

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Full Parish Meeting held on  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in Shorne Village Hall**

**PRESENT**

Mr R Lane (Chairman)  
Mr R Theobald  
Mr R Hardy  
Ms Clifton  
Mrs S Lindley  
Mr C Rea

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Bugg  
Mrs L McCluskey

In attendance:

Kent County Cllr Brian Sweetland, PCSO Ellie Middleton, PCSO Freddie Sivyer, and 31 Parishioners.

**39. To receive any declarations of interest.**

Mrs Lindley declared a personal interest with regards to agenda item 11 in that Highbank neighbours her home. However, this does not influence her view, and she is not precluded from taking part in the discussion and decision-making process.

**40. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The Chairman apologised for an error in the agenda; the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 was in fact an ordinary meeting, not the Annual General Meeting as written in the agenda. The minutes were approved.

**41. To hear representations from members of the public at the Chairman's discretion**

**Preamble**

The Chairman welcomed the Parishioners for attending the meeting. As it is unusual for so many parishioners to attend the meeting, the Chairman set out some ground rules. This is a formal Parish Council meeting, with a full agenda, it is not an open debate. Parishioners will be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to present their concerns and views for the Council's consideration. The Chairman will then report on the Parish Council's current position before moving on to the next item on the Agenda.

As PCSO Middleton and PCSO Sivyer were on duty and had other matters to attend to, the Chairman allowed them to address the meeting first, with particular reference to the incident in The Street on 7<sup>th</sup> August, so that they could leave as soon as they needed to.

**Update from Kent Police Community Support Officers**

PCSO Middleton reported on the incident on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021, in which a vehicle crashed into parked vehicles in The Street and then into a resident's wall. The vehicle was reported as stolen from a nightclub in Dartford and made its way to Shorne where the incident happened. PCSO Middleton has requested an update and will email the Parish Council on this. *(Post-Meeting note: PCSO Middleton has since informed the*

*Parish Council that a suspect has been arrested.)* Inspector Beautridge intended to be here this evening but unfortunately, he was unable to come so sends his apologies.

PCSO Middleton also reported on other matters concerning Shorne during the past month. One involved an unsuccessful attempt to gain access to a garage in Pear Tree Lane, the other involved a bicycle stolen from the cycle shelter at Shorne Country Park. PCSO Middleton reported that there have been no reports of disturbances from motorcyclists in Park Pale in the past two months, but patrols continue to take place.

Cllr Rea reminded PCSO Middleton of the continuing problem of off-road motorbikes in Claylane Wood and the fields between Shorne West and Thong Lane. A parishioner reported that bikers were also trying to get through from Swillers Lane into the farmer's fields last week. PCSO Middleton is aware of bikers that are riding between Thong Lane and Crown Lane behind the Surgery, and the farmer will be installing a gate over the winter to try to prevent access for the bikers.

PCSO Middleton advised that she will be holding a surgery at Shorne Woods Country Park between 12.00 and 13.00 on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 for anyone who wishes to discuss matters. The Chairman thanked PCSO Middleton for her report.

### **Representations from members of the public**

The Chairman allowed parishioners 10 minutes to express their concerns.

A number of parishioners expressed their concerns regarding the volume and speed of traffic in the village, primarily in The Street and Forge Lane, and the danger this presents to residents and pedestrians, particularly where there are no pavements. A number of examples were cited. Concern was also raised about vehicles cutting through Hayes Terrace.

A number of parishioners requested traffic calming measures and/or reduced speed limits in the village, and Cobham was cited as an example. Others suggested that the speed indicator device should be deployed in The Street and Forge Lane. Questions were raised about what actions have been taken by the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Parishioners for their comments, and invited Cllr Sweetland to say a few words.

### **Comments from Cllr Bryan Sweetland**

Cllr Sweetland gave an overview of his background with Kent County Council (KCC) and how he works with the Parish Councils to introduce improvements to the highways.

KCC has to look after all the roads in Kent, including 320 Parish Councils, and has to prioritise where it would get the most benefit from the limited amount of funds available. Over the past ten years, KCC has had to make savings of more than £700 million, due to cuts in government funding and an increased demand for our services, so finding funding is not easy.

