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WEST KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7.45pm**
at the Old School Hall, School Lan

Cllr M Stoneham (Chairman, Cllr Yarnold (Vice-chairman), Cllr G Christie, Cllr Miss J Holdstock, Cllr A Illingworth, Cllr Mrs M Richards, Cllr Mrs J Watchorn

3 Members of the public and Cllr Brazier .

Apologies for absence. Cllr P Bosley and Cllr I Bosley, Cllr Codling and Cllr Land

Declaration of Interests relating to items on the Agenda: None.

Members of the Public and Councillors who wish to raise matters.

Pot Holes:

Mr Wicker asked KCC Cllr David Brazier, what the criteria were that meant that one pot hole was filled in and another next to it was not. Cllr Brazier explained that the KCC applied strict criteria so that only pot hole greater than 10 cms in depth were repaired. Cllr Brazier agreed that this was illogical. The Chairman requested that since the matter related to KCC policy should Mr Wicker wish to pursue it further he should do so outside meeting.

Flytipping & litter:

Stansted Lane : litter pick required.

Goodbury Lane : mixed rubbish with name and address on a letter. Clerk to report to SDC

Hills Lane : Black sacks by pond, Clerk to report to SDC.

Noticeboard:

Cllr Richards asked when or if a noticeboard would be installed to replace the broken one in Fawkham Road at the corner of Southfield road. The Clerk was asked to get some quotes for a new noticeboard.

Update from PCSO Jane Wright in Attendance:

PCSO introduced herself to the Parish and explained that the number PCSOs had been halved although the Parish was allocated two PCSOs, herself and Pete Jones. They usually worked opposite shifts and the area they covered was very vast, there had been recent problems with motorbikes and thefts in Sevenoaks and that had dictated where their time was spent. She commented that if a crime has taken place it should be reported to 101. It is then filtered through to them to police or take the relevant action. It also gives Kent Police an idea of problem areas. Cllr Richards commented she had seen youths at the church throwing stones but as she stood and watched the youths had put their hoodies up presumably to avoid recognition. The Clerk reported she had received pictures of damage caused at the recreation ground and allotment area the day before which she would put through to 101

4. Any Urgent Business

The Chairman to rule 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.

5. Diary Item:

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The MINUTES of the annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th June 2018 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 Wednesday 27th June 2018 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 Monday 9th July 2018 were submitted.

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

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 9th July 2018 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that with minute on Affordable Housing amended to read as follows: *A map of the proposed possible sites will be tabled. Update for Members; Tessa O'Sullivan from Rural Action has confirmed the locations on the map and has now started to write to landowners to see if a site can be identified. Cllr Mrs Watchorn expressed concern that Tessa O'Sullivan had been given the go ahead to write to land owners without the matter having been brought back to the Parish Council for it to decide which of the sites was most suitable. She was concerned that for some of the sites an approach to the owner could result in the release of hundreds of acres. It was explained that there were only a small number selected to start the procedure and if members knew land owners could they let the Clerk have their details.* that they be signed as a true record and that 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.

Footpaths:

BR SD292 Mr Barry asked about the obstruction on the Bridle path. The Clerk was asked to check with the London Golf Club.

SD272 Chapel Lane Knatts Valley, users are not using the path but an alternative immediately adjacent path made by farmers. They should be using main path.

Correspondence:**Royal British legion**

West Kingsdown Branch of Royal British Legion and St Edmund's Church are working together to organise various events for the commemoration of the end of WW1 100 years ago. A series of events taking place between Saturday 3rd November and Sunday 11th November to mark this anniversary are being planned:

3rd – Poppy Lunch at the Old School.

6th – 2 to 4 pm. Community Tea party in the Village Hall including singing the WW1 songs such as Pack up your Troubles.

8th – Event at the school to be advised.

10th – WKRBL collecting at the Hever Road shops as usual.

10th – Church Open Day with refreshments. Time to be advised.

11th – Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service.

11th – 3 pm. Service of Thanksgiving at St Edmund's.

