

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013

Present: Mr David Goldhawk Acting Chairman
Mr Vic Mansell
Mr John Chiverton
Mr Tim Gamblen
Mr Terry Mayne
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mr Charles Hill (after co-option to be Council)

Mr Stephen Cooksey SCC Councillor

PSCO Zuzana Sucha Attended part of the meeting

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Salmon

MINUTES

ACTION

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 December 2012. These were approved and signed as being a correct record.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

David Goldhawk proposed that Charles Hill be co-opted to the Parish Council. This was seconded by John Chiverton, and unanimously agreed at the meeting. Pat Clare will notify MVDC of this co-option.

PAC

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 6 DECEMBER 2012

Jubilee Oak Tree - Having asked Councillors at the previous meeting if they would help with clearing of the ground underneath the tree, Mary Mansell reported that only her husband (representing her) undertook the work. She suggested that some sort of plaque indicating what the tree is and how it came to be there should be mounted on the tree or on the bench adjacent to it. She will talk to Rob Adams of the National Trust about this matter.

MM

A4 Subway Lights and Mirrors - The lights are now all working. Stephen Cooksey will try and sort out the problem concerning the mirrors.

SC

VILLAGE HALL

At the previous meeting Mary Mansell reported that the roof at the rear of the Hall was in a very bad state of repair and she had given instructions to Ian Parsons to make good the damage. Since then, the repairs done have resulted in even more work being required. In addition the chimney on the cottage had been found to be dangerous and needed immediate work to rectify the problem. The roof has been made temporarily watertight. The work to the roof and the chimney has resulted in a

very large bill of £17,000. £4000 from the rent of the cottage has been used to pay off some of this debt, but this still leaves £13,000 outstanding. The builder has agreed to accept £800 per month (from the rent received for the cottage) until the bill has been repaid but this is going to take a long time, and there is concern about any more urgent repairs that may be needed over that time.

The roof will still need to be completely stripped and replaced at some stage, and the trustee, Peter Bray, will try and get a grant for that work which may be in the region of £20,000.

Mary Mansell believes that at the end March she may have £1000 available in the Village Hall funds to go towards the bill, but she is asking Council if they would consider a donation to these costs. David Goldhawk suggested that a decision about a donation should be made after the discussion on finance later in the meeting.

Stephen Cooksey was asked if it is possible to apply to Surrey County Council for grants retrospectively for this sort of work, and he believed it was possible. He offered to investigate this for the Council and advise on the matter in due course.

SC

PLANNING

The following matters were discussed:

Notified Decisions

32 Warwick Close - Erection of 1 dwelling adjoining property - WITHDRAWN.

Kuoni Gardens - Erection of 2 detached dwellings - WITHDRAWN

3 Orchard Cottages - Erection of single storey rear extension - APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.

Applications Registered

32 Warwick Close, Sth Holmwood - Erection of new semi-detached dwelling on land to the side of property. The previous application was withdrawn and a new application has been submitted. The Council will lodge a second letter stating the concern they have about the anxiety neighbours have, about the overdevelopment of the site, and that if this planning was approved, it would set a precedent for future applications in the area. Parking is a serious problem in the area, and the application does not appear to make any reference to off-street parking.

PAC

Lodge Farm, Lodge Lane, South Holmwood - Raise eves height of building No2 and change use to tyre fitting and supply batteries/brakes/wheel alignment. Change use of building No 1 to office/workshop and storage. The Council had no objection to this application.

Footpath to the side of 1 St Austell Place, Warwick Road - this application gave prior notification for the installation of a DSLAM telecommunications cabinet.

FINANCE

Pat Clare presented figures showing the funds currently available to meet any outstanding expenditure for 2012/13, and in the light of these figures, Terry Mayne proposed that a donation of £2000 be paid to the Village hall, and this was seconded by John Chiverton. There were 6 agreements to this proposal and one abstention.

It was predicted that by the end of the current financial year, expenditure will have amounted to £15,219. There had been some exceptional expenditure at the beginning of the year in connection with the Jubilee celebrations, and a donation of £2000 to Friends of St. Mary's. Mary Mansell retired from her post as Parish Clerk after many years, and she was awarded a Clerk's Gratuity of £1186. There had also been a donation in May of £1091 to the Village Hall to cover building works. It had been hoped that the precept would be reduced this year, but following discussion by the Councillors, Terry Mayne proposed that the precept for 2013/14 should remain at £12,000. This was seconded by John Chiverton. There were 6 agreements to this proposal and one abstention. Pat Clare will now submit the form to MVDC requesting £12,000.

PC

PLAYGROUND

Rob Adam of the National Trust has now planted two disease resistant elm trees in Betchetts Green Road.

Burleys have quoted a price of £240 + VAT for the work to reduce the height of the hedge between the playground and the church from 6-8' to 4-5'. It was agreed that the lowest it should be cut down to is 6', and Pat Clare will contact Burleys to see if they will quote a reduced price as less work will be needed for this height.

PAC

Wicksteed's inspection report on the playground has been received and David Goldhawk reported on this. Finger trap caps are missing from the top frame on the climbing frame igloo. These will be purchased from Wicksteeds at a cost of £4.92. Wicksteeds recommended that the see-saw be repainted to help prolong the lifespan of the unit. Pat Clare will ask Wicksteeds for a price for this work to be carried out. One of the seats in the area has been vandalised and needs spare parts replaced. Pat Clare will investigate whether these can be obtained from the manufacturer. The operators sign needs to be updated, and Mary Mansell will make enquiries to see what it would cost.

PAC / MM

WAR MEMORIAL

Vic Mansell said that he had failed to make any progress on the improvements required to the War Memorial and felt he was unable to make any headway in the future. Pat Clare will arrange to see Rob Adams to see if the National Trust would be happy for groundwork to be carried out. Terry Mayne offered to repaint the railings with Hammerite, along with two other volunteers. The question of insurance was raised while this work was being done, and Pat Clare will contact the insurers to see whether the existing insurance will cover this work. Once this is sorted out, the

paint will be purchased by the Council so that the painting can be done later on in the year when the weather is better.

PAC

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Police Report - PCSO Zuzana Sucha reported on the figures for South Holmwood as at January 2013 showing that there had been one crime in Mid Holmwood (theft of copper piping), and four crimes in South Holmwood (theft of a phone, theft of a rear registration plate from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle within family members, and a communication offence involving family members).

Terry Mayne raised the question of what to do about the scam emails he had been receiving from a number of banks. Zuzana Sucha suggested that the emails could be forwarded to her so that this can be reported, or to the Surrey County Council Trading Standards who regularly issue the TS @lert emails on different scams going on.

Further discussion took place about the problem of speeding traffic on the A24. In some areas, councillors and residents have been using speed meters to monitor the traffic. If caught speeding, letters were sent to the car owners by the Police. If councillors wanted these to be used in Holmwood, the equipment and training to use it is available.

PCSO Zuzana Sucha was thanked for attending the meeting.

Deepdene Hope Mausoleum - Alexander Bagnal, Tree and Countryside Officer at MVDC wrote to Council stating that there will be a guided tour of the mausoleum on Saturday, 23 March, and Councillors were invited to join the tour. John Chiverton and his wife and Mary Mansell and her husband would like to go, and Pat Clare will notify MVDC of this.

PC

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 14 March, 2013, at 7.45 pm