

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Mr John Chiverton Chairman  
Mr David Goldhawk  
Mrs Mary Mansell  
Mr Charlie Hill  
Mrs Kathy Wheeler  
Mr Terry Mayne  
District Cllr Stephen Musgrove  
Mrs Pat Clare Parish Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were received from County Cllr Cooksey and PSCO Booker.

### CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

At the start of the meeting Mrs Wheeler was co-opted to the Council. The Chairman welcomed her and thanked her for agreeing to serve on the Council. Mrs Mansell advised Council that Mr Ian Foster will also join the Council at the next meeting in November. **PAC**

### MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17 JULY 2014

One correction for "Outdoor Fitness Centre" - delete the penultimate sentence and replace it with 'Should the installation of the Outdoor Fitness equipment proceed then further discussion is required as to the positioning as this should not encroach on the area used by the children for ball games'.  
One correction in "Matters Arising - overgrown hedges" - this should read A24 and not A4. Subject to these corrections, the minutes were signed as a true record of that meeting.

### MINUTES OF MEETING ON 28 MAY 2014

The Clerk reported a typing error in the section on Finance. The cheque approved for G Burley and Sons for the railings and flagpole was for £7636.80 and not £7635.80 as shown in the Minutes. Also under Finance, the entry for £10 for Dorking Museum should be deleted. This payment was recorded as £10 to Dorking Preservation Society in the 17 July 2014 Minutes.

### MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that the overgrown hedges along the path from the bridge at the brook south of Vigo Lane up to Betchets Green Road on the northbound side of the A24 had still not been cut back. Cllr Monkman confirmed that this was the responsibility of Surrey County Council, and Cll Musgrove agreed to take this matter up with SCC. **SM**

Despite the fact that the graffiti in the subway had been reported on two occasions to Mole Valley District Council, this has still not been removed. There is also a lot of weed growth in the slipway on both sides of the subway. The Clerk will report the graffiti to the MVDC, and Cllr Musgrove will report the weed growth in the subway to SCC. SCC had been advised about the missing mirrors but they have not been replaced. The Clerk will contact the Structures Department of SCC again regarding this matter. **PAC/SM**

### AIRCRAFT NOISE

The Chairman advised Council that, on behalf of the Council, he had addressed strongly worded concerns about aircraft noise to the Gatwick Airport Authorities, GACC, Mole Valley District Councillor Stephen Musgrove, and Sir Paul Beresford, MP, and that notices prompting parishioners to voice their concerns directly had been placed in the Parish Magazine and around the village. Gatwick Airport Ltd recently announced that the trial of the proposed flight path changes had finished. However, in reality this is untrue because aircraft continue to fly over South Holmwood, although to a lesser extent than during the previous months. The consultation period had finished, but Sir Paul

Beresford is urging all residents affected by the new flight paths to now write to the Civil Aviation Authority. In order to try and encourage residents to do this, an article will be placed in the September newsletter. GACC has advised that they are planning a Protest Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, 22 November. Further details will follow. **PAC**

### **VILLAGE HALL**

Mrs Mansell stated that the funds had been transferred to the Village Hall Account. However, the rent is still being paid to Mr Peter Bray who will transfer the funds to the Village Hall Account as they are received. He will continue to be responsible for any repairs to the hall. The gutters around the building have been cleaned, and a leak in the roof has been repaired. The gas certificate for the cottage is in hand as is the decoration to the bedroom. Mrs Mansell reported that bookings have picked up.

### **PLANNING**

The Clerk reported that there were no new applications. She advised that SCC approved the application for the Swires Farm composting facility.

She reported that a proposal by the Mole Valley Executive that parish councils should no longer be able to call-in planning applications so they are discussed openly by the Development Control Committee, rather than solely by the planning officers, was rejected.

### **PLAYGROUND**

The Clerk reported that the dog bin has been moved from the playground to a new location near the church noticeboard. The new noticeboard has been sited at the entrance to the playground.

The Clerk reported that she had received prices from Wicksteeds for the work they had recommended for the medium risk hazards following their risk assessment of the playground:

|   |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| Traditional Swing area - black safety tiles need replacing - medium risk    | ) | £7013.40 inc VAT |
| Bay and Cradle swing area - black safety tiles need replacing - medium risk | ) |                  |
| Non-bump see-saw - needs repainting - medium risk                           |   | £480.00 inc VAT  |

An email had been received from a resident regarding the deep drop off at the end of the slide, which was considered a hazard. Council asked the Clerk to obtain prices for a safety surfacing underneath the drop-off. **PAC**

Mr Goldhawk confirmed he regularly walks through the playground to see all appears to be in order.

### **OUTDOOR FITNESS CENTRE**

The Clerk reported that we now had Wicksteeds' prices for this sort of equipment. Also they had confirmed that safety surfaces will be required underneath the equipment. The insurance company had been contacted about the effect the use of this equipment by older people would have on the insurance premium, but no reply has been received.

