

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Remotely via Zoom 15th April 2020 from 7:30pm

Present: Jonathan Histed (in the Chair)
R Blamey, M Cockburn, B Jeffery, N Powell and M Sheward

Also Present: 6 members of the public

District Councillor Irene Roy
County Councillor Roger Gough

Clerk: Sarah Moon

Question Time:

A member of the public gave an update on the Care For Our Community initiative which has been set up by SDC to co-ordinate the many volunteers in each parish who have come forward to help out during the Covid-19 pandemic. Around 40% of volunteer groups are being led by Parish Councils and in the case of Shoreham this is a joint initiative between Louise Norris, an ICU nurse and the Parish Clerk. Both were thanked for their work in liaising with the volunteers, forwarding information and checking the volunteer spreadsheet. The member of the public also thanked Councillor Powell for his work in creating an area dedicated to Covid-19 on the Parish Council website, which provides information on volunteer schemes, parish related information, closures, village shop and pharmacy information as well as government guidelines, all of which can be accessed from one central place.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hibbins and Hubble.
2. There were no disclosures of interest.
3. The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 4th March 2020 (copies previously distributed) were agreed and the Clerk was authorised to sign on behalf of the Chairman.

4. **District/County Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Roger Gough

County Councillor Roger Gough reported on the launch of the Go2 on demand bus service, which will affect services 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 8. The new service, branded as go2, started on 14 April and will operate on a three month trial. The collapse in demand for bus journeys as a result of the Covid-19 crisis has accelerated the search for new approaches and new solutions. The new go2 offers the ability to book a journey (in a smaller bus) from a point near the passenger's home to their chosen destination, using routing software to combine their journey requirements with those of other users.

The scheme needs publicity to ensure it reaches as many people as possible. The Clerk confirmed that she had already posted information on Facebook. County Councillor Roger Gough promised to submit an article for publishing in the May Gazette.

The taxi bus scheme, which was recently put in place as been temporarily suspended as it had no users. This will be revisited at a later date but the Go Coach initiative is something which may have interest longer term.

Regarding the traffic counts on the A225, Cllr Histed agreed to write to County Councillor Gough in order that the matter can be taken up further with Geoff Bineham of KCC Highways. Despite the data collected, the Parish Council are still pressing for a reduction in the speed limit and a case needs to be put together in order to enable this to progress. The Clerk agreed to send information from the FOI requested by Cllr Jeffery in relation to the reduction in speed limit on Beesfield Road, Farningham, as this was implemented, despite there being no history of accidents.

Regarding Covid-19, the Kent Together scheme has been put in place to ensure that help is available to all people county wide.

District Councillor

District Councillor Irene Roy outlined some of the help which is available to businesses in relation to Covid-19. All business should have been contacted and offered a business rates holiday but if any have been omitted, they should contact Sevenoaks District Council. Information about the help available can be found on the SDC website.

Cllr Roy also mentioned the Emergency Centre which has been set up for people in distress. This is open from 7.00am – 7.00pm seven days a week on 01732 227000. The District Council has a dedicated page on its website at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/coronavirus covering a wide range of advice, support and help including financial assistance.

5. Chairman's Report

There was no report from the Chairman.

6. Report from the Clerk

The Clerk reported that most of her time this past month had been taken up with Covid-19 related issues as described below. However others point to note :

- Letters have been sent to all allotment plot holders requesting rent for 2020/2021. The preferred method of payment this year is BACS and many people have already settled this way.
- The grass cutting contractor has started mowing and is so far doing a good job. He will also be laying bark chippings around the play tractor as soon as he can source supplies.
- The financial year end process and preparation of 2019/2020 accounts is currently in progress.
- Work is being undertaken by Cllr Powell to design the new website. It is likely that a company called Hugo Fox will be used to build the website but Cllr Powell will be putting together a map of the pages and content in order for them to be able to carry this out.

7. Covid-19

The Clerk reported that the volunteer service, headed up by ICU nurse, Louise Norris was in place and working well. The scheme is also linked to the SDC Care for our Community, initiative, which has provided lanyards for volunteers to wear in order to be able to access the supermarkets at certain times. This scheme allows residents to log requests directly with SDC. Volunteer leads from the parishes then monitor the spreadsheet each day and allocate volunteers to the requests. Between the Shoreham scheme and the SDC scheme, around 80 requests for help have been actioned so far, most of which involve shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. Many people however, are relying on their neighbours and friends and so the number of people requiring help is actually likely to be much higher.

Cllr Powell has updated the Parish Council website so there is now an area dedicated to the pandemic, which ensures that information at parish, district, county and national level can be accessed.

As PPE equipment is currently in short supply and the hierarchy of provision at KCC and SDC means that lead times to parishes could be quite lengthy, the Clerk requested whether the Parish Council would authorise the purchase of gloves, masks and sanitiser directly from a local supplier rather than having to wait for delivery from SDC. The Parish Council agreed that this would be a good idea and a motion was proposed and seconded to set aside £1000 for the purchase of such equipment. The Clerk was authorised to go ahead and purchase, at her discretion, sufficient quantities to tide over the volunteers until the supplies are received from SDC as well as more hand sanitiser for the village shop. Due to the nature of the emergency, there would be no need to obtain multiple quotes.

8. Broadband Upgrade

Cllr Cockburn reported that the working party, which is being led by Cllr Hubble, is moving this initiative forward very well. A questionnaire has been compiled and this is live both on Facebook and on the Parish Council website. It will also be advertised in next month's Gazette. The objective of the questionnaire is to gauge interest for upgrading the broadband infrastructure. Ideally, the whole village will be upgraded but this depends on the results which come out of the questionnaire.

9. Correspondence/Information

- a) The Spring 2020 edition of the CPRE's Countryside Voice magazine has been received.
- b) An email has been received from Jeremy Tooley, who has asked permission to paint the stones around the Cross in time for the 100th anniversary of the first turf being dug (24th May). All members agreed that the Cross is looking very well maintained at the moment and thanked Jeremy for the great work he has been doing. All agreed that it would be a good idea for Jeremy to paint the stones and that any costs incurred should be covered by the £500 budget set aside in the 2020/2021 annual budget for Cross and War Memorial Maintenance.

10. Financial Matters

- a) Accounts/Payments: The schedule of payments was approved and signed by the Clerk.

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

- a) Planning (if required) and Annual Council Meeting – Wednesday 6th May 2020 (via Zoom)
The Clerk was asked to check with KALC whether the Annual Council Meeting could be postponed until such a time that councillors could attend in person. The Parish Council voted unanimously to defer this meeting until a later date if KALC advise this is possible. A meeting will still be held on this date but it will be a standard Parish Council meeting rather than the ACM. All other meetings should continue to be held remotely until restrictions are lifted.
- b) Planning (if required) and Finance Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2020 (via Zoom)
- c) Planning (if required) and Council Meeting – Wednesday 3rd June 2020 (via Zoom)

The meeting closed at 21.15

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council