

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council combined meeting held on  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 on Zoom**

**PRESENT**

Mr R Theobald  
Mr Bugg  
Mr R Hardy  
Ms Clifton  
Mrs S Lindley  
Mr C Rea

**APOLOGIES** for non-attendance were received from:

Mr R Lane (Chairman), Mrs L McCluskey and Mr S White

Parishioners in attendance: **None in attendance**

**44 To receive any declarations of interest**

Mrs Lindley declared an interest in a planning application appeal for Mill View, Mr Theobald will report on this as it has been passed to him for comment.

**45 To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The draft minutes were circulated for comment on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and again on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 incorporating a minor amendment. No other comments were received. The minutes were **AGREED** as a true record.

**46 Any matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda**

**Nothing received**

**47 Report from the Planning & Highways Committee**

**Lower Thames Crossing:**

- Design Refinement consultation ended 12<sup>th</sup> August. Highways England have said they had “more than a thousand” responses, i.e. not very many. Mrs Lindley reported they had over 40,000 in the 2016 consultation. Mrs Lindley has submitted the Parish Council’s response which can be found at <https://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/2020-ltc-design-refinement-consultation-shorne-pc-response-final-20200812/> and she has seen the GBC response but not yet KCC’s.
- Mrs Lindley was asked by Highways England to complete a Red Amber Green rating for a “statement of community involvement”. It is actually a problem list so nearly all were “Red”. The idea is that Highways England can show that they are addressing our concerns, so they then have to respond to all of our items.

- There have been “Legacy” virtual meetings which were held in early July, each meeting had about 50 attendees. There is some confusion about what is encompassed as much depends on what items are in or out of the Development Consent Order and how much money is available. Items discussed included additional sports facilities, canal restoration and the bridge at Shornemead Crossing.
- Various digging and trenching investigations have continued, with considerable community anxiety over affected footpaths and roads.
- Highways England is still aiming to submit its Development Consent Order application later this year, and is proposing a meeting in September but no date or agenda has been confirmed yet.

**Planning:**

The table of planning submissions since the previous meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June was circulated on 9<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that the reports and recommendations of the Planning Committee be noted and that the actions taken be ratified and confirmed by all members.

- **Applications and other planning matters of note:**
  - **429 Valley Drive (outside Parish)** – permitted with new single garage, have immediately applied for larger double garage.
  - **4 Ridgeway bungalows** - further to our input regarding the size of the porch and the roof angle, we are grateful for the changes that have been made to the design.
  - **Merrievale, Pear Tree Lane** – Has had about 10 applications, photographs show they had started some construction. They have now sent an email to the Clerk with documents attached as a pre-application enquiry. They want to demolish the existing property and replace it with a new one, and have been in discussions with GBC. The previous applications were to establish the extent of work they were permitted to carry out under lawful development.
  - **New Green Farm (worker caravans)** – lawful development has been permitted. They have spoken to neighbours and have told them it will only be 6 seasonal workers caravans.
  - **9a The Street, possible café use** – pre-application enquiry; awaiting change of use application.
  - **Sirius, Green Farm Lane** – work carried out under the previous planning application had caused some upset with a neighbour, and the owner has now moved the driveway entry point from a shared position to the middle of the plot without seeking planning consent, and has built a wall at street frontage which could cause the neighbour problems getting in and out of their drive. This has been reported to GBC planning.
  - **Woodvale, The Ridgeway** – no enforcement action yet
  - There are a lot of decisions still outstanding.

- **Appeals:**

- **Land adjacent to The See-Ho** – An appeal has been lodged.
- **Hartshill Bungalow, Thong Lane - large garage/outbuilding** – third Appeal was also dismissed.
- **1 Cheney's Cottages, Thong Lane** – parking area behind their hedge with access from Thong Lane had been refused by GBC but was allowed on Appeal; they applied to say they have satisfied the conditions but GBC has recently refused confirmation.
- **GBC ref 2020/00035 135 Astra Drive** – our reps were rejected as the Planning Inspector had decided to use the “householder appeal process”
- **GBC ref 2020/00030 St Katherine's swimming pool** – appeal against GBC refusal, we had not objected as such but support GBC's reasons.
- **GBC ref 2020/00027 Mill View, Mill Hill Lane** – Mrs Lindley declared an interest; Mr Theobald submitted Appeal representations on behalf of the Parish Council; Mr Theobald is going to write to the Planning Inspector regarding the published supplementary comments that have been made regarding the Parish Council as all Councillors declare interests when necessary and applications are dealt with professionally, this is just confusing the situation and the Appeal should be decided on its planning merits.
- GBC have published guidance on replacing windows and doors etc in Conservation Areas, see <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/supplementary-planning-guidance/supplementary-planning-guidance>

