

HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Harbledown.
On Monday 28th October 2019.

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Present Parish Councillors: R Beattie, S Docherty, J Edis, R Perham, David Salvatori, Tania Salvatori and D Frost Clerk.

**City and County Councillors and members of public present.
Canterbury City Councillor Alex Ricketts. There were 6 members of the public present.**

80/19 Confirmation of Summons

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

81/19 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.

82/19 Councillor Emma Richardson (Holiday).

83/19 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor David Salvatori and seconded by Councillor Edis that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2019 be signed as correct.

84/19 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.

85/19 Planning Applications

Applications received since 16th September 2019.

CA/19/01800/FUL. 16 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Proposed two-storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing rear extension and garage.

CA/19/01958/FUL. 22 Churchwood Close, Rough Common.

Proposed two-storey side extension and dormer window to front following demolition of existing garage.

CA/19/02018/FUL. 33 Highfield Close, Rough Common.

Proposed part single-single storey and part two-storey rear extensions

CA/19/02023/FUL. 157 Rough Common Road, Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Proposed single-storey timber outbuilding for use as a garden room.

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

CA/19/02047. Land at rear of 51 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Outline application for 34 dwellings (including Number 49 Rough Common Road), including or comprising 27 houses and 7 self build plots, including access, enlargement of side and rear dormers along with alterations to front gable to existing property.

The application was discussed at great length and it was the consensus of opinion that because The Canterbury City Local Plan included development of the brown field element for 27 houses, the Parish Council could not raise an objection. However, the Parish Council decided that it should point out that the outline plan shows that the proposed development would also cover a green field site not included in the Local Plan, and object to this part of the development. The Parish Council will also point out the problems with parking, access, and potential drainage problems for the proposed site as a whole.

Decisions. Granted.

CA/19/01475/FUL. Blubells, London Road, Upper Harbledown

Variation of condition O2 planning permission CA/17/00706/FUL.

CA/19/2001/ADV. Faulkners Lane Overbridge, Harbledown.

Erection and display of 2 aluminium banner signs to existing Faulkners Lane overbridge.

CA/19/02034/ADV. Faulkners Lane Overbridge West End.

Erection and display of 2 aluminium banner signs split into 4 panels.

CA/19/01752/FUL. Land at rear of 77 Rough Common Road, Rough Common.

Proposed single-storey detached dwelling together with single-storey detached garage.

Withdrawn.

CA/19/01449/FUL. 3 Highfield Close, Rough Common.

Proposed first-floor extension and roof extension to create additional accommodation in roof space.

Rough Common Village Sign.

Mr Terry Pride from KCC has responded to our request for a signature on

the planning application for the Rough Common Village sign. ‘ It is my understanding that this type of work is potentially permissible through a HIP and templates were sent to the parish earlier this year. Someone from another team in Highways will be in contact with you soon to assist with development of your HIP.’

A HIP has been sent, but no response from KCC yet.

Follow-up email sent to Estates Department. on 16th October.

Follow-up email sent to Estates Department on 24th October.

The use of a planning consultant, as suggested by Councillor Beattie, could be appropriate to move this project forward as assistance from Canterbury City Council does not recognise that we do not have sufficient experience of the planning process to drive this process ourselves.

Harbledown War Memorial.

As the War Memorial is a listed building we may need planning permission to do any works. Councillor Beattie has contacted KCC Estates Department with a request for assistance in getting the correct permissions.

Councillor Beattie proposed that the Parish Council employ a planning consultant to get this done.

There was a discussion and it was decided that Councillor David Salvatori would approach the War Memorial Trust, in the first instance, for advice. Councillor David Salvatori will work with Councillor Perham on this project.

Park and Ride.

Mr Jeremy Baker addressed the meeting and reported that the City council’s latest report shows that option 7 is for a fourth Park Ride to be sited at Faulkners Lane Harbledown should the council’s preferred option to extension to the Wincheap Park and Ride not be possible.

Mr Baker recommended that the parish Council write to the Chief Executive of Canterbury City Council expressing surprise and shock that Faulkners Lane has again been listed as an option and that this (option 7) be taken off the table before the next report is produced. Mr Baker said that should be done with some urgency and has offered to assist in the preparation of the Parish Council’s submission.

86/19 Committee Reports

Finance

Councillor Perham reported that the Finance Committee had met on the 7th October 2019 to discuss the Precept Budget for the financial year 2020/2021. The increase in the Precept is 2.35%, compared to 2019/2020. Councillor Beattie made an objection to the inclusion of a sum for the employment of an assistant to the clerk, as the full council had not agreed this. Councillor Perham pointed out that the sum for a post of administration assistant is not part of the total precept of £27,837 but if this post should be filled it would be met out of General Reserves. Councillor Perham proposed that this budget should be accepted. Councillor Edis seconded this and it was agreed that this budget should now be forwarded to Canterbury City Council.

