

WEST KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Wednesday 26th July 2017
in the Main Hall, Old School, School Lane, West Kingsdown

Members present: Cllr M Stoneham (Chairman), Cllr I Bosley, Cllr Mrs P Bosley, Cllr G Christie, Cllr A Illingworth, Cllr Mrs M Richards & Cllr Mrs J Watchorn.

In attendance: Mrs L Harrison – Clerk to the Council & Mr R Barry – Footpaths Officer and 8 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Land, Cllr Yarnold, Cllr Holdstock and Cllr Codling

Cllr M Stoneham in the Chair.

Members of the Public and Councillors who wish to raise matters

Parking at allotments/Reaction ground:

Several allotment holders raised concerns regarding the Council's proposal to open the main gates at the recreation ground, they were concerned that there might be fly tipping or a caravan parked inside the gates. The Chairman replied that this would be a trial till October where it would be reviewed. This action was a result of a complaint from a resident regarding parking across his drive by users of the park.

Allotment Fence:

The allotment holders asked if they could raise the height of the fence at each end where the shrubs haven't grown so well to stop anyone climbing into the allotments. This was agreed.

Sale of cars:

It was reported there were a number of cars parked along the road, this was not illegal so long as the vehicle is taxed. They could be reported to trading standards if the same person appeared to be selling more than one vehicle.

Planning Committee Meeting

Cllr. Mrs J Watchorn in the Chair.

Declarations of Interest: There were none.

Plans:

SE/17/01945/HOUSE: 164 Hever Avenue: Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a single storey rear extension. Raising the roof to create a first floor and erection of new porch. No comment.

Parish Council Meeting

Declaration of Interest: There were none.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The MINUTES of the Planning Committee held on 28th June 2017 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

The MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th June 2017 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

The MINUTES of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10th July 2017 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the General purpose Committee held on 10th July 2017 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record and any recommendations be implemented.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 10th July 2017 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record and any recommendations be implemented.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

Any Urgent Business

The Chairman ruled that any business received since the despatch of the Agenda, by reason of special circumstances, be considered, in order to avoid any undue delay and have up to date information.

Diary Item: there were no diary items

Footpaths:

SD271 : Hearing to take place on 22nd August at 10am at the Committee Room at the Village Hall, West Kingsdown. The Clerk confirmed that she had placed the notices about the hearing as requested by KCC.

Correspondence:**Hollywood Lane**

It was reported that a resident in Hollywood Lane has cut back their laurel hedge and has dumped the cuttings onto Parish Council land in School Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to the first 6 houses of each side of the lane and ask them not to fly tip into the woods that belonged to the Parish Council. **AGREED**

Recreation Ground

Members discussed the reported parking problem outside the recreation ground by one complainant. It was proposed that the Main gates should be left open during the day, to allow parents visiting the park to park inside rather than outside the two properties by the Park. A concerned resident has commented regarding the parking inside the gates. The area is large enough to have a caravan parked inside. There was also a concern that cars may be parked in that area when the gates require closing and potentially there could be a problem with drivers vacating the area. It would be reviewed in October and the Clerk would ask the caretaker to carry out this extra unlocking whilst he was there locking the pedestrian gate.

Tennis Courts - Gamecock

A quote had been received from Mr Bryan Parsons to weed spray and clear the Tennis Courts for the sum of £35 spray, strim the weeds and blow the court clear of all the arisings. It was proposed by Cllr P Bosley and seconded by Cllr Illingworth to accept the quote, this was agreed.

Shutters at the Pavilion

A - The shutter at the Pavilion is not running smoothly when opening and closing, Ives Shutters have been called out and have quoted the following:

To service all three shutters on the Pavilion @ £78.00 + VAT Each

The side shutter is clipping the window frame. The best option is to cut the corner off the window frame so that shutter has less risk of jamming @ £165.00 + VAT

Total of all works: £399.00 + VAT

B - The Chairman had asked for a quote to add a switch onto the inside and replace the key system

Ives can change a key switch for a normal rocker switch (that can be operated by anyone) @ £62.00 + VAT per switch.

For two £124.00 + VAT

It was proposed through the chair that the shutters be serviced and one rocker switch be added to the Pavilion for the window. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Report from the Old School Management Committee

The Committee has agreed the following improvements to the Old school building:

- Replacement windows in the lobby area adjacent to the Craft Room. Completed.
- Decoration of the lobby area planned for this summer.
- New heating system in the old school building and craft room – due to start 21st August
- Re-pointing of the ridge tiles and valleys of the buildings used by Pre-School, Kings and Dance Studio.

The cost of these works amount to a total of £10,540 and can be paid for by the Management Committee from funds accumulated for future investment into the site.

This will still give the Committee working capital to run the site.

Pat Bosley, Chairman

Finance

Income of £2,631.45 had been received with cheques totalling £18,002.40 to be paid. It was proposed from the Chair that this be approved and payments made. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Gamecock Committee

Gamecock Committee had met on 13th July and the minutes were received. The Committee had discussed the small turnout and the problems of getting more volunteers to join the Committee. Cllr Stoneham proposed that the Gamecock Meadow now be directly managed by the General Purpose Committee. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
The Clerk was asked to write to the Committee members advising them of this decision and thanking them for their support of the Committee.

