roof space, together with two-storey side and rear extension and roof alterations to existing public house.

The nuisance of construction vehicles visiting the site. **It was resolved that an objection be raised to this application.**

Decisions. Granted.

CA/19/01121/FUL. 33 Highfield Road, Rough Common

Proposed extension to access.

CA/19/01160/FUL. 61 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Proposed first floor and two-storey extensions to rear.

60/19 Committee Reports

Finance

Councillor Perham reported that he has received one estimate for work on the War Memorial. The written estimate amounts to £16,975 and the second contractor has given a verbal indication of an amount up-to £20,000 to complete major refurbishment work on the War Memorial.

Councillor Perham asked the council to indicate whether they want clearance only work on the Memorial, which is estimated, would cost between £1,500 to £2,000 or have the major refurbishment of the site carried out.

There was a vote and the councillors present voted unanimously to carry out the major work at a cost of up-to £20,000. Councillor Richardson suggested that part funding could be sought, and Councillor Perham agreed that this should be done.

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Councillor Docherty reported that he has cut back some hanging limbs on a couple of trees in Cheyney Field in order to aid the grass cutting.

The long grass in Dukes meadow has recently been cut along with the outer verge of the foot/cycle path, which was growing in to the pathway. Neal's Place Meadow has more graffiti on another of the benches, which Councillor Docherty will deal with. The copse around the water ditch at the bottom of the meadow will need cutting back this winter. Councillor Docherty also reported that the farmer he was in contact with was not keen on cutting the meadow for hay, so he has been in touch with Landscape Services and they will come as soon as possible to perform the annual cut. Councillor Richardson reported that she had been in touch with Playdale and that they are willing to honour their earlier quotes for repairs or for replacement equipment at Pine Meadow.

Councillor Richardson suggested that as a first step Playdale should be asked to send their surveyor to look at the equipment and advise whether he feels that the equipment should be repaired or replace. The advice could then be given to the council to decide which is the appropriate course of action.

Councillor Perham said that the Section 106 monies of some £13,000 could be used towards replacing the equipment and would be available on presentation of an official invoice from the suppliers.

Allotments:

Councillor Docherty reported that the water leak at Hillside Allotments has been repaired.

61/19 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios

Footpaths:

Councillor Tania Salvatori submitted a written report.

“I have advertised for the ad-hoc maintenance of footpaths and have

received two quotes from people who hold public liability insurance. Damian McTavish has quoted £15 per hour and Let's Garden has quoted £16 per hour. I have also had an enquiry from a third party but have been unable to contact him at the moment. I feel that this would be a better direction to take rather than the Parish Council employing someone as we would be liable for pension rights, National Insurance, holiday payments etc. plus the possible difficulty in ending employment at the end of two years should it become necessary.

I would suggest maybe a guarantee of a minimum of five hours a month.” The council members agreed with this in principal and Councillor Perham said that he would personally recommend Damian McTavish, and would ask Councillor Tania Salvatori to pursue this matter.

Councillor Richardson reported that the footpath from Vernon Holme is overgrown and will need cutting back.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Tania Salvatori submitted a written report.

“ I have received an email from Beatrice Shire regarding the tree planted at Dukes Meadow which is sadly looking as though it might not survive, due to the stress caused by this and last years hot dry summers.

Unfortunately this appears to be a problem to some young trees and I think it will be necessary to leave it to nature to see if recent rains will restore growth. Perhaps if it does not survive we could replant with the same or different species of tree.”

Councillor Perham feels that we should consider a drought resistant species of tree for future plantings.

Highways:

Rough Common Road

Councillor Beattie reported that buses are still using Rough Common Road when not picking up or delivering passengers. Councillor Beattie reported that he has spoken to Sam Regent at Regent Coaches on 17th July. He will circulate a note to all his drivers so that they are aware of the 7.5 tonne weight limit for all commercial vehicles, except buses performing a service in the designated road. Councillor Beattie said that he has also spoken to Gary at R & J Coaches about their vehicles in Rough Common Road.

Councillor Beattie reported that he has had more feedback from the owners of 59a Rough Common Road about the illegal and dangerous verge parking and have forwarded their concerns to Kent County Council Highways Department, management and engineering team.

Grass cutting on the western side of Palmars Cross Hill and Rough Common Road up to the village hall has been done, but it is not clear who has done it and whether it is now on a regular schedule.

Speedwatch.

Councillor Beattie reported that more speedwatch sessions have been carried out this month and the results indicate that there has been a small reduction in speeds, but the average for speeding drivers is still in the 36 to 37 mph range. Average number of speeders per session this year is 4.1% compared to 8.8% overall last year, while in the last 6 months of last year the average was 2.9%

The speed sign data for drivers going over 35 mph in Rough Common Road Northbound was 15, Southbound 10%, Upper Harbledown East 10%, West 9%. This shows that we still have a problem in Rough Common Road. As the 85th percentile is 35 instead of 30, it shows that the existing road configuration needs changing if we are to reduce speeds further.

Councillor Beattie reported that during a speedwatch session outside Rough Common Village Hall the team were accosted by two staff from the pre-school who were abusive and swearing. They claimed that we were not allowed to use the car park at the village hall while they were there, even though the reason for being there was to slow down drivers going past the village hall. We need to check what agreement is in place between the village hall and the school concerning the Parish Council's use of the car park.

