

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 April 2015 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT Mr R Theobald (Chairman)
Mr D Hart
Mr R Dinnis
Mr G Dent
Mr R Lane
Mrs S Lindley

ALSO IN
ATTENDANCE Sgt Carli Deacon
PCSO Joanne Hartley
Mrs M Polhill, Parishioner
Mr A Naylor, Parishioner
Miss P Clifton, Parishioner
Mrs A Jeffries, Parishioner
Mrs L Hofford, Parishioner
Mr J Bickers, Higham Resident

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr J Bugg,
Mr R Cooper and Cllr B Sweetland

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order to allow the visitors to speak.

83 Discussion with the Police

- (a) Mr Lane gave an update on the situation at Park Pale. Sgt Deacon reported that they had checked the previous night and found no activity on site. Regarding the accident, this still needs investigation. A parishioner made the comment that The Street is also being used by a quad bike. Mr Hart reported that there is still activity in Claylane Woods. A couple of the motorcyclists were apprehended by the police as the bikes were stolen. PCSO Hartley reported that they had been called out about this.
- (b) Mr Theobald raised the matter that there was an abandoned blue landrover Discovery in Swillers Lane and did the police deal with this or the Borough Council. He was advised that the police did not deal with this and that it would be matter for the Borough Council.

- (c) Mrs Polhill expressed her concern about the dangers for pedestrians in Pear Tree Lane due to the speed of traffic. Mr Naylor reported that there is a 30mph stretch up to the See Ho Public House in Pear Tree Lane, then a “derestricted” sign. Mr Theobald stated that the whole of Pear Tree Lane should have a speed restriction of 30mph.

Miss Clifton reported that she is running the Speed Watch at The Ridgeway. PCSO Hartley stated that the police have to pay for this and that some residents broke the equipment. Miss Clifton reported that the Speed Watch equipment cost £2,000.00 and that there are only two. Mr Theobald asked who owned the equipment and that it would appear that there is a funding problem. He suggested that a traffic survey and traffic count should be carried out though it was pointed out that this was carried out in the parish a few years ago. Miss Clifton reported that drivers ignored this but that this was before the interactive sign was installed.

- (d) Miss Clifton asked if the Speed Watch equipment could be borrowed on a rota basis. The information collected will be sent to Guy Rowlands who will calibrate this.
- (e) Mr Naylor reported that vehicles are parked opposite Pondfield Lane all the time. He lives on the corner of Pondfield Lane and The Ridgeway. PCSO Gosal is to be asked monitor this location.

The meeting then returned to the Agenda.

84 Matters Raised by Parishioners

- (a) A parishioner reported that lorries are parked on the north side of the A2 and now they are also parking on the south side of the A2. Mr Theobald commented that there is a shortage of designated parking places for lorries as there are no proper facilities for them.
- (b) Mrs Polhill asked if the Parish Council would give her permission to create a floral plantation on Chestnut Green in order to enhance the village. Mr Theobald suggested that spring flowers should be planted. It was pointed out that once the trees were in leaf the green would be in shadow and most flowers would not thrive under those conditions.
- (c) A parishioner expressed concern at the state of the recreation ground and the van parked there. Mr Theobald reported that the Parish Council had allowed the parking of cars owned by the residents living opposite the recreation ground but not for commercial vehicles. Drivers of commercial vehicles should be parking in spaces provided by their company. The identity of the owner of the van is to be established.
- (d) Mr Bickers, who lives in Higham, raised the matter of obstruction of the footpaths in Court Wood. He walks in the woods and reported there is access opposite the petrol station. Mr Theobald reported that he went with someone from Higham to the woods and met several dog walkers. The problem is that the footpath, although in Shorne parish, the walkers are from Higham. He went to say that a Definitive Map

Modification Order (DMMO) is needed to establish the footpath and that he can find no information on where the footpath can be defined. The Parish Council would require evidence from walkers that the paths have been used for twenty years to pursue the matter. If Mr Bickers could assist the Parish Council with this information, it would be a great help. He will also contact Higham Parish Council for assistance.

85 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2015

The minutes were AGREED and signed as a true record.

86 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

87 Mr Roy Dinnis

Mr Dinnis had advised that he would not be standing for election for the Parish Council and would be standing down in May 2015. The Chairman paid tribute to Mr Dinnis for all the good work carried out by him during his time on the Parish Council which was very much appreciated as his contribution has been invaluable. Mr Dinnis came onto the Parish Council in July 2011 and was Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee since June 2014 until May 2015.

Mr Dinnis acknowledged the sentiments of the Chairman and said that he has enjoyed his time serving the parish, but that he will now have the time to pursue his interests in tennis and rugby.

88 Crabbles Bottom (70)

(a) Proposed Works

Mr Dinnis reported that having received the estimates for the works from H & P Conservationworks Ltd which will be in the region of £8,000.00, they will be carrying out the works at Crabbles Bottom. He has also been in contact with the North-West Kent Countryside Partnership who has been most helpful with advice. H & P and NWKCP will liaise with each other on the works to be carried out.

