

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2009
AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WEST FARLEIGH

PRESENT: - Cllr B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs D Bailey, B Hards, L Johnson, B Merritt, J Morgan and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: - PC Gary Shaw was present at the start of the meeting. One parishioner was present until Item 7.4. Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and C Parr were in attendance to Item 8.2. Borough Cllr J Wilson was present from Item 8 to Item 9 and two parishioners were present throughout the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Martin.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest made.

3. MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th November 2009

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and were **Agreed** unanimously. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. POLICE MATTERS

PC Gary Shaw reported there were no crimes since the last meeting and the Teston Bridge checks was an ongoing exercise.

5. NEW COUNCILLOR

Mr Johnson who had previously accepted an invitation to join the Council signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Council.

6. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

6.1 PROW KM21

Cllr Hards reported on a meeting with Highways regarding the possibility of making the permissive footpath from the bottom of KM21 changed to come out further down next to Teston Bridge. Highways had no objection to the proposal and advised that two pedestrian signs would be required to be installed at a cost of approximately £380. MBC has advised that planning permission would not be required. Cllr Hards will meet with Rookery Estates to discuss the matter further.
ACTION: CLLR HARDS

6.2 PROW KM34

Members **Noted** a request from East Farleigh Parish Council to share the cost of replacing a stile with a kissing gate on KM34 on the boundary of the two Parishes. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to enquire whether EFPC has obtained permission from the landowners and to suggest contacting KCC to establish whether the kissing gate may be obtained free of charge. ACTION: CLERK

6.3 Charlton Lane Kerbing

Members **Noted** the new kerbing on Charlton Lane has been inspected by the Highways Inspector who does not consider this to be encroaching onto the highway nor is it a safety issue.

7. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

7.1 Community Centre

Whitehead Monckton has now received confirmation of vacant possession from Rookery Estates and is putting in the final pre completion land registry search prior to exchange and completion of the lease.

Regarding the previous Ewell Lane site, Members **Noted** the letter from Lambert & Foster outlining the final offer of £1205 being half the expenditure incurred by the Council in relation to this project. Gullands has indicated that their costs so far are around £750. Members discussed whether to accept the offer and it was **Agreed** to reply to L&F accepting the offer but stating that the Council would want to see the solicitor's fees paid for by the Cornwallis family. ACTION: CLERK

7.2 Red Telephone Box at Tickled Trout

Members **Noted** that the Red Telephone Box is Listed and therefore BT is unlikely to be able to remove the kiosk. The Clerk has objected to the removal of the telephony and will report back to the Council when more information is available. ACTION: CLERK

7.3 Village Green Play Area

Members considered the quotations obtained from Park Leisure and Safe Play for repairs to the surfacing and repainting the play area equipment and also discussed the Community Payback Scheme that could be utilised for such a project. The Clerk was asked to obtain a further quotation and more information regarding the Community Payback Scheme for Members' consideration at the next meeting. ACTION: CLERK

7.4 Trees

Members discussed whether to remove some of the trees at the green by the lay-by on Lower Road. It was **Agreed** that the trees will not be removed but a Maple should be planted on the small section of village green for which the Council has recently taken responsibility. Members further discussed the possibility of planting a tree in memory of Molly Underdown who served the Parish well and Cllr Merritt will look at the possibility of planting a smaller tree in the same area. ACTION: CLLR MERRITT

7.5 Parish Council Newsletter

The next edition of the Newsletter was discussed and it was **Agreed** to get this ready for distribution with the February issue of Life Line. ACTION: CLLR SCOTT

7.6 Fair

Members **Noted** there has been no feedback from residents on how the funds raised from the Fair should be spent. It was suggested that the funds could be used to pay for the signage discussed at Item 6.1 and it was **Agreed** to consider this again when the project was nearer to completion.

7.7 KALC - Chairmanship Day

Cllr Scott expressed interest in attending the Chairmanship Day organised by Kent Association of Local Councils to be held on Wednesday 13th January at Lenham Community Centre.

8. MATTERS OF REPORT

Reports were received from:

8.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

County Cllr P Stockell was unable to be present.

Borough Cllr J Wilson reported that the MBC Concurrent Functions Grant was likely to remain the same for the forthcoming year.

Borough Cllr B Mortimer reported on a problem in a neighbouring Parish that had been caused by the use of stone mastic asphalt (SMA) road surfacing material. While the surface is hard wearing and inexpensive, it is very slippery and dangerous for horses and motorcycles. Cllr Mortimer reported that he had been in contact with the Cabinet Member for Highways regarding this matter and advised Members that if a road is going to be resurfaced that is used by horses it would be advisable not to use SMA.