**Highways:**

- **Pear Tree Lane speed limit consultation** at KCC ended on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Had to be referred for decision by the Director of KCC Highways due to a number of objections received, but was supported by KCC. Information had been posted on Higham Facebook sites.
- **Cobham traffic survey consultation** ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Cobham had employed a traffic surveyor to assess their problems and had then published the report and options for “improvements”. Some were to cut off The Street except for residents, or make it one-way, despite this being a bus route. A response was sent mainly pointing out that anything they do could have adverse consequences elsewhere so a holistic approach might be better.
- **Park Pale** usual problems of parking and racing continue. KCC are improving the signage, whether this will lead to any improvements remains to be seen. Police have taken some interest in the motorbikes very recently.
- **Thong Lane signage** – KCC has agreed to improve width restriction signage at Brewers/Halfpence roundabout and near Southern Valley Golf Club with Not suitable for HGV Signs and 2m/6'6 width restriction signs.

- **Lorries** - Occasional problems continue, including a Highways England low loader which was reported coming through the village. KCC are generally very resistant to putting up more signs.
- **Green Farm Lane gas pipe replacement works.** Just started and will be closed for several weeks with the closure point moving uphill from north to south. The signage is only partially helpful, as it does not indicate how far you can get to in the road.
- **Question about location of sign** where The Ridgeway changes to Brewers Road, as it is only in recent years the change of road names occurred as The Ridgeway used to be an area on the old maps. The road sign has since been replaced.
- **Meetings** – KCC Highways on 1<sup>st</sup> July, Joint Transportation Board on 9<sup>th</sup> September, both nothing additional to report except:
  - **Roadside weeds** – apparently to be sprayed soon.
  - **Forge lane yellow lines** – following the successful completion of our local consultation, this will now progress to KCC formal consultation in due course.

**Open consultations:**

- Albion waterside (Ship and Lobster area) regeneration, closes 21<sup>st</sup> September  
[https://albionwaterside.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR29apQpGu-sZGxmfs\\_7wtKyPHbP2hVurlVrRaSC\\_JkPryBas8qlZZtOk1I](https://albionwaterside.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR29apQpGu-sZGxmfs_7wtKyPHbP2hVurlVrRaSC_JkPryBas8qlZZtOk1I)
- London Resort (Ebbsfleet peninsula) statutory consultation, closes 21<sup>st</sup> September  
<https://consultation.londonresort.info/surveys/50>
- Highway Code (to improve NMU safety), closes 27<sup>th</sup> October  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders>
- GBC local plan elements (Local Green Space; Extensions/Alterations to dwellings), ends 29<sup>th</sup> September  
<https://localplan.gravesham.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/listConsultations?type=all>
- National, “Planning for the Future” reform of the planning system, ends 29<sup>th</sup> October  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

It was **agreed** that the reports and recommendations of the Planning Committee be noted and that the actions taken be ratified.

**48 Report from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee**

**(a) Crabbles Bottom:**

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Tom Gozzett is due to carry out the 4<sup>th</sup> cut w/c 14<sup>th</sup> September, which is earlier than previous years as it is very overgrown, this will include meadows

including the third inset meadow. The links between the meadows are becoming very overgrown with roots etc, Mr Gozzett will give us an estimate to clear the link ways.

There have been complaints on facebook and in an email regarding mowing wild flowers in the meadows. Mr Lane and Ms Clifton responded to these with the advice given by Kent Wildlife Trust survey to mow late summer.

H&P cut back the pathways and bridleway at the end of June, and Ms Clifton will check whether a second cut is needed yet. There is a loose gate post, which Ms Clifton will ask AGS to quote to repair.

We have received a complaint from a Higham resident regarding litter from outdoor sexual activities. The Police have been informed of these ongoing activities.

Community Orchard – nothing has been received from New Ash Green, Ms Clifton will follow this up. Mr Rea also had someone look at the area, she has reported it really needs urgent tree work doing. Ms Clifton will try to get the community orchard projects going. The apple crop has been really good this year and a good response was received from the article in the Parish Magazine inviting residents to pick some apples for themselves.

There was a report of a problem with a kissing gate at the junction of NS321 and NS160, but it has now been fixed. John Pelham of KCC believes that NS321 forms part of Crabbles Bottom land owned by Shorne PC.