(b) Investment with the CCLA

Following a letter being sent to the NatWest Bank, requesting the closure of the reserve account for the Bond (£70,000.00), a cheque for £79,877.06 was received on 14 March 2014. This has been paid into the Nationwide Building Society. After paying out the £80,000.00 for the investment with the CCLA, the amount now stands at £38,698.01.

Mr Dinnis reported that £80,000.00 has been invested with the Church Commissioners Local Authority (CCLA) and that the transaction has been successfully completed. All relevant documents have been received by Mr Dinnis and the Clerk. Mr Dinnis suggested that this should be topped up regularly, perhaps £10,000.00 every year, in order to maintain a healthy level of interest to be used for the ongoing work at Crabbles Bottom.

89 Shornemead Crossing (71)

Mr Theobald expressed his appreciation to Mrs Lindley who made visits to the House of Lords' Library and the British Library to research information. He also wished to thank Mrs Hornby for her contribution in finding references to the Human Rights Act. Following being allowed a further thirty days, a supplementary statement has been submitted to the Secretary of State challenging KCC's statement on the "uses" of the path. If the matter goes to an Inquiry, the Ramblers' Association has recommended a Footpaths' Consultant who could possibly represent the Parish Council.

90 Lower Thames Crossing (72)

Nothing further to report. Mr Theobald reported that he noticed that another Act has been passed relating to "infrastructure".

91 Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (formerly the LDF) (73)

Mr Lane reported on the concerns of the Parish Council in relationship to the Green Belt Review. He had drafted a letter to be sent to Mr Kevin Burbidge, Director of Housing & Regeneration at Gravesham Borough Council (re: Mr Ferrin's letter), which had been amended following comments from members of the Parish Council.

A very lengthy discussion ensued. Mr Theobald made the comment that the establishment of Green Belt boundaries in the Plan is the Review. He went on to say that GBC needs to carry out a Green Belt Review because of the National Planning Policy but that the Green Belt should not be compromised. Mr Dinnis expressed concerns regarding future Green Belt boundaries which can be changed from the present boundaries. He also commented on the fact that the Borough Council has not indicated where the brown fields are located.

As Mr Theobald had declared that he would be abstaining from the final decision as to whether the letter should be sent, he stood down as Chairman and Mr Dinnis took on the role as Chairman for this item.

Mr Lane stated that the letter represents the views of a large number of parishioners. He had asked for all Parish Councillors' views on the letter which was now in its final draft. Mr Lane recommended that:-

"The Green Belt Review should be opposed."

This was unanimously carried with one abstention by Council.

“The letter should be sent to Mr Kevin Burbidge, at GBC objecting to the Green Belt Review being undertaken by Gravesham Borough Council.”

This was unanimously carried with one abstention by Council. The letter is to be sent and to be signed by Mr Bugg as Vice-Chairman.

It was agreed that the matter should be publicised. Mr Dinnis agreed to undertake the publicity which will be mentioned in the parish magazine and it will also go on the website. Mr Dinnis will also contact local newspapers and Radio Kent. Mr Lane agreed to act as spokesman on the matter.

Mr Dinnis proposed that the Parish Council should work with the GRRP (Gravesham Rural Residents Group) which was agreed.

92 Park Pale (74)

Dealt with under Minute 83.

93 Website

Mr Hart asked what information could be placed on the website eg elections. He was advised that nothing with a political content should be placed on the website. The Parish Council had been advised on that afternoon, that parish election is uncontested

94 Report by Cllr B Sweetland

No report.

95 Planning & Highways Committee

Mr Theobald reported on planning applications dealt with by members of the Committee under Standing Orders.

96 Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

(a) New Notice Board in Thong (55b)

A letter has been received from Mr Turner, who has turned down the request from the Parish Council for the new site for the notice board in Thong, pointing out the problems with vehicles parking outside his gate. Mr Dinnis pointed out that the notice board in Vigilant Way is less than 200 yards away. He suggested that the new notice board could perhaps be used to replace the dilapidated one at Chestnut Corner. It was suggested a location in Thong should be pursued.

(b) Request by Parishioner to Plant an Oak Tree

Mr Dinnis reported that Cllr Sweetland had advised that KCC would have no objection to an Oak tree being planted by Mrs Smailles, but that they had concerns regarding underground power cables etc which would have to be checked. Mr Lane will arrange for a survey to be carried out to check for buried cables.

(c) Notice Board at Shorne Common

Mr Dinnis reported that two estimates have been received for repairing and reinstating the notice board at Shorne Common. It is for supplying and erecting two 3" x 3" concrete spur posts to wooden posts to hold up the sign.

