

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

at Well Hill Mission Church on 3rd July 2019 from 7:30pm

- Present: Jonathan Histed (in the Chair)
R Blamey, A Collins, S Hubble, B Jeffery, N Powell and M Sheward
- Also Present: 9 members of the public
County Councillor Roger Gough
- Clerk: Sarah Moon
- Question Time: There were no questions from members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cockburn and from District Councillor Irene Roy.
2. There were no disclosures of interest.
3. The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 (copies previously distributed) were received and signed by the Chairman.

4. **District/County Councillor Reports**
District Councillor

Councillor Roy was not at the meeting but had contacted the Clerk offering assistance in producing the HIP (Highway Infrastructure Plan). She also sent a plan of Otford's traffic calming measures.

County Councillor

Cllr Gough gave the following report:

Station : Confirmed that he had been following up with Michael Fallon regarding how the money available via the Passenger Benefit fund is spent. He is still waiting to hear from GTR whether they agree to this money being spent on a ramp.

Pipework : Confirmed that the damage to pipework outside 4 Marne Cottage is now in hand.

Triangle : Agreed to chase up the missing/broken no entry sign on the triangle at Shacklands Road/High Street but confirmed that Mike Payton of KCC is aware of the issue.

Broadband : Reported that the issue of super fast broadband at Well Hill is now moving in a positive direction. BT have pumped for money back into this initiative and Well Hill and hopefully Cockerhurst will now be able to benefit from that.

5. **Chairman's Report**

Allotment fence

The Chairman reported that construction of the fence on the boundary between the allotments and the High Street had commenced and that there had been a lot of opposition to this. The decision to replace the fence was taken on the back of a boundary investigation undertaken by the Parish Council some time ago. It was also supported by the Allotments Association, who carried out a survey asking members whether they would like to see more security on the site as there had been several incidences of items being stolen, fly tipping and trespassing. One of the questions asked was whether members wanted locked gates and the majority of people who responded said they did. This was then discussed at an Amenities meeting and recommendations made at that meeting were subsequently approved by the Parish Council. The decision to replace the fence was done in good faith although it is now apparent that many people are not happy about this for the following reasons:

- They did not feel that they were adequately consulted
- They do not like the size/height of the fence
- They feel that the fence will obscure the view to the allotments and across the valley
- The removal of the small gate will cause inconvenience and disruption to allotment plot-holders accessing the site from the northern side of the village.

The Parish Council explained that the new fence would not obscure the view as it is not a closed fence, nor is it excessively high. The contractor was chosen specifically for his experience of working in Conservation Areas and the materials he uses are in-keeping with the surrounding area. For example, he recently installed fencing at Magpie Bottom.

The Parish Council did however concede that it had not fully realised the importance of the small gate at the northern end of the boundary and should consider re-instating it. The Clerk had received a quote for £435 for a new gate and Cllr Jeffery proposed that this be accepted. All members agreed and the Clerk was instructed to notify the contractor to install this gate alongside the new fence.

6. **Report from the Clerk**

- The tree surgery identified as part of the tree survey has now been completed. Both 3 and 6 month priority works were undertaken.
- The first instalment of the grant awarded for the table tennis table has been received (£2,500). The table will be installed later this month.
- A local resident has created and installed a bench in the Centenary Wood.
- Planning Enforcement have been written to once again in respect of two neglected properties (5 Mill Lane and 6 Boakes Meadow), both of which are owned by the same individual
- KCC and the Conservation Officer at SDC have given permission for the Darenth Way heritage road sign to be affixed to the bridge. The sign has been damaged several times by vehicles and costs around £100 each time to repair. Affixing it to the bridge would prevent it from being damaged again. All members agreed to the £100 cost for repairing the sign for the final time.
- The next freighter service is due Saturday 20th July 2019.
- Cllr Blamey, Jeffery and Cockburn have accepted the invitation by the Quadrangle to visit on 3rd August 2019.
- Cllrs Histed and Jeffery will be attending a meeting with the trustees of the Walnut Tree Trust on Thursday 11th July.

7. **Annual Return**

- i) Section 1 of the 2018-2019 Annual Return, Annual Governance Statement, was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
- ii) Section 2 of the 2018-2019 Annual Return, Accounting Statements was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Finance Officer.

