

SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 8.15pm in the Village Hall, Southfleet.

PRESENT: Cllr M N Salway, Cllr I Brown, Cllr S Carter, Cllr L Tomkins and Cllr P Tester

APOLOGIES: Cllr C Willis (holiday)

30/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr Salway declared a personal interest in Sedley's School, Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary prejudicial interest in matters relating to Gravesham Planning and Enforcement matters in Dartford and Gravesend; and as the Chairman of Sedleys School Governors and Member of the St Nicholas PCC, Cllr Carter declared a prejudicial interest matters relating to Court Lodge Farm and Cllr Tester declared a prejudicial interest in matters relating to Westwood Farm.

31/18 MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2018 were considered, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

32/18 MATTERS ARISING: No matters arising.

33/18 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS:

- a. Kent Highways Report: Noted. The report consisted of a number of areas in the parish with large potholes. KCC will carry out a "blitz" but no timing given to date.
 - Red Street: Road closed on 24th March for 2 days
 - Westwood Road Closed on 14th May for 2 days
- b. Bus Services: Correspondence from MP Gareth Johnson and KCC Leader Paul Carter was noted re: postponement of cuts to subsidised services until a full consultation takes place with Parish Councils and communities. Thanks will be forwarded to Go Coach to compliment their minibuses on the Bluewater route which were more appropriate in the rural lanes.
- c. Winter 2017/2018: Extra salt was delivered and will be stored by Councillors and residents for the future.
- d. Station Road