Regrettably there will always be drivers who will exceed speed limits. He mentioned that The Street in Cobham probably has more traffic calming measures than anywhere else in Kent, and yet it still suffers from speeding vehicles. Physical speed restrictions are not always effective, chicanes require street lighting, while ramps (sleeping policemen) cause other problems such as noise, vibration, and additional pollution.

KCC no longer installs speed cameras, but some drivers just slow down and speed up either side of them. Cllr Sweetland cited one village in Kent where a chicane was installed, but within two years the Parish Council requested for it to be removed as it actually resulted in more accidents than without the chicane. One size does not fit all.

It is difficult to determine what would be the right solution for Shorne village. A physical chicane would not be considered without street lights. There may be a section where some sort of lining scheme or a combination of different measures including a short 20mph stretch could be considered, but this would have to be agreed by KCC's highways engineers. Nevertheless, Cllr Sweetland will continue to work with Shorne Parish Council in pressing for improvements to the village where possible.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sweetland for his contribution to the meeting.

### **Response from the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council**

Mr Lane outlined how Shorne Parish Council focuses its limited resources and small budget across the whole of the parish where the need is greatest, and where we have the best chance of achieving positive results. This includes reviewing accident rates, prioritising those areas where the highest proportion of vehicles exceed the 30mph speed limit, and trying to get speed limits reduced where they are considered to be too high. Mr Lane hoped that Parishioners would agree that this is the right policy.

Mr Lane reported on some of the roads where the highest number of injury accidents have occurred over the past 10 years, and outlined actions taken to address these problems. Despite the fact that there have been no injury accidents recorded in The Street or the 30mph section of Forge Lane in the past 20 years, the Parish Council has previously requested KCC to consider introducing a 20mph zone in the village centre, and measures to discourage vehicles cutting through Hayes Terrace. So far, KCC has refused to consider a 20mph zone, but the Parish Council will continue to press for this, and expects to consult residents later this year.

Mr Lane thanked parishioners for their input. *(Although not forming part of these minutes, a more detailed report on the proceedings is appended.)*

#### **42. Change of tenant trustee for lease of Shorne Recreation Ground**

At the previous meeting it was reported that Lee Boyson was retiring from managing Shorne Football Club who are our leaseholders, and he suggested that Mr Phil Reeves is willing to take over the lease. Mr Reeves was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend, and Mr Aaron Wigg attended on his behalf. Mr Lane welcomed Mr Wigg to the meeting and asked him to outline his proposal for taking over the lease and the responsibility for the recreation ground.

Mr Wigg said that the new team will be called AFC Shorne and will play in the Sunday League. As background, Mr Reeves has played for the old team for the last 5-6 years and Mr Wigg has played for the last 10 years in the Gravesend and Medway area. Both played in the North Kent Sunday League. They have had a meeting with Mr Cater who is also a current leaseholder, and he is happy with the proposed arrangement. It is proposed that Shorne AFC will be in the Medway League rather than the North Kent League, as some of the players cannot play in the old league. Mr Wigg said that they will look after the recreation ground itself, planning to update the Club House, as Mr Wigg's background is construction site manager, and the intention is to do a lot of work

inside the club house as there is damp on the walls, clear all the rubbish around the back where the fence is, and attend to the small fence that needs repairing. There will be no more games played than previously, the Saturday club will be around 22 games per season home & away and the Sunday club will be around 38 games per season home & away. Training will be on a Wednesday evening in the summer months, now the light has gone there will be no training. Mr Wigg agreed to email the fixture list to the Clerk when they are released monthly.

Mr Lane invited Mr Reeves and Mr Wigg to the next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**43. Update on progress on review of Standing Orders**

Mr Lane apologises that he has not had time to review the Standing Orders due to other priorities, and requests forbearance on this matter. All agreed.

**44. To receive an interim report from the Planning & Highways Committee**

Mrs Lindley reported that there have been 15 planning applications since the last Planning and Highways meeting. The Lower Thames Crossing consultation submission has gone in, which was our biggest issue. All Councillors thanked Mrs Lindley for the sterling effort she has put in and excellent standard of her response.

a. To consider approval of speed surveys for possible 20mph zone

Mrs Lindley advised that before KCC will consider a 20mph zone, there is a requirement for a preliminary traffic survey to establish the current speeds of vehicles. Mrs Lindley has obtained quotations which range from £750 from the KCC Highways recommended supplier to well over £1,000. Mrs Lindley said she was not sure where the monitoring tubes would need to be placed, but has asked for five.

