

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2022 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

In attendance: One Parishioner

This meeting was rescheduled from 8th September 2022 due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II on that date, and includes minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee (postponed from 22nd September) and the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee scheduled for 13th October. One minute silence was held for the late Queen Elizabeth II.

31. To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda

None received

32. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

33. Any items raised by Parishioners in attendance at Chairman's discretion

No items raised.

34. Review of the Finance Report

Date		Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		Precept Received			£42,230.00
04/04/2022	DD	Vodafone	£26.87	£5.37	£32.24
08/04/2022	DD	Nest Pension	£65.57	£0.00	£65.57
20/04/2022	DD	Eslip (Payroll Co)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
21/04/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (Jubilee License)	£21.00	£0.00	£21.00
21/04/2022	BACS	SLCC	£144.00	£0.00	£144.00
21/04/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (Expenses)	£246.81	£32.70	£279.51
21/04/2022	BACS	Tom Gozzett	£760.00	£0.00	£760.00
21/04/2022	BACS	KALC	£871.52	£174.30	£1,045.82
		Total C/F	£2,154.77	£216.17	£2,370.94

Date		Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		Total B/F	£2,154.77	£216.17	£2,370.94
03/05/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (Expenses)	£490.12	£94.26	£584.38
03/05/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (April Salary)	£848.63	£0.00	£848.63
05/05/2022	DD	Vodafone	£28.79	£5.74	£34.53
06/05/2022	BACS	Refunds for Dinner & Dance	£1,100.00	£0.00	£1,100.00
10/05/2022	BACS	Nest Pension	£62.57	£0.00	£62.57
12/05/2022	BACS	Mr Lane (Expenses)	£37.33	£7.47	£44.80
12/05/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (Expenses)	£95.92	£14.12	£110.04
12/05/2022	BACS	Bulfinch	£490.00	£98.00	£588.00
13/05/2022	BACS	Kiwi Print (Annual Report)	£668.00	£0.00	£668.00
20/05/2022	BACS	E Slip (Payroll Co)	£38.00	£7.60	£45.60
25/05/2022	BACS	Mr MacDonald	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
25/05/2022	BACS	Tom Gozzett	£470.00	£0.00	£470.00
31/05/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (May Salary)	£848.63	£0.00	£848.63
31/05/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (Expenses)	£215.28	£3.91	£219.19
		Total C/F	£7,598.04	£447.27	£8,045.31

Date		Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		B/F	£7,598.04	£447.27	£8,045.31
06/06/2022	DD	Vodafone	£33.06	£6.62	£39.68
08/06/2022	BACS	Mrs McCluskey (Expenses)	£24.98	£0.00	£24.98
08/06/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (Expenses)	£229.06	£40.07	£269.13
08/06/2022	BACS	Mr Lawrence	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
08/06/2022	BACS	Zurich (Insurance)	£576.35	£0.00	£576.35
15/06/2022	DD	Nest Pension	£62.57	£0.00	£62.57
20/06/2022	DD	Eslip Payroll (Payroll Co)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
21/06/2022	BACS	Tom Gozzett	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00
21/06/2022	BACS	Mrs S Poole (June Salary)	£848.63	£0.00	£848.63
22/06/2022	BACS	Mr Thomas (Internal Auditor)	£203.00	£0.00	£203.00
22/06/2022	BACS	NPC	£600.00	£120.00	£720.00
22/06/2022	BACS	Big Bear Promo	£971.20	£194.24	£1,165.44
		Total C/F	£12,115.89	£812.00	£12,927.89

Date		Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		Total B/F	£12,115.89	£812.00	£12,927.89
05/07/2022	DD	Vodafone	£35.87	£7.19	£43.06
08/07/2022	DD	Nest Pension	£62.57	£0.00	£62.57
20/07/2022	DD	Eslip (Payroll Co)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
29/07/2022	DD	ICO	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
		Total C/F	£12,268.33	£822.99	£13,091.32

