

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:
Sarah Moon

Old Livery Store
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PARISH

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL
at Shoreham Village Hall on 3 February 2016 from 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs R Blamey, P Dodd, J Histed, R Inniss, M S Parkes and L Spence,
Also Present: District Cllr J Edwards-Winsor, County Councillor Roger Gough, 2 members of the public
Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs McDonnell and Medlen.
2. No disclosures of interest were made.
3. The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th January 2016 were amended and then agreed, with the chairman being authorised to sign once the amended version was printed.
4. District/County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Roger Gough:

Footpath: Details of the new footpath have been sent to the Definitions Team at KCC. In order to ensure the work is completed before the sale of the land by SDC on 31/03/2016, a request to give it priority has been made.

Preston Hill : Notification was given three weeks ago that five sites were lined up for disposal, one of which was Preston Hill. The Parks Department confirmed they would be consulting with the Parish Council. However, due to a failure of process between the Country Parks Department and Property Department, the disposal has, for the time being, been postponed. There will now be an extended period of engagement with key interested parties, including Parish Councils, prior to any decisions being taken.

A225: Due to the persistent flooding under the railway bridge on the A225, the Highways Department have undertaken a substantial amount of cleansing work in order to try and rectify the problem. The area will continue to be monitored in order to determine whether this has been sufficient to reduce the flooding.

Boundary changes: Following the changes implemented by the Boundary Commission, Badgers Mount will no longer form part of Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley.

Budget: Kent County Council will deliver its budget next week on 11th February. It will be tough and more savings should be anticipated.

5. Chairman's Report
 - (a) The Cross and Timberden Farm
The sale of Timberden Farm is due for completion in March 2016. Regarding the problems with animals (dogs and foxes) attacking sheep around the area of the Cross, Sevenoaks District Council will shortly be putting up notices reminding dog owners to keep their dogs on leads. Also, the post for dogs on the stile has been replaced to prevent dogs from entering the sheep field. Regarding the status of the footpath Sevenoaks District Council is still waiting to hear from Kent County Council (see County Councillor report above). Finally, the land transfer documents required to transfer the Cross from Sevenoaks District Council to Shoreham Parish Council are now with the solicitors and the transfer itself should hopefully move forward and take place very soon.
 - (b) Old Livery Store
A draft lease transfer document has been received but it contained some inaccuracies. Solicitors are now proceeding with this. Meanwhile, an application has been made to the Public Works Loans Board to obtain finance to purchase the building and hopefully money should be received by the end of March.
 - (c) Parish Store

One quote to convert the Gents Toilets into a storage area has been received but the work outlined is more extensive than necessary. Clerk to approach the contractors once again with a reduced brief.

6. Report from the Clerk.
 - (a) Following receipt of borrowing approval from the Department for Communities and Local Government, a loan application has now been made to the Public Works Loans Board in respect of the purchase of the Old Livery Store.
 - (b) Tree Surgery – Following the tree survey, which was conducted in December, a planning application has now been submitted to Sevenoaks District Council, requesting permission for various works to trees around the allotments and the recreation ground. Some of this work may be undertaken by volunteers whilst professionals will be required for the rest. Quotes will be sought from tree surgery companies in due course.
 - (c) Playground Inspection – An inspection of the playground was undertaken on 26th January. A report, highlighting any areas for concern will follow shortly.
 - (d) Cllr Sarah Parkes has now been added as a signatory to the bank account. The Clerk also asked Council for authority to add herself as a signatory as well and authority was granted.
 - (e) An email has been received from Neil Vickers stating that the generator has been tested and is working correctly.

7. Precept

The 2016/17 budget was considered and the precept proposed at £38,000. This was agreed unanimously. The reallocation of reserves to increase General Contingency to £24,715 was also agreed and agreement was given to take £7925 from reserves to make up the shortfall.

8. Recreation Ground Shelter

The recent vandalism to the newly refurbished shelter in the recreation ground was described in detail and the meeting was suspended in order to debate the need for preventative measure such as CCTV.

