

## PENSHURST PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1 October 2018 at 7.30pm in Penshurst Village Hall

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

**In attendance:** SDCllr Mrs S Coleman, KCCllr P Lake, Mr P Johnson (Neighbourhood Watch)

#### 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 MEETING HELD ON 3 September 2018**, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

**a. Safe Pedestrian Access in Parish:** ED had provided detailed responses from Speldhurst and Chipstead, both of whom were already operating 20MPH systems, both were generally positive. Further information provided in Cllr Lake's report under Item 6a. ED advised that a parishioner had proposed limiting the lower speed limit to peak travel times.

**b. Litter/Dog Waste Bin: Leicester Square, Penshurst.** ED had contacted SDC with regard to emptying costs of possible new dual-purpose bin, confirmation awaited on final siting. New unit to be sited between dog bone at entrance to church/Leicester Square at the 30MPH sign where pavement at its widest.

**c. Leicester Square Tree:** ED advised estate would deal with issue.

**d. Glebelands Hedge:** ED advised hedge problem had been addressed.

**e. Chafford Weir:** Cllr Campbell confirmed the bales were still in the Medway, Cllr Frederick would advise the landowner.

#### 5. **OPEN SESSION:**

Cllr Lake was asked to check when the resurfacing of the bridges at the bottom of Rogues Hill would be carried out. It was also noted that the resurfaced area was not taken to the edge of the carriageway with gaps of between 9 – 18" having been left in places.

A parishioner questioned the number of visits of the Bulk Freighter for collections, four visits were made during the year in Penshurst and Fordcombe but it was stated Bidborough's freighter attended once a fortnight. ED advised the two systems were under the control of different councils and charged at different rates and schedules.

Dog Fouling was becoming a problem again, it was noted that the worst times were early morning and/or late at night, the introduction of CCTV would be an advantage, ED to contact Dog Warden to report timings for a visit to be arranged.

The lack of outdoor space for children and parents in Penshurst was raised, there were no play areas suitable for use by these groups in Penshurst village. An action group was attempting to find a small plot of land which could be made available for use, plus a petition would be started to gain support. The PC were asked if they would support such a project and possibly provide finance also. Members unanimously agreed they would support the project, ED advised that the new CIL funding would probably cover their project.

## 5. PLANNING

### Planning Applications:

**SE/18/02688: Land North of Daneby Hall, The Lane, Fordcombe:** Demolish existing residential outbuildings, erect one dwelling with garage and associated works. **PC Response:** No objections.

**SE/18/02388: Stables Flats, High Street, Penshurst:** Removed 7 Ground Floor and 2 First Floor windows, replace with wooden casement windows; Repair 2 metal casement and remove 1 timber casement window on first floor, replace with double glazed painted timber door. **PC Response:** Parish Council support and consider that the proposed changes will be a considerable improvement.

**SE/18/02355: Hurst House, Fordcombe Road, Fordcombe:** Loft conversion into habitable space and alterations to existing loft conversion. **PC Support**

**SE/18/02789: The Apple Store, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst:** Removal of Condition 5 (existing dwelling to be demolish and basement infilled and excess materials removed). Of 18/01756 for the demolition of existing dwelling, erection of replacement dwelling with new landscaping and associated works. **PC Support**

**SE/18/02922: Hazel Bank, New Road, Penshurst:** Demolish existing single storey side extension, construct two storey side extension with dormers, two storey rear extension and addition of dormer to side elevation. **PC Response:** No Objections

### Decisions:

**SE/18/02094: Colquhouns, High Street, Penshurst:** Proposed internal/external alterations. **GRANTED**

**SE/18/02163: Garden Cottage, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst:** Demolish existing porch, erect new to front elevation. Apply painted rendered finish to existing brick façade. **GRANTED**

### Tree Surgery:

**SE/18/02888: Lilac Cottage, Rogues Hill, Penshurst:** Various works to Cypress and Juniper Trees

**SE/18/03002: Redleaf, Penshurst Road, Penshurst:** Fell 1 No. beech tree.

## 6. REPORTS:

a. **Kent County Councillor:** Cllr Lake advised that Geoff Bineham was arranging for contractors to install speed/count indicators for 7 days, he would request that these be placed near Glebelands if possible, no further action would be taken without parish council agreement.

