

# **SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 September 2014 in Shorne Village Hall**

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	Mr R Theobald (Acting-Chairman) Mr J Bugg Mr R Dinnis Mr R Cooper
<b><u>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE</u></b>	Cllr B Sweetland PCSO Dil Gosal, PC C Deacon Mr Steve Gray, Community Warden for Shorne 14 Parishioners
<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>	for absence were received from Mr Brett and Mr Hart

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Theobald took the chair.

### **25 Matters Raised by Parishioners**

#### **Park Pale**

Parishioners attended the meeting in order to draw the Parish Council's attention to the issues with motorcycle nuisance at Park Pale. Various parishioners very strongly voiced their views on the noise during the day and sometimes in the early hours of the morning by motorcyclists and the safety issue. The Parish Council also heard that Park Pale was being used as a race track. Lorries parked in Park Pale and also motorists parking along the stretch of road outside the Country Park were also an issue. The main issues were the noise from the motorcyclists, parking of lorries and cars and a request for CCTV cameras.

PCSO Gosal reported that six young males had received Section 59 warnings which mean their bikes or vehicle can be seized if they are seen acting in an anti-social manner again whether it belongs to them or not. The police are looking into the suitability of getting cameras installed in the Park Pale area. If approved, it will provide them with vehicle registration numbers and evidence which will lead to identifying the motorcyclists so further Section 59's can be given. All local police officers are aware of Park Pale and patrol the area as much as possible on their shift. OP Army which is the Anti-social behaviour car for Gravesend, attend the area every evening

and can move the bikers on from the area. Also if they see someone riding in an anti-social behaviour way, they can receive a Section 59.

She reported that Highways are aware of the current issues at Park Pale and she has requested that the white line be removed but this was unlikely due to the cost implication.

The Council had made her aware that Highways come out to the rural areas to cut back the grass and vegetation between May and September once a year. She reported that if the grass grows back after this time, a call can be made to get it cut again. An investigation will take place 7-10 days after the enquiry has been placed. Once investigated and if it remains an issue, it will take up to 28 days to cut it all back.

PCSO Gosal has since reported that towards the end of the meeting, three bikers attended who were told of the meeting by a member of the golf course. She explained to them that Park Pale is not a track for them to race on. It is an access road for the Golf Course and Harlex Haulage Services and that they should not be there as they had no intention to access either of those places. Section 59's was explained to them and they were told that the police would be conducting checks on people and vehicles and will deal robustly with any offences. After a long discussion, the bikers would like to ask if there could be a way they could work with local residents and she has suggested that this is most likely not going to happen, however, she would ask.

### **Woodlands Lane**

Mr Theobald raised the matter of criminal damage to the frontages of properties in Woodlands Lane. PCSO Gosal has since advised the Parish Council that Woodlands Lane was a target for criminal damage to residents' front lawns at the beginning of the year. Covert cameras were put in place then after a few months no criminal activity took place and they were taken down. A few weeks ago it is believed a quad bike drove over some lawns again. As a result of this, covert cameras were put up on two properties, since then no reports of criminal damage have been made to police. These cameras will only remain in place for 3 months. Then they will be taken down again.

### **Bus Shelter at Shorne Crossroads - Rochester-Bound**

Mr Theobald also raised the matter of the bus shelter, Rochester-bound, where it is suspected that a homeless male is urinating and possibly sleeping. PCSO Gosal has advised the Parish Council that the issue with the bus shelter has now been brought to police attention. Patrols will be made aware of this and will stop and check inside the shelters.

The Chairman thanked the Police representatives, Steve Gray and parishioners for attending the meeting.

The meeting then returned to the Agenda.

**26 Mr John Pooley**

As a token of respect to Mr Pooley, who had died on Friday, 19 September 2014 while in hospital, the Chairman asked everyone to stand to hold a minute's silence.

Mr Pooley came onto the Parish Council on 19 May 1999. He was Chairman from 17 May 2000 until August 2010. His long service on the Parish Council was for fifteen years.

**27 Report by County Cllr B Sweetland**

Cllr Sweetland reported on:-

- (a) The KALC is asking for Parish Councillors who attend the Joint Transportation Board meetings to be given the right to vote.
- (b) Gravesham Neighbourhood Rural Forum is arranging a visit to see how recycling is carried out at Crayford on 7 November 2014. The information had been received and circulated to Parish Councillors. Mr Theobald and Mr Bugg will attend.
- (c) The KCC website has been re-formed.
- (d) Applications for grants in the rural areas have been thin on the ground.
- (e) Once a year, from his grant fund they provide a "road gang" to carry out jobs in the rural villages for two to three days. These are road workers from KCC.