Date		Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		Total B/F	£12,268.33	£822.99	£13,091.32
01/08/2022	BACS	Tom Gozzett	£715.00	£0.00	£715.00
01/08/2022	BACS	Mrs Poole (July Salary)	£858.00	£0.00	£858.00
01/08/2022	BACS	Shorne Village Hall	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00
01/08/2022	BACS	Mrs Poole (Expenses)	£400.10	£39.54	£439.64
01/08/2022	BACS	Mr J Bugg (Expenses)	£57.04	£2.85	£59.89
01/08/2022	BACS	The Open Space Society	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
03/08/2022	DD	Vodafone	£33.44	£7.49	£40.93
10/08/2022	DD	Nest Pension	£62.57	£0.00	£62.57
22/08/2022	DD	E Slip (Payroll Co)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
30/08/2022	BACS	C Lawrance	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00
30/08/2022	BACS	St Peter & St Pauls Church	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00
30/08/2022	BACS	Mrs Poole (Aug Salary)	£975.93	£0.00	£975.93
30/08/2022	BACS	KALC (L Williams)	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
		Total C/F	£15,779.41	£886.67	£16,666.08

Date		Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		Total B/F	£15,779.41	£886.67	£16,666.08
02/09/2022	DD	Vodafone	£28.25	£5.64	£33.89
07/09/2022	DD	Nest (Pension)	£71.17	£0.00	£71.17
20/09/2022	DD	Eslip (Payroll Co)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
28/09/2022	BACS	KALC (S Poole)	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
28/09/2022	BACS	David Sephton	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00
28/09/2022	BACS	Parish Council Website	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00
28/09/2022	BACS	Tom Gozzett	£190.00	£0.00	£190.00
28/09/2022	BACS	Hoist & Co	£571.92	£114.38	£686.30
28/09/2022	BACS	Mrs Poole (Sept Salary)	£874.84	£0.00	£874.84
		Total C/F	£17,739.59	£1,020.47	£18,760.08

It was noted that there was no financial report table included in the minutes of 23rd June 2022. This was due to the Clerk being away at the time and some queries raised at the time. This table covers the whole financial year to date.

Mrs Poole reported that a donation was paid to towards the cost of refreshments following the Civic Service, as the reception was held within the Church.

Mrs Williams reported that she has now attended the KALC training session.

34.1 To approve final costs and distribution of donations from the Jubilee weekend.

The report was circulated on 30th August. Total costs (excluding refunds for tickets for the charity dinner and dance) amounted to £2,030.44 plus £490 for the beacon and £57.04 for gas, making a total of £2,577.48 plus VAT. This was £30.44 over budget due to the cost of additional mugs.

Income raised from stall pitches, the sale of cakes, children's craft activities, and the sale of mugs amounted to £684.20, which after deduction of the £30.44 extra cost incurred for mugs leaves a

balance of £653.76. It was agreed that this shall be shared equally, with £163.44 donated to Shorne Scouts, the Village Hall, St Peters & St Paul's Church, and the Pop Up Café.

34.2 To review and adopt revised Financial Regulations.

Mr Theobald has produced revised Financial Regulations, which were circulated to Members on 26th August. It was agreed to adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

34.3. Capital expenditure proposals for Finance Meeting.

Mrs Poole reminded Members that the next meeting is the Budget & Finance meeting on 27th October, and that Members should review the Wish List to include any proposed items of capital expenditure for consideration, including estimated costs to implement these items. Last year's Wish List will be circulated to members.

Mr Lane considered that it is important that the Parish Council should invest in improvements for the parish, and it was disappointing that we have not spent money set aside for investment in capital expenditure items over the past year for various reasons. We were expecting to establish the children's adventure trail, but have been unable to do so due to objections from a neighbouring property owner. We included refurbishment of the bus shelters at Shorne Crossroads in our budget, but this has not taken place due to slow progress and the withdrawal of the KCC grant scheme.

35. Planning & Highways Committee

Mr Lane handed over the Chair to Mrs Lindley. Mrs Lindley reminded members that the next Planning and Highways meeting is in 4 weeks.

35.1. To approve the minutes of the meeting 14th July 2022.

Mrs Lindley circulated the minutes of the previous meeting of 14th July 2022. This includes the table of planning representations that was presented at the meeting; this has been updated with all the Gravesham Borough Councils decisions. The minutes were approved.