Football

The Clerk had sent the invoices to the 4 teams due to play on the pitches this Sunday and advised the teams that the clubs will be allowed two friendlies each should they require them with a cost of £25 to pay for line marking.

One club had asked for four matches, this had not been agreed. The Clerk had explained that there is a cost to the Parish Council and that there is also the need to keep the pitches in good condition for the forthcoming season especially with four teams playing. If they all wanted friendlies that would be 16 preseason matches.

RECEIVED**Society of Local Councils Clerks**

Membership is due to be renewed. Members agreed in 2016 they would not renew the membership, if the Clerk on her return to duty, was happy with that decision which she advised that she was.

RECEIVED**101 Kent Police**

It has been confirmed that 101 'online crime reporting' is planned to be live by the 1st September. Further down the line it is hoped that live chat can then be rolled out in the future.

RECEIVED**PCSO**

At recent Clerks meeting the offer of parishes collectively funding a PCSO was discussed due to the lack of PCSOs that Kent police could afford to employ and a number of Parishes suffering from anti-social behaviour problems. The cost of this was being looked into. This was not something that the Council currently wished to consider. It had also not been a consideration in the precept budget setting meeting.

AGREED**Dangerous Bike riding in the Village**

Cllr Richards had asked for the item to be discussed. There had been a lot of complaints about young children on their bicycles and older youths riding their motorised bikes on several roads and the A20. The matter has been reported to the Community Support unit at Sevenoaks District Council, the Community Warden and PSCO Ann Etter. Members noted that the PCSO had spoken to a number of young cyclists in the village recently.

KALC

Notes from a recent Clerks meeting where the Chairman of the Sevenoaks Branch for KALC (Kent Associations of Local Councils) had spoken to encourage more parishes to attend the meetings were received. One of the main issues raised for non-attendance was that the meetings were always held on a Friday night. Members would receive the agendas and if there was a good speaker would consider attending but there was unanimous agreement that holding them on a Friday night did put members off attending.

Office re-decoration

It had been calculated that the office hasn't been repainted for at least 15 years and is looking tired. A quote has been received from Alan Clerk to repaint for the sum of £380.

It was proposed by Cllr P Bosley and seconded by Cllr Christie that the Council accept the quote to re-decorate the Parish Office.

ALL IN FAVOUR**Side Hilly woods**

Cllr Watchorn asked that the trees of Side Hilly Woods be protected by blanket tree preservation order.

ALL IN FAVOUR**Proposed realignment of opening hours at West Kingsdown Library**

The Library Service are reviewing the opening hours of a number of their libraries across Kent including West Kingsdown Library, with the aim of making their service opening hours more attractive to the local community needs.

They are proposing to change the pattern of opening hours. The total number of hours open would remain the same.

The proposed opening hours are based on usage data and staff's knowledge of the local community. This would provide a more consistent service for customers as visitor statistics indicate that the library regularly has minimal visits after 5.00pm. It is anticipated that the proposed earlier opening times would be more convenient to a wider customer base.

Current Opening Hours

Sunday closed
 Monday closed
 Tuesday 12.00-18.00
 Wednesday closed
 Thursday 13.00-17.30
 Friday 9.00-13.30
 Saturday 10.00-14.00

Proposed Opening Hours

Sunday closed
 Monday closed
 Tuesday 9.00-14.00
 Wednesday closed
 Thursday 12.00-17.00
 Friday 9.00-14.00
 Saturday 10.00-14.00

They are engaging with their customers through feedback questionnaires - which are available in the library - to learn their views on the proposals until the 27th of August, during opening hours. Any feedback to be received by the 27th August.

The Council agreed to discuss the matter and agree its response at the next General Purpose Committee.

Matters Arising:**Page 15, Advertising**

The Clerk has sent a long list of advertising boards on frontages and on telegraph poles to SDC and planning enforcement were coming out to West Kingsdown to look at them.

Page 18, Gamecock Meadow

The quotation referred to in this minute was verbal. A formal written quotation has now been received from Able Landscapes as follows:

- To harrow Slit and feed the pitches with a spring and summer feed, or weed and feed £495.00 Single pitch or £900.00 the 2
- Over seeding 120kg per pitch £695.00

Given the substantial disparity between the verbal quotation of £380 and the actual figure quoted above the Council is asked to reconsider this matter. It was agreed that as the season was just starting the work would now have to wait until next summer.

The Clerk was asked to contact Grenville and see if he could fill the goal mouths

DIARY APRIL

Newsletter Items:

Dog Fouling.
 Bikes & motorbikes.
 101 reporting service.
 Parking on pavements.
 Fly tipping at the rear of the shops.

Dates of Next meetings

Planning & General Purpose Committee: Monday 21st August 2017 at 7.45pm at Old School
 Planning & General Purpose Committee: Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.45pm at Old School
 Planning & Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 7.45pm at Old School

Meeting closed at 9.24 pm