It was hoped that the Lord Lieutenant will be able to nominate a Deputy Lieutenant to attend the Remembrance Sunday parade and that it might be possible for a DL to attend one of the other events – either the Afternoon Community Tea or the Service of Thanksgiving at St Edmund's Church.

All events will be publicised in SEKAM, on the village notice boards and through village organisations.

The organisers are not currently seeking any financial support from the Parish Council although the opportunity to use the photocopier at no cost would be appreciated. It is hoped that the Parish Council will formally support these events. Two of the organisers are Parish Councillors. Cllr Martin Stoneham on behalf of West Kingsdown Branch of Royal British Legion & Cllr Pat Bosley on behalf of St Edmund's Church.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Village Hall Management Committee: In the absence of a representative there was no report.

West Kent Extra Youth Services:**Here is the latest update for the youth work being delivered each week at the hut, Gamecock Meadow**

The West Kingsdown club has been having a successful turnout with on average 15 young people turning up each week. Sessional workers have worked closely with them and joined them in detached sessions during the hot weather periods to get to know the young people and gather information about what they want. Mostly they would still like to help gain funding to renovate the 'WKD The bus room' with some new equipment. This is great news as the young people have started to really take ownership and are willing to not only suggest but also be involved in making positive changes.

Sessions have included fun games, training & employment sessions such as CV writing and interview preparation, drug and alcohol awareness, art sessions and food making nights. The response has been good but the engaged young people tend to be the same each week and we are working on getting new young people to join and be involved by working detached at the start or end of sessions to ensure the local youth are aware that we are open and what they can get involved in.

It has been a positive last month and aim to build on this progress.

RECEIVED

Street Name Consultation: Former Stacklands Retreat School Lane West Kingsdown

Sevenoaks District Council has received an application from the developers of the forthcoming housing scheme off School Lane, for a new road name in the scheme. We are now consulting West Kingsdown Parish Council for your views on the new name. The options suggested by the developer are: Aston Drive (or Aston Place / Aston Vale) OR Hailwood Place .

There are two key requirements on the potential choice of road name, in order to comply with national address standards (BS 7666): The names of living people will not be used. The name chosen must not be similar to road names already in use in West Kingsdown. Members are asked to respond back to SDC with their views.

The Parish Council have considered the two suggested names and cannot see a village connection in respect of Aston... or Hailwood... [other than Aston Martin's and Mike Hailwood's connections with motorsport].

The Council did resolve in November 2013 that if the opportunity arose it would wish to remember one of the village's First World War soldiers named on the War Memorial.

The name suggest is that of the most highly decorated soldier; Bombardier John Stigger DCM MM Royal Field Artillery who was killed by enemy fire on Christmas Eve 1916 whilst in action at his field gun [age 22]. The award of his Military Medal [which is one level below the DCM], was announced on 27 October 1916 although, as was most usually the case, no citation was published. On 13 February 1917 it was announced that he had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal [second only to the Victoria Cross]. The citation read as follows: *For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed marked courage and coolness under heavy fire throughout the operations.* The actions which gave rise to this award took place in the later part of the Battle of the Somme. A short biography of John Stigger can be obtained from Cllr M Stoneham.

Prior to his enlistment John worked as a farm labourer in [West] Kingsdown. The Stigger family have lived in the local area since 1796 and John Stigger's nephew John Rand still lives in the village.

It, therefore, proposes that the new street be named Stigger Drive or John Stigger Drive.

If this suggestion is not acceptable the Council have an alternative name to offer.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Street naming Botsom lane: For reference only:

Site: To The Woods Caravan Site Stanwell House Botsom Lane West Kingsdown
KENT TN15 6BN

Conversion of former campsite to mobile home park for permanent residential use of 14 mobile home pitches.

We can confirm the new addressing for the above development. Members commented that they thought the permission on this site was for 12 homes. The Clerk was asked to clarify this.

RECEIVED

Buses:

Cllr Richards informed the Committee that the 429 had a new timetable and she had tried to circulate this to all bus stops and other notice boards. Cllr Richards commented that the post in the layby on Gorse Hill was missing and had not been replaced this would be reported.

