

PENSHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 October 2017 at 7.45 pm in Penshurst Village Hall

1. **PRESENT:** Cllrs A Campbell (Chairman), I Carson, J Cass, S Frederick, J Horsford, J O'Shea, R Rees, B Townsend
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr J Broadhead

In attendance: SDCLlr Mrs S Coleman, Mr P Johnson (Neighbourhood Watch and Alms Houses), KCCLlr P Lake (Part),

Declarations of interests in agenda items

If a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item of business this must be declared at the start of the meeting, unless dispensation has been granted. The member may not participate in any discussion, vote or discharge any function related to that business.

Non-pecuniary interests may be declared at this point if not already registered. Members with a non-pecuniary interest may speak on the subject if members of the public can do so but may not vote. **NONE**

3. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 4 September 2017**, having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

a. **Defibrillator:** Cllrs Carson and O'Shea confirmed they had five volunteers to date, the Chairman was prepared to attend training, two more places were available.

b. **Hedgecutting:** Poundsbridge area hedges and Rogues Hill. ED had written to householders identified as not complying with highway requirements for hedge maintenance, issue deferred to next meeting.

c. **Long Bridge Hedge:** Cllr Horsford was dealing with the treatment of vegetation. ED ordered signs to warn drivers of pedestrians using bridge area, one had been erected, a further sign would be erected when the area had been cleared after the sheep currently grazing were moved.

d. **Surgery Parking:** Cllr O'Shea had discussed the parking situation with a member of the practice and had advised that they were permitted to re-paint the lines if they wished to. No problems had been experienced to date.

e. **Litter Bins:** Cllr O'Shea to update on current situation. Quotation received of £300 to remove, clean, sand, prime and paint five units. ED had asked J Cox of Dunbrik for any necessary keys to enable the units to be removed. A quotation of £220 had been obtained from the PC Contractor CWC to weed treat the length of road from Bridge House through to Glebelands, this was approved, ED to action. Lengthsman to be asked to clear weeds after treatment completed.

OPEN SESSION

ED to ask for information on plans for the tree in the centre of Leicester Square in poor condition. *(ED advised estate have no plans to remove tree but could carry out some limb trimming during the winter.)*

Poundsbridge Lane: ED to check on current position with regard to repairs of road surface/potholes from the Penshurst end of the road through to the Pitcher House, a parishioner had paid £700 towards damage to his car. *(Highways advised new number allocated on 28 September - 305725, work should be carried out from Fordcombe Manor upwards week commencing 8 October and Fordcombe Manor downwards week commencing 15 October.)*

Triathlon: Reports of loud speakers used for music provision during the race were received, the area had been cleared very well after the event which the PC appreciated.

Chafford Park Farm had again held an event at the site the previous Saturday, this was not legal as they had not been granted a licence as yet and the maximum number of TENS had already been used. A licence hearing was adjourned the previous week and would resume on 5 October.

The Chairman confirmed that he would speak at the Planning Meeting when the Polytunnel application was discussed, the PC's final response would be confirmed after the Officer's recommendation had been received.

5. **PLANNING**

Applications:

SE/17/02576: The Gardeners Cottage, Poundsbridge Lane, Poundsbridge, Penshurst: Construction of 20m x 60m equestrian arena to include small amount of cut and fill, new land drains, membrane, stone base, silica sand and fibre

surface. Amendments also received. **PC Support**

SE/17/02111: Land at Salmans Farm, Salmans Lane, Penshurst: Permanent erection of polytunnels at the land at Salmans Farm, with associated landscaping and ecological enhancements. Additional information received being Drainage and SUDS Management and Maintenance Plan.

SE/17/03015: Poundsbridge House, Poundsbridge, Penshurst: Single Storey Oak Framed Garden Room to rear. The PC had nothing to add to the previous response.

Appeals:

SE/17/01548: Redcot, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst: Demolition of existing rear porch, erection of partly one, partly two storey rear extension. Alterations to fenestration and new bi-fold doors set within existing front porch structure.

SE/17/00825: Land South of Vine Cottage, Grove Road, Penshurst: Conversion of existing barn to a dwelling.

Tree Surgery:

SE/17/03046: Longford, High Street, Penshurst: Works to various tree in Conservation Area.

Decisions:

SE/17/02472: 1 Latymers, Penshurst: Alterations to windows in front elevation, side elevation and enlarging existing window and door openings in rear elevation. **GRANTED**

SE/17/02036: Chafford Park, Chafford Lane, Fordcombe: Change of use of 2 agricultural barns to D2 (wedding functions) with associated car parking and external lighting. **GRANTED**

6. REPORTS:

b. Sevenoaks District Councillor: Cllr Mrs Coleman confirmed the Chafford Park Farm licence application would continue consideration on 5 October, the earlier meeting having been adjourned due to a lengthy acoustic report submitted at the last moment. Planning permission for the site had been awarded with associated conditions which must be complied with prior to events being held. An event held the previous Saturday at which both alcohol and music were made available had been visited by officers of the Licensing and Environmental Health departments, they had interviewed a number of the attendees. Further information was awaited as the site had neither a Licence at that points and had already used up all TENs available.

A new member of staff was to be appointed as a joint initiative covering problems with fly tipping in the area, only items dumped on public land could be removed although there was a grey area if rubbish had been tipped from vehicles using a road to do so.

Rural Crime: Cllr Townsend thanked Cllr Mrs Coleman for her help and support with regard to arrangements made for a meeting with officers who had enabled a cross boundary/county group to use work together to disseminate information on possible crime.

