

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2014

Present: Mr John Chiverton Chairman
Mr David Goldhawk
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mr Charles Hill
Mr Tim Gamblen
Mr Terry Mayne
Miss Caroline Salmon District Councillor
PC Jo Dootson Attended part of the meeting

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr Stephen Cooksey

Before the meeting began, the Chairman advised on a change in the Agenda. Item 5 on Finance would be moved to after the item on the War Memorial.

MINUTES

ACTION

An amendment was made to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 November 2013. On the section for the War Memorial, the following was added: "It was agreed that the £2025 held on deposit would be used towards the cost of the work." The Minutes were then approved and signed as being a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

A24. The mess left on the footpath following the reduction in height of the fir trees has still not been cleared despite Stephen Cooksey's request. Clerk to chase.

PAC/SC

Mary Mansell to chase the fixing of the reflectors to the new posts by the subway,

VILLAGE HALL

Mary Mansell had nothing to report other than to say that she hoped to be able to pass onto Mr, Bray £2000 at the end of the financial year for the building fund. This will be from the receipts for the bookings.

PLANNING

Decisions Made

Scammells Corner, Red Lane - Erect new pool house at rear of dwelling - APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS ON 22/12/13

40 Warwick Close - Amendment to approved planning permission - change kitchen window to doors and move rear windows on ground and first floor to east elevation. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS on 2/12/2013

Grandon Lodge, Horsham Road - Erection of replacement dwelling and conversion of outbuilding to dwelling. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS on 2/12/2013

Brook End, Blackbrook Road - Erection of single storey rear infill extension. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS on 14/1/2014

Applications

Dorking Tyre Services, Horsham Road - Change of use of ground floor office to holistic therapies. Submitted on 29/11/2013.

Pat Clare reported that the National Trust had written to Mole Valley objecting to this application on the grounds that the applicant claimed there were allocated parking spaces in the car park for their clients use. However, the Trust pointed out that the car park was there solely for the use of visitors to the common. Pat Clare said she had also written to Mole Valley in support of the National Trust's comments.

Other Planning Matters

Swires Farm - There had been a reapplication to Surrey County Council for the Green Composting Plant, but from studying this document there seemed to be little difference from the previous application which was turned down. It was agreed that Pat Clare would write again outlining the Council's concerns which had not changed.

PAC

Redlands Farm, Mid Holmwood - Mole Valley had issued their Housing and Travelling Sites Plan stating that over 100 homes could be built there. Pat Clare will write on behalf of the Council to Mole Valley objecting to this development on the grounds that the site is within an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty" and therefore unsuitable for redevelopment.

PAC

Green Belt Review - South Holmwood - Mole Valley has also suggested a slight change to the Green Belt in the area of Folly Lane. Currently there are three buildings comprising a barn and cowsheds in the Green Belt area, and it was felt no change should be made as it makes a lot of sense for the farm buildings to remain in the Green Belt Area. Pat Clare will write to Mole Valley commenting to this effect.

PAC

Solar PV Farm at land either side of the A24 to the west of Beare Green - Council agreed that this proposed development was inappropriate in the Green Belt, and agreed that Pat Clare should contact Jackie Coke, Clerk to Capel Parish Council, so see how they would like us to support them in their campaign to oppose the development.

PAC

PLAYGROUND

Pat Clare advised that Wicksteeds had sent their report following the annual safety inspection and risk assessment on the playground in December. No item was high risk, but there were a number of items of medium risk. These were:

Climing Frame Igloo - 6 finger traps caps missing from the underside.

Traditional Swing surface - gaps in the tiles and evidence of debris and algae growth on surface.

Cradle Swing surface - sinking of tiles and evidence of debris and algae growth on surface.

Sputnik - corroded and repainting suggested.

Grass areas very waterlogged.

One seat has been vandalised and repair recommended.

Dog access is not physically prevented and inspection should include monitoring and removal of animal faeces.

The report was discussed by Council. The problems with the tiles usually improve when the weather gets warmer, and it was suggested that the annual inspection should be carried out in June instead of December. Pat Clare will arrange for a further inspection to be done in June when it is hoped some of the problems will have improved.

PAC

Pat Clare had met the Wicksteed's rep and discussed the work required. She had also obtained a brochure of equipment and prices. It was agreed at this time no finance is available to do much, but Council agreed that the Sputnik should be repainted at a cost of £358 plus VAT when the weather improves. This was proposed by Tim Gamblen and seconded by David Goldhawk. Pat Clare will arrange for this to be done later this year.

