

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2015 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT

Mr R Theobald (Chairman)
Mr J Bugg
Mr D Hart
Mr R Dinnis
Mr R Cooper
Mr G Dent
Mrs S Lindley

APOLOGIES

for absence were received from Mr R Lane and
Cllr B Sweetland

67 Election of New Chairman & Vice Chairman

Due the six month's disqualification period for non-attendance at meetings by Mr Brett was on 24 January 2015, it was necessary for Council to appoint a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mr Theobald was proposed by Mr Dinnis and seconded by Mr Dent for the position of Chairman.

Mr Bugg was proposed by Mr Hart and seconded by Mr Cooper for the position of Vice-Chairman.

As there were no other proposals, Mr Theobald was duly elected Chairman and Mr Bugg as Vice-Chairman.

Mr Theobald then took the Chair.

68 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2015

The minutes were AGREED and signed as a true record.

69 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (a) Following the Council's attention being drawn to the Agenda for the previous meeting

not being on the notice board at Chestnut Corner, the Clerk contacted Mrs Brown about this and was advised that the Agenda had been placed on the notice board and that it had possibly been vandalised. (66)

70 **Crabbles Bottom (56)**

(a) Proposed Works

Mr Dinnis reported that the first work for the ongoing maintenance at Crabbles Bottom to be tackled would be on the footpath and bridleway.

A company called Landscape Services (near Dartford) has suggested clearing half the area at a time in order to allow the fauna to develop. A quotation has been received from them for £8224.00 + £1644.80 (VAT) = £9868.80.

He also contacted a company called HRC who advised that they did not have the equipment to clear meadows. Another company called Landscape Works in London was considered too far geographically. The work scope on the bridleway and footpath was similar and it was hoped to start the work at the end of March and to be completed by the end of April 2015.

It had been agreed at the last Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting to go ahead with the works and to be recommended to the full Council at this meeting.

“The Chairman moved from the chair that the Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee be given delegated authority to appoint a contractor to carry out the works at Crabbles Bottom based on quotations received to date, to a limit of £10,000.00. This was seconded by Mr Cooper and agreed unanimously by members.”

Mr Dinnis also reported that he was meeting Kevin Law on Saturday morning at Crabbles Bottom to show him the damaged fence posts at the A2 side and to ask him for a quotation to renew them.

(b) Investment of Money from Bond

The matter of where the Parish Council should invest the money from the Bond with the NatWest Bank at the end of term investment period on the 24 February 2015 was discussed in detail at the last Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting. The bond for the £70k investment plus interest has so far gained about £80k which will go into a "reserve account" with NatWest Bank at the end of the term.

Mr Dinnis has taken advice from the KALC on this and on their recommendation, had contacted the Church Commissioners Local Authority (CCLA), an Investment Management Company for details. The minimum investment is £20,000. It was

suggested that £80,000 should be invested. Members had agreed with the proposed investment with the CCLA and this was to be recommended to the full Council at this meeting.

“It was agreed by all members to go ahead with the investment of £80,000 with the CCLA. The difference to make up this amount is to be taken from the Nationwide Building Society Treasurer’s Account (ie £80k - £70k investment plus interest of about £8k).”

Mr Dinnis reported that the application required four names for the investment with a minimum of two signatories - two of the names are to be at Director-level. It was agreed that the names on the investment would be Mr R Theobald, Mr J Bug, Mr R Dinnis and Mr R Cooper. Mr Dinnis is to proceed with the investment with the CCLA

71 Shornemead Crossing (57)

The Chairman gave a brief report of the current position regarding the Council's application to Kent County Council for a Definitive Map Modification Order with the aim of reopening the Shornemead Level Crossing. The County Council had refused the application. The historical evidence had not been fully recognised and the user evidence had been set aside based on a claim from Railtrack that the use of the crossing was illegal. The Ramblers Association had given significant assistance producing legal arguments to counter Railtrack's claim. There was a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against the County Council's Decision.

“The Chairman moved from the chair that the Parish Council lodges an appeal to the Secretary of State against the County Council's decision not to grant a Definitive Map Modification Order adding the footpath from the northern end of Queens Farm Road in Lower Shorne, north to the tow path of the former Thames and Medway Canal identified on the definitive map as footpath NS 137 including the level crossing over the North Kent railway line.