The following question was posed by a member of the public: 'In light of the recent vandalism, break-ins and suspicious behaviour, would the Parish Council consider installing CCTV on the Parish Office?'

It was decided that Ralph Abbott would invite Dave Graham to take a look at the Parish Office and Recreation Ground area and to report back the available options at the Amenities and Services meeting in March. The Public Session was then closed and the meeting recommenced.

9. Family Fun Day

It was agreed that Shoreham would host a family fun day this summer on the recreation ground. The activities provided would be organised and funded by Sevenoaks District Council on the condition that Shoreham Parish Council provided drinks (squash/water). This was agreed by the Council and authority was given to the Clerk to confirm our wish to participate with Sevenoaks District Council.

10. Preston Hill Country Park

A letter received from Kent Wildlife Trust in regard to the sale/disposal of Preston Hill Country Park was read out. The letter stated how the site is an SSSI and that importance is still valid. However, as the proposals for disposal/sale have been deferred for the time being (see County Councillor's Report), there is no need for the Parish Council to respond at present. The situation will continue to be monitored however and any updates discussed at future meetings.

11. Traffic and Parking

Proposals from Kent County Council are awaited so the issue of parking restrictions cannot be progressed until these are received. The Working Party are hoping to meet soon however, to try and obtain a ballpark figure for converting a section of the allotments into a parking area.

12. Communication

Following the meeting to discuss the Emergency Plan, the issue of how best to communicate with the village in the event of a power cut/storm was debated. It was suggested that a megaphone could be used.

13. Schedule of Meetings 2016/2017

The schedule of meetings from April 2016 to March 2017 was agreed and it was also confirmed that Sarah Parkes would make cheese biscuits for the Annual Parish Meeting.

14. Correspondence/Information

(a) Grant for Church

An application for a grant for the church to assist with the maintenance of the church and the churchyard has been received.

A grant for the sum of £700 was proposed and seconded with the understanding that the PCC inform the Parish Council as to how the money was spent. For next year, the PCC should also inform us of specific projects that they wish to finance and how much they would cost. We would then aim to match the funding. Clerk to ensure this is outlined in the covering letter to be sent out with the grant cheque.

(b) Grant for Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

A grant application has been received from the Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group (SVTG), a charity, which provides low cost transport for the elderly, some of whom, are residents of Shoreham.

A grant for the sum of £100 was proposed and seconded. It was also decided that they should be asked to supply a short article for the Gazette to ensure the service is widely publicised throughout the village. The Clerk agreed to include this in the covering letter to be sent out with the grant cheque.

(c) Lower Thames Crossing Route Consultation 2016

An email has been received from KALC regarding proposals for a new lower Thames river crossing. Any responses should be sent by 24th March 2016.

Council agreed no response was necessary.

(d) Memorial Bench

An email has been received from Josephine Dobson asking whether a memorial bench in memory of her parents, Pam and Alf Ayling, and her grandparents, could be installed above the cross (her grandfather was one of the men who cut the original cross).

As the land containing the Cross is currently in the process of being transferred, we are unable to do anything as we do not yet own the land. However, once the land has been transferred to Shoreham Parish Council (expected end of March 2016) we will be able to consider the matter further. It is however the intention to install a bench in the new woodland (already owned by Shoreham Parish Council), which would look up at the Cross and which would be more accessible. Perhaps this could be an option. Clerk to inform Ms Dobson of these options but to state that further discussions would need to be deferred to the Amenities & Services Committee.

15. Committee Reports

(a) Planning Committee: The minutes of this Committee held on 6th January were received and adopted.

12. Financial Matters

(a) Accounts/Payments. The schedule of payments was presented and agreed.

13. Dates of next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm)

a) Planning Meeting: Wednesday 17 February 2016, Shoreham Village Hall (if required)

b) Planning and Council Meeting: Wednesday 2 March 2016, Shoreham Village Hall

c) Planning and Amenities & Services Meeting: Wednesday 16 March 2016, Shoreham Village Hall

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council

The meeting was closed at 9.42 pm.

Public question time

No questions.