

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2015

Present: Mr John Chiverton Chairman
Mr David Goldhawk
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mrs Kathy Wheeler
Mr Terry Mayne
Mr Ian Foster
Mrs Pat Clare Parish Clerk

The Chairman reported that Mr Charles Hill has resigned from the Parish Council.

PAC

Apologies have been received from County Councillor Stephen Cooksey, District Councillor Wayne Monkman and District Councillor Stephen Musgrove.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 6 NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes were signed as a true record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

A24 - Some of the granite set edges on the intersection at the bus layby have now been repaired, which hopefully should prevent the flooding in heavy rain in the bus shelter at Betchets Green Road.

Subway - The graffiti was still in the subway but had been increased. The Clerk will again report the matter to Mole Valley District Council. Councillor Stephen Cooksey had been asked to contact Surrey County Council about the removal of the damaged mirrors in the subway. The Clerk will chase this matter up with him. The Clerk advised that following a request to Surrey County Council to install barriers at either side of the subway to force cyclists to dismount, a reply had been received stating that any barriers would need to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, so that the spacing of the barriers would not prevent wheelchair or mobility scooter access. However, SCC said they do not intend to install the barriers. The Clerk was requested to write again saying that 'Cyclist Dismount' signs have been in place for a number of years but are flagrantly ignored by cyclists and therefore do nothing to minimise the dangers and risks to pedestrian users of the subway and asking what action the SCC would be taking to enforce the requirement.

PAC

Heartstart - The Clerk will seek clarification from MVDC concerning the number of people they would expect, as a minimum, in a group attending one of these courses. Once this information is to hand, the Clerk will arrange for publicity about the course to be placed in the Parish Magazine, asking people interested in doing the course to let the Parish Council know. The 2 hour course would be free, but a contribution would be sought to cover the costs.

PAC

Council Computer - J W Systems has advised that a new computer is not needed at present, and that the cost of a maintenance contract for the Council computer and printer would be £99 + VAT.

Forestry Commission - recreational motorcycling - PSCO Pat Booker had replied to correspondence from the Clerk concerning this problem, and advised that PC Mark Tresize, Rural Affairs and Wildlife Crime Officer will be contacting the new Forestry Commission Manager to discuss, amongst other things, the problems concerning recreational motorcycling. Mr Foster pointed out that the motorcycles do not have any number plates, making it pointless to report any incident.

PAC

AIRCRAFT NOISE

The Chairman advised Council that he had asked Mr Foster to look at a proposal received from Gatwick Airport to install a noise monitor in the Holmwood area. Mr Foster reported that if Council were to take them up on this offer, we might not get the location requested, the monitor would be installed for a year, and the results would not be available to the public. It was agreed that the Clerk would refer the matter to Mr Mike Ward of PlaneWrong, to see if they are interested in pursuing this matter.

PAC

Any comments on the lengthy and complex consultation on a second runway at Gatwick, received from the Aircraft Commission, needs to be submitted by February 3. GACC has recently issued a document on how people might respond to this consultation, and MVDC are also looking at the consultation and will be publishing a draft report mid-January. The Council's Executive Committee will be deciding its response to the consultation on the 3 February - the closing date for comments. The issue of airport expansion will be debated a fortnight beforehand at a full Council meeting on 20 January which is expected to give a good indication of the likely response. The Clerk will circulate this response to Parish Councillors so that they can make a decision and draw up a response to the consultation from Holmwood Parish Council. It was pointed out that as not all residents are opposed to the new runway, should the Parish Council be opposing this expansion. In the meantime the Clerk will contact other Parish Council Clerks in the Mole Valley area, to see if their Councils are going to oppose the second runway. Mrs Mansell proposed that if the majority of parish councils, and MVDC, are going to oppose the expansion, then Holmwood Parish Council should do the same. This was seconded by Mr Mayne.

IF/PAC

VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Mansell stated that the damaged fence at the front of the building had been temporarily repaired, but they were seeking estimates for all the fencing to be replaced. Bookings remain steady. If finance continues to accrue, Mr Bray may be able to seek estimates for the roof work.

PLANNING

Decisions Made

The Cottage, Holmwood Park, Mill Road - MO/2014/1592 - Prior notification of erection of single storey rear extension of 5 metres deep and 4 metres high. PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED 5/12/2014

1 Moorfield, Mill - MO/2014/1584 - Loft conversion with 4 roof lights rear and 1 roof light to front roof. REFUSED on 13/12/2014.