RECEIVED

Defibrillator:

The Clerk had applied for and had recently received an email stating that the Council had been successful in obtaining a Defibrillator. The Clerk is now in disunion with the area Co op team regarding having this placed inside the Co Op (the Co op has been first choice to locate it in due to the long hours it remains open and daily) the area meeting was due to take place in August, and the delivery of the defib had not ye taken place. The Clerk to chase.

RECEIVED

Local Plan:

Residents can find out about the draft Local Plan, with proposals for new homes, improved town centres and new facilities, at drop in sessions throughout the summer. The Local Plan is an important planning policy that says what can be built and where and what should be protected up to 2035 and includes the Government's requirement to provide new homes. Sevenoaks District Council will be consulting on the draft Local Pan from Monday 16 July to Monday 10 September. To ensure the Council hears everyone's views, it has arranged six drop in sessions where residents can find out more and what's proposed for their area.

The drop-in sessions are taking place in the following locations:

- Westerham Town Council (TN16 1RB) – Thursday 19 July, 2pm to 8pm
- Blighs Meadow in Sevenoaks (TN13 1DA) – Thursday 26 July, 11am to 3pm
- All Saints Church Hall in Hartley (DA3 8EL) – Tuesday 31 July, 2pm to 8pm
- Waitrose in Edenbridge (TN8 5LN) – Tuesday 14 August, 2pm to 8pm
- Swanley Link (BR8 7AE) – Wednesday 29 August, 2pm to 8pm
- Sevenoaks District Council (TN13 1HG) – Wednesday 5 September, 2pm to 8pm

Once the consultation opens on Monday 16 July, residents can also view the draft Local Plan, and use an interactive map to see what is proposed near them, by visiting www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/draftlocalplan. Cllr Robert Piper, the Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, says: "The new Local Plan is really important - it gives us a once in a generation opportunity to improve retail and local infrastructure and provide new schools, medical facilities and much needed new homes for our children and grandchildren in the years to come. "We're keen to hear what everyone thinks – whether they support the proposals for new homes or if they have comments on the possible sites for new developments.

"I would urge residents to read the Plan and make their views known when the consultation opens from Monday 16 July."

Local Plan background

The plan includes proposals to meet the Government requirement to provide nearly 14,000 homes between 2015 and 2035 to meet local need. The Local Plan prioritises land that has already been built, but to meet the Government requirements, it includes some green-field sites in the Green Belt. Despite the pressure for new homes, the draft Local Plan proposes to protect more than 99% of the District's Green Belt and the rural nature of the District. The Council will publish a final version of the Plan later this year, taking account of the comments from the consultation.

This version of the Local Plan will be submitted to the Government and considered by the Planning Inspector at a public examination in 2019 when there will be another opportunity for residents to raise further comments. If approved by the Government, the Local Plan could be adopted and used by the Council later in 2019.

It was agreed that the Council would meet on Wednesday 22nd August to discuss the local plan and the Parishes response, 7.30pm at the Old School Hall. Advertising of this meeting would be in the usual places and it would be noted there would be no public half hour.

AGREED

Hever Road Shops:

A quote has been received to trim the trees outside the shops as follows

8 x Trees by shops in Hever Road, West Kingsdown

Reduce or trim trees along in front of the Shops

Remove arisings from site. £455.00 **Subtotal £455.00** VAT £91.00 **Total £546.00**. This was proposed through the Chair that this should be accepted and works to start.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Laurel hedge Burial Ground: The Clerk has received a quote to Parish Council have requested a quote for the laurel hedge, it is hoped the works may be able to take place when the contractor is on site completing other works approved by the Council

SI Treecare quote - Burial Ground Laurel Hedge from Compost heap to boundary

Reduce the height by approx 2 feet and trim the sides Arisings to be chipped for use in the Burial ground £520.00

Subtotal £520.00 VAT £104.00 **Total £624.00**

it was proposed through the Chair that the Council should accept this quote and works to take place at the same time as previous agreed works

