

# SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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# PARISH

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# COUNCIL

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**MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
at Shoreham Village Hall, Shoreham on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from 7:30pm

Present: Brian Jeffery (in the Chair)  
R Blamey, A Collins,  
A Hibbins, M S Parkes, N McDonnell, N Powell and L Spence

Also Present: County Councillor Roger Gough  
1 member of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

Question Time: There were no questions for the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Histed (illness).
2. There were no disclosures of interest.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (copy previously distributed) were received and signed by the Chairman.
4. The actions arising from the meetings held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were reviewed.
5. **District/County Councillor Reports**  
District Councillor  
No District Councillor was present.

County Councillor

County Councillor Roger Gough updated members on the following points:

- **Repairs to the Bridge** - KCC have looked at the self-seeded alder, which is growing out of the bridge and will speak to their arboricultural team about its value. The Parish Council stated that as this was a self-seeded tree, whose roots are damaging the structure of the bridge, it has no value and **MUST** be removed.

The team who will be carrying out the work on the bridge do not necessarily have experience of working on listed buildings but they do have lots of experience on working on the parapets of historic bridges.

Work to repair the bridge will start on 11th March and will last up to up to one week. There will be off peak road closures but access will be maintained for buses and emergency vehicles. The work will be finished in plenty of time for the Duck Race.

- **Road Resurfacing** - The Thames Water works are complete although their sewer has been damaged. They will therefore be returning during the 2019/20 financial year to fix this so no

surface dressing of the roads in the village can take place until after that work has been completed. A bid for funding for the dressing however, has gone on in.

- **Reduction of Speed Limit to 20 mph** - KCC are currently their reviewing policy on 20 mph zones in villages so it would be prudent to wait and see what comes out of that before we do anything. If approved, this could be financed by Roger Gough's member fund or via CIL receipts.
- **Gritting at East Hill** - Cllr Jeffery spoke about the lack of gritting around the East Hill area during the recent cold weather. Cllr Jeffery had been told at the Highways Conference last year, that these roads would be gritted in the event of snow. It snowed but no roads were gritted and when Cllr Jeffery challenged KCC about this, they stated that the gritting would only take place if there was at least 50mm of snow. This was not the understanding of Cllr Jeffery or the Clerk, who had also attended the Highways Conference, and so County Cllr Gough promised to take the issue up with KCC to determine the exact situation
- **Damaged Footpath SR18** - Cllr Powell requested that County Councillor Gough speak to the PROW, Nicky Biddall, about the damaged footpath at SR18.

6. **Chairman's Report**

In the absence of the usual Chair, no report was available.

7. **Report from the Clerk**

- The 3 yearly tree inspection took place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January – awaiting report
- The dead cherry tree in the allotments has been felled.
- The annual playground inspection took place on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – awaiting report.
- The Clerk reported that she had met with two more play equipment providers regarding refurbishing the playground and one has one more company to meet.
- The artwork for the lectern on the Cross is complete and ready for printing. Cllr Hibbins agreed that he would speak to Lorna Robinson to find out what the British Legion's original intentions were for the WWI soldier silhouette and how long it should remain at the cross.
- Work to replace the tennis shelter roof is due to start W/C Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
- The Clerk, Cllr Spence and Cllr Parkes accompanied Ashley Walmsley and the Ranger, Ray Froud, on walk of Andrews Wood to discuss the Woodland Management Plan recently compiled by Kent Wildlife Trust. All planned works have been put on hold until the Forestry Commission have signed off the plan although it is expected that this will be done very soon. Cllr Parkes agreed to update the Shoreham Society on the management strategy at the next Shoreham Society meeting.
- The Clerk read out an update from the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme regarding projects effecting Shoreham Parish (see Appendix A).
- The Clerk requested a week's holiday for the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and the Parish Council authorised this.
- Two family fun days have been booked – one for Easter and another for the summer – dates to be confirmed.

8. **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)**

Following confirmation of Shoreham Parish Council's first CIL receipt, various projects on how best to spend this money were discussed. Suggestions included:

- Painting village hall
- Installing a disabled toilet in hall
- A 20mph limit through the centre of the village
- A change in the road surface on the 'George bend'
- A pedestrian crossing on the A225
- The continuation of the 30mph speed limit along the A225 from Otford through to the railway bridge at Preston Farm. (County Cllr Gough stated that he thought decreasing the limit from 60mph to 30mph would be unlikely but that a reduction to 40 mph may be possible. An exercise to measure the speed along that stretch would

firstly need to be undertaken. This is particularly dangerous between footpath SR18 and footpath SR22 on the opposite side of the road.

- White gates on entry to village

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain costings for the traffic calming measures and bring these back to full council at the next meeting.

9. **Village Sign**

The idea of installing a village sign to act as a focal point within the village was discussed. The Clerk read out several letters of objection from local residents as well as some of support. The Clerk also reported that the idea of a sign had received mostly positive feedback on social media. It was therefore RESOLVED that the Parish Council would run a competition in the March edition of the Shoreham Post inviting people to create a design. A location for the sign has yet to be decided but the Parish Council asked if the Clerk could see whether the Walnut Tree Trust would give permission for it to be hung on the existing post on the green outside the cottages.

10. **CCTV**

As Cllr Histed was not present, no update on the legal situation regarding the installation of CCTV both in the village and the wider parish was available. The Parish Council did however discuss the increased level of crime which has been occurring throughout the village recently and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Collins call the police to try and find out what, if anything is being done .