35.2. For information – latest update of planning application table.

Mrs Lindley has also circulated the table of planning applications for the period 10th July – 10th October, this will be updated and approved at the next P&HC meeting. Mrs Lindley reported that following our objections to the proposed removal of the verge outside Westdene Cottage in Tanyard Hill, confirmation has just been received from GBC that the verge will be retained and not incorporated into the garden.

35.3 Shornemead level crossing.

Mrs Lindley reported that Network Rail has now submitted a planning application for a stepped bridge with a cycle gutter, to replace the pedestrian level crossing which is currently closed. There is a concern that there is nothing to prevent motorbikes using the bridge by riding up and down the steps, since there is no chicane at the bottom. Mrs Lindley will mention this to Gravesham Borough Council. Mr Rea enquired whether this would mean that vehicle access to Shorne Mead would be lost. Mr Theobald said that the existing restricted vehicle crossing is not affected by this proposal, which will divert the footpath across the bridge. There will still be signalman-controlled access for vehicles needing to access land north of the railway line.

Mrs Lindley reported that the planning application for 29-31 The Street has been withdrawn from the Gravesham planning application portal. The application included inaccurate statements in a covering letter, which was removed, then the application itself disappeared. GBC advised that since ground levels on the site vary, the application requires a site level plan which had not been provided. It is expected that the application will be resubmitted in due course.

Notification was received of proposed seismic surveys at various locations on Hoo Peninsular for a potential carbon storage scheme. As the surveys were intended to be carried out in September, this may have taken place already.

35.4 Highways.

The consultation for the 20 mph scheme was completed on 31st July and details have been provided to KCC. See agenda item below.

35.5 Consultations.

Kent Country Parks Strategy 2023-2028: Mrs Lindley will respond, including comments about parking problems.

Ebbsfleet Central Development: The planning application has now been published on the EDC planning portal. Mrs Lindley is concerned that the car park area is being relocated furthest from the station and the area will additionally have housing and businesses which include offices blocks, cinemas, hotels, shopping area, restaurants, etc. The car park provision will be on the outskirts of the development, so rail users would need to walk a longer distance to the station. Mr Theobald has suggested that we should attend the planning meeting when this is determined. It was proposed that Mr Theobald would attend the meeting.

Mr Rea expressed concern that international rail services are still not operating from Ebbsfleet, and it is necessary to travel first to London to get this service which was promised to Kent, as the Ashford international services are also not operating. Ms Clifton has been advised that the international services will resume but have had to be suspended due to not running at full capacity at the moment. Mr Rea is concerned, as when the rail line and the Ebbsfleet development was sold to the residents in the area, we were told that this would be our gateway to Europe.

Lower Thames Crossing: Mrs Lindley reported that there has been some new pop up information events, but they contained no new information. Mrs Lindley has worked very hard on the Statement of Common Ground to transfer data from the format that has been used for the last two years to the new format they are now using. Eva Simunovic has asked for this document to be completed by tomorrow 14th October. It was noted that Mr Theobald has gone through this. Members agreed that Mrs Lindley is authorised to sign the statement off on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mrs Lindley has been advised that the Development of Consent Order (DCO) application may be submitted during the last week of October, which will then mean we will be in the DCO process. Mrs Lindley advised that Members should familiarise themselves with the PINS DCO process, including the videos, which can be found at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>. Mrs Lindley attended a webinar on this on the 12th October, which was organised by the Transport Action Group, which is a national group.

When the DCO application is submitted, the inspector has 28 days to decide whether to accept it as a valid application and on the adequacy of consultation. If acceptable, it moves into Pre-Examination which is where we can register our interests. We have just 500 words to summarise our issues. We can later also submit written representations which can be longer but also need to be summarised in

less than 1500 words. Once the Examination phase starts, there will be a pre-start meeting which we can attend. This will be followed by a series of meetings which may be online or in person. The meetings will be held in the affected area but could be in Essex as the site extends to the M25. The Planning Inspector has a defined timetable with sections which may have only 2 weeks to complete before moving onto the next section. Each will have its own representation, they will be asking questions to all interested parties including National Highways which we need to keep a look out for, as we can respond to questions even if we have not been asked. The Inspector does not write to advise when they have asked a question, we will need to log onto their portal website. The Examination phase will take around 6 months and the Inspector then has 3 months to make a recommendation. It then it goes to Secretary of State for Transport who has up to 3 months to make a decision, but it could be less than 3 months. There is then a 6 week period to allow for any challenges under judicial review. Mr Lane commented that if approved, work could start about 18 months after the DCO application is submitted.

