

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2014

Present: Mr John Chiverton Chairman
Mr David Goldhawk
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mr Charlie Hill

Mrs Kathy Wheeler
Mr and Mrs M Ward (for part of the meeting)

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr Stephen Cooksey

MINUTES

ACTION

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting held on 28 May 2014 were approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 May 2014 needed one correction : Village Hall - "the tenant has signed another 12 year lease" was changed to "the tenant has signed another 12 month lease". After this correction was made, the Minutes were approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

Pat Clare confirmed that she had written to Carolyn Salmon thanking her for all her support and efforts on the Council's behalf during her time as District Councillor.

MM/PAC

Pat Clare confirmed that she had contacted Mole Valley District Council requesting that the young offenders cut the overgrown hedges along the path on the northbound side of the A4. This work has still not been done. The home owners/land owners responsible for the areas of the path where this was a problem should be identified and contacted requesting them to cut back the overgrown hedges.

Pat Clare had put forward Charlie Hill's name as a candidate for the Standards Committee. However, the existing councillors on that committee are willing to continue and therefore Charlie Hill withdrew his application.

Pat Clare had contacted Tasty Tuckers to see if they had identified a suitable area in the village where they could park their van, but no reply has been received.

At the last meeting David Goldhawk proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Bray for his efforts in managing the Village Hall. Pat Clare said she would write to him to convey the Council's appreciation.

PC

The graffiti in the subway has still not been removed, and Pat Clare will chase this up. The question of the mirrors was also raised, and Pat Clare will contact the necessary department to see whether the problem can be resolved.

PC

VILLAGE HALL

Mary Mansell stated there was little to report. Peter Bray is in the process of arranging the transfer of funds to the Village Hall Account. He is still responsible for any remedial work required on the premises. He will organise a gas safety certificate for the bungalow, and the bungalow bedroom has

had a damp problem which is now being resolved. Bookings are down on last year because two main users no longer use the premises, but the hall is still being used.

PLANNING

Decisions Made

Moorfield, Mill Road - reduce crown of beech tree by 2 metres, submitted 11/3/2014. No objections raised by Council. Approved with conditions 26/6/14

Applications

5 Church Terrace, Betchetts Green Road - MO/2014/0723 - erection of two storey rear extension. A number of residents have opposed the application, and it is understood that a new application will be submitted.

The Granary, Brook Lodge Farm - MO/2014/0861 - Prior notification of change of use of existing agricultural building to a residential dwelling.

Swires Farm, Henfold Lane - composting facility. Stephen Cooksey had informed the Council that this matter was to be decided on at a meeting that evening. It is believed that the application will be approved.

PLAYGROUND

The notice about dogs not being allowed in the playground has not been erected because the dog bin has still not been moved. Pat Clare will again contact Jacqui Lee Howes of MVDC to get the matter resolved, requesting that it is moved to the other side of the church drive behind the church noticeboard.

PAC

Wicksteeds have carried out a risk assessment of the playground and their report lists a number of problems:

Traditional Swing area - black safety tiles need replacing - medium risk

Bay and Cradle swing area - black safety tiles need replacing - medium risk

Non-bump see-saw - needs repainting - medium risk

Non bump see-saw safety tiles - recommend monitoring - low risk

Pat Clare will get estimates for this work to be carried out.

PAC

WAR MEMORIAL

It was agreed that the flag would only be displayed on special occasions.

FINANCE

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Dorking Preservation Society	£10.00	Donation
4 Seasons Building	£175.00	Noticeboard for playground
The Image Company	£26.40	Vinyl lettering for noticeboard
Flags, flagpoles & Banners	£69.14	Union Jack
Wicksteeds Leisure	£72.00	Playground risk assessment
BDO	£120.00	External audit

Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31/3/2014

After the last meeting Pat Clare circulated a different version of this document to make it easier to understand.

The annual return report from the external auditors, BDO, was presented to the Council, and was approved.

Receipts and Payments Account as at 17 July 2014

This was circulated at the meeting showing all payments and receipts to date. A total of £2558.20 VAT had been reclaimed in June, and there was now a working balance of £7220.87.

OUTDOOR FITNESS CENTRE

Charlie Hill presented a paper to the Council on this matter, and much discussion took place on whether the equipment would be used by the residents of South Holmwood. It was agreed that the next newsletter would include an item and would seek to get feedback from the residents on whether it was wanted. There was also the problem of the location of the equipment which, if installed in the playground, would take away a space which is used by many young people for football. Mary Mansell reported that she had asked Wicksteeds for information and prices on similar equipment.

AIRCRAFT NOISE

There has been a significant increase in the number of planes flying low over South Holmwood, and this had been done without Gatwick Airport consulting the Council or residents. Only two residents had complained to the Council about the level of aircraft noise in South Holmwood. John Chiverton said that unless a significant number of residents had raised the matter with the Council, it was difficult for the Council to take any action, other than to make residents aware of how they can complain to Gatwick Airport. Kathy Wheeler said it might be possible to get something in the August parish magazine, making people aware of how they can complain. Mike Ward said he would send Pat Clare some publicity material which could be used in the website and in the Council newsletter in September.

PAC

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mary Mansell proposed that two new publications be purchased -
Governance and Accountability for Local Councils, required by Pat Casey
The most recent version of the Clerk's Handbook
Pat Clare will obtain prices of these publications for the next meeting.

PAC

Playing Field Noise - a complaint had been received from a resident concerning an unacceptable level of noise lasting until 7.30 in the morning, emanating from a wedding celebration marquee on the playing field. Pat Clare had written to the National Trust who had authorised the marquee, asking them to ensure that if there were to be any similar events in the future, they would ensure a cut-off time of 11.30 pm. The National Trust said that they were assured by the organisers that they would contact everyone affected by disruption and noise to let them know what was happening and that they would be considerate and would not let the noise disturb any neighbours after a certain time. The National Trust apologised for the nuisance caused but given the assurances received, they felt it was okay for the event to take place. If they get a similar request in the future, it will be carefully considered.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11 September, in the Village Hall, at 7.30 pm.