All Seasons Landscapes (Kevin Law) - £168.00
 All Seasons Garden & Landscaping (John Vilday) - £137.63
 (Labour £61.00 + £76.63 for materials)

Council agreed to accept the quotation from All Seasons Garden & Landscaping. Mr Dinnis will arrange for the works to be put in hand by Mr Vilday.

97 Outside Bodies

There were no meetings of Outside Bodies attended by anyone.

98 Finance

(a)	Talk Talk	Account (April'15)	£ 35. 58
	(Paid by DD)	VAT	<u>£ 7. 11</u>
			£ 42. 69
			=====

(b) The following accounts were passed for payment and cheques issued.

Mrs T Martin	Norton Anti-Virus	£ 41. 66
(Paid On-line)	VAT	<u>£ 8. 33</u>
		£ 49. 99
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KALC	Subscription	£726. 72
	VAT	<u>£145. 34</u>
		£872. 06
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Open Spaces Society	Subscription	£ 45. 00
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Shorne Village Hall	Hire of Hall & Room	£ 60. 00
Mrs T Martin	Postage & Stationery	£ 49. 47
Mrs T Martin	Salary - April 2015	£ 800. 60
	Less Tax	<u>- 92. 95</u>
		£ 707. 65
		=====
Inland Revenue	Tax deducted from Clerk's Salary	£ 92. 95
	PC's Contributions for NI	<u>£ 18. 99</u>
		£111. 94
		=====

99 Correspondence

- (a) Various posters re: General and Local Elections from GBC which have been placed on the notice boards.
- (b) From BT re: Adopting a telephone kiosk for £1.

100 Matters Raised by Members

- (a) Mr Lane reported that the Clear-Up Litter Day on 21 March 2015 was successful. He has been in contact with Stuart Alford who is able to purchase 12 litter picker 'wands' on behalf of the Parish Council at a cost of around £8 each. Mr Lane will pay for two, Mr Cooper for one and the Parish Council for nine. Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase. Mr Lane will arrange this with Stuart Alford.
- (b) Mr Lane referred to a letter received from Paul Crick, Director of Environment & Enforcement at KCC, with reference to a letter dated 27 March 2015 received from the Minister for Housing & Planning, Brandon Lewis, MP, to the Council Leaders of English Local Authorities. The letter may be of particular interest to those Councils who have an interest in Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs).

Mr Lane reported that both Higham and Cobham Parish Councils are pursuing the matter of a Parish Plan and what were the intentions of Shorne Parish Council on this. Mr Hart thought that it was important for Shorne to have a Parish Plan. The matter is to be further discussed by members.

- (c) With regard to the landscaping strip off Michael Gardens, Mr Hart suggested that the Parish Council should purchase this from the Borough Council. Mr Theobald reported that this would not be possible and that the matter should continue to be pursued with the Borough Council.

- (d) Mr Hart had suggested having a board in the foyer at the Village Hall, showing all past Parish Council Chairmen. Members are to give the matter some thought as it would require a huge amount of research, depending on how far back the list on the board would go, as the Parish Council would not have all the information.
- (e) Mr Dinnis commented on how lovely the daffodils looked in Tanyard Hill, which have been planted and tended by Mrs Hornby. Mrs Hornby has requested £50 to purchase more daffodil bulbs. This was agreed by Council. Mr Dinnis will advise Mrs Hornby accordingly.
- (f) Mr Dinnis has checked footpath NS163 which is clear but some clearance would be required in about three weeks.
- (g) Mr Theobald reported on the condition of the low fence in Swillers Lane. He has been in contact with Stuart Alford asking him to arrange for the repairs.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Park Pale: Update for Shorne Parish Council Meeting 9 April 2015

On Friday 27th March, at approximately 11.00pm, two motorcyclists collided in Park Pale. Police closed the road whilst the ambulance service attended. Unconfirmed reports indicate that one of the motorcyclists was seriously injured. This is just the latest in the long catalogue of incidents concerning motorbikes and cars in Park Pale.

Residents and other affected parties met with representatives from the Police and KCC Highways on 20 January to highlight the dangers and disturbances, and to find out what was being done to combat the problem.

The areas most impacted by the noise from cars and motorcycles in Park Pale are Pondfield Lane and Bowesden Lane, plus the Ridgeway and parts of Racefield Close and Woodlands Lane, but on occasions the noise can be heard as far away as the village itself.

Since the meeting on 20 January, Police have recorded complaints on 5 occasions - 25 January (2 reports), 7 March, 11 March, and 21 March. This does not include the unfortunate incident on 27 March.

The frequency of disturbances has thankfully been much reduced during the winter months, but with the onset of spring and the approach of summer we can expect the frequency of disturbances to start to increase again.

Insp. Carter reports that the Police continue to monitor calls to this location and when able will deploy patrols there in response to calls and as part of a default patrolling strategy. Insp. Carter has also provided an update on the additional actions planned in the near future.