Mrs Lindley has also attended some meetings with KCC and Tony Chadwick at GBC regarding the process.

35.6 Other matters for information.

With regards to the ongoing problems of motorbike nuisance in Park Pale and the motorcyclist fatality on 8th June, Mr Lane met with Chief Insp Will Lay and Acting Insp James Beautridge at Northfleet Police Headquarters on 11th July. The Police offered no new initiatives, and requested residents to continue to report incidents and the Police will continue to respond. Mr Lane has since raised two formal complaints with the Police regarding difficulties in contacting the Police. Mr Lane finally managed to have an online meeting with Simon Jones of KCC on 12th September. He provisionally agreed to consider installing in a couple of rubberised speed humps across Park Pale to discourage the motorcyclists, but has since retracted this due to no street lighting in the road. Mr Lane reported that on the 2nd October the Police issued a Section 59 notices to a number of motorists and motorbikers in Park Pale. Ms Clifton asked whether there has been any further progress on the request for a Public Space Protection Order. Mr Lane said that GBC is reconsidering this application, but does not have any update on how this is progressing.

Mr Lane reported that the burnt out motorbike in Crown Lane was removed on 23rd August, with help from a parishioner who used his mini tractor. Unfortunately the mini tractor was subsequently stolen during the recent spate of burglaries.

Mr Lane reported that the encroachment of the embankment onto the footpath adjacent to Forge Lane was reported to KCC Highways, following reports from parishioners. Mr Lane noted that it has now been attended to, but they have not done a very good job. They have only cut it back a bit and piled the spoil back on top of the bank, so it will inevitably find its way back onto the path.

Mr Lane has had various correspondences with KCC, the Police, and RS Skips, following repeated complaints about HGVs using Green Farm Lane. KCC has been requested to consider measures including improve signage to help alleviate the problem.

35.6.1 Update on 20mph scheme consultation.

Mr Lane reported that the proposed 20 mph scheme consultation closed on 31st July. 43 responses were received, of which 41 supported the proposals. A number of respondents suggested that the proposed boundaries of the zone should be extended to varying degrees. A report was sent to KCC Highways on 12th August, requesting that they proceed with the design, taking comments received into consideration, this has now been handed over to the design team.

36. Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

36.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 28th July 2022.

The minutes were approved.

36.2 To discuss and approve the new Vice Chair.

Ms Clifton proposed Mr Rea as Vice Chairman of the Committee. This was seconded by Mr Theobald and agreed by the Committee members.

36.3 Footpaths.

Ms Clifton has reported that the tree obstructing Crown Lane has now been removed.

Ms Clifton reported that the entrance to NS156 opposite the See Ho has now been completely cleared. It is not known whether this was carried out by KCC or whether a parishioner has done this.

36.4 Properties.

Ms Clifton reported that the noticeboard at Chestnut Green is still sticking on the left hand side, although better than it was. It is possible that this may be due to the exceptionally dry summer, so we need to wait to see whether it resolves itself or whether the door needs shaving in the future.

36.5 Greens.

Ms Clifton reported that she has been in contact with the lease holder of the recreation ground Mr Reeves, as he had been allowing other clubs to use the ground during the summer, on a Saturday. Mr Reeves has apologised that he did not let us know, and will not allow other clubs to use the ground in future. Mr Lane has prepared a draft lease assignment document, but since it is already been assigned once and neither of the original lease holders will remain, it may be better to terminate the existing lease and enter into a new agreement. Members agreed that a new lease should be signed as both parties on the old lease have now moved on.

Ms Clifton reported that the rewiring of the fence and the post replacement along the boundary to Pondfield Lane was carried out on 6th September by Hoist Fencing.