A parishioner asked if the hedge could be cut back in Bowesden Lane. Another asked if the works on the telephone box on Chestnut Green could be completed. A parishioner pointed out that the bus shelter at The Ridgeway was in a bad state.

- (f) KCC is looking at a new delivery service in the future on their 99 libraries in Kent by creating a Charity Trust to deal with this.
- (g) Consultation on KCC wardens.
- (h) Another £13 million is to be spent on highways. The New Highways Manager is Lisa Gilham who has replaced Alan Casson. e-mail: [lisa.gilham@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.gilham@kent.gov.uk)
- (i) A Highways Event which will take place at Brands Hatch in November 2014.
- (j) Steve Gray reported that regarding the parking problems at schools, he is trying to get a "walking bus" in Shorne, but he needs to persuade the doctors' surgery for parking. A parishioner suggested that there was space behind Pipes Place. He reported that this scheme has been successful in Higham.

- (k) Mr Theobald reported that following the works in Forge Lane, the white lining has not been reinstated and that there had been an accident there this week. Cllr Sweetland reported that following the works, the road has to be swept several times and allowed to bed-in before the white lining can be reinstated.
- (l) A parishioner reported that while the contractors were cutting back the hedge at The Ridgeway, she asked them to clear the vegetation around the interactive sign.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Sweetland for his report.

## **28 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 July 2014**

The minutes were AGREED and signed as a true record.

## **29 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

## **30 Acting Vice-Chairman**

Due to Mr Brett being in hospital, Mr Theobald has been acting as Chairman to the Parish Council. Mr Theobald proposed Mr Bugg to act as Vice-Chairman during this interim period, which was agreed by members and accepted by Mr Bugg.

## **31 Mr B Wilkinson - Resignation from the Parish Council**

A letter has been received from Mr Wilkinson, Vice-Chairman, resigning from the Parish Council due to his illness. Council recorded its appreciation to Mr Wilkinson for his long service on the Parish Council since July 2003. He was Vice-Chairman from 31 May 2007 until September 2014. He was also Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee from 23 June 2006. He served on the Parish Council for eleven years.

## **32 Co-Options**

Due to Mrs Shove and Mr Wilkinson's resignations from the Parish Council, there were now two vacancies to be filled by co-option. Applicants' details had previously been circulated to members for consideration. Members agreed to co-opt Mr G Dent from Shorne West and Mrs S Lindley from the village ward. The Clerk will advise both applicants of this and to request them to attend the Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 16 October 2014 when they will be sworn-in. Subsequent to the meeting a technicality has arisen with the co-options so the new co-opted members will be sworn-in at the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 30 October 2014.

**33 Crabbles Bottom (10)**

Mr Dinnis reported that following approval by the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee, he has asked three contractors for quotations to clear the vegetation at Crabbles Bottom. The first grass cutting is to be in the spring (March/April 2015).

**34 Shornemead Crossing (11)**

Mr Theobald reported that he had received a letter from KCC. The matter is now being dealt with by them.

**35 Lower Thames Crossing (12)**

As reported at the last Planning & Highways Committee meeting. It had come to the Council's notice that the Department of Transport had published a number Technical Papers containing further engineering studies of Options A and C. These include developing the Kent County Council alternative route for Option C (known as Option C 2) to the same standard as Option C. This included moving the A2 south to create enough room for a very cramped junction between the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the realigned A2. This route had been developed based on a tunnel crossing of the river. To gain access to east Gravesend westbound traffic would need to leave the A2 via the Shorne exit and use an extension of the Thong Lane access road to reach the Gravesend East Junction.

It was also noted further work had been done on the Dartford Crossing including studies of the southern approach and improvements to M25/A13 junction.

**36 Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (formerly the LDF) (13)**

Mr Theobald reported that the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy is to be presented to the Borough Council at its meeting on 30th September 2014 for formal adoption. The Plan has been amended in accordance with the Government Inspector's directions. There will be a period of six weeks from the adoption of the Plan during which it will be open to legal challenge.

Following adoption, the Borough Council can start to consider developing some of the areas of policy including development control, based on the Core Strategy. The Green Belt review required under the plan is unlikely to commence until after Borough Council election in May 2015.

**37 Wall at Village Hall, Adjacent to 14 The Street (14)**

The matter is being monitored by Mr Bugg.

**38 Shorne Football Club - Lease (15)**

Mr Theobald reported that the new lease for the football club is just about ready, which will be for fifteen years. In order for “**exclusion of security of tenure**”, with regard to automatic renewal of the lease, it is necessary to get the certificates signed by both parties in front of a Commissioner of Oaths. Mr Ron Pryor has been suggested. Mr Theobald will contact Mr Pryor to see if he could do this for the Parish Council. The Officers of the Football Club will be invited to attend a Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting.