Bus Shelter Rough Common Road.

Councillor Beattie reported that Kent County Council and Stagecoach have agreed a location and design for the bus shelter near 159 Rough Common Road. The intention is to locate the shelter just to the north of the existing lay by. This will allow kneeling buses to line up with the access point and allow for dropped kerbs for disabled access. Due to the limited number of builders of wooden shelters we have only been able to get two quotes. Detailed groundwork design and costing's should be

available within the next few weeks. The existing lay by will be available for residents' parking. Drawings and costing's are available for councillors. If councillors agree, a new survey of residents will be required before work can commence.

The councillors present unanimously agreed that the bus shelter should go ahead with Kent Sectional Builders providing the shelter at a cost of some £4,300 and grounds works costing some £4,500.

Councillor Beattie said that he was looking for suggestions to solve parking problems in Highfield Close Rough Common. After a discussion with the councillors and members of the public it was decided to leave the parking arrangements as they are, for the time being.

Beatrice Shire has made a written complaint regarding a Glencoe lorry, which was stuck on Palmars Cross Hill, causing a hazard to other road users.

Beatrice Shire contacted the company about the over weight lorry using Rough Common Road and the company representative said that he would notify his drivers to obey the road signs banning overweight vehicles using Rough Common Road unless they were delivering to someone in the village.

Councillor Richardson reported the dangerous practice of vehicles making a right turn from Wingate Hill, Upper Harbledown onto the A2.

Councillor Richardson said that a 'No Right Turn' sign should be in place to stop this practice.

Communication and Media

Councillor Beattie introduced Mr Ian Heath who has volunteered to assist the Parish Council on Information Technology.

62/19 Reports of Councillor representatives

No Mans Orchard.

There was no report.

Police Liaison:

There was no report.

Rough Common Village Hall:

The Rough Common Village Hall Management Committee will be made aware of the incident of abuse and swearing by two pre-school staff to members of the Parish Council Speedwatch team. The Parish Council will be seeking clarification of the agreement between the Village Hall and the pre-school, and the Parish Council's use of the village hall car park.

The Clerk has been asked to return the cricket club lease for amendment and that the lease should not be returned to the Parish Council for signature until these amendments have been made to the Parish Council's satisfaction.

KALC:

Councillor Beattie reported that he had attended the KALC conference on Thursday 18th July. This included training sessions for new/experienced councillors, explain the roles, duties and responsibilities of Parish Councillors and the legal framework of council operations. Councillor Beattie strongly recommended that all councillors attend one of these sessions. There are significant legal changes coming from the 1st April 2020 that all councillors need to be aware of. The courses are available frequently.

Councillor Beattie attended the KALC Canterbury Area AGM on Tuesday 23rd July. There was a suggestion that we should contact our PCSO directly and invite them to each meeting to see if they have pressing issues to discuss, but not expect them to attend every one as they cover a large number of councils.

There is a project based on 'The web Accessibility Regulations Report.' This is a government initiative being run by the University of Kent with Hackington Parish Council as the first testers. It will allow councillors to have private communications in real time.

From the 1st April 2010 a full email trail must be retained by the Parish Council, Councillor Beattie feels that Parish Council emails should be based on roles not people such as clerk@, which is already in operation. This will need to be discussed in greater depth over the coming months.

The Parish Charter is being re-released. This covers the Rural Forum, Parish Councils and Canterbury City Council methods of communication and responsibilities. This does not cover Kent County Council. Barbara Flack is the Canterbury City Council lead.

63/19 Update status on other items:

Planning permission is being sought for the placing of the Rough Common Village Sign on 'The Green' in Rough Common.

Canterbury City Councillor Matthew Jones-Roberts addressed the meeting and outlined:

Revisiting of local plan.

Environmental infrastructure.

Quinn proposed development in Rough Common

64/19 Correspondence:

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

65/19 Finance and Accounts for Payment: It was resolved to accept the accounts, proposed by Councillor Docherty and seconded by Councillor Beattie. **The total of balances held at bank amounted to £131,162.**

66/19 Future Issues.

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Emergency Plan.

Rough Common Playing Field
Dog waste bins.
Tennis Court at Old Wyevale Garden Centre.
Recruitment of councillors for:
Communications
Assistant for Highways
Recruitment of volunteer Tree Warden
Recruitment of volunteer Historian

Councillor Beattie said that he had previously shown his intention of staying in the Parish Council for one year from the last election, and that he will be resigning his post as Chairman and Councillor at the meeting on 30th March 2020.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 16th September 2019 at St Mary's Hall, Upper Harbledown commencing 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

Schedule of Authorised Payments 29th July 2019.

PAYMENTS		Cheque SO	
			0.00
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		BACS	
D Frost	Salary & expenses July 2019		597.25
HMRC	PAYE/NI July 2019		181.42
Webmonkey	Website maint Inv 36888		86.40
KALC	Planning course Beattie/Edis		144.00
Canterbury C C	Parish Council elections 2019		239.95
	R Beattie Councillor		
KALC	Workshop		
	18th July		72.00
Mark Gosbee	Water leak Hillside Allotments		47.80
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	Total Payments		1368.82
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