**(b) Shorne Common and Mill Hill Play Area:**

Mr Vilday painted the equipment at the end of July. He has been working at Mill Hill for 3 years and he confirmed that the equipment has not been painted during that time. Mrs Lindley asked if the brambles that are encroaching on the grass area could be cut back. Ms Clifton said Celia Davies of Kent Wildlife Trust had expressed an interest in the area for bumble bees, Mrs Lindley had responded to her but had heard nothing further, Ms Clifton will follow this up. , Ms Clifton will follow this up. A discussion took place regarding the Spigot mortar and how to look after it. Mrs Lindley will send the link to the committee regarding what Ancient Monuments are in Shorne on the Assets register. Ms Clifton will take a look at the area.

Ms Clifton has had a few requests from Parishioners for larger swings as only a baby swing is currently there. Mrs Poole reported there are grants that the council can apply for new play equipment, a link was sent round earlier in the year about these grants that are available. It was felt by the committee that this should be in the budget, as the area is definitely used by Parishioners.

Ms Clifton, Mrs McCluskey and Mr Hardy have reviewed the butts that need to be replaced. The Country Park can supply the chestnut butts – Ms Clifton has given measurements, and asked for two at present, but not heard back. Ms Clifton to chase the Country Park as John Vilday will install, he has also suggested using telegraph poles in future, as these are inexpensive and can be cut on site, and will have a longer life. Mr Theobald advised this is because they are soaked in creosote. Mr Rea reported that they are about £35.00 each for a 9 metre pole. It was decided that the poles would be a better option as they would last longer, Ms Clifton to look into buying them.

(c) Village Sign:

This was erected on 28<sup>th</sup> August, after a delay due to weather.

(d) Shorne Common Rough:

Local residents have carried out litter picks, the litter was much worse during lock down. There have been a few fly tipping incidents that have been reported.

(e) Shorne Recreation Ground:

Ms Clifton reported that we are still awaiting the new gate, AGS said they were still awaiting materials. Mrs McCluskey has the sign ready to go up when installed, regarding the parking. The height barrier: Blakes visited the site and quoted £300 - £350 for a secure padlock body & cylinder, which can be repinned to use same key as the gate. Additional fabrication works would be needed to enable the padlock to operate correctly. Mr Lane has not inspected the situation but considers that we should be able to link the box to the padlock with chain.

Mr Lane has emailed the Football clubs following a complaint from a resident regarding disturbance from the increased number of matches/training sessions, he also informed them that the litter has increased, and requested a list of future fixtures/training sessions which hasn't been received yet.

(f) Chestnut Green

Nothing to report

(g) Village Hall Clock

Mr Lane reported that Smith of Derby upgraded the clock on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. In the event of a power interruption, or when GMT changes to BST and vice-versa, the clock will remain stopped until the actual time catches up, and will then automatically resume. In the event of a one hour power interruption, or when the time goes forward by an hour, the clock will remain stopped for 11 hours. If the clock is seen to be stopped, we are advised to wait before reporting a fault.

(h) NS 171 Green Farm Lane

Ms Clifton cannot see any faults reported on the KCC website despite Mrs Lindley and Mr White reporting faults. Ms Clifton to check with John Pelham to find out if this has been sorted. A discussion was had regarding this as Mrs Lindley had established that this was previously a track and so the legal width could have been greater than 1 metre.

**49 Finance Report**

Date	Description		Amount	VAT	Total	B/F
		End of May B/Fwd				£32,729.23
03/06/2020	DD	Vodafone	£24.52	£4.90	£29.42	£32,699.81
08/06/2020	BACS	Norris & Fisher	£692.85	£0.00	£692.85	£32,006.96
09/06/2020	DD	Nest Pension May	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£31,949.44
22/06/2020	DD	Eslip	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	£31,926.64
29/06/2020	BACS	Mr B Lane Expenses (One.com)	£105.87	£21.17	£127.04	£31,799.60
29/06/2020	BACS	NPC Tree Surgery	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00	£31,499.60
29/06/2020	BACS	C Lawerance	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	£31,099.60
29/06/2020	BACS	The Kiwi Print Company	£566.37	£0.00	£566.37	£30,533.23
29/06/2020	BACS	S Poole June Salary	£785.18	£0.00	£785.18	£29,748.05
29/06/2020	BACS	T Gozzett Ref 134/133	£882.00	£0.00	£882.00	£28,866.05
			£3,783.31	£79.87	£3,863.18	
Date	Description		Amount	VAT	Total	B/F
03/07/2020	DD	Vodafone	£19.13	£3.82	£22.95	£28,843.10
06/07/2020	DD	Nest Pension June	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£28,785.58
10/07/2020	CREDIT	HMRC VAT Refund	-£3,854.32	£0.00	-£3,854.32	£32,639.90
20/07/2020	DD	Eslip	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	£32,617.10
22/07/2020	BACS	P Clifton Expenses	£14.17	£2.83	£17.00	£32,600.10
22/07/2020	BACS	S Poole Expenses	£43.17	£0.00	£43.17	£32,556.93
22/07/2020	BACS	Martin Thomas	£279.00	£0.00	£279.00	£32,277.93
22/07/2020	BACS	H & P	£244.60	£48.92	£293.52	£31,984.41
29/07/2020	BACS	S Poole July Salary	£785.18	£0.00	£785.18	£31,199.23
30/07/2020	DD	ICO	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00	£31,164.23
			(£2,357.55)	£59.37	(£2,298.18)	
Date	Description		Amount	VAT	Total	B/F
04/08/2020	DD	Vodafone	£19.13	£3.82	£22.95	£31,141.28
05/08/2020	Chq 102760	HMRC	£161.52	£0.00	£161.52	£30,979.76
06/08/2020	DD	Nest	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£30,922.24
20/08/2020	DD	Eslip	£31.80	£6.36	£38.16	£30,884.08
27/08/2020	BACS	All Seasons	£393.87	£0.00	£393.87	£30,490.21
27/08/2020	BACS	S Poole Aug Salary	£785.18	£0.00	£785.18	£29,705.03
			£1,449.02	£10.18	£1,459.20	