Applications

3 Mill House, Mill Road - MO/2014/1692 - Retrospective application for erection of a summerhouse and patio area in rear garden. 5/12/2014

Grandon Lodge, Horsham Road, South Holmwood, RH5 4 LT - MO/2014/1722 - Erection of a detached double garage. 5/12/2014 (Capel Parish)

Swires Farm - Council wrote to SCC on 14 December, setting out comments on the consent conditions 11, 16, 19 and 20, and asking for further details. A reply had been received to this letter. However, Mr Foster pointed out that information was missing and they had not given details of the proposed portacabin which had been requested by the Council. Mr Foster agreed to draft a further letter for the Clerk to send to SCC. **IF/PAC**

Housing and Traveller Sites Plan The Clerk confirmed that this has now been terminated by MVDC, and that they will now prepare a new local plan in line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

PLAYGROUND

The clerk reported that she had referred the matter of the deep drop off at the end of the slide to Wicksteeds for their comments. They had replied that the recommended age range for this type of slide is 4 and above. The slide is safe in general terms and meets the requirements of EN1176. The situation described by the parishioner is quite specific and deals with a user below the age Wicksteeds would expect to see on these slides. It would be the responsibility of the operator of the facility to define the recommended age range. This response from Wicksteeds was sent to the parishioner, who had reported the problem, and he had indicated that Council should not worry too much about it

Mr Goldhawk reported that he continues to inspect the playground each week.

WAR MEMORIAL

Nothing to report.

LOCALISM

Councillors were asked to suggest work which up to now had been done by SCC but which could be organised through the Parish Council. Three items were suggested:

A24 - cutting back of hedges and overhanging branches along the pathways.

Mowing the grass verges in Warwick Close

Clearing of the vegetation in the subway.

The Clerk to obtain costs from Burley for the cutting back of hedges and overhanging branches.

PAC

CHURCH DRIVE

Mrs Mansell reported that the Church Drive is used by people going to the playgroup. The vehicles are being driven over the verges on the side and causing a lot of damage. The Church has been given a price by the National Trust to put posts at intervals along the side of the common, in order to stop the overtaking. It was agreed that if this work is done, Council should obtain a price for the National Trust to put posts along the playground side of the road, up to the corner of the churchyard.

FINANCE

The following payments were approved:

Cartridge Save	£91.32	Ink cartridges for printer
Weebly Website	£62.05	Cost of site for 2 years
Burleys	£492.60	Ground maintenance to 30/11/2014
Burleys	£168.00	Grounds maintenance from 1/12/2014 to end of year
J W Systems	£118.80	1 year's maintenance contract for computer and printer

Burleys had sent a schedule for ground maintenance for the five years commencing 2015-2016 to 2019-2020. The first year totals £2843, and subsequent years show an annual increment of 2.5%. Council agreed that we should accept this new schedule for the 5-year period. This was proposed by Mrs Mansell and seconded by Mr Goldhawk.

PAC

Financial Statement for period ended 6/1/2015

A financial statement presented to Council showed payments made to date, and those which are expected to be made before the end of the year. The predicted balance on 31/3/2015 is £4942.66, £2000 of which is for contingencies.

Precept

In order to calculate the Precept for 2015/16, figures were presented to Council showing the basic costs to run the council, and discussion took place on the likely additional expenditure which the Council will have to make over the year. The projects ear-marked are to lay paving under the railings at the war memorial to stop the grass growing over and the possible supply and erection of stakes along the church drive boundary of the playground. Estimates have not yet been sought for these projects. Mrs Mansell proposed that Council request a Precept of £10,500 from MVDC, and this was seconded by Mr Foster. All in agreement. This amount is a reduction of £2000 on the current year's precept. The Clerk also reported that she has been advised by MVDC that a concurrent grant for 2015/16 of £2455, fixed for two years, is being recommended to the Executive, and will be confirmed to us in February.

PAC

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bus Shelter Councillor Cooksey has asked MVDC to inspect the bus shelter on the southbound carriageway of the A24 by the war memorial which was blown over and is now on its side. The repairs and repositioning of the shelter will be done within two weeks.

PAC

Email from Mr David Lloyd Mr Lloyd has written to the Council suggesting that they might like to explore how they could organise or sponsor some kind of annual "walking for fitness" event. The Clerk was asked to reply that that the Council are not empowered to organise such an activity. However, if he was able to arrange something, Council would be happy to publicise it on the website.

PAC

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 12 March, 2015.