

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2014

Present: Mr John Chiverton Chairman
Mr David Goldhawk
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mrs Kathy Wheeler
Mr Terry Mayne
Mr Ian Foster
District Cllr Stephen Musgrove
County Cllr Stephen Cooksey
PSCO Pat Booker (For part of the meeting)
Mrs Pat Clare Parish Clerk

CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

At the start of the meeting Mr Foster was co-opted to the Council. The Chairman welcomed him and thanked him for agreeing to serve on the Council. **PAC**

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2014

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

MATTERS ARISING

Hedges on A24 - The overgrown hedges along the path on the northbound side had been cut back when the paths had been re-laid. However, the granite set edges on the intersection at the bus layby have not been repaired, and now the camber of the footpath creates a problem with flooding in heavy rain in the bus shelter at Betchets Green Road. Cllr Cooksey agreed to report this matter to Surrey County Council for their attention. **SC**

Subway - The graffiti had been removed following the Clerk reporting the problem to Mole Valley District Council after the last meeting. However, the graffiti has returned and the Clerk will again report this matter. The weed growth in the slipway has been cleared away. After the last meeting, the SCC had been reminded about the missing mirrors who had then replaced them. However, within a few days of their installation, the mirrors had been vandalised. Mr Goldhawk said it was clear that there is no point in keep replacing mirrors only for them to be vandalised within days. He suggested that the next Parish magazine should contain a piece about this problem, with an explanation of why the Council will no longer arrange for them to be replaced. **PAC**

Jubilee Tree - Mrs Wheeler confirmed that the Stern family have agreed for the bench purchased in Ms Prue Stern's memory to be sited under the Jubilee Oak. Since the Parish Council meeting Mrs Wheeler has confirmed that the seat in memory of Miss Prue Stern will be placed elsewhere on the common and another family will be providing the seat to be placed under the Jubilee Oak.

Dog Fouling - The Clerk reported that the National Trust had no knowledge of their noticeboard in front of Abinger Church. However, they were willing to supply some of their posters on the problem if we wished to use them. Mr Mayne said he would take a photograph of the noticeboard so it could be sent to the National Trust. **TM**

Litter Bin - Cllr Musgrove reported that he is in the process of obtaining a second litter bin for Church Drive. **SM**

AIRCRAFT NOISE

The Chairman advised Council that, in his opinion, Council had done all it could. The recent newsletter distributed to all residents in South Holmwood, had suggested they write to the CAA, and pointed them to the Council website where they could find an example of a letter which they could use. The Clerk reported that following the newsletter drop, website statistics showed a significant increase in the number of people visiting the relevant page on the site, which indicates residents are reading the newsletter.

A new pressure group called PlaneWrong had been established and had arranged meetings recently in Capel and Redhill. Both meetings had been well attended with speakers from the CAA, GACC and from the community. Cllr Musgrove stated that residents should continue to report any problems they are having with low flying aircraft to Gatwick Airport as every complaint has to be logged by them, and also to write to the CAA about problems they are experiencing. He also recommended that Councillors and residents should go the forthcoming GACC protest meeting on Saturday, 22 November, at the Apple Tree Centre, Ifield Avenue, Crawley. The meeting starts at 2 pm.

Council were asked by Betchworth Parish Council to consider making a donation to PlaneWrong, but this was rejected by Mr Mayne, and seconded by Mrs Wheeler.

VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Mansell stated the fire alarm had been serviced. The fence at the front of the building had been quite badly damaged, probably by a car. Bookings remain steady.

PLANNING

Decisions Made

The Dutch House, Horsham Road - MO/2014/1043 - Removal of part of existing wall in courtyard to allow installation of Lutyens gate. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS on 9/9/2014

5 Church Terrace, Betchets Green Road - MO/2014/0723 - Erection of part two storey / part single storey rear extension. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS ON 29/10/2014.

Applications

Betchets Green Farm Cottage - MO/2014/1399 submitted on 10/9/2014 - Erection of triple bay detached garage following demolition of log store.

Devon House, Horsham Road - MO/2014/1460 submitted on 9/10/2014 - Erection of 7 terraced houses with parking and bin storage following demolition of existing buildings.

Some discussion took place concerning the Devon House application. It was felt that the proposed development was not in keeping with properties in the surrounding area, and was over-intensive. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write to MVDC expressing these views. This was seconded by Mr Goldhawk. All in agreement. **PC**

The Clerk reported that work on the Housing and Traveller Sites Plan being produced by MVDC had been stopped because the Government had issued new guidelines giving greater protection to the green belt. Cllr Cooksey reported that the present plan was moving in the wrong direction, and MVDC will withdraw the plan at the next Executive and look at how they can deal with it from then onwards. They did not want any site to be taken out of the green belt without the consent of the local community.

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, but she had not had a reply. She had emailed them again and was awaiting their reply.

