

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council combined meeting held on
8th October 2020 on Zoom**

PRESENT

PRESENT

Mr R Lane (Chairman),
Mr R Theobald
Mr Bugg
Mr R Hardy
Ms Clifton
Mrs S Lindley
Mrs L McCluskey

APOLOGIES for non-attendance were received from Mr C Rea and Mr S White

Parishioners in attendance: None

63. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

64. To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2020

The final draft of the minutes was circulated on 5th October 2020, incorporating amendments from Mrs Lindley. The minutes were **AGREED** as a true record.

65. Any matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

Nothing received

66. Report from the Planning & Highways Committee

Lower Thames Crossing:

Mr Lane attended a briefing from Highways England today regarding the ground preparation tunnel at Chalk. Highways England advised that they intend to submit the LTC Development Consent Order application on the 23rd October 2020.

Mrs Lindley reported that the Utility trenching and archaeology work is still ongoing, including work near Claylane Woods with the diversion of the 177 cycle route. Concerns have been raised about the short run in from the eastbound entry slip road on to the A2 which combined with the lane reduction has resulted in several reported near misses. Mrs Lindley will contact Eva Simunovic regarding this. *(Post meeting note: Mr Lane contacted Eva on 8th October following an email from a resident.)*

Highways England have sent letters to various households with an interest in land in proximity to the Lower Thames Crossing, about land ownership/temporary use rights.

Mrs Lindley will contact Cllr Sweetland to ask for a copy of KCC's response to the recent consultation.

Planning:

Mrs Lindley reported that the table of representations has not been submitted as there are only four Planning Applications since the previous meeting on 10th September, and the next Planning and Highways Committee will take place on 12th November.

- **Applications and other planning matters of note:**
 - Shornemead Crossing: Network rail is arranging a site meeting in early November, as they want to divert the footpath. Mr Theobald, Mrs Lindley, Mr Lane and Mrs Clifton will attend.
 - Woodvale, The Ridgeway: GBC has been continuing their efforts to get the problems resolved, and it is understood that refurbishment and ground works will commence soon. It was reported that some of the garden has been cleared this week.
 - Tanners Grange, Tanyard Hill: A parishioner reported in mid-September regarding building works to a barn on the property which may need planning permission. Nothing further has been heard from Planning Enforcement.
 - Sirius, Green Farm Lane: Mr White had reported concerns regarding the new front wall and relocated vehicle crossover. Action has been taken by Planning Enforcement, and the wall has been reduced in height.
 - Park Pale Farm 20201012: application for a large agricultural barn next to Harlex yard. Mr Theobald expressed his concerns about this.
 - Nuralite 20191239: New documents have been uploaded on the Planning website.
 - Merrievale, Pear Tree Lane 20200984: Application for a replacement house.
- **Appeals:**
 - Land adjacent to The See-Ho: Appeal lodged with GBC but not yet active at the Planning Inspectorate.
 - GBC ref 2020/00035 135 Astra Drive: still awaiting decision.
 - GBC ref 2020/00030 St Katherines swimming pool: still awaiting decision.
 - GBC ref 2020/00027 Mill View, Mill Hill Lane: still awaiting decision.

Highways:

Mr Lane and Mrs Lindley attended a video meeting with KCC Highways on 23rd September.

- **Traffic Monitoring:** Monitoring tubes were installed in Woodlands Lane and Brewers Road by KCC. This is relating to where to locate new village entry gates/signs and reduce the speed limit to 30mph. We are still pushing for this to be to the A2 side of the Woodlands Lane junction. Mrs Lindley will write to KCC with the Parish Council's preferred option of gates into the village, and to

find out how much would these would cost. KCC is also carrying out traffic monitoring in Forge Lane with regards to reducing the speed limit to 30mph.

- Pear Tree Lane Traffic Regulation Order: the order has been published, and we are waiting for the consultation period to end. KCC is designing signs and locations etc.
- Forge lane yellow lines: still in progress at KCC. It will need a formal consultation, and we are awaiting a date.
- Bollards outside Country Park entrance: KCC has advised an estimated cost of £2,700 for 55 wooden bollards. Mr Lane has been in contact with the Country Park and GBC for a contribution, and the Country Park has offered to pay half. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item to consider approval of the proposal.
- Silverdene verge, Tanyard Hill: Problems and investigations continue, as does problem passing between Openreach and KCC.
- Pondfield Lane verges: It was confirmed that the road and verges are privately owned.
- KCC Members Grants: These have been reduced, and suspended for this year.