8.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing specific to report.

8.3 Individual Councillors Reports

Cllr Morgan reported attendance at the recent Code of Conduct Training organised by MBC.

Cllr Hards reported attendance at the recent Emergency Planning Training Day organised by KCC and advised a template or checklist will be issued to Parish Councils in order to implement a Community Plan covering events such as major accidents, flooding, etc, with details of who to contact and what resources will be available.

Cllr Merritt reported the "hazard" signage has not yet been installed at the Thatched Cottage and the road signs either side of the property were not visible. In addition despite Highways being asked to clear the weeds at the bollards at this location nothing had appeared to have been done. Cllr Merritt also reported on the poor state of Ewell Lane with many potholes from the bottom of Ewell Lane to Heath Road. Cllr Merritt reported that PC Shaw had cut down the trees on the other side of Teston Bridge so there is now a clear view over the Bridge.

8.4 Clerk's Reports

8.4.1 Meeting Dates 2010

Members **Agreed** the meeting dates for 2010, being on the third Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

8.4.2 Internet Speed & Light Pollution

Members **Noted** that following several attempts to speak to BT regarding the problems with the internet speed from the Wateringbury Exchange, the Clerk was advised by BT that a resident with a BT account number would be required to make the request as information regarding a service would not be supplied to a third party acting on a resident's behalf.

Members **Noted** that following the comments regarding the illumination of Barham Court Environmental Enforcement at MBC has advised that unless the light is intrusive and/or disturbing sleep then it would not be considered an issue.

8.4.3 KIG

Members **Noted** an email received from Kent Association of Local Councils requesting support for the Joint Parishes Group in the campaign to stop the KIG and confirmed their support for JPG.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st October 2009 was **Noted**.

9.2 Income received since the last meeting

The Chairman perused the records and was satisfied that the balances in hand agreed with the Clerk's records. Actual payments received since the last meeting were:-

Co-op - Interest on Community Directplus Account - Sept & October	£2.65
Co-op - Interest on Instant Access Account	£0.34
MBC - Devolved Budget Grant	£150.00
MBC - 2nd Half Concurrent Functions	£2250.00

9.3 Confirmation of payments already made

It was proposed by Cllr Hards, seconded by Cllr Bailey "that the Council approve the following payments made since the last Meeting". This was **Agreed**.

SO - Mrs V Stancombe - Net salary and Office Allowance for September	£324.44
SO - Mrs V Stancombe - Net salary and Office Allowance for October	£324.44

9.4 Cheques for signature

It was proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Hards "that the Council approve the following payments". This was **Agreed** and the cheques were signed.

100850 - M Merritt - Reimbursement of Expenses - Timbercare Treatment	£14.37
100851 - L Johnson - Village Green Posts	£84.00
100852- Churchwarden, All Saints West Farleigh - Hire of Church, 21 Oct & 16 Nov	£40.00
100853 - Mrs V Stancombe - Reimbursement of Expenses - Sept & Oct	£62.33
100854 - L Johnson - Village Green Maintenance	£171.88
100855 - HMRC - PAYE	£287.87

9.5 Clerk's Contract

Members considered a request from the Clerk for an increase in hours due to increasing workload and it was proposed by Cllr Hards, seconded by Cllr Morgan "that the Clerk's hours are increased to nine per week with immediate effect with the next review in April 2010". This was **Agreed**.

9.6 New Computer

Members considered a request for a contribution to the Clerk's new computer and it was proposed by Cllr Hards, seconded by Cllr Bailey "that the Council makes a contribution of £75.00 towards the cost of the Clerk's computer". This was **Agreed** and cheque number 100856 was signed.

10. PLANNING

10.1 Planning Applications Received

The following applications were considered and recommendations made:

10.1. Marshalls, Hunt Street - MA/09/1926

1 Erection of a first floor rear extension. Recommendation: No objection.

10.1. The Birches, Lower Road - MA/09/1948

2 Erection of single storey extension to South East elevation, alterations to ground floor fenestration including new bay window plus new gabled main roof with increased ridge height and three flat roofed dormers. Recommendation: No objection.

10.1. Thatched House, Heath Road - MA/09/1640

3 Erection of a two bay detached garage. Recommendation: No objection.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Monday 18th January 2010 at All Saints Church

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.