Mrs Lindley has circulated this to Councillors but there was a discussion on whether we should proceed at this stage, in view of other demands on expenditure. Mr Lane said that KCC will also want to see evidence of a consultation to gauge opinion before they would give the matter consideration, and perhaps we could do this first. In any event, we would need KCC Highways' agreement to the location of the monitoring tubes before proceeding. It was agreed to defer this to the Finance meeting in October, when the budgets are reviewed and the new budget is set for next year's Precept.

**45. To receive an interim report from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee**

Ms Clifton reported that the new noticeboard for Chestnut Corner was ordered on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021, but has not arrived yet.

Ms Clifton reported that the new play area has been successful. We have advertised for volunteers to help with maintaining the play area, and arranged an informal meeting with interested parishioners at the Rose & Crown on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

a. To receive a report on bus shelters at Shorne crossroads

Mr Theobald sent Members a detailed technical report on the bus shelters earlier today. Mr Theobald believes he can prove that Kent County Council own the land by looking at the old ordnance street maps. Mr Theobald will contact Kent County Council to discuss what is involved in the bus shelters as it is on their land even though the Parish

Council owns them. Mr Theobald will to speak to Mr Bugg to try to obtain indicative prices so these can be considered at for the Budget Meeting. If we proceed, we need to have everything in place in time for the grants deadline in by July 2022.

**46. Update on Shorne Common Play Area**

Mr Lane reported that Redlynch have now replaced the damaged gate post. There are still 2 outstanding issues which are the swings which need to be swapped over and the decorative chimney on the toddlers' Hide & Slide which needs to be re-fixed. We are currently withholding 5% of the invoice to encourage them to attend to these matters.

The new sign at the entrance to the Common which was supplied free of charge has been also been installed free of charge. Mr Lane has been in contact with Lower Thames Crossing's contractor Balfour Beatty to see if they could help with the parking area, which has sunk and is regularly waterlogged, and they have offered carry out remedial works free of charge. We are awaiting a date for the work to be carried out.

Mrs Lindley suggested that we consider 'Children' road warning signs near the entrance to the entrance to the Common. It was agreed to look into the costs and report back at the Finance meeting.

a. To determine a contribution for the use of Shorne Scouts' mower

In July, it was observed that Gravesham Council's ride-on mower was not able to mow close to the new play equipment, so Mr Lane borrowed a local parishioner's mower to cut the grass. In the longer term, it was felt that the Parish Council would need to obtain its own mower. Mr Lane contacted the Scout Leader Chris Zgoda to ask whether the Parish Council could house the mower on the Scout's premises. Mr Zgoda offered to allow the Parish Council to make use of the scouts' own mower, and also offered to mow around the play equipment for us, which he did on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Mr Zgoda proposed that we donate £35 a year for the use of the mower.

Mr Lane felt that we should consider a further donation in recognition of Mr Zgoda cutting the grass for us. However, when Mr Zgoda went to cut the grass again in early September, he found that it had already been done, presumably by Gravesham Council.

Mr Lane considers that it would be still be useful to have use of the mower, and proposed that we make a donation of £35 to Shorne Scouts. This was seconded by Mr Rea and **approved** by Members. It was also agreed in principle to increase the donation to £100 a year if it becomes necessary for the Scouts to cut the grass for us.

b. Mr Rea advised that if he could identify where the Spigot Mortar is located, he is willing to cut back the vegetation with his brush cutter. Mrs Lindley also suggested getting a group together to cut back of the self-sown trees on the Common. Mr Theobald said he will do a report on this, as this is in the conservation area.

**47. Update on proposal to permit underground cable at Shorne Recreation Ground**

Mr Lane reported that he had written to UK Power Networks advising that, as a last resort, the Parish Council would be prepared to consider accommodating an underground cable within the boundary of the Recreation Ground, provided it does not intrude too far into the Recreation Ground and is properly reinstated. UKPN were not enthusiastic about this, and will revert to us in due course.