Open consultations:

- Changes to Bluebell Hill junctions, ends 19/10/20
<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/A229BluebellHill/consultationHome>
- Highway Code (to improve NMU safety), closes 27/10/20
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders>
- National, “Planning for the Future” reform of the planning system, ends 29/10/20
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>
(another section “Changes to the Planning System” closed 1/10/20)
- Kent rail strategy, ends 17/11/20
<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/kentrailstrategy2021/consultationHome>

67. Report from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

Crabbles Bottom:

Mr Gozzett carried out the 4th cut on 15th September which included the 3 meadows. Mr Gozzett has provided an estimate to cut back the trees to give access for walkers and tractors to all 3 meadows. Ms Clifton will obtain another quote for comparison, this will then be put on the Agenda for discussion.

Ms Clifton reported that there is a loose gate post which she will ask AGS to quote for repairing. Mr Gozzett has a colleague who will also provide a quote, as there are further fence posts that need attention.

Ms Clifton has been in contact with the Community Orchard gentleman but he is unable to help due to personal circumstances. Ms Clifton will contact Hadlow College to see if they can recommend anyone experienced in pruning ancient apple trees.

Mr Rea has emailed Members following his discussions with Kent Beekeepers Association regarding the possibility of siting bee hives at a suitable location at Crabbles Bottom.

Shorne Common and Mill Hill Play Area:

Mr Lane has ordered the memorial bench for Mrs Martin, and advised that delivery is due next Tuesday 13th October.

Ms Clifton has been in contact with Shorne Country Park and they have supplied 4 chestnut butts. Mr Vilday will install 2 at Mill Hill (one will be put into a sleeve which can be lifted out for easy access) and will store the other 2.

Mr Vilday has quoted to pressure wash and give the old bench 5 coats of oil, and it was agreed to proceed. Mr Vilday has also kindly agreed to anchor the new bench FOC. Ms Clifton mentioned the plaque that is missing from the old bench. It was agreed to make enquiries, initially on social media, to find out if anyone has any information before a replacement plaque is obtained.

Ms Clifton has looked at playground equipment websites, but it is difficult to find traditional basic equipment which would be appropriate for Shorne Common. Ms Clifton has requested a quotation from Creative Play which can provide a double swing (toddler/older child), a see-saw, and a rather fancy slide. Mr Lane commented that if we put in new equipment, it will need to comply with current regulations and standards, which may require safety surfaces. Mr Lane suggested that it may be advisable to carry out a local consultation. Mrs Lindley suggested that Ms Clifton could contact Shorne Country Park to find out who supplied their equipment.

Mr Vilday considers that the play equipment should be relocated as it suffers from leaves and sap from the overhanging branches. Ms Clifton is meeting Celia Davies of Kent Wildlife Trust on site at 11.30 on 16th October to discuss the possibility of creating a Buzz Garden, which may influence the size and location of the play area.

National Lottery 'Awards For All' has currently paused grant applications, and Ms Clifton is waiting to hear back from Higham Parish Council for advice on how they obtained the £10k grant from GBC to upgrade their play equipment.

Shorne Recreation Ground:

Ms Clifton reported that we are still waiting for the new gate to be installed. AGS have reported that there has been a large increase in the cost of timber and there is difficulty in getting supplies delivered. Blakes are currently working to supply a padlock for the height barrier. This will be operated with the existing key which is used for the gate.

Footpaths

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Pelham had visited NS171 off Green Farm Lane and got the farmer to move 2 poles and it is now satisfactory. The route will be clearer when the trees grow.

Mr Lane is still holding the footpath clearing tools issued by KCC. Ms Clifton has contacted a Meopham walking group to see if they would accept them, but they don't need them so a new home for them is still needed. Mr Theobald suggested contacting the Thames & Medway Canal Association. Mr Lane will circulate an inventory of the equipment.

Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy walked the Court Wood pathways a few weeks ago. The ‘Private – Keep Out’ signs had been removed from the trees and were lying on the ground. It was noted that the felled trees which had been reported by a parishioner in May this year were actually on the property of a house in Pear Tree Lane. Mrs Lindley said that although it may be within the property boundary, it is not part of the garden, however from photographs she had seen it looked like normal coppicing. Mr Theobald said that the woodland has an Article 4 Direction on them and a Tree Preservation Order, which requires Management Plans. Mr Lane asked how do we know what has an Article 4 on, Mr Theobald said GBC Planning should be able to tell the Parish Council, since they put the orders on.