Date	Description		Amount	VAT	Total	B/F
03/09/2020	BACS	Vodafone	£19.13	£3.82	£22.95	£29,682.08
08/09/2020	BACS	Nest	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£29,624.56
	BACS	SLCC	£291.67	£58.33	£350.00	£29,274.56
	BACS	S Poole Expenses Post Office, Morrison's	£112.55	£0.21	£112.76	£29,161.80
	DD	Eslip	£31.80	£6.36	£38.16	£28,878.64

**50 Report from Borough Councillor R Lane**

The detailed application for 115 flats on the site of the former Maternity Hospital (M Block) was approved at the Planning Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, as was the redevelopment of the Charter area (242 flats at Queen Street, Bank Street, Horn Yard area), and Clifton Slipways (227 flats at West Street and Stuart Road). Outline permission for these developments had been agreed previously.

A presentation was given on the latest proposals for the redevelopment of the St Georges area of the town centre, previously the Western Heritage area. This is likely to include a new Civic Centre and theatre, which will release the existing Civic Centre and Woodville Halls for redevelopment.

The Civic Centre has reopened, however Council and Committee meetings continue to be held by video for the present.

**51 To receive any report from County Councillor B Sweetland**

Nothing to report.

**52 Proposal for a memorial bench on Shorne Common**

The park bench has disappeared, presumably stolen or destroyed. On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Mr Lane circulated a proposal for obtaining a recycled plastic park bench, suitably engraved, as a memorial to Theresa Martin. The committee agreed to the wording of the bench: "In Memory of Theresa Martin Shorne Parish Clerk 1986 – 2019" and to purchase the bench.

**53 Proposal to licence fitness club sessions Shorne Recreation Ground**

A long discussion took place regarding the unauthorised activities on the recreation ground. Mrs Poole was asked to circulate the lease that the Football Club had, and for it to be discussed again at the next meeting.

**54 Park Pale – nuisance from motorcycle and car racing**

Mr Lane met with Gravesham District Police Commander Chief Inspector Neil Loudon and Sgt Paul Diddams on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to discuss the ongoing problem of motor cycle racing and noise disturbances in Park Pale. Richard Gagg and Claire Venner of KCC Highways were also in attendance. Sgt Diddams has taken over responsibility for this particular problem and has several initiatives scheduled to take place. Mr Lane has also requested Gravesham



Borough Council to consider a Public Spaces Protection Order. Mrs Poole read out the email received from Richard Gagg which was noted.

**55 Update on Shornemead level crossing**

Mr Theobald checked when the latest order came in which was June, he felt that he wouldn't be writing to KCC yet but has been in contact with Thames and Medway Canal Association; they have been in contact with Network Rail who have surveyed the crossing for a bridge. Mr Theobald will now write a letter to Network rail to ask them what the progress is, as it sounds like they have had their funding for this. Mrs Lindley wondered if they were aware of the piece of waste land behind the car park, for them to get the equipment in. Mr Theobald will include this in his letter.

**56 Update on the repainting of the railings in The Street**

Mr Bugg has identified three contractors and has been liaising with Mr Theobald and we are now ready to get quotes, to the specification we have written. Mr Theobald to write to the contractors. Mr Bugg has reported that all three contractors have advised that it would be the New Year before they would be able to start due to the backlog they have.