**48. Update on progress with vehicular right of way for Highbank, Mill Hill Lane**

Mr Lane wrote to Kingsley-Smith solicitors to request their services in preparing a mutually-acceptable agreement on behalf of the Parish Council and Mr Riddick, but they declined. We therefore need to find another suitable solicitor. Mr Theobald said he will talk to Mr Bugg to see if he can propose a firm. Mrs Poole will also contact the other Clerks in the Borough to see if they can recommend someone.

Mrs Lindley reported that herself and the Clerk trawled through the old records to see if they could find the original 1951 plan, but were unsuccessful. It may be possible to find the firm who prepared the original agreement to try to obtain a copy of the original plan. Mrs Lindley will look into this.

**49. To receive any recommended nominations for Assets of Community Value**

This has been deferred due to other priorities.

**50. Finance**

**a. To review Finance Report**

Date	Item	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
June	B/F		£12,081.97	£706.80	£12,788.77
06/07/2021	DD	Nest Pension	£60.25	£0.00	£60.25
09/07/2021	BACS	Mr Lane Expenses	£30.03	£6.02	£36.05
09/07/2021	BACS	St Peter & St Pauls Church	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00
09/07/2021	BACS	Mrs S Poole Expenses	£230.83	£38.65	£269.48
09/07/2021	BACS	The Play Ground Inspections	£305.00	£61.00	£366.00
09/07/2021	BACS	Earth Anchors	£363.00	£72.60	£435.60
20/07/2021	DD	Eslip Payroll	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
29/07/2021	BACS	Norris & Fisher	£51.83	£6.22	£58.05
29/07/2021	BACS	S Poole Salary July	£818.54	£0.00	£818.54
29/07/2021	BACS	Redlynch	£21,945.00	£4,389.00	£26,334.00
30/07/2021	BACS	ICO	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
July	C/F	Total	£36,015.45	£5,284.09	£41,299.54

Date	Item	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
July	B/F		£36,015.45	£5,284.09	£41,299.54
04/08/2021	BACS	Vodafone	£20.98	£4.20	£25.18
05/08/2021	BACS	Nest Pension	£60.25	£0.00	£60.25
20/08/2021	BACS	Eslip Payroll	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
23/08/2021	BACS	Nothing but Padlock	£75.21	£15.04	£90.25
23/08/2021	BACS	Prestige Security	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00
23/08/2021	BACS	Gozzett Tree Surgery	£751.00	£0.00	£751.00
23/08/2021	BACS	S Poole Salary August	£818.54	£0.00	£818.54
August	C/F	Total	£37,885.43	£5,332.13	£43,217.56

Mrs Poole reported that herself and Mr Theobald have now closed the Nationwide bank account and has transferred the money over to Lloyds Crabbles Bottom account. Mrs Poole reminded Councillors to make sure they have filled in the online forms. Mr Theobald has given his completed document to Mrs Poole tonight to send to Lloyds.

Mrs Poole thanked Mr Rea and Mr Lane for fixing the CCTV camera connections at no cost after Prestige Security quoted £395 plus VAT to replace the camera.

**b. Consideration of expenditure and priorities for Budget & Finance meeting**

Mrs Poole will circulate last year's wish list to Councillors. Mrs Poole requested that any considerations should be with her no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> September to enable them to be included in the Agenda for consideration at the Budget & Finance meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**c. Report on any errors or omissions on Asset Register received from Members**

Mr Lane circulated an email on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with regards to Asset Register for consideration, comment or correction. All assets need to be identified in the balance sheet at their replacement costs. Some assets need to be insured, others will need to be factored into a repair and renewal fund. At the previous meeting members were requested to review the list and advise of any material errors or omissions. Nothing was received and it was agreed to adopt the list. *(Post-meeting note: the list needs to be updated to include the new play area and accurate valuations for insurance purposes)*

**51. To receive any report from Borough Councillor R Lane**

Nothing significant to report as the Council has not met in August.

**52. To receive any report from County Councillor B Sweetland**

Covered in item 42 above.

**53. Correspondence requiring action (to be circulated before the meeting)**

Nothing reported.

**54. General matters raised by Members for discussion**

Mr Theobald said he will be away for the next Parish Chairmen's meeting at the Civic Centre. Mr Lane will attend in his place, Mrs Poole to circulate the email regarding this.

**Date of next Parish Council Budget & Finance meeting 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.13

Signed Mr Lane:.....

Dated:.....