The motion was seconded by Mr Cooper and carried unanimously.”

The Chairman then drew attention to the possible need to fund legal representation and other costs. If the appeal is successful and Railtrack maintain their objection there is likely to be a public inquiry. In these circumstances, the Parish Council is likely to need legal advice and legal representation at the inquiry.

“The Chairman moved from the chair that the Parish Council makes available up to a limit of £10,000 monies for legal fees and other expenses in connection with the appeal to the Secretary of State against Kent County Council’s decision not to grant a Definitive Map Modification Order, adding the footpath from the northern end of Queens Farm Road in Lower Shorne, north to the tow path of the former Thames and Medway Canal identified on the definitive map as

footpath NS 137 including the level crossing over the North Kent railway line. The monies to be taken from balances.

The motion was seconded by Mr Cooper and carried unanimously.”

72 Lower Thames Crossing (58)

Mr Theobald reported that the Transport Select Committee at the House of Commons was going to consider crossings from Tower Bridge. He had been contacted by Meridian TV and he showed them on Monday, 12 January 2015 the areas that would be affected like Thong Lane and the A226. Option A (a bridge) is viable. Mr Theobald is to write to the Transport Select Committee on this matter.

73 Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (formerly the LDF) (59)

It was understood that work on Local Plan was continuing with the preparation of development management policies.

74 Park Pale

Mr Lane was unable to attend the meeting due to being on holiday. He has submitted a written report which has been circulated to members. See attached report.

75 Website

Mr Hart reported that he had experienced problems with his e-mails. He has now with the assistance from Mr Dinnis, managed to sort out putting items on the website. He also mentioned the “hit counter” which showed that there has been a lot of interest. Members advised that they did not mind their e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers being on the website. As was pointed out, the website needs to be kept up to date.

76 Report by Cllr B Sweetland

No report.

77 Planning & Highways Committee

(a) GR/2015/068 - St Govan, Swillers Lane, Shorne, Kent

Erection of part two storey and part single storey extension on the eastern side elevation, single storey extension on the western side elevation and erection of a front porch.

Mr Theobald reported that he had declared an interest and took no part in the discussions on this planning application.

78 Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

(a) Shorne Football Club

Mr Dinnis reported at the last Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting that the Club had made a request for support towards the costs for the refurbishment of the facilities at the pitch as the changing rooms are very small. There was £800.00 outstanding for the works.

Mr Dinnis had proposed that:- “A grant of £500.00 is made to the Football Club by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mr Lane. This was recommended to the full Council. It was agreed unanimously by Council members.”

The Football Club is to be written to enclosing the cheque and to advise that Council would like to use this as a publicity opportunity for the Council and would request photographs of the work in progress which could be used in the Parish Report.

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

A drawing has been produced by Mr Theobald, showing the site location for the notice board in Thong. Mr Dinnis reported that he had spoken to Ron Bardoe who has agreed to make a new notice board for the Council but he advised that he would not be able to erect the notice board. The costs would be in the region of £250.00. It was suggested that the notice board be erected on oak posts with concrete spurs. Council agreed to go ahead with having a new notice board made. The matter was delegated to Mr Dinnis to pursue on behalf of the Council.

New concrete spurs are required for the notice board at Shorne Common as reported by Mr Theobald at the last Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting.

(c) Request by Parishioner to Plant an Oak Tree

A request had been received from Mrs Smaillies to plant an oak tree as she wishes to scatter her late husband, Ben's, ashes under it. A drawing has been produced by Mr Theobald, showing the site location for the tree. The proposed site is opposite Smith's Farm in Forge Lane, where there is already a seat for public use dedicated to her father. Mr Dinnis reported that he had contacted Cllr Sweetland about this and a reply is awaited.

79 Outside Bodies

(a) Parish Councils Chairmen's Meeting

Mr Bugg attended the meeting held on 28 January 2015. He reported that black rubbish sacks will be replaced with bins.