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Sephton has re-inspected the silver birch tree on the recreation ground and advised that the southern limb needs removal, and the sycamore also needs felling. Ms Clifton has submitted a planning notice for this work, and NPC have quoted £275.00 plus VAT to carry out the work. As NPC have been shown to be competitive, it was agreed to instruct them to proceed with the work. Ms Clifton has advised that the next periodic tree survey will be Shorne Common Rough in November.

Ms Clifton reported that the proposed children's adventure trail at Shorne Common cannot proceed as the neighbouring landowner has now decided that he is not prepared to accept any possible encroachment on his land, and his agent has advised that he will not be selling the land as previously suggested. The funds will now be put into the repairs and renewals fund.

The boundary of Shorne Common is not marked, so the actual boundary is not clear. There appears to be a discrepancy between the boundary shown in the 1908 deed of transfer and the Land Registry map provided by Mr Chandler. Mrs Lindley said she has found copies in the Strood Archives which may provide further clarity, and there is a list of woodlands sales by Lord Darnley, but has not had time to

look into this further. It was felt that it would still be difficult to establish the actual boundaries on the ground due to lack of coordinates and possible mapping errors, which could lead to an unnecessary legal dispute.

36.6 Crabbles Bottom.

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Theobald, Mr Rea, Mrs Poole and herself visited the site on 17th August to look at “the den”. Due to the den itself being a large area it was not considered practical to remove the bushes and trees. The tree limbs that had been put into place by Mr Gozzett were still there and Mr Rea and Mrs Poole managed to drag another loose limb into the area, completely blocking it. There seems to be no activity now in this area and it is impenetrable. There is a missing fence rail further along towards Crutches Lane. It was agreed to obtain prices to repair the fence.

Ms Clifton has received good reports on the apples this year. Mr Gozzett has now completed this year’s programme of work at the orchard with the 4th cut which was carried out at the end of September, including the meadows. Mr Gozzett is providing a quote for the cutting back of the brambles and nettles that are around the trees, as well as a few limbs that have been pulled down by the weight of the apples this year. Ms Clifton will also obtain a quote from another company.

36.7 Other matters for information.

Ms Clifton reported that the Thong Lane vegetation is still an issue. Mrs Williams reported that KCC has cut the tree line back on the highway but not so the signs can be seen. This will be need to be reported again as the signs are still not visible due to the height of the trees along the road. There is also a number of properties that have trees and vegetation obstructing the highway.

Ms Clifton has had communication with Shorne Wildlife Community Group asking if we could buy some daffodils to be planted at Post Office Green. It was agreed by members to purchase these, and Ms Clifton will order them. The Group has also enquired about planting trees in the tree pits in Hollands Close. This was discussed but this area is owned Gravesham Borough Council, so the enquiry will need to be directed to them. The Group has also enquired about a Government initiative offering 50 trees for planting. This was discussed but we do not have the space on Parish Council land.

A parishioner asked if we wanted an acer tree, but unfortunately we do not have a suitable space on parish council land. It was suggested they should contact Gravesham Borough Council as they may have formal gardens it could possibly go in.

36.7.1 Update on Shorne Crossroads bus shelters and KCC grants scheme.

The consultation closed on 3rd July. 19 responses were received, of which 15 supported the proposals, one disagreed, and three neither agreed nor disagreed. Of those who responded, three people use the bus stops on a regular, frequent basis, seven people occasionally use them, five rarely use them, and four never use them. This usage is supported by the response from Arriva Buses, who reported that only around 10 people a day use the bus stops.

However, on 18th August, KCC advised that they will not be providing grant funding for new or refurbished bus shelters this year. In view of the low usage, and the high cost associated with opening up the front of the bus shelters, Mr Lane proposed that the Parish Council investigates the less-expensive option of blocking off the alcoves on either side of the shelters. Although this will reduce the size of the covered area, it will be adequate to accommodate the relatively small numbers of people who use the bus stops. It was agreed by members that this less expensive option should be taken forward. Mr Bugg will take this forward.