The Clerk reported that she had instructed Wicksteeds to repaint the seesaw, and to replace the safety tiles in the two swing areas. The work is likely to take place mid November. The cost of the repainting is slightly higher than originally reported as Wicksteeds had not included the cost of black paint. The cost of the resurfacing was slightly less, because Wicksteeds had not included the cost of carriage which had been in the original quotation.

Traditional Swing area - black safety tiles need replacing - medium risk) £6,999.60 inc VAT
Bay and Cradle swing area - black safety tiles need replacing - medium risk)
Non-bump see-saw - needs repainting - medium risk	£492.00 inc VAT

OUTDOOR FITNESS CENTRE

The Clerk reported that, following the appeal in the recent newsletter for residents to indicate whether they would use an outdoor fitness centre, only 4 people had contacted her. Two had replied "No", one had said "Yes", and another had written a lengthy email requesting a lot more information. Mr Hill said he would contact the gentleman concerned. Mr Foster said he had installed six of these facilities in other areas, and advised that in each case, there had to be a supervisor present. It is clear that Holmwood Parish Council would not have the funds to pay a supervisor, and the use would not warrant such a facility. In view of this Mr Foster proposed that we do not proceed with the project. This was seconded by Mr Mayne. All agreed.

WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported that poppies supplied by MVDC had been displayed at the memorial, and some at the war graves in the churchyard. Mrs Mansell reported that a small trench has been dug under the railings, and she has obtained permission from the National Trust to have slabs put all the way round underneath the railings.

FINANCES

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

G Burleys	£ 2,613.00	Grounds Maintenance to 30/9/2014
Image Company	£ 60.00	Newsletter
J W Systems	£ 78.00	Service to computer and additional memory
Wicksteeds Leisure Ltd	£ 492.00	Repainting seesaw - cheque to be sent after work done in Nov
Wicksteeds Leisure Ltd	£ 6,999.60	Resurfacing in playground - cheque to be sent after work done

The Clerk agreed that the cheques for Wicksteeds would not be sent until after the work had been completed in mid November, and passed as satisfactory by Councillors.

Financial Statement for period ended 6/11/2014

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. It is predicted that by 31/3/2015 there will be a balance of £5,049.77, which includes £2000 for contingencies. The Clerk reported that the Infrastructure Levy of £1445.76 had now been received from MVDC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Police - PCSO Booker presented crime figures for South and Mid Holmwood for the last month showing 10 incidents - 2 x criminal damage, 5 x domestic incidents, 1 x fraud offence, 1 x Telecoms offence, and 1 x vulnerable adult incident. There had been several burglaries in the north of the district, and she warned that this type of incident will probably come down to the south of the district. Mr Goldhawk had attended the recent Rural Crime Panel, where it was emphasised that Surrey Police should be contacted without delay if anything untoward happens. He also stated that the speed on the A24 is still a problem, and was concerned that the addition of hatching on the road at Beare Green carried no warning to motorists who were approaching. PSCO Booker said she would report these problems back. The Council expressed appreciation for her attendance at the meeting.

Headstart - MVDC have offered free 2 hour courses that teach basic emergency life support skills. They would like an idea of the level of interest and will then arrange courses at the most convenient locations, ideally with the use of venues being free of charge. Councillors felt this was an excellent idea, but wanted to know more about the size of the teaching groups. The Clerk agreed to contact MVDC to find out more. **PC**

Council Computer - The Clerk reported that she had had serious problems with the computer recently, and had arranged for J W Systems to carry out any necessary maintenance and to add more memory. The computer is now working satisfactorily. However, Mrs Mansell proposed that J W Systems should be consulted about the replacement of the computer as the existing one had been purchased about 5 years' ago. This was seconded by Mr Goldhawk. The Clerk will follow this matter up, and will also ask J W Systems about the costs of a service contract. **PC**

Rural Crime Panel - Mr Goldhawk attended a recent meeting, and reported on a number of matters that were discussed. Various cycle events have caused quite severe tension in the area. Poaching is a serious problem in some areas, including allowing the escape of farm animals. Russ Hill Hotel has a large number of asylum seekers which was causing distress to residents nearby.

Swires Farm - Mr Foster pointed out that there were 21 conditions attached to the approval issued by the Surrey County Council for the composting facility. He suggested that we contact SCC to see how these conditions are being monitored, and to ask for a monitoring report. The Clerk agreed to do this. **PC**

Forestry Commission - Mr Foster said he had written two emails to the Commission about cyclists riding on their land when quite clearly, signs say this is not allowed. He has had no reply. It was suggested that the Clerk report this to PSCO Booker. **PC**

A24 Subway - Mr Foster reported that he is a frequent user of the subway, and cyclists are causing problems. The Clerk agreed to write to SCC to ask if barriers can be put in the subway in the interests of safety. **PC**

Lengthman's Scheme - Cllr Cooksey said there are a number of services provided by SCC which are not carried out very well, for example those dealing with vegetation. SCC will give money to Parish Councils so that they can arrange for this type of work to be done. It was suggested that this should be included on the agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk agreed to send all councillors examples of the type of work which could be considered. **PC**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 6 January, 2015.