Cllr Mrs Coleman had been approached with regard to financial help for updating alms houses, she was acutely aware of the lack of affordable housing in the area and was attempting to assist a homeless couple in Fordcombe which was proving difficult.

Cllr Coleman provided the following reporting facility information: Crime reporting to police:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/kent-police-online-reporting/>

Also to report a non injury accident online:

www.Kent.police.uk/services/report-a-road-traffic-collision/

c. KALC: No report

d. Speedwatch: There were concerns expressed that speed checks were not being carried out in the parish.

e. Alms Houses: Mr Johnson confirmed that the maintenance work had been largely completed to the building, a meeting of all residents and the management would be held on 5 October at which residents could ask any questions.

f. Neighbourhood Watch: Mr Johnson advised three crimes had been reported in the parish during the previous month: tools, a Taylor Guitar and a bag of clothes were stolen from a Vauxhall van parked in the High Street, a 5' long rowing boat plus oars was stolen from land adjacent to a property on Spring Hill, this had been found at a later date at the side of the river, the police had been informed so that it could be returned to its owner. A shed had been broken into, Mr Johnson was asked to check if a crime number had been given to the owner.

g. High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group: In accordance with the NMB communications policy, Review of the discussions at NMB/7 circulated to members. GACC AGM scheduled for 17 November at Copthorne Hotel. Aviation

Strategy: call for evidence circulated to members for information. Peter Barclay is to be the new Chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, he will take over when the present chairman, Brendon Sewill, retires on 15 October.

h. Coach Road Bridge: Mr Johnson checked the measurements of the outward movement of part of the upstream parapet on the morning of the meeting and reported that there had been minor movement of 3mm since the last reading taken in June. The longitudinal movement had also increased by 2 mm giving a separation of the two parts of the parapet of 25.5mm. The gaps are now of concern but should be monitored.

i. Allotments: No report

7. HIGHWAYS:

267923: Fire hydrant - re-siting enquiry. Map obtained showing all parish Fire Hydrants in order to identify which one needed re-location. Cllrs Carson would provide the grid reference for ED.

Old Post Office Penshurst: Highways approached regarding route used by pedestrians leaving the old footpath to go round corner to see if safer pathway could be provided. Highways Inspector advised it would be necessary to compulsorily purchase the land between the entrance arch and the bridge to provide enough width to install a paved area. No further information received.

BT Exchange: ED reported overgrown hedge adjacent to building opposite Penshurst Primary School, work completed.

Sub Station by Forge Garage: ED had reported the overgrown hedge at the site to UK Power Networks for cutting back, work completed.

Road Surface: ED checked regarding accidents which had occurred in Speldhurst on road at junction with Old House Lane. Confirmation from local clerk that notification of recent problems had been received and were being actioned.

300741: Junction Penshurst Road/High Street, Penshurst: Solid white 'STOP' line requested for left hand side of road on approach from Leigh. Highway Response: 'Through analysis of crash data we have established that the existing evidence does not justify any further engineering measures currently at this location. We will, of course, continue to monitor the safety record at this location.'

304617: Road Surface: Between Tubs Hole and Birling Cottage reported to Kent Highways, works being programmed.

Signage: 'Drive Carefully' signage adjacent to Stubbs Wood Farm metal upright rotted, ED to report.

8. FINANCE: The following accounts were presented and approved for payment.

South East Water	Penshurst Allotment Water Fee	£34.38
Tree Fellas	Fordcombe Churchyard Tree Surgery	£550.00
RIP Cleaning Services	Dog Waste Removal	£76.80
Complete Weed Control	Fordcombe Weed Clearance	£182.40
" " "	Fordcombe Weed Clearance	£182.00
(Re-issue of cheque No. 645 paid in August and lost by contractor's bank)		
Mr L Jenner	Lengthsman	£144.00

a. 2018 Meeting Dates: The following dates have been confirmed: **Fordcombe:** 5 March, 8 May, 2 July, 3 September, 5 November - start time 7.30 pm. **Penshurst:** 3 and 16 April (16 April Annual Parish Assembly), 4 June, 6 August, 1 October, 3 December - start time 7.45 pm.

b. Quarterly Accounts: Accounts for July - September circulated to members for information. These were noted.

Precept - Draft Figures: ED provided copies of the first draft of the precept figures for members' consideration.

c. Penshurst Weed Treatment: ED tabled a quotation from the PC's current contractor for approval for weed treatment in the parish from the Bridge House, Rogues Hill area through to Glebelands for the sum of £220. This was approved.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. **SDC:** Information provided by Imago giving numbers of attendees at the Fun Day held in early August on Fordcombe Cricket Ground. Those registering at the event numbered 70 although final figure possibly higher.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a. **Fordcombe Weir:** No further information received regarding the information and public meetings held.

b. **Listed Building Consent:** Confirmation that repairs to a garden building did not require planning permission.

Cllr Lake arrived.

6a. Kent County Councillor. Cllr Lake advised members that some parents were experiencing problems with obtaining bus passes for their children with one family in Fordcombe expected to let their child walk to school through Speldhurst Woods, he was making further enquiries regarding this issue and asked any parents requiring assistance with school appeals to contact him. There was to be a blitz on potholes with £5.52m available to spend by the end of the year on 133600 potholes on 5000 miles of road. Cllr Lake was arranging for a highways officer to visit the parish to inspect the condition of the roads, he wished to bring down the speed of traffic entering Fordcombe from Penshurst and would discuss this with the officer. Cllr Lake would also check availability of information from the interactive speed signs in both villages.

Meeting concluded 8.45 pm

Next Meeting 6 November 2017 - Fordcombe