

# **HARBLEDOWN AND ROUGH COMMON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at St Mary's Hall Upper Harbledown.

On Monday 13th January 2020.

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

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

**City and County Councillors and members of public present.  
Canterbury City Councillor Alex Ricketts. There were 12 members of the public present.**

**106/19 Confirmation of Summons**

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

**107/19 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.**

**108/19** There were no apologies for absence.

**109/19 Approval of Minutes**

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

**110/19 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 reported that Penny Entwistle and Christine Hughes would like to be co-opted to serve as Parish Councillors. The councillors voted unanimously for Penny and Christine to become councillors with immediate effect. The Chairman welcomed Penny and Christine to the Parish Council.**

## **111/19 Planning Applications**

### **Applications received since 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

There have been no applications since this date.

### **Outline Planning Application for land at the rear of 51 Rough Common Road.**

A letter has been sent to Olly Ansell at Canterbury City Council, Planning Department, together with Quinn Estates Highway Plan, and the summary of the meeting between The Chairman, The Clerk and Vicky Swift, Development Manager at Quinn Estates.

The Highway Plan just gives a description of what they think is happening. No mention is made of the amount of traffic already queuing at peak times, and the increase in vehicles to levels never intended on a village road. Quinn Estates have made no assessment of future traffic growth.

The letter to Olly Ansell also covers the removal the parking lay-by supplied and paid for by the late John Simmonds and Harbledown & Rough Common Parish Council. The lay-by would be removed to make way for the access road to the proposed new estate.

Mr Jeremy Baker said that the potential loss of the 'Green Gap' should this outline application be approved would be totally unacceptable to the community as a whole. Councillor Beattie said that this concern, although expressed in previous letters, would once again be forcibly brought to the attention of the City Council Planning Department.

### **Decisions Granted.**

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

**CA/19/02054/FUL. Hall Place Enterprise Centre, Harbledown Bypass.**

## **112/19 Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

Councillor Perham confirmed that work on the War Memorial in Harbledown has been finished and that the work has been well received by residents. The next step is to decide when work should begin planting the bank around the Memorial. Haywood Landscapes have provided two options, the first is to plant now or leave planting to later in the year. The initial quote for option one would cost £2,515 plus VAT and the second option would cost £2,863 plus VAT. Both prices include planting and managing the site for one year. The committee asked Councillor Perham to

obtain further quotes for the work before a decision is made.  
Councillor Beattie thanked Councillor Perham for organizing the work on the War Memorial.

### **Open Spaces and Allotments**

#### **Open Spaces**

#### **Councillor Docherty gave his report.**

#### **Neal's Place Meadow.**

After all the rain over the last couple of months the Meadow is very wet in all the expected places through surprisingly the ditch at the bottom is dry. Parts of the cycle path route in Neal's Place Meadow and Dukes Meadow have been cleared, widening them to their full extent. Something we have discussed before, but not sure who has done it !

#### **Jubilee Field.**

Evidence of motorcycle activity again, the tyre tracks down the hill are making a bit of a mess.

#### **Cheyney Field.**

Moles have woken up and have started making a mess again.  
The gate post at the entrance from the footpath adjacent to the A2 is in need of replacing. We shall obtain a quote for this.

#### **Pine Meadow.**

The uncut area at the eastern end has a bit of a problem with brambles. Councillor Docherty will look at seeing if they can be removed before they take over.

#### **Allotments:**

Councillor Docherty reported that the Lawn Mower is in need of a service that he would like to get organised.

## **113/19 Reports of Councillors with Portfolios**

#### **Footpaths:**

There was no report.

#### **Tree Matters:**

It was confirmed that Councillor Entwistle would undertake the role of Parish Tree Warden. Councillor Beattie said that Beatrice Shire has offered her help and support to Penny to fulfil this important role.

## **Highways:**

Parking in Oaks Park.

Councillor Beattie reported that he was surprised that a plan had been put together by Canterbury City Council without input from our Parish Council. The people on the message are [matthew-t243@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:matthew-t243@yahoo.co.uk), [iancb59@gmail.com](mailto:iancb59@gmail.com), and the message was copied to Dan Smith, Ruth Goudie, Richard Jenkins, Barbara Flack, Alex Ricketts.