37. Proposed Licence for the use of the Scouts premises for non-scouting purposes

Mr Lane reported that on the 9th July the Scouts were sent draft licensing proposals. The Licence would permit activities that meet the terms of the Trust Deed for Shorne Common, require that activities carried out for commercial gain are properly licensed, and would include measures to safeguard the future viability of the Village Hall. Under this licence, the peppercorn rent of 5p per year for the Scout HQ would be unaffected.

A meeting with the Dandelion Time charity subsequently took place on 26th July to discuss the separate licence for Dandelion Time. At the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee on 28th July it was resolved that the Parish Council would agree to continued use by Dandelion Time, provided that the Parish Council were party to the renewal process, had termination provisions in the case of unresolved complaints, and that any use of the children's play equipment was under adult supervision. This was advised to the Scouts on 29th July, and the proposed amendments were sent to the Scouts on 9th August. On 30th August, Shorne Scouts requested changes to the agreement which were not in accordance with the provisions of the resolution of 28th July. Further amendments were received on the 4th September which broadly met the provisions of the resolution, and on the 12th September Mrs Poole on behalf of the Parish Council, along with the Scouts and Dandelion Times signed the agreed agreement for a period of 3 months.

The email of 30th August also proposed fundamental changes to the proposed Licence for the use of the Scouts premises for non-scouting purposes, which was sent to the Scouts on 9th July. The proposed changes would remove our visibility of hire charges made to third parties, and significantly weaken the measures the Parish Council needs to protect the ongoing viability of the Village Hall. A further email was received from the Scouts on 6th September questioning the Parish Council licence fees for activities carried out for commercial gain on land occupied by the Scouts.

Mr Lane pointed out that the Parish Council has only been put into this situation as a result of the unilateral actions by the Scouts. The land was provided at a peppercorn rent of 5p a year for the establishment of a Scout HQ, and for no other purposes. This has been a mutually satisfactory arrangement for nearly 70 years. However, the Scouts are now taking commercial advantage of this peppercorn rent by effectively sub-letting the premises for non-scouting purposes. The Parish Council is under no obligation to permit any non-scouting activities on the land. Nevertheless, the Parish Council has gone to considerable lengths to accommodate the Scouts' wishes, whilst conforming to the terms of the Trust Deed and safeguarding the future of the Village Hall for the wider community.

If the Scouts are not prepared to agree to the licence terms but continue to sub-let the premises for non-scouting purposes, then the Parish Council would need to consider whether the peppercorn rent needs to be reviewed. If the premises are sub-let for uses which do not conform to the terms of the Trust Deed, then the Parish Council would need to consider whether the Scouts continued occupation of the land is still appropriate. A draft response to the Scouts was circulated to Members on 5th September for consideration and approval, and this was sent to the Scouts. We are awaiting their response which is currently with their executive committee.

Shorne Scouts have asked to use Shorne Common and the car park on from 18.00 to 19.30 on Thursday 20th October for their AGM. It was agreed that Mrs Poole would advise the Scouts that this was satisfactory, and to advise Mr and Mrs Dore who are key holders for the car park.

38. To receive any report from Borough Councillor R Lane

Mr Lane reported that nothing significant has happened during the summer break. The main issue that might affect us is the £4.6 million budget deficit by 2025/2026.

39. To receive any report from County Councillor B Sweetland

Cllr Sweetland apologised for not attending but advised that for general updates on KCC there is a very good e-newsletter published each month that Parish Councillors and parishioners can sign up to (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/residents-e-newsletter>).

Mr Sweetland reported that with regards to specifics, he is arranging a Teams online meeting with Steve Whitehead the newly appointed KCC Enforcement Officer (11am on Wednesday 19th Oct 11). Hopefully he can start to enforce the planning and traffic regulations relating to HGVs and skip operators. Mr Sweetland also reported that he is arranging for our six Parish Council Chairmen (and others) to meet with KCC's newly appointed Director of Highways (date to be confirmed). Mr Sweetland reported that Mr Lane is up to speed on other Highways issues.

<https://kccmediahub.net/> might also be of interest to Councillors and parishioners.

40. To receive any report from the PCSO's.

The Clerk read out a report from PCSO Kirsty Lowe which included a brief overview of crime statistics broken down into sub categories. PCSO Lowe is aware of the sudden spike in burglaries in the area. Along with these burglaries, the most common call type is nuisance vehicles at a repeat locations.