**39 Planning & Highways Committee****(a) GR/2014/777 - Erection of a Detached Triple Garage**

Mr Theobald reported that although the Parish Council has no objection to the application, however, in order to access the garage, it will be necessary for the applicant to cross land between his property and Butchers Hill which is in the ownership of the Parish Council. Council agreed to write to Mr D South, advising him of this and enclosing an abstract for the ordnance survey map of the area and an abstract from the Council's deeds to Shorne Common

**40 Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee****(a) Training for Parishioners**

Mr Dinnis reported that he had completed training with the KCC PROW. He is inviting parishioners to join to form teams to clear footpaths. Equipment and high visibility clothing will be provided.

**41 Meetings of Outside Bodies**

Nothing to report.

**42 Finance**

(a) The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit has now been completed satisfactorily. The Annual Return document had been returned by the auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP on 17 September 2014. Copies of the Document have been displayed for 14 days. Members thanked the Clerk for her efforts.

(b)	Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	7th Repayment on Loan (Paid By Direct Debit)	£1623. 48
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(c)	Talk Talk (Paid by DD)	Account (Aug 2014) VAT	£ 36. 59 £ 7. 32 £ 43. 91 =====
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(d)	Talk Talk (Paid by DD)	Account (Sept 2014) VAT	£ 34. 84 <u>£ 6. 97</u> £ 41. 81 =====
(e)	The following accounts were passed for payment and cheques issued.		
	Gravesend Fencing	Repairs to damaged fencing at Rec on 22.6.2014 VAT (Money has been received from Mr T Nelson)	£ 377. 00 <u>£ 75. 40</u> £ 452. 40 =====
	PKF Littlejohn	Audit Fee VAT	£200. 00 <u>£ 40. 00</u> £240. 00 =====
	Kevin Law	Re-instate post at Shorne Common Rough	£ 40. 00
	Mrs T Martin	Flowers for Mr & Mrs Pooley	£ 35. 00
	Mrs T Martin	Wireless Keyboard & Mouse	£ 13. 97
	Mrs T Martin	Postage & Stationery	£ 32. 75
	Mrs L Brown	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£ 60. 00
	Mrs T Martin	Salary - September 2014 Less Tax	£ 783. 38 <u>- 88. 68</u> £ 694. 70 =====
	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted from Clerk's Salary PC's Contributions for NI	£ 88. 68 <u>£ 16. 61</u> £ 105. 29 =====
	Mrs T Martin	Salary - October 2014 Less Tax	£ 783. 38 <u>- 88. 68</u> £694. 70 =====
	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted from Clerk's Salary PC's Contributions for NI	£ 88. 68 <u>£ 16. 61</u> £105. 29 =====

#### 43 Correspondence

- (a) From David Hughes, Chief Executive, GBC replying to the Council's letter re: Shorne West - Amenity Land. This matter was reported to the last Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting held on 11 September 2014
- (b) From Healthwatch, Kent, enclosing various items of literature.

#### 44 Matters Raised by Members

- (a) Mr Theobald reported that there were two issues with the Village Hall Management Committee. The first is an advertisement placed in the Parish Magazine regarding the Village Hall car park. The public on a day to day basis have to contact the Hall booking secretary to check on the status of the car park before using it. He reported further that a notice board frame was erected in the south east corner of the car park into which the Hall Committee could insert numbers indicating when specific functions were taking place and the time from which the car park is reserved. It is unreasonable therefore to expect the public to have to contact the Hall booking secretary to check on the status of the car park before using it. The duty is on the Hall Committee to reserve it only when it is specifically required for functions.

The second is the banner of the slimming organisation displayed by the front door of the Hall. It was not unreasonable for this to be displayed on the afternoon before the evening slimming session but it should not be on display continuously as it currently seems to be the case. The Hall is not a commercial slimming centre. It was agreed to write to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee about both these points.

- (b) Mr Dinnis reported that the Parish Report had required some updating but is now ready for distribution which should be in the next three weeks.
- (c) Mr Dinnis reported that during the discussion with the police and parishioners, he had gone out into the large hall to talk to three motorcyclists who had turned up for the meeting. He advised them that the discussion had finished. They wanted to make the point to the Parish Council that the number of motorcyclists were not as high as stated by the police.
- (d) Mr Bugg reported that the two gullies in Mill Hill Lane at the junction with Crown Lane, are blocked again. This will be reported to Kent Highways. **Ref: 123399.**
- (e) The Clerk suggested that four copies of "The Good Councillors Guide" should be purchased from the KALC for the new co-opted members. This was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.