ALL IN FAVOUR

Treeworks Burial Ground:

The Clerk and Chairman had met at the Burial Ground following concerns raised when recent new road works were being carried out. Below is the quote for tree works which would be valid in the autumn should Council agree and wish to carry out works later in the year, or have all works done at once. The oak tree by grave of Ellard mentioned in the quote, has a lot of dead wood in it and the tree surgeon has commented that this is due to roots being damaged when graves are too close to trees. This should be borne in mind when the Council moves to the new area, the clerk was told as a rule of thumb nothing closer than the spread of the canopy This will restrict the number of graves that can be dug in the new area and highlights the need to be progressing to clear and prepare the additional area (currently wooded) in preparation as that area will take some time to complete works and allow the space to be grassed and a lawn made.

The quote is for three trees and a stump by SL Treecare

Two Oaks in the Burial ground (new section by the compost area)

Raise the crowns on both Oaks to approx 5m by removal of complete branches where applicable. Arisings to be chipped for use in the burial ground £390.00

Oak behind William Ellard grave

Remove the bulk of the dead wood.(note; the tree is showing stress most likely due to graves being dug below the tree damaging roots) Arisings to be chipped for use in the burial ground

£390.00

Stump in the area by the Compost bin and two oaks

Grind out to approx 250mm below ground level

Leave arisings tidy

£130.00

Subtotal £910.00

VAT £182.00

Total £1,092.00

This was proposed through the Chair and agreed that these works were necessary and should accept the quote. The tree works could be assigned to CIL money as they were an extension to the burial ground. A new area to be used and this was all part of the preparation towards using this area.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Finance:

It was noted that an income of £70 had been received and it proposed through the chair that cheques to the total of £20,249.19 be paid. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Skip Update at allotments Hever Avenue

This was the message received from Mr Allaway – “we had a great turnout Dave Lee Frank and Jackie Green, John plot 5, Graham and Jan William from plot 2/6 done a bit Friday night before everybody else had a go. But on Saturday we emptied the skip and cut everything up into small pieces and we got a load of stuff cleaned up and into the skip but not all the stones from along the wall. If it is possible to have a skip in the latter part of the year I will spend a weekend clearing them myself with anyone else if they want to help. Re making of a community the compost bin I will probably get to grips with that in September/October.

The allotment holders had requested above that perhaps the council would consider a further skip later in the year and the Parish council agreed to give the Clerk the authority to order a skip later when they required one. It was noted that a 6 yd skip could be ordered. **AGREED**

Newsletter items.

Burial ground
Vandalism Rec and allotments
Life skills and CV being taught by West Kent extra
Street naming
Football teams

Matters arising:**Bus Shelter:**

The two panels had been pushed out from the bus shelter. Chris Sloan, handyman has looked at the shelter and suggested that one panel is replaced and then slats of wood replace the second panel, which would be cheaper and less able to be pushed out. Written quote still awaited despite the Clerk sending chaser emails. The Clerk would continue to chase. **RECEIVED**

Football:

Cllr Christie asked was it still one team playing on the field this season and the Clerk responded she had two teams currently signed up to play.

Four Acre Wood:

It was understood that four acre wood was due to start being developed (only the front part that had permission) and the Clerk was asked to find about the status of the resident in Hever Avenue who continued to dump behind his property in the woods

Benches Burial ground:

Since granting one new bench in the burial Ground one councillor had been asked by three families to place a bench also. The rules and regs it was agreed would be discussed at the GP Committee on Monday 20th August to manage the placing of benches both as applications and ongoing maintenance. **AGREED**

Meetings:

It was proposed by the Chairman that as the Brownies no longer met in the hall that all the evening Council meetings should return back to 7.30pm starts with immediate effect. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

August Meetings

Monday 20th August Planning_ & General Purpose Committee: 7.30pm Old School Hall, School Lane.

Wednesday 22nd August Parish Council: 7.30pm to discuss District Local plan and agree the Parish Council's response.

Meeting closed at