

## SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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## PARISH

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## COUNCIL

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### **DRAFT MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

at Shoreham Village Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 from 7:30pm

Present: J Histed (in the Chair), R Blamey, A Collins, A Hibbins, B Jeffery, N McDonnell and M S Parkes

Also Present: 9 members of the public  
District Councillor John Edwards-Winser  
County Councillor Roger Gough

Clerk: Sarah Moon

Question Time:

A query was raised by Mike Robinson of the Shoreham branch of the Royal British Legion. To mark one hundred years since the end of WW1, the RBL would like purchase and install 'Silent Soldiers', an initiative devised by the Poppy Appeal. This involves placing live size silhouettes of soldiers at meaningful sites around the country. The RBL would like to install one at the Cross and another near the war memorial and, as both of these structures are owned by the Parish Council, permission was requested for the installations. All members agreed this would be a good idea and permission to install the soldiers was granted. The soldiers should remain in place from November 2017 through to December 2018.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Collins and Spence (holiday).
2. There were no disclosures of interest from members.
3. It was decided to wait until more councillors are present before electing a Vice Chair.
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October (copies previously distributed) were received and signed by the Chairman.
5. The actions arising from the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were reviewed.
6. District/County Councillor Reports

#### District Councillor's Report

There will be a presentation of the Housing Needs study on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 2.30 at the council offices. Cllr Blamey agreed to try and attend.

#### County Councillor's Report

Crown Road now has primrose lines. County Cllr Gough also confirmed that he had spoken with the relevant people at KCC regarding the desire to lower the speed limit to 50 mph on the A225. Apparently, the average speed is currently 40mph so lowering the official limit would make little difference. Also, thinning the trees out on the way to Otford would be costly and there is no money available at present to undertake this work. Even if it were possible, the

resulting improvement in visibility may actually encourage drivers to increase their speed. Installing a sign requesting drivers to turn on their headlights at this spot is also not possible as no such sign exists.

County Cllr Gough also confirmed that repairs to the posts on the bridge and the painting of the railings are to be chased up as is the disappearance of the Well Hill finger post. Finally, he agreed to ask whether a modern cover could be put on the drain opposite the Police House.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked David Ablett and Jeremy Tooley for the excellent work they had undertaken to clean and weed the cross in time for Remembrance Sunday. A significant impact has been made to its appearance.

8. Report from the Clerk.

- (a) I attended the KALC Finance Conference on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2017.
- (b) I am currently in the process of drafting the budget for 2018/2019.
- (c) Community Payback will be commencing work on the Recreation Ground on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. They will initially be tasked with removing barbed wire and clearing scrub. They will come for three consecutive weeks then alternate Thursdays until the work is complete. The group who shall be undertaking the work are a 'low risk' group.
- (d) The tenders for the 2018 grass cutting contract have been sent out.
- (e) The damaged willow on the allotments has been inspected and the tree surgeon has advised that it does not pose an immediate danger but should be pollarded to around two metres within 6 months. A quote for this work is being awaited.
- (f) Following the recent inspection of the allotments, plot holders who are failing to cultivate their plots have been written to.

9. Amenities

The recommendations made by the Amenities and Services Committee, at their meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were discussed and voted upon as follows:

- (a) That dwarf fruit trees of root stock M9 or M27 be allowed to be planted on vacant plots and communal areas of the allotments.  
All members voted to accept the recommendation.
- (b) That dwarf fruit trees not be allowed to be planted on individual plots.  
All members voted to accept the recommendation (i.e. no fruit trees would be allowed on individual plots)
- (c) That only dogs on leads be allowed on the Recreation Ground and that the wording for any signs to be installed be agreed.  
It was felt that there would be little point in doing this as the rule could not be properly enforced. A better approach would be to ask the school children to design a sign with words to the effect of 'If we get this on our hands, we could become seriously ill'. Other suggestions were to provide a dispenser with bags, to write an article in the Gazette and to distribute leaflets to all households. It was agreed to refer the topic back to the Amenities Committee for discussion on 18<sup>th</sup> November then to come back to full council with their recommendations at the next Council meeting.

10. Timberden Farm

The correspondence received relating to the sale and development of Timberden Farm following several Freedom Of Information requests to Sevenoaks District Council and a letter to numerous organisations was discussed.