Ms Clifton will look into what is involved in getting the paths on the Definitive Map. Mr Lane said that this would be a huge task. Mr Lane commented that it has been discussed on numerous occasions over the past few years, but no progress has been made. Mr Theobald and Mrs Lindley did preliminary work on this previously. Mr Theobald had intended to organise a walking of the paths with official GPS mapping and getting user testimony. He thought that this would be difficult as the majority of users might be from Higham but members considered that there was high usage by Shorne residents and that we could liaise with Higham PC. Mrs Lindley had tried three times to get full information of ownership of all the small pieces of land that make up the woods from the Land Registry but each time the application had been rejected. All owners have to be notified of the proposals. She agreed to try again. Members considered that action did need to be taken as time is passing and there is a deadline of end December 2025 for getting footpaths onto definitive maps.

A resident reported that the stile on Footpath NS 161 near Bowesden Lane is unstable. This was reported to KCC, who consider it to be satisfactory or already attended to.

Mr Theobald has reported to Mr Pelham that there is a tree down on the footpath that comes up from the Scammells.

68. Finance Report

Date	Payment	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	Credit Balance
03/09/2020	BACS	Vodafone	£19.13	£3.82	£22.95	
08/09/2020	BACS	Nest August Pension	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	
21/09/2020	DD	Eslip	£31.80	£6.36	£38.16	
21/09/2020	BACS	S Poole Expenses	£112.55	£0.21	£112.76	
21/09/2020	BACS	SLCC	£291.67	£58.33	£350.00	
21/09/2020	BACS	Smiths of Derby	£683.00	£136.60	£819.60	
24/09/2020	DD	Public Works Loan	£1,623.48	£0.00	£1,623.48	
29/09/2020	BACS	S Poole Sept Salary	£785.18	£0.00	£785.18	
		Total this period	£3,604.33	£205.32	£3,809.65	-£3,809.65
		YTD b/fwd from previous	£11,717.42	£558.87	£12,276.29	£29,705.03

Meeting No 4

		Total YTD c/fwd	£15,321.75	£764.19	£16,085.94	£25,895.38
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Date	Payment	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	Credit Balance
05/10/2020	BACS	Vodafone	£19.38	£3.87	£23.25	
07/10/2020	BACS	Nest Sept Pension	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	

Mrs Poole reported that she has now completed and passed 3 units of her ILCA and is doing very well with the online course from SLCC for the CICLA. The Assignments will start early next year for this course once the ILCA is finished.

69. Report from Borough Councillor R Lane

Mr Lane has attended various meetings, including a KCC Highways on 23rd September which has already been discussed by Mrs Lindley, Strategic Environment Committee on 28th September, Planning Committee on 30th September, Borough Council meeting on 6th October, and an Electoral Boundary Review briefing on 7th October.

The Strategic Environment Committee reviewed the Planning department performance dashboard, and an update on the Economic Growth Strategy, which has inevitably become a recovery plan. There were no controversial matters at the Planning Committee.

One of the items at the Borough Council Meeting was GBC Standards Committee's recommendations to the Report on Local Government Ethical Standards, which was carried out 2 years ago. As a result, GBC will be introducing changes which will impact on Parish Councils, including the power for the Standards Committee to impose sanctions and penalties on Parish Councils and Parish Councillors without the Parish Councils being represented on that committee. Mr Theobald asked where the power has come from, Mr Lane said that GBC removed Parish Council representation from the Standards Committee last year. Parish Clerks must hold an appropriate qualification, which our Clerk is currently undertaking, but this may present problems to other Parish Councils. Parish Councils will be required to adopt GBC's Code of Conduct.

The Boundary Commission will be carrying out a review of the Ward boundaries in Gravesham over the next 18 months or so. This is likely to impact on the number of Councillors and the number and boundaries of the Wards.

Adam Holloway MP and Mr Lane will be meeting Matt Palmer, Highways England's Executive Director for the Lower Thames Crossing, on site on 12th October. As reported above, Mr Lane also took part in a presentation on the ground protection tunnel at Chalk. Highways England expect to submit their Development Consent Order application on 23rd October.

70. To receive any report from County Councillor B Sweetland

Nothing to report

71. Proposal to licence fitness club sessions Shorne Recreation Ground

Mr Lane has recirculated a paper first circulated on 25th August 2020, which includes the relevant paragraph 27 from the Lease which permits the use of the recreation ground by any person or organisation nominated or approved by the Parish Council when it is not being used by Shorne FC. The Clerk has subsequently circulated a copy of the Lease. The current situation is that a party is using the recreation ground for commercial activity without approval or permission, and therefore not subject to any rules or conditions of use. A licence would regularise this situation and set out the conditions of use.

It was agreed to proceed with the licensing proposal. Mr Lane requested Members to review the draft licensing agreement and the suggested charges, and to let him have any comments or suggested changes by the next meeting. Mrs Poole will contact Shorne FC to obtain a fixture list as this has not been received.

