

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
24th November 2022 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Mr Bugg

In attendance:

One attendee (non-parishioner) from 19.40

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

None received.

45. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2022

The amendments requested by Mrs Lindley on 23rd November have been incorporated. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

46. To approve the minutes of the Budget & Finance meeting of 22th October 2022

The draft minutes were circulated on 12th November. There has been some discussion on whether it was formally agreed to include the sum of £7,000 in the budget for a possible AED at Michael Gardens, or whether it was agreed to look into the costs for future consideration. Other possible locations such as Shorne Crossroads, and Chestnut Green had also been discussed. Mr Lane noted that there was nothing in the original draft minutes produced by the Clerk which recorded that this had been proposed and agreed. Whilst there is general support for an AED at Michael Gardens, Mr Lane suggested that Mr Rea should obtain a quote for an unmetered power supply before we can formally consider approving this. Mr Rea has looked into this, but they are asking for account details. Mrs Poole explained that the Parish Council would need to open an account with UK Power Networks, which we can do if we need to access power. It was agreed that Mr Rea would look further into this and report back at a subsequent meeting.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

47. Confirmation and formal approval of 2022/23 Precept request

The Budget & Finance meeting recommended that the precept should be increased by 9.9% for the year 2023/24, and that a Precept request for the sum of £46,410.00 should be submitted to Gravesham Borough Council. This would represent an increase for Band D properties from £36.57 to around £40.16 per year based on the current tax base, an increase of approximately 7p per week. It was resolved to accept the recommendation.

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

There was one public attendee at the meeting, a non-parishioner from Vigilant Way, who was interested to hear the latest position regarding the Lower Thames Crossing.

49. Review of the Finance Report

The report on expenditure in October and November was circulated prior to the meeting, and was reviewed at the meeting.

| Date | | Description | Amount | VAT | Total |
|------------|------|---|------------|-----------|------------|
| | | B/F | £17,747.05 | £1,013.03 | £18,760.08 |
| 05/10/2022 | DD | Vodafone | £28.60 | £5.72 | £34.32 |
| 07/10/2022 | DD | Nest Pension | £63.80 | £0.00 | £63.80 |
| 20/10/2022 | DD | Eslip Payroll Provider | £19.00 | £3.80 | £22.80 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Shorne Village Hall | £42.00 | £0.00 | £42.00 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | 1st Scouts Shorne (Jubilee Donation) | £163.44 | £0.00 | £163.44 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Shorne Church (Jubilee Donation) | £163.44 | £0.00 | £163.44 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Shorne Village Hall (Jubilee Donation) | £163.44 | £0.00 | £163.44 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Pop Up Café (Jubilee Donation) | £163.44 | £0.00 | £163.44 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | NPC Tree Surgery | £275.00 | £55.00 | £330.00 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Mrs S Poole (Expenses Professional Scanning Deeds, Poppy Appeal, Toner) | £346.30 | £57.57 | £403.87 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Tom Gozzett | £660.00 | £0.00 | £660.00 |
| 25/10/2022 | BACS | Mrs S Poole Oct Salary | £874.84 | £0.00 | £874.84 |
| | | C/F | £20,710.35 | £1,135.12 | £21,845.47 |

| Date | | Description | Amount | VAT | Total |
|------------|------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | | B/F | £20,710.35 | £1,135.12 | £21,845.47 |
| 02/11/2022 | DD | Vodafone | £35.78 | £7.14 | £42.92 |
| 07/11/2022 | DD | Nest Pension | £63.80 | £0.00 | £63.80 |
| 20/11/2022 | DD | Eslip Payroll Company | £19.00 | £3.80 | £22.80 |
| 25/11/2022 | BACS | Mrs P Clifton | £20.97 | £0.00 | £20.97 |
| 25/11/2022 | BACS | Mrs S Poole (Expenses AED Battery) | £194.00 | £38.80 | £232.80 |
| 25/11/2022 | BACS | Mrs S Poole Nov Salary | £1,328.04 | £0.00 | £1,328.04 |
| 25/11/2022 | BACS | CPRE | £36.00 | £0.00 | £36.00 |
| | | | £22,407.94 | £1,184.86 | £23,592.80 |

Mrs Poole reported that we have also transferred funds into the Renewals accounts. We have received an email of thanks from the Pop Up Café for their donation.

50. To receive an update from the Planning & Highways Committee

Planning: There have been a few planning applications since the last meeting. We have submitted representations regarding the application for Cobham Lodge. The proposed footbridge at Shornemead level crossing has been approved. Mr Theobald will contact Network Rail to find out the programme for the erection of the footbridge.

Highways: Mrs Lindley and Mr Lane had an online meeting with KCC on 21st November. Ms Norris from KCC explained how KCC Highways has been restructured. They require the Highways Improvement Plan to be put into a different format and a further meeting will be held to review this. KCC Highways are still supportive of the 20 mph scheme in Shorne Village subject to amendments, which Mr Lane has circulated to members. They advised that because the reduction in the speed limit in the northern section of Forge Lane is part of a separate A226 speed reduction scheme, we cannot assume that it will take place at the same time, so they are proposing to extend the 20 mph zone. Mr Lane has heard from a separate source that the A226 speed reduction scheme has been shelved.