Open Spaces and Allotments

Open Spaces

Pine Meadow

Councillor Docherty reported that Playdale, the original supplier, has now completed the repairs and new parts for the play equipment. A review should now be undertaken of the inspection of this equipment, which is currently undertaken by Wicksteed.

Neal's Place Meadow.

The overgrown trees have been cut back at the entrance from Meadow Close.

UK Power Networks have been working on the electricity supply junction box up on the poles at the boundary next to the end of Glen Iris Close. A large hole has been dug which should be backfilled today when the work is due to be completed.

A couple of dangerous sections of the footpath which runs along the western boundary at the point where it leaves Neal's Place Road have been repaired making it much safer for cyclists.

Unfortunately the 'heritage hornbeam that was planted last year has been vandalised and snapped in half. Councillor Docherty said that he will leave it in position and hope that it can regrow and be saved.

No Mans Orchard

A tree surgeon has been arranged to remove the 30 dangerous trees in the poplar shelterbelt. The cost of this will be shared between Habledown & Rough Common Parish Council and Chartham Parish Council.

This will leave a balance of approximately 50 more trees to be removed, the cost of which, along with a new fence and replacement hedge, it is hoped this can be funded by a grant-funding scheme.

Allotments:

The Clerk reported that a new tenant has been found for plot 20 at Hillside Allotments.

87/19 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios

Footpaths:

Councillor Tania Salvatori reported that she has spoken to a contractor about doing work maintaining the footpaths, on behalf of the Parish Council. Unfortunately the contractor does not have his own Public Liability Insurance, and will now look for at 3 contractors who do have the necessary insurance.

Tree Matters:

Councillor Tania Salvatori reported that a tree situated at the junction of

Summer Hill and Harbledown Park needs urgent attention. The tree is over 35 feet tall and overhangs the entry to Harbledown Park, fronts Summer Hill and is adjacent to the footpath leading to Mill Lane. There are several large dead branches, which Councillor Salvatori considers to be a hazard. The owner is looking to appoint a tree surgeon to carry out the work and Councillor Salvatori is in full agreement to this course of action.

Councillor Salvatori reported that the owner was hinting at a contribution towards the cost from the Parish Council. Councillor Perham said that this was not possible, as it would set a dangerous precedent.

Highways:

Councillor Beattie reported:

He had received a complaint from a member of the public about vegetation overhanging the footpath/pavement from Vernon Holme School to Harbledown, and has contacted the landowner Mr Arthur Finn said that he would have the vegetation removed.

Councillor Beattie reported that he had received a complaint from a resident in St Michael's Close about vegetation overhanging the footpath between numbers 2 and 3. Councillor Beattie reported that he had put a note through the door of number 2 and knocked several times but there has been no response. Councillor Docherty is having a look to see if it is the Parish Council's responsibility.

Councillor Beattie reported that he had received a request from the Upper Harbledown Association about taking action to reduce speeds through Upper Harbledown. The Parish Council has ordered some wheelie-bin stickers but are still waiting for a response from KCC about the speed limit outside Limes Place. Councillor Beattie reported that he had sent a HIP (Highways Improvement Plan) to KCC requesting action to reduce the speed of traffic at Limes Place, Upper Harbledown on 25th June but has not yet received a response.

Councillor Beattie reported that he has sent a HIP to KCC about adding a 'no right turn' into the A2050 bypass from Roman Road, Upper Harbledown and a no left turn from the bypass at the same junction on 31st July but he has not yet received a response.

Councillor Beattie reported that there is a HIP outstanding since 25th June 2019 concerning the dangerous parking of vehicles on the grass verge outside number 59a Rough Common Road. Michael Heath, Highways Engineer for Kent County Council, has decided that we cannot install the bollards that we own. It is worth mentioning that along Sturry Road between 337 and 317 on the north side of the road after the bus shelter, heading towards Canterbury, there are a large number of bollards to prevent parking on the grass verge, which does not create a visibility problem.

Councillor Beattie reported that he has sent a HIP to KCC concerning the signage for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes through Rough Common on 31st July, but he has not yet received a response.

Councillor Beattie has also sent a HIP to KCC concerning the signage for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes including buses which are not carrying out a service through Rough Common, to replace the lorry sign with 'all vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, 'except for access' signs on 8th October. Councillor Beattie has not yet received a response.

Proposed Bus Shelter in Rough Common.

Councillor Beattie reported that he has sent KCC Highways the final drawing of the proposed bus shelter in Rough Common Road including the fixing system, but received no reply. He has sent follow-up messages on the 16th October and follow-up email on 24th October.

Councillor Beattie said that CCC or KCC would need to address the issue of what happens when a new road is built. There is a very slow addition of roads onto maps. This has been a problem at Limes Place (CT2 9DW) where bin lorries aren't picking up waste, and in industrial areas where location of new sites are not visible (Geoffrey Barrett Way CT2 7WX). These locations must appear on maps and satellite navigation systems as soon as they are built.