72. Park Pale – nuisance from motorcycle and car racing

The Police have taken action during September, which included enforcement of the Traffic Regulation Order, and the situation had improved considerably since then. This may be partly due to the recent inclement weather. However, Mr Gagg of Harlex Haulage contacted Mr Lane on 6th October regarding three motorcyclists who were performing and filming stunts in Park Pale on two consecutive Mondays, and around 12 bikes were reported entering Park Pale on Wednesday 7th October. This was reported on 101. Regrettably GBC declined to consider a Public Spaces Protection Order for Park Pale, as they said the Police consider they have sufficient powers under the Road Traffic Act and the existing Traffic Regulation Order.

73. Update on Shornemead level crossing

A letter has been received from Network Rail inviting key consultees to meet during w/c 2nd November to discuss their proposal for a diversion of Footpath NS368 at Shornemead Level Crossing. Mr Theobald believes it is likely that they have secured funding and are planning to move the footpath from one side of the road to the other.

74. Update on the repainting of the railings in The Street

Mr Theobald has sent out invitations to tender to three contractors to provide quotations to carry out the work next year.

75. Car Park resurfacing

Mr Bugg reported that he has identified two contractors and now has a 3rd one, and hopefully will be going out to tender in the next couple of weeks. This is for making good the surfaces, tarmac over the whole lot, re design the car parking lines at right angles, or if not wider than they currently are.

The cobbled section adjacent to Manor Field was discussed. The problem with re-establishing a shrubbery is that the area is sloped, and soil would wash onto the path. Mr Bugg was considering a resin-based surface. An alternative would be to establish raised beds. Mr Bugg will consider the options and make recommendations.

Mr Bugg had a meeting with a local resident regarding the shrubbery at the rear of the car park, which is overgrown and intruding on the resident's property. Mr Bugg has obtained a quotation from a local contractor, and it was agreed to proceed.

76. Possible options for bus shelters

Mr Bugg and Mr Lane inspected the southern bus shelter on 2nd October. It was noted that the shelter has been pressure cleaned, but it is still being used as a urinal. Mr Bugg has contacted a contractor for an opinion, and he considers that 'goal posts' would be a simpler option. This would be to cut the brickwork back and install a steel 'goal-post' supporting structure, clad with suitable timber or recycled boards. Mr Bugg considered that we ought to involve a structural engineer, and Building Control would need to be involved.

77. Capital expenditure proposals for Finance Meeting on 22nd October 2020

Mr Lane has circulated an updated template for possible capital expenditure proposals. Members are requested to consider any additions prior to the Finance Meeting on 22nd October. Mrs Poole asked for this information to be emailed to her by the 20th October.

78. Correspondence requiring action

Nothing received.

79. General matters raised by Members for discussion

Phone Box at Post Office Green: Mr Lane reported that a resident from Hayes Terrace had shown him a notice stating that the phone box is available for adoption. We need to verify the situation to ensure that the kiosk is not lost. Mrs McCluskey & Ms Clifton have had a quote on re painting it and turning it into a Book Exchange. Mrs Lindley will contact GBC to establish the current situation.

Litter Patrol: The Litter Patrol successfully took place on Saturday 3rd October, with staggered start times and locations to help maintain social distancing. 24 volunteers participated on the day, with a number of other volunteers carrying out litter picks separately. 10 bags were collected from the vicinity of Pear Tree Lane traffic lights. A notice might be in order for this location. Mr Lane has designed some signs, which he will circulate to members.

Fly Tipping: Mr Hardy asked whether the Parish Council CCTV cameras have been deployed in Shorne Ifield Road. Mr Lane said that they have not been deployed yet, as KCC have had their own cameras deployed there. They have captured evidence of fly tipping taking place, and a number of fixed penalties have been issued.

Mr Bugg asked whether the wheelie bin in the Village Hall car park is being kept locked, as he saw a car driver put 3 bags of rubbish in there. Mrs Poole will raise this at the Village Hall committee meeting on 12th October and will speak to the Caretaker.

Mrs McCluskey asked if anyone knows why Shorne Country Park will not allow memorial plaques on the benches you can buy for the park; she was advised to contact Mr Bell at Shorne Country Park.

GeoCaching: Ms Clifton has responded to the gentleman about GeoCaching somewhere behind the scout hut, by the big tree in Mill Hill area.

Drop In Sessions: Mr Lane reported that as requested he has put a note in the Parish Magazine and on facebook for residents to get in touch with the Clerk if they have any issues they wish to discuss.

Mr Lane also reported that he has advised Shorne Scouts to make an application to the Parish Council regarding a grant towards the costs associated with their new shed.

Date of next meeting. Finance and Budgeting Committee on 22nd October 2020 via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.56