11. **Landline Telephone**

The installation of a landline telephone in the Village Hall was discussed. The Parish Council RESOLVED that they would not be financing broadband but would pay for the line rental. The Clerk was asked to contact Amanda Summers so that she could ask for the line to be activated and also to find out how much the line rental would cost.

12. **Neighbourhood Plan**

It was agreed by all members that the Neighbourhood Plan initiative needs to be progressed. This should be led by the village rather than the Parish Council although the Parish Council should help form the working group. It was RESOLVED to try and recruit people for the working group at the Annual Parish Meeting, which would once again have a focus on Neighbourhood Planning. Cllr Powell agreed to design a flyer for this meeting, depicting the results from the planning exercise undertaken two years ago, and to include these on the leaflet stating that volunteers are now required to move on to the next stage of the plan. Clarification as to what the Neighbourhood Plan is and why it is important should also be reiterated. It was RESOLVED that this should be advertised in the next edition of the Shoreham Post and that the Clerk should contact Horton Kirby PC to see if they have finished their plan and whether they could come and speak to us at our Annual Parish Meeting about their experiences.

13. **2019 Local Council Elections**

Having never experienced an election process before, the Clerk asked members if there was anything in particular she needed to do to prepare for the up and coming Local Council Elections in May. It was suggested that she contact both Clive at KALC as well as the Clerk at Otford to find out if there was anything that needed to be done and to report back to the PC with the correct procedure at the next meeting.

14. **Correspondence/Information**

- a) A request for financial assistance has been received from the Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group  
It was RESOLVED that the Group be awarded £50.00, the same as last year.
- b) An email has been received from SDC notifying Shoreham PC of the landowner's intent to dispose of a part of Pilots Wood to the north of the Polhill Arms. As Shoreham Parish Council have registered this area as an Asset of Community, notice is required to be given as is the opportunity for SPC (or any other community group) to bid for this land.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk inform Sevenoaks District Council that the Parish Council has no objection to this sale and has no intention to bid register a bid for the land.

- c) Issue 1 2019 of the Allotment and Leisure Gardener has been received.

15. **Financial Matters**

- a) Accounts/Payments: The payments as per schedule were authorised.

16. Dates of next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated)

- a) Planning/Finance Meeting (if required) : Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Shoreham Village Hall
- b) Planning/Council Meeting : Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Shoreham Village Hall
- c) Planning/Amenities & Services Meeting : Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Shoreham Village Hall

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council  
The meeting closed at 9.42pm

## Appendix A

### Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme – Update on Projects Around Shoreham

- **Project 1A: Samuel Palmer Trail** – The trail and leaflet have been completed along with the leaflet production and audio recording. However, there are some technological issues with the use of a third party app which is delaying the launch.
- **Project 1F: Restoring the Canvas (Flytipping)** – No substantive progress yet as other projects are taking priority. However, would like to offer support to the ‘Shoreham Shine’ with a view to extending this with neighbouring parishes to establish proposed Volunteer Watch Group for preventing future flytipping.
- **Project 3A: Heart of the Valley – Darent Valley Path** – I am pursuing Andrew Montgomerie as I understand that the field on the north side of Station Road wasn’t included in the sale of Preston Farm. When I spoke to him last year, he was very positive about an access solution from the station. KCC PROW are also keen to pursue this and would also be suitable for CIL funding from SDC. I think the solution of a path through the golf course is an inferior one, but could be a back up if the preferred option is unavailable.
- **Cycle Access (also part of Project 3A)** – Little progress currently. We have had problems recruiting to our access role within the team, and therefore the project has been delayed. However, we have drafted in some internal support from the AONB Unit and work will begin shortly on improving surfacing at key problem locations along the Darent Valley Path (although none of these are within Shoreham parish). However, an EU Interreg grant submission is being made in April to provide funds for a project called ‘Experience’. This will support some path improvements as well as creating sustainable tourism opportunities and extending the tourist season across the year instead of being concentrated in the summer months.
- **Project 2A: Peeling Back the Layers** – Our LiDAR survey of the valley has been completed and we will have the results back shortly. We will be looking for volunteers to help us from the Spring onwards to ‘groundtruth’ the results and help us identify hidden archaeological features in the landscape. If anyone is interested they can register their interest with our Community Archaeologist [anne.sassin@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:anne.sassin@kentdowns.org.uk).
- **Project 4A.2: The Unknown Country Park** – It appears that the Preston Hill situation is largely resolved (regarding which part of KCC is responsible for its management) and we hope that the project that will help to secure grazing, access and conservation of the historical features associated with the rifle range, will be starting soon.
- **Project 1D: Framing the View** – We are well progressed with a project funded entirely by UK Power Networks that will see the undergrounding of the low voltage overhead wires from Castle Farm and Preston Hill all the way through to Shoreham Station. This will have a significant positive impact on the aesthetics of the landscape here.
- **Project 4F: Local Landscapes Grant Scheme** – We hope to launch this grant scheme later this year. It will provide grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 to organisations to deliver small-scale projects that support the objectives of DVLPS. Shoreham PC

and local community groups will be very welcome to apply to this, and applications will be decided by a board of local representatives from within the valley. I fear that the playground's links to heritage and landscape conservation may be a little tenuous for inclusion within this scheme, but you may be able to find a way to convince us! The two broad objectives are:

1. Conserving and enhancing the historic and natural landscape of the DVLP scheme area;
2. Helping more people, and a wider range of people, to learn about and enjoy the heritage of the Darent Valley.