Mr Goldhawk stated that there were three points to be considered before Council should proceed with this project: 1, Measure the support for this facility, 2, the cost, and 3, the location of the equipment. The Chairman proposed that Council seek some tangible response by putting an article in the newsletter. This was seconded by Mr Goldhawk. Four councillors agreed, one disagreed. **PAC**

In the meantime Mr Hill stated that he will now seek to obtain funding through various sources. The Chairman said that if he was able to secure funding so that the Council would not be required to meet any expenditure, that would present Council with a materially different proposition. **CH**

## WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported that she had requested MVDC to supply 12 poppies. Some will be displayed on the War Memorial railings, and some on the war graves in the churchyard.

Mrs Mansell reported that the new railings have been fitted level, but the ground is not level. On one side they are above the ground as they should be, but on the other side the ground is touching the bottom rail. She proposed that, when funds allow, there should be half slabs fitted all the way round under the railings so that the grass does not grow over them. In the meantime, Mrs Mansell said she had arranged for a small trench to be dug underneath the railings where they touch the ground. She will speak to Mr Rob Adams of the National Trust about this matter. **MM**

Mr Vic Mansell is responsible for raising of the Union Jack. It has been agreed that as this is the Centenary year of WW1 then the flag would remain raised until after the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## FINANCES

The following cheques were approved for payment: (VAT included where appropriate)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| SLCC publications (Clerk's Manual and Governance and Accountability for Local Councils for Mr Pat Casey) | £58.50   |
| Burleys - additional hedge cut   | £72.00   |
| J W Systems - computer repair  | £12.00   |
| Amazon - replacement printer   | £58.98   |
| Clerk's expenses for 6 months to 30/9/2014   | £82.11   |
| Clerk's salary for 6 months to 30/9/2014   | £1092.00 |
| Inland Revenue - Clerks income tax for 6 months to 30/9/2014   | £273.00  |
| GACC - donation  | £90.00   |
| J W Systems - printer service  | £36.00   |
| 4 Seasons building - installation of noticeboard in playground   | £40.00   |

An invoice from Burleys for £3273.60 (inc VAT) for all their groundwork for the year was rejected, because it was felt that the invoice should only include work which has already been done, and not work still to be undertaken. The Clerk will ask Burleys to issue a new invoice which reflects only the work done. **PAC**

### Financial Statement for period ended 11/9/2014

This was circulated at the meeting showing all payments and receipts to date, and anticipated payments and receipts for the remainder of the financial year. The Clerk reported that Mr Jack Straw of MVDC has advised that the Infrastructure Levy of £1445.76 was now available and he was arranging for the Council to receive this payment. He had agreed that it could be used towards the cost of replacing some of the safety surfaces in the playground. In view of the additional finance which we are assured is now available from the Infrastructure Levy, the Council's decision is to arrange for the work to go ahead to renew the safety surfacing under two swings and repaint the see-saw. **PAC**

|                     |                  |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Resurfacing         | £7,013.40        |                     |
| See-saw             | <u>480.00</u>    |                     |
|                     | £7493.40         |                     |
| Less VAT            | <u>£1,248.90</u> |                     |
|                     | £6,244.50        |                     |
| Infrastructure Levy | <u>£1,445.76</u> |                     |
|                     | <u>£4,798.74</u> | Cost to the Council |

Proposed by Mr Mayne and seconded by Mr Goldhawk. All in favour.

The question was raised in the Parish Newsletter why the Holmwood Council Tax was higher than other parishes of a similar size and Mrs Mansell produced a document explaining the reasons.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Jubilee Tree - Mr Rob Adams of the National Trust had reported that the seat under the tree had been so damaged that it had now been removed. The Clerk had written to Mr Tom Wynn of MVDC to see if he had a spare bench which could be sited there, but she had not received a reply. Mrs Wheeler stated that a seat was being purchased in memory of Miss Prue Stern, (a long time resident) and it seemed an appropriate place to put the seat under the Jubilee tree. Mrs Wheeler will follow this up.

**KW**

Newsletter Mr Mayne asked that an article be included in the September issue about the dog fouling in all areas of the Parish. He also reported that the National Trust has a notice in front of Abinger Church pointing out the dangers of allowing dogs to foul the area. He suggested that the Clerk write to the National Trust, asking them to place a similar notice on the common in South Holmwood. **PAC**

Crime Figures These had been received from PSCO Booker, and showed figures over a 4 month period. These included:

Theft of a complete pulverizer from a demolition site in Mill Lane.

Driver alerts issued - four for excess speed and one for non-use of a seat belt.

Dwelling Burglary where jewellery, money and clothing was taken.

Church burglary - but nothing was reported stolen.

Drug offences - three concerning cannabis

Criminal damage - scratch marks to vehicle parked outside block of flats.

Fire (arson - barn in Folly Lane

Mental health incident - emotional male jumping in front of cars on dual carriageway

Sexual offence - male exposing himself to a female.

Litter Bin Mrs Wheeler pointed out that there is a lot of litter around the area of the Church Drive and that there should be an additional bin. Cll Musgrove will investigate. **SM**

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 6 November, 2014.