With regards to the recent burglaries, the relevant details have been taken and each crime has been recorded, which are being investigated by an officer. The victim of crime will be contacted on an individual basis as part of their crime enquiries. This includes door to door and CCTV enquiries. Gravesham Community Safety Unit, especially rural PCSOs Kirsty Lowe and Simon Mummery will pay extra attention to the area when duties allow, in order to deter any further incidents, and to provide a high visibility policing presence.

41. Vacancy due to the resignation of Lisa McCluskey.

Mrs McCluskey announced her resignation from the Parish Council on 16th August to pursue other interests. Mrs McCluskey has been proactive member and her input will be missed. The Returning Officer issued an official Notice of Vacancy, and unless 10 electors requested an election by 8th September, the vacancy may be filled by co-option. An advertisement has been produced and publicised from 9th September. Mrs Poole has confirmed that three people have shown an interest, one by telephone which we have not received any further information from via email, and the other two were by email, but have not enclosed what they can offer to the Council.

42. Correspondence requiring action

Mr Lane reported that we have had correspondence with the land agent for Mr Chandler which conflicts with verbal conversations we have had with Mr Chandler, and we should therefore disregard any further discussion on this matter.

Mrs Poole circulated information from Meopham Parish Council regarding proposals to jointly contribute towards the cost of providing parish parking enforcement. Following discussion, it was felt that we should expect GBC to provide adequate parking enforcement in rural areas, and it was suggested that this should be raised at the next Chairman's meeting.

Mrs Poole asked who will be attending the Remembrance Sunday service on 13th November, so she can advise the church. Mr Lane, Ms Clifton, Mrs Lindley, Mr Rea, Mr Bugg and Mr Theobald expect to attend. Mrs Poole will inform Ms Olid.

Mrs Poole advised that PCSO Rebekah Bruce has been in contact regarding National Safe Speed Day on Wednesday 19th October 2022. Mr Lane and Ms Clifton will arrange a Speedwatch session on the day. Ms Clifton will let them know.

43. General matters raised by Members for discussion

Mr Theobald requested that our parish magazine article should advise people to wear high visibility clothing and walk facing oncoming traffic now that the dark nights are drawing in. Mr Lane said this is included in our article every November.

Mr Theobald attended an online meeting which was held by Gravesham Borough Council consultants with regards to cycling and footpaths.

Ms Clifton asked for a volunteer to replace Mrs McCluskey as a KALC representative. There are four meetings a year. Mr Theobald agreed to join. Ms Clifton will pick Mr Theobald up for the next meeting which is being held in Luddesdown.

Mr Hardy asked if next year's meeting dates have been agreed, Mr Lane reported not quite, as the dates in September need changing and the Parish Assembly needs to change to the Wednesday instead of the Thursday due to regular bookings for the small hall.

Mr Hardy asked if the agendas need to be put on all noticeboards. Mr Lane advised that we only need to display notices on the village hall noticeboard and on the website, but it is good practice to post important documents on the other six noticeboards, but we cannot guarantee that they are up to date.

Mr Bugg asked if we have any further information on the rogue white line in Forge Lane which is dangerous for cars coming up the hill. Mrs Lindley reported that KCC deny responsibility for the white line and have said they will not remove this.

Mrs Poole sent an email regarding the Clerks Conference and what was discussed.

Mrs Poole advised that the coronation is Saturday 6th May 2023. Mrs Poole has advised that there is a small team willing to arrange this which includes Mrs Lindley, Mrs McCluskey and herself. Mrs Lindley is thinking of doing a classic tea within the village hall, and the coronation being visual, Mrs Poole has already booked the Village Hall.

Mrs Poole reported that Mr Theobald and herself met with Sarah Prest and Keith Syrett of Shorne School on 10th October, and Mr Theobald has taken up the co-option of Governor which will be from January after all the DSB checks have been done. They would like to work closely with us for future events.

Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be Finance and will take place at 19.30 on Thursday 27th October in Shorne Village Hall Committee Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.35.

Signed Mr Lane:.....

Dated:.....