PAC

Mary Mansell had received a quotation for £228.50 from 4 Seasons Building Services for the repair of the broken seat. As the concrete seat and oak backing is in excellent condition, and concreted well into the ground, it was considered advisable to keep the original seat as it will cost more to dismantle and replace it. The quotation for the notice board with 4 coats of undercoat, 4 coats of primer and 4 coats of gloss was £175. Mary Mansell proposed that we go ahead with the repair of the bench and the purchase of a new notice board. This was seconded by Tim Gamblen, and there were no objections. Mary will arrange for this to be done.

MJEM

It was agreed that when Burleys are asked to pressure clean the surfaces in the playground later this year, they should also pressure clean the wooden seats.

PAC

The seat that Council have been offered by Tony Wynn of Mole Valley District Council would best be placed in Betchetts Green Road where the backless benches are situated. Pat Clare will write to the National Trust seeking their approval.

PAC

Mary Mansell informed the Council that back in the early 90's a resolution had been passed to the effect that the playground would be a Wicksteeds playground, whereby all equipment and inspections including any repairs other than groundwork should be carried out by Wicksteeds. The groundwork would be carried out by Burleys. If the Council at any time wished to look at other playground suppliers then a new resolution would have to be passed.

WAR MEMORIAL

Mary Mansell reported that she now has prices for the railings - £5220, £6346, and £21,900. She recommended that we go with the quote from Burleys for £6346. This will include a new flag pole. Tim Gamblen proposed that we go ahead with the railings and Terry Mayne seconded this and all agreed. Pat Clare will advise Burleys to do this work. Burleys are also looking into the cleaning, possibly using a cherry picker to brush wash the memorial, so that the lettering is not erased or damaged. They are talking to English Heritage about this. The cost of this could be about £2000 - £2500. In the meantime Mary has instructed Burleys to do the hard path, and repair the steps at a cost of £3110 plus VAT. The total cost of all the work to the memorial could be in the region of £12,000. Council already has £2025, there is also finance available in Council funds, but Mary will look at other ways to raise the money for the balance. Stephen Cooksey had sent an email stating that further funds might be available from Surrey County Council, and Mary will speak to him about this.

MJEM/PAC

Terry Mayne reported on the work he has been doing researching the names on the War Memorial and elsewhere. He is making good progress, but still has a lot more to do. Once complete, this research could probably be included in a book, and an abbreviated form of the text will be added to the website.

TM

FINANCE

The following payments were agreed:

| | | |
|------------|--------|---|
| Pat Clare | £30.85 | Parish Council's website on the Weebly area |
| Wicksteeds | £72 | Playground inspection |

Council approved the transfer of £2025 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account, so these funds can be used to pay for some of the War Memorial costs.

Precept

In order to determine the Precept for 2014/15, these figures were presented to the Council:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Current Account Balance | £5379.76 |
| VAT to be reclaimed | £1447.80 |
| Working balance in Business Reserve Account | £ 406.20 |
| Transfer from Reserve A/C for War Memorial | <u>£2025.00</u> |
| | £9258.76 |
| Less Predicted expenditure Jan/Mar 2014 | <u>£6176.61</u> |
| Working Balance | <u>£3082.15</u> |
| | |
| Council Costs (Estimated) | £7000.00 |
| Possible other War Memorial Costs/Playground | <u>£8500.00</u> |
| | £15500.00 |
| Balance B/F | <u>£3082.00</u> |
| | <u>£12418.00</u> |

It was agreed that a Precept of £12,500 should be requested from Mole Valley District Council. This was proposed by Tim Gamblen and seconded by David Goldhawk. All agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Police Report PC Jo Dootson presented the crime figures for December/January showing that there had been a theft of hub caps from a vehicle in Horsham Road. A burglary of gold jewellery in Warwick Road where a dog flap was used to hook up keys left in the house. A front number plate and glass from a wing mirror were stolen from a vehicle.

There was an accident at the junction of Warwick Road and Horsham Road, with only minor injury to one of the occupants. PC Jo Dootson said that only accidents where there had been injury are called "accidents".

Road Enforcements for the period were 283 on Horsham Road, 43 on the A24 (northbound), and 115 on the A24 (southbound at Beare Green).

A24 Mary Mansell reported that a section of the footpath between the Old Schoolhouse and up to the church had been divided into a pedestrian/cycle track. She could not see the point of this as it was such a short distance, and the camber of the footpath is such that cyclists could be thrown towards the road along the section in front of Old School Place.

Grit Bin Betchetts Green Road - Terry Mayne said that the bin had been replaced but put on the side of the road so that you had to get into the ditch to get to it. He will attempt to get it put in an appropriate place, but Pat Clare will also advise Stephen Cooksey of this to see if he is able to arrange for the new bin to be put where the original one had been located.

TM/PAC/SC

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13 March 2014 in the Village Hall, but at a different start time of 7.30 pm.