8. **Shoreham Station**

Sarah Noah introduced herself as one of the members of the committee/working party (Shoreham Station Accessibility Committee), which has been set up to lobby for step free access to the London bound platform at Shoreham station. The Committee have circulated leaflets to all households and encouraged people to complete a GTR survey, requesting the need for a ramp. So far around 80 people have responded to the survey, which is a great response. The Committee have so far been in touch with Patrick Ladbury, the local development manager at GTR who has said that if money which has been allocated to other stations is not used, then this could potentially be redistributed to Shoreham to add to the £80,000 which has already been promised. Sarah Noah stated that she had been in touch with Cllr Sheward who had been to look at the platform and who thought there should be enough room within the platform length to run a ramp. Cllr Collins stated that she had spoken to the owners of the golf club who had said that they would be willing for the ramp to run through their land as the terrain on that side is less steep than at the northern end of the platform. Sarah Noah stated that Patrick Ladbury wished to meet with the Network Rail, Michael Fallon MP, the Parish Council, the Accessibility Committee and the owner of the golf club. Sarah Noah asked if the Parish Council could write to KCC and SDC as well as the Darenth Valley Landscape Partnership to ask for their support. Cllr Sheward offered to help out from a technical perspective.

9. **Planning Applications**

The issue of planning applicants and their neighbours not being notified when their applications are being discussed was considered. Currently, copies of planning agendas are put up around the parish, on the website and on social media. However, applicants still do not always realise when their applications are going to be discussed. It was therefore RESOLVED that a copy of the application be personally delivered to applicants prior to the meeting in order that they are fully aware that it will appear on the agenda. Cllr Jeffery agreed to be responsible for any applications from the East Hill and Romney Street area and other members would look after Shoreham and the wider parish.

10. **Recommendations from Amenities and Services Committee**

- The viability of the Parish Council paying a Bookings Officer to work for the Village Hall was considered at the Amenities meeting held in June. The Village Hall Committee have since decided that they wish to continue managing this themselves.
- It was agreed that the £312 plus installation of £125 cost for a new bin in the car park was too costly and that the Clerk should look at sourcing one independently.
- The following locations were agreed as potential sites to plant wildflowers:
 - Centenary Wood
 - Grass around the Village Hall, particularly the strip of grass to the right of the steps leading up to the Recreation Ground
 - South eastern corner of the Recreation Ground
 - Areas of the allotments
 - Grass area outside Forge Cottage

11. **Street Lights**

Upgrades to the existing street lighting were considered and it was RESOLVED that replacing the current lights would not be financially viable. Street lights should be replaced as and when existing ones break. It was also suggested that the current lighting on Station Road is being impeded by overhanging tree branches and that this should be arranged to be cut back.

12. **Memorial Bench**

Due to time constraints this item was agreed to be postponed until a future meeting.

13. **Traffic and Parking**

The Clerk read out a letter from a local resident who had recently written to the bus company following difficulties the bus had had in navigating the George bend. It was agreed that the Traffic and Parking report, which was commissioned in 2016 and which highlighted potential solutions to improve the traffic flow/parking situation in that particular area, be revisited. The Clerk agreed to forward the report to all members with a view to digesting its contents over the summer in order to discuss it once again at the Parish Council meeting September. In the meantime, Cllr Powell agreed to speak to residents of Church Cottages, some of whom are fairly new to the area, advising them of the spots where parking can cause problems.

Cllr Powell reported that he had submitted a complaint to KCC regarding the visibility on the A225. The grass verges have been since cut but the hedges are still obscuring the view of the highway.

He also reported that he had been in discussions with KCC about reducing the speed limit on this stretch of road but KCC do not consider this a priority due to the lack of fatalities. He confirmed that he would take this up once again with Roger Gough and with Irene Roy. This should form part of the HIP, which shall be compiled following Traffic and Parking discussions at September's meeting.

14. **Resilience Plan**

An Emergency Plan is currently available on the Parish Council website although it has since been updated. The updated version is still in draft form but once signed off, can be uploaded. The new plan gives details of individuals who are available to help in the case of an emergency and how and to whom information should be cascaded. Another meeting of the Resilience Team is required in order to finalise the plan, which can then be signed off by the Parish Council and published on the website/made available to the public.

A motion to extend the meeting past 10.00pm was passed.

15. **Correspondence/Information**

- a) A request for financial assistance has been received from Citizens Advice North and West Kent although it was RESOLVED to defer this item until the next meeting.
- b) A letter of thanks has been received from one of the school children at Shoreham Village School in respect of the financial assistance recently given.
- c) Notification of the proposed disposal of part of Pilots Wood, currently registered as an Asset of Community Value, has been received.

16. **Financial Matters**

Accounts/Payments: Payments as per the schedule were authorised.
Bank Signatories : Cllrs Blamey and Histed agreed to be added as signatories to the bank account.

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

- a) Planning Meeting (if required) : Wednesday 17th July 2019, Shoreham Village Hall
- b) Planning Meeting (if required) : Wednesday 7th August 2019, Shoreham Village Hall
- c) Planning Meeting (if required) : Wednesday 21st August 2019, Shoreham Village Hall
- d) Planning and Council Meeting : Wednesday 4th September 2019, Shoreham Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.05pm
Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council