The Clerk confirmed that in spite of the FOI request, no information regarding the redevelopment of the existing farm buildings has been provided, Sevenoaks District Council stating that provision of such information would comprise the confidentiality afforded to third parties. A second FOI Request has also been sent to the District Council asking for information relating to the justification for the new buildings, including any calculations made in order to determine the sizes of the buildings for which planning permission has been granted. Finally, replies have been received from the Public Rights Of Way Officer, CPRE

and Kent Downs and none of these organisations were consulted in relation to the new farm buildings (despite public footpaths passing through the land). It was agreed that the Clerk should once again write to Mr Muscat, inviting him, in his capacity as trustee of a special piece of land, to come and attend a Parish Council as members and residents would like the opportunity to meet him.

11. Diverted Footpath

The diversion of public footpath SR22 at the Garden House, Shoreham was discussed. The footpath was initially diverted in 2007 although at that time the path was still in use. In 2011 fencing appeared, which extended outside the Garden House boundary and redirected walkers along a different route. In 2015 Kent County Council requested that the footpath be re-instated but this request was ignored. Finally an application for permission to divert the footpath was made by the Garden House to KCC and a temporary diversion was allowed. The temporary path is always overgrown and is often covered in grass in contrast to the official route, which affords open views across the valley to Shoreham.

County Councillor Gough explained that there should be a verdict on the application to divert the path within the next 6 – 9 months and that he would check whether KCC have yet arrived at the point of public consultation. Any objections received from neighbours or the Parish Council shall have to be taken into consideration and it was agreed that the Parish Council should press KCC not to allow permission for this diversion, instead ensuring that the integrity of the footpaths in Shoreham be maintained.

It was agreed that the Clerk send a Freedom of Information Request to KCC asking for a copy of the application for the diversion of the footpath.

12. Noticeboard

The possibility of replacing the noticeboard, which used to be affixed to the fence of Shoreham House, was discussed. It was agreed that there should be a noticeboard at this side of the Village and that the Clerk write to Peter Warr, of the Shoreham House Residents Association to request permission to install such a board on the fence.

It was agreed that this be discussed in further detail at the next Parish Council meeting in December.

The Clerk was also requested to contact the police, asking them to please stop filling up the existing noticeboards with police notices as there is never any room to display notices from village societies.

A motion to extend the meeting past 22.00 was passed.

13. Former Kent Hounds Car Park

Sevenoaks District Council have decommissioned the recycling centre at the former Kent Hounds car park in Well Hill 'due to recent inability for our collection crews to access the site'. Recycling bins and litter bins have been removed and the hard standing on which these sat is also due to be removed and made good in the near future. A noticeboard belonging to Shoreham Parish Council remains on the site and Sevenoaks District Council have advised that this should also be removed. Cllr McDonnell agreed to look at the board with Ann Ball and determine its suitability for affixing to the fence at Shoreham House.

14. Correspondence/Information

(a) The work to board out the attic area of the Village Hall has been carried out and the Committee have sent an email requesting a donation to cover half the cost (£227). Cllr Collins also submitted a report stating that the work had been carried out and that the Village Hall requested a donation towards half the cost.

It was agreed that retrospective payments not be allowed and although the Parish Council were sympathetic towards the project, the process for applying for a grants and carrying out the necessary works should have been followed in the proper order.

(b) An email has been received from Richard Platts, a relative of two Shoreham brothers who both fell in the Great War. One is represented on the War Memorial whilst the other is not. Mr Platts is requesting that both soldiers be remembered on the memorial and that the missing name be added in time for the WW1 Centenary.

It was agreed that this soldier should be remembered on the war memorial and that the Clerk should find out the cost of adding a name and whether permission is required, due to the memorial being a listed structure.

- (c) The Autumn/Winter edition of the Kent Voice (CPRE magazine) has been received.
- (d) An invitation and voting papers for the KALC AGM to be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 have been received

15. Financial Matters

The Schedule of Payments was authorised.

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

- (a) Planning Committee and Amenities Meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Shoreham Village Hall
- (b) Planning Committee and Council Meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Shoreham Village Hall
- (c) Planning Committee Meeting (if required): Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Shoreham Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council