Communication and Media

There was no report.

88/19 Reports of Councillor representatives

No Mans Orchard.

Janet Larkinson reported that several additional meetings have been held lately because of problems with the tall poplar trees along the North Downs Way. Arrangements are being made to fell 30 of the most rotten and dangerous trees early in November. The remainder will be felled as soon as the committee have enough funds. A grant from the parish council together with an identical one from our partners at Chartham will be used towards the total sum.

Tree trimming has also taken place along the North Downs Way at the Harbledown end and the late summer grass mowing has taken place. "Volunteers" from the Kentish Stour Countryside Project have attacked the brambles beneath the apple trees.

A group of students from Kent University has been given permission to take soil samples from the orchard to help with their research.

Police Liaison:

There was no report.

Rough Common Village Hall:

Councillor David Salvatori reported that the next committee meeting

would be held on the 18th November 2019.

Councillor Beattie asked Councillor David Salvatori if clarification of the agreement between the Village Hall and the pre-school, and the Parish Council's use of the village hall car park has been sought. This matter was drawn to the attention of the Parish Council meeting on 29th July 2019, following an incident involving the Pre-school staff and the Parish Council's Speedwatch team. Councillor Beattie said that he would attend the Rough Common Village Hall meeting on the 18th November to seek clarification and an apology for the abusive behaviour.

KALC:

Councillor Beattie reported that he had attended the KALC meeting on 22nd October at Littlebourne but nobody else turned up. The meeting is shown on the KALC website. There are no minutes for the 23rd July AGM on the KALC website and it looks like the site hasn't been updated for some time. The site stills shows Stuart Walker as the Chair of the CCC Rural Forum instead of Barbara Flack. Councillor Beattie has informed KALC of these issues.

Councillor Beattie attended the first KALC Transport Conference on 26th October. Issues discussed were HGVs, Electric Car charging issues, air quality, safety, public rights of way, rail changes, transport issues and cycling.

On 16th November there will be an event to look for ways to improve that partnership working arrangements between parish councils, Canterbury City Council and the Kent Association of Local Councils, but KCC are not taking part.

On 17th September The Clerk attended the KALC Clerk's Conference in the West Faversham Community Centre. Amongst the topics discussed were Digital Accessibility and improved communication skills.

The KALC AGM will be held on 30th November and the Parish Council can send 2 voting members and 2 non-voting members.

89/19 Update status on other items:

Mr Nick Parker Chairman of the Upper Harbledown Association addressed the meeting and gave an update regarding the tennis court in Upper Harbledown.

The drain covers have been changed at a cost to Persimmon Homes of some £4,000, however the problem with the lease remains. Persimmon

Homes are adamant that the Parish Council should be responsible for maintaining the tennis court for the duration of the twenty- year lease, despite agreeing that this would be their responsibility. Mr Parker and David Frost have met with Kent and Canterbury City Councillor Rob Thomas and have asked him for his help in this matter.

Canterbury City Councillor Alex Ricketts addressed the meeting and reported that the Zebra Crossing leading to Vernon Holme School needs to be restored. Mr Jeremy Baker said the tree, which overhangs the crossing, should be trimmed as it makes the crossing very dark.

Councillor Ricketts reminded the meeting of the Lord Mayors Christmas Parcel Scheme.

The Chairman gave a report:

University Community Communication meeting.

Councillor Beattie attended the meeting on the 27th September. This looked at issues facing the university and residents. Parking was discussed. We also looked at student HMOs and whether there were sufficient coloured bins supplied so that waste could be disposed of properly. The new Medical School will open with 100 students on the 7th September 2020. If we want a room named in our honour we need to make a donation.

Remembrance Day Wreath.

Councillor Edis has purchased a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council to be laid at the War Memorial in Harbledown at the Remembrance Day ceremony, by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

90/19 Correspondence:

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

91/19 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 £114,116.22.**

92/19 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

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 25th November 2019 at Rough Common Village Hall commencing 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.

Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council

Schedule of Authorised Payments 28th October 2019.

PAYMENTS		Cheque	
Serco	Invoice to Sept 2019	451	51.43
			<hr/>
			51.43
		BACS	
D Frost	Salary & expenses October 2019		614.45
HMRC	PAYE/NI October 2019		181.42
Webmonkey	Website maint Inv 38228		72.00
Trevor May	Tennis Court Upper Harbledown		1795.20
KALC	Clerks Conference		72.00
	Subscriptions to 30 Sept		
CPRE	2020		36.00
CCC	Planning application fee Village Sign		117.00
Wicksteed			
Leisure	Playing Field Inspection Jan 2019		54.00
Wicksteed			
Leisure	Playing Field Inspection April 2019		54.00
KALC	Dynamic Councillor Conference 28 Sept		72.00
Castle Water	Cheyney Field		59.48
Playdale	Balance of repairs at Pine Meadow		2725.22
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	Total Payments		5904.20
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