Cllr Lake had concerns with regard to children standing on overcrowded school buses during journeys and the consequent danger this caused.

A household waste survey was being undertaken with regard to possible charges being introduced for disposal of soil, rubble/hardcore, plasterboard; information for parishioners to record their responses shown under Item 9a. Cllr Lake was asked to check whether the drainage budget could be delegated to parishes as with the swathe/verge cutting budgets.

**b. Sevenoaks District Councillor: Cllr Mrs Coleman reported:**

**Local Plan** - The Council had about 6,000 responses to the consultation on the draft proposed Local Plan, the bulk of comments related to housing and the 12 "Exceptional Circumstances" sites [sites proposing social and community infrastructure in addition to housing]. 'Which Way Westerham' was the 5th most commented upon site and the most contentious one local to this Parish, all the rest are north of Sevenoaks. Although respondents recognised the need for further housing in Westerham concerns were raised about road infrastructure constraints and loss of the Green Belt.

In comparison, little comment was made on the draft proposed Local Plan policies [only 1,000 responses]. The most 'commented on' policies related to Housing and Mixed-Use allocations, Balanced Strategy for Growth, Transport and Infrastructure, Design Principles and Development in the Green Belt.

Despite National Pressures, the Draft Local Plan continues to protect 99% of our existing Green Belt and the rural nature of the District whilst creating new space for jobs, retail, leisure, and open spaces. Although meeting development needs is a key aim of the plan, the Council are putting equal value on the varied and distinctive places that make up the Sevenoaks District.

I am trying to fix a meeting for myself and representatives from Penshurst Parish Council to meet Planning Officers to discuss queries and concerns.

**Invitation to bid for Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL].** CIL was introduced by the Council in 2014 and is a charge on development with the amount being dependant on the size and location of the development. The amount collected can only be spent on infrastructure [e.g. community facilities, transport Schemes, flood defence, improvements to park and recreation grounds, water quality schemes, health and social care] but the Council will not spend CIL money to fund site specific infrastructure to be secured through a planning obligation. When the council held its first CIL Spending Board in May 2018, money was allocated to seven projects. The Council are currently inviting bid submissions and the Parish Council should have been sent information on the procedure. Bidding is open until 5pm on Monday 29th October and Simon Taylor, Planning Officer [Planning Policy] is the contact point for queries and further information. The next CIL Spending Board will meet on Tuesday 18th December 2018.

**Community Safety Consultation**

Officers have been consulting with Members on the Community Plan and seeking their feedback and suggestions to improve aspects of community safety, care and support for all ages, the Green Environment, Health issues and encouraging a Dynamic Economy. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on these matters, please share them with me and I will pass your feedback on.

**Council Sponsorship of a Theatre Production on Living with Dementia**

The Council are supporting and sponsoring two theatre production from the Riverside Players which address real life situations faced by people diagnosed with, living with and coping with Dementia as a family. It is a good opportunity for the public to gain valuable insight in how to support people living with dementia and what community support services are available. Both productions will be held on Saturday 3rd November at The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. At 4pm 'Chocolate Muffins' will be shown followed, at 5pm by 'Bothered and Bewildered'. Tickets are £10 each [£7 concessions] and money raised will support Eynsford and Farningham Dementia Café.

**c. KALC:** No report

**d. Neighbourhood Watch:** The e.watch report indicated only one crime between 3 and 30 September, high value tools had been stolen from a residential garage on Smarts Hill. Three crimes had been reported by

residents including a possible attempted theft of a parcel which a resident retrieved from someone on her property. Signage left in verges after recent roadworks was still being left by contractors some time after the work and contractors had left site, ED to report. Advertising posters should be removed by a week after the event from the yew hedge in Penshurst.

**e. High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group:** Problems with the Noise Management Board were being addressed.

## **7. HIGHWAYS:**

**330353: Sunken pavement between Latymers Lodge** and rubbish bin, opposite Colquhouns Cottage. No further action planned.

**343931: Coldharbour Road Near Cooks Wood:** Blocked gulley, work logged and job raised on 16 March after inspection for action, still no update.