Lower Thames Crossing: Mrs Lindley reported that National Highways submitted their Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate on 31st October, and the Planning Inspectorate have until 28th November to make a decision whether or not to accept it for examination. If it is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will produce a timetable and issue general instructions on what we need to do. The first thing we will need to do is to register our interest within 14 days, which can be a maximum of 500 word summary. Mrs Lindley suggested that this may be bullet points. This is also open to the Public to register an interest. Mrs Lindley suggested members read “Lower Thames Crossing 7.4 Project Design Report Part D: General Design South of the River” which can be found on the Planning Inspectorate Lower Thames Crossing website.

51. To receive an update from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

Ms Clifton has reported that Shorne Community Wildlife Group has planted the bulbs purchased by the Parish Council, as well as a Christmas tree, on Post Office Green. Ms Clifton is waiting for David Sephton to carry out the tree inspections at Shorne Common Rough.

(a) To approve the clearance of brambles and nettles at Crabbles Bottom

Ms Clifton reported on the quotations received, and it was agreed to place the order with NPC Tree Surgery. Access to “the den” has been opened very slightly so this will need to be blocked up with the excess from the clearance. It was also noted that a red marker had been placed to identify the den, which was removed. Ms Clifton stated that when the contracts are placed for cutting the meadows in Crabbles Bottom next year, we will need to stipulate in the contract that the mowing/trimming is done right up to the trunks.

(b) Licence for the use of the Scouts premises for non-scouting purposes

Mr Lane reminded Members that we wrote to the Scouts on 27th September re-affirming our position and our offer of a proposed licence which was previously sent to them on 9th July 2022. We will need to chase them for a reply in due course as we cannot permit the status quo to continue. Mrs Poole will write to the Scouts.

52. To receive any report from Borough Councillor R Lane

Mr Lane reported that the Parish Chairs’ meeting scheduled for 16th November did not take place. The Civic Centre was locked, unattended, and in darkness, and the Parish Council representatives were unable to gain access. They assumed that the meeting was not going to take place and returned home. It was later discovered that the Council Leader was waiting for them to arrive but was unaware that the door was locked and the premises unattended.

Mr Lane reported that the planning application for the 21 flats and 11 houses at Cobham Lodge, Valley Drive, was refused at the Planning Committee on 23rd November.

At the Cabinet meeting on 7th November, it was agreed that any decision to proceed with the new leisure centre at Cascades would be delegated to the Leader of the Council.

A training session was held on 15th November to outline the changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022. Mr Lane has circulated a copy of the presentation to Members of Shorne Parish Council. Mr Lane reminded Members that the local elections will be held on 4th May 2023, and that we should start our own preparations in the New Year. Mr Theobald noted that candidates now only need two nominations not ten, as in previous years.

53. To receive any report from County Councillor B Sweetland

Cllr Sweetland is meeting Ms Haroona Chughtal, KCC's new Director of Highways on Tuesday 29th November and has invited Mr Lane and Mrs Lindley to meet her in Shorne.

54. To approve the meetings schedule for 2023

This has been circulated and follows the pattern of previous years, with meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. The Parish Assembly will be on Wednesday 26th April as the small hall is already reserved on the Thursday. The schedule was approved. Mr Hardy asked if he could have some copies laminated to go on noticeboards. Mr Lane will pass these on to him.

55. To approve the Shorne Recreation Ground lease agreement

Mr Lane has produced and circulated a simplified draft agreement for the lease of Shorne Recreation Ground. The proposed draft replicates the important clauses in the original draft (including the right of parishioners to use the recreation ground) using plain, intelligible language that would be more readily understandable to the tenants. It is proposed that the lease period is reduced to 10 years. Some of the notice periods have been changed. Certain unreasonable obligations and unenforceable terms have been omitted. It also includes further obligations, such as to pick up litter and to provide a fixture list, and it expressly reserves the right for authorised residents to park on the edge of the grounds. Mr Lane proposed that the Council resolves to approve this draft, and that Ms Clifton and Mrs Poole are requested to arrange for the Tenants' details to be entered and are authorised to sign on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Theobald seconded, and the resolution was agreed.

56. Correspondence requiring action

- (a) The Council formally recorded that it has received a copy of the accounts from Page's Educational Foundation charity, and that no action is required.
- (b) It was noted that Mrs Hensman has written to Cllr Sweetland and Shorne Parish Council regarding the condition of the road surface and drainage in Bowesden Lane. Officers from KCC Highways have undertaken to inspect the road surface.
- (c) Mrs Poole circulated the Civility & Respect Pledge before the meeting and provided copies, and asked Members whether they would like to adopt this. It was agreed that this would be included on the next agenda for formal resolution.

- (d) Mrs Poole asked Mr Theobald to pass on the information requested by Shorne School so that he can become a Governor.

57. General matters raised by Members for discussion

Ms Clifton reported that she and Mrs Lindley have a meeting on Wednesday 30th November with Mike Phillips who is the representative from Kent Downs AONB liaising with Lower Thames Crossing.

Mr Rea asked if we had heard anything from KCC regarding the signs in Thong Lane that are obscured by vegetation. Mr Lane reported that Kevin Gore has said that KCC's contractors will be carrying out vegetation flailing in Thong Lane later this week.

Date of next meeting. The next meeting will take place at 19.30 on Thursday 12th January 2023 in Shorne Village Hall Committee Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.33

Signed Mr Lane:.....

Dated:.....