**57 Car Park resurfacing**

Mr Bugg will be preparing a specification. He has identified two contractors just getting a 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr Bugg is also getting quotes for the cobbled area to revert to a small hedge row/shrubbery.

**58 Possible options for bus shelters**

Mr Bugg said it is not possible to extend the wing walls out as they are too narrow, so Mr Bugg is suggesting we install a goal post arrangement on steel posts at either end and an RSJ over the top, encased with elm so it looks natural. Then we can open it right up with about 9 inches either side. Mr Rea asked if there is still lighting in there, so we can connect them back up to electricity. Mr Theobald has requested that a meeting is set up by Mr Bugg with committee members to meet there to discuss the options at the Bus shelters.

**59 CCTV Report**

(a) The Police downloaded additional ANPR data on 3<sup>rd</sup> August relating to the shooting incident in Shorne Ifield Road on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

(b) The CCTV recorded two males removing all the exchange books from outside the Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**60 Correspondence requiring action**

Nothing to report.

**61 Resumption of future meetings.**

Discussions took place regarding resuming meetings in person, but it was felt that online meetings were the preferred option at the moment with Full Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> October and

then a Finance meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. From November onwards the schedule of published dates would resume on zoom until further notice.

## **62 General matters raised by Members for discussion**

Ms Clifton: Local Green Space consultation; some residents in Racefield Close have requested that the green becomes a carpark. It is proposed that the Parish Council requests this as a designated green space, same as Crown Green, Warren View. Mrs Lindley asked about Post Office Green and Chestnut Green and Mr Theobald confirmed these areas are already registered as Green Space.

Ms Clifton asked how would to find out who owns some of the woodland in Pear Tree Lane, as a Parishioner asked for this information. Mrs Lindley said the Parishioner would need to register with the Land Registry and buy two documents for this information but it doesn't always tell you who owns the land, even if you can identify the area.

Mr Rea: Crabbles Bottom: Ms Clifton sent through the wildlife survey from the Wildlife Trust. Mr Rea really felt there is now a lot of work that needs doing in the Orchard itself, as some of the trees are quite weakened now. Mr Rea has offered to do this, but would need to do a chainsaw certificated course before he would do this work, he will also look at the cost of the courses.

Mr Rea also reported he is going to Kent Beekeepers Association for community hives at Jeskins and was wondering if Crabbles Bottom could be an area to accommodate bee hives. Mr Rea will report back after his meeting with them on Sunday.

Mr Rea has apologised he is unable to make the next two meetings as he is working.

Mrs Lindley supports the enquiry for the Scouts shed, and that it unfortunate that planning permission has to be granted for the replacement of their shed due to it being in a conservation area. Mrs Lindley suggested that the Parish Council pay for the planning application fee. Mr Theobald felt they need to apply to us for a grant for us to proceed, but it was unanimously agreed that this would be granted once an application had been received. As the letter went to Mr Lane, it was felt that he should reply on the Parish behalf.

Mrs Lindley said we have also had a request for GeoCaching somewhere behind the scout hut, by the big tree in Mill Hill area. Mr Rea reported that this consists of a small wooden box, and inside will be a visitors' book. You locate the cache and then enter your name and date and then close it up and put it back. Mr Rea said it's very much like rambling, and it doesn't encourage hundreds of people. Ms Clifton will respond to them.

Mrs Lindley said Mrs Hensman has asked about Fibre Broadband within the village. This is a BT issue and nothing really that the Parish Council can do, the only thing we could do is write to BT asking what are they intending to do to improve Broadband within the village. Mr Rea reported that there are two types available: fibre to the premises, and fibre to the cabinet. Fibre to the cabinet is where the very thin boxes are next to the main box. Mr Theobald proposed a letter to be sent by Mrs Lindley and Mr Rea.

Mrs Lindley asked that as we have been unable to hold a "Drop in session" for Parishioners to meet the councillors, can we put something in the Parish Magazine and Facebook to say if

people have any questions please get in touch with the Clerk. Mrs Poole will contact Mr Lane regarding this.

Mr Lane: The next Litter Patrol in Shorne is scheduled for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with staggered start times and locations.

Mrs Poole asked if the committee can consider any items of expenditure they would like to be considered for the Finance meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, it would be helpful to get them in the spreadsheet, Ms Clifton Play Area, Mr Rea Chainsaw certification, Mr Bugg Car Park and shrubs, Bus Shelter, Mr Theobald Railings, Shorne West requirements etc.

**Date of next meeting.** Full Council 8<sup>th</sup> October 19.45 on zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22.12