**341237/300371 (51966694): Rogues Hill/Poundsbridge Lane & Meadow Wood/Marlpit Drainage:** Unscheduled cleansing order issued - 20 April - in two sections to carry out clearance work within 28 days. Reported again under Ref: 366940, ED advised arrangements were being made for audit of clearance work carried out by contractors to be undertaken, now ED advised only 12 of the 18 listed gulleys/drains had been found. Arrangements again made for Inspector to meet on site with parishioner to show where the missing drains are located, contact numbers provided, still nothing heard to date.

**351968: Blocked drains/gullies - Star House, Birches, Petresfield.** Gulley scheduled to be cleaned after inspection on 16.4.18, still no work carried out. This issue had been reported again by a resident, still no work had been carried out. Wording now changed to Scheduled to be cleaned.

**348665: Blocked Drains Poundsbridge Manor/Bullingstone Cottages:** Drains/gullies blocked. Work now noted on website as completed on 4 April 2018. The first two had been cleared but the third was not up to the same standard.

**Telegraph Pole:** Highways contacted regarding imminent harvesting work, offer to remove telegraph pole to be passed on to Openreach by highways officer.

**376024: Sandfield Road – Colliersland:** Scheduled for clearance as of 8 August 2018.

**376022: Glebelands to School:** Scheduled for clearance as of 8 August 2018

**Fly-tipping:** ED to report fridge tipped on verge area adjacent to road down Poundsbridge, this was blocking the ditch.

**Leaf fall:** ED to ask Lengthsman to take particular note of gutters during autumn season, particularly under yew hedge at High Street junction.

**Drainage Inspection:** The condition of the drainage in the parish was giving cause for concern, a report was awaited on current condition.

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

Pallet Handling Penshurst Ltd	Fordcombe Play Area Repairs	£708.00
Castle Water	Warren Lane Allotment Water Supply	£27.50
RIP Cleaning Services	Dog Waste Removal	£76.80
Complete Weed Control (Autumn Treatment)	Fordcombe Weed Control	£182.40
	Penshurst Weed Control	£250.80
Mrs E Divall (Summer Treatment)	Reimbursement of Payments:	
	CWC: Penshurst Weed Treatment	£250.80
	CWC: Fordcombe Weed Treatment	£182.40
	Penshurst Place - Allotment Rental	£7.50
	NJL Services – Bus shelter maintenance	

Warren allotment removal and	
Replacement of fencing.	£890.00
Glebelands Site Line strimming	FOC

**Quarterly Accounts:** Circulated by ED for information, these were noted.

**Fordcombe Churchyard Trees:** Confirmation of PC payment for work to trees would be made after inspection undertaken by members.

**Grants:** SDC information regarding forthcoming grants from £100 - £5,000. Two possible projects might be eligible, a refurbishment project on one of the alms houses and disabled toilets in the village hall.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Kent County Council:** Information regarding Kent Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation 2018. Parishioners' views sought on proposal to charge for soil, rubble, hardcore and plasterboard taken to recycling centres at [kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation](http://kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation) between 6 September and 1 November 2018.
- b. **Royal Mail:** Posters provided for noticeboards regarding scam mail and Royal Mail policy to protect customers.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. **Disabled Parking Bays:** ED advised that before Disabled Bays were introduced the Parish Council would be contacted regarding siting of these, as with the recent parking bay provided in Fordcombe.
- b. **Closed Churchyard Maintenance:** ED confirmed that the parish was responsible for all maintenance costs in relation to the church apart from the church building itself. All mowing, tree/shrubbery work, gravestone maintenance (where no relatives are still living) must be maintained by the parish as the church authorities have applied for, and obtained, closure of the churchyard.
- c. **Well Place:** ED had been advised that the estate was dealing with the issue of speeding on the trackway leading up to the school.
- d. **First World War Armistice Events:** Cllr Rees confirmed plans were in hand for the various events being organised and recorded the thanks of those working on the project for the donation of the Beacon for the event.
- e. **Lorry Movements:** ED to write to landowners on route along Fordcombe Road towards Long Bridge to request hedges be cut back to provide clear road width for lorries using the route.
- f. **Local Plan:** ED to check with Gavin Missons regarding information provided at local presentation.