It would be helpful if the real names of the instigators were available so that we could ask them why they want these restrictions. Councillor Beattie said that he had looked at the plans and been round Oaks Park and cannot see how the plans will make any difference.

Bus Shelter in Rough Common Road.

The shelter has been ordered and the request made for the ground works to be done. We are waiting for KCC and Kent Sectional Buildings to give us a date and see whether KCC and Stagecoach want to meet KSB.

Village Sign for the Green in Rough Common.

The sign is still in Councillor Beattie's front room. No date has been given for installation. Confirmation is awaited that the paperwork has been done.

## **Park and Ride.**

The suggestion that a Park & Ride at Harbledown is a realistic alternative to extending the one at Wincheap (now that one of the Wincheap slip roads onto the A2 from the A28 has been built and the other has been approved) is a complete red herring. Here are just a few of the reasons why (from comments received):-

It is not in the Local Plan.

It is an area of high landscape value

The capital cost of the land purchase and building the access roads would be extremely high (the levels between the road and the proposed site would be problematic)

The operating costs for four Park & Rides instead of three would be very high (Park & Ride fares do not cover the operating costs)

The time for the buses to get around the ring road to reach the bus station at peak times would make it quicker for motorists to drive on to the New Dover Road Park & Ride (only five minutes further along the A2) which is relatively close to the bus station.

The traffic congestion in the Harbledown/Rough Common area would result in gridlock at peak times further adding to travel times.

Traffic from Ashford which can't get into the cut-down Park & Ride at

Wincheap will try to cross Chartham Hatch and come down the hill to access the Faulkners Lane site. This road is very narrow and bendy and will result in huge numbers of accidents and angry drivers not willing to give way.

Redesigning the access into Canterbury on the A2050 as it comes off the A2 will cost a lot of money and will increase queuing.

Church Hill Harbledown is already a rat-run. It is very narrow with cars parked on one side.

The letter from Ruth Goudie on 27<sup>th</sup> November stated that the Faulkners Lane site was the preferred location if other locations in the Wincheap/Thanington areas cannot be delivered, based on the council decision (Executive E83 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007), but this decision was made before the plan to build the off-slip from the A2 at Wincheap, and is clearly outdated.

The City Council has not produced any information on why this site is being considered. The 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 press release made no mention of Faulkners Lane in the planning of Park & Ride facilities required when reducing City-Centre parking.

The minutes of the Budget meeting, Policy and Resources Committee, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 made no mention of this proposal.

The additional pollution from queueing traffic next to the school is dangerous.

The capital cost together with the higher operating costs would probably make a multi-storey car park at Wincheap a less expensive option than a Park & Ride at Harbledown:

The City Council seems to be using the threat of a Park & Ride at Harbledown to frighten councillors into agreeing to their plans to build a Park & Ride on the Wincheap Water Meadows.

It is clear that the siting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Park & Ride at Faulkners Lane Harbledown is not a serious proposal. This is quite disgraceful behaviour.

## **Communication and Media**

There was no report.

### **114/19 Reports of Councillor representatives**

#### **No Mans Orchard.**

Councillor Docherty reported that an invoice has been received for the removal of the poplar trees. As discussed previously, this is being split between Chartham Parish Council and us.

#### **Police Liaison:**

There was no report.

#### **Rough Common Village Hall:**

Councillor Salvatori reported that the Village Hall Committee has not had a meeting. Councillor Salvatori also reported that was complaints regarding the behaviour of the people who had hired the hall on New Years Eve and that as a consequence the £100 deposit has been withheld. An apology was eventually received.

#### **KALC:**

Councillor Beattie reported that he will be attending the next meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

### **115/19 Update status on other items:**

Canterbury City Councillor Alex Ricketts reported that he had contacted Kent County Councillor Robert Thomas about repainting the Zebra Crossing in Rough Common Road and also updated the meeting on discussions being held at Canterbury City Council regarding the forthcoming budget meeting, which is being held in February 2020.

### **116/19 Correspondence:**

A digest was circulated for this meeting.

**117/19 Finance and Accounts for Payment:** It was resolved to accept the accounts, proposed by Councillor Edis and seconded by Councillor David Salvatori. **The total of balances held at bank amounted to £103,263.33.**

**118/19 Future Issues.**

Bus shelter in Rough Common Road

Emergency Plan.

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 24th February 2020 at St Michael's Church Hall Harbledown commencing 7.30 pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