80 Finance

(a)	Shorne Scouts	Peppercorn Rent (Paid into Barclays Bank)	. 05
(b)	Shorne Football Club	Peppercorn Rent (Paid into Barclays Bank)	£ 1. 00
(c)	Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	8th Repayment on Loan - 24 March 2015 (Paid By Direct Debit)	£1623. 48
(d)	Talk Talk (Paid by DD)	Account (Feb'15) VAT	£ 31. 32 <u>£ 6. 26</u> £ 37. 58 =====
(e)	Talk Talk (Paid by DD)	Account (March'15) VAT	£ 34. 42 <u>£ 6. 88</u> £ 41. 30 =====
(f)	The following accounts were passed for payment and cheques issued.		
	Smith of Derby	Service to Church Clock VAT	£184. 00 <u>36. 80</u> £220. 80 =====
	Morgan Timber	Wood for new Notice Board at Thong VAT	£103. 64 <u>20. 72</u> £124. 36 =====
	Mr R Bardoe	Materials and Making of new Notice Board at Thong	£108. 00
	Mrs T Martin	Postage & Stationery	£ 31. 92
	Shorne Football Club	Grant towards Changing Room facilities	£500. 00
	Mrs L Hornby	Stationery Items for Shornemead Crossing	£ 9. 01
	Mrs L Hornby	Copies of questionnaires, travel & parking for Shornemead Crossing	£ 43. 33
	Mrs L Hornby	Travel, parking to Maidstone Documents for Shornemead Crossing	£ 80. 16

Mrs S Lindley	Rail Fare to Bristol to deposit Documents for Appeal for Shornemead Crossing	£ 63. 00
Mrs T Martin	Salary - February 2015 Less Tax	£ 800. 60 <u>- 92. 12</u> £708. 48 =====
Inland Revenue	Tax deducted from Clerk's Salary PC's Contributions for NI	£ 92. 12 <u>£ 18. 99</u> £111. 11 =====
Mrs T Martin	Salary - March 2015 Less Tax	£ 800. 60 <u>- 92. 12</u> £708. 48 =====
Inland Revenue	Tax deducted from Clerk's Salary PC's Contributions for NI	£ 92. 12 <u>£ 18. 99</u> £111. 11 =====

81 Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

82 Matters Raised by Members

- (a) Mr Dent enquired as to the function of the Mobile Police Station. He was advised that the primary function of the Mobile Police Station was for crime prevention.
- (a) Mr Hart reported that the number of parked lorries have increased on the slip road by Nell's Café. He was advised that this would be a matter for the Dept of Transport or the police to sort out.
- (b) Mr Hart suggested having a board in the foyer at the Village Hall, showing all past Parish Council Chairmen. Members are to give some thought to this.
- (c) Attention was drawn to the Playgroup poster which had been fixed by the entrance to the village hall which the Parish Council had complained about to the Village Hall Management Committee. The poster was removed but has been re-erected at the end of the village hall facing The Street. It was agreed that the Parish Council representatives (Mr Bugg and Mr Hart) should raise this matter at the next Village Hall Management Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Disturbances in Park Pale

A number of Shorne Residents, together with representatives from Shorne Parish Council and other interested parties, attended a meeting with Kent Police at Rochester & Cobham Golf Club on 20 January to discuss the frequent noise disturbances and hazards caused by motorcycles and cars in Park Pale.

Although not directly connected, the damage to lawns in Woodlands Lane was also discussed. Chief Inspector Simon Alland, Gravesham Area Commander, said that although the Police were operating under significant budgetary and resource constraints, he recognised the concerns raised and the Police were treating the matter as important.

Chief Inspector Alland reported that a number of Section 59 warning notices had been issued to bikers in Park Pale, and he reported on other measures that are expected to be in place before the summer. It was later confirmed that a valid traffic regulatory order was in place, prohibiting all motor vehicles from entering Park Pale except for access, and that this prohibition is enforceable.

Residents were encouraged to report all disturbances in Park Pale by telephoning 101, and stating that they are reporting nuisance vehicles in Park Pale which is in the Gravesham Police Area (beat code XC24). This should draw the call operator's attention to the history to enable an accurate log of events to be collated, and will ensure that the call is directed to the correct Police area.

A further meeting is planned for later in the year to review progress and the effectiveness of the measures taken.

In the meantime, Inspector Chris Carter will oversee Police operations with regards to Park Pale, and Sergeant Carli Deacon and Bob Lane will liaise as principal points of contact.

Bob can be contacted on bob.lane@gmx.co.uk or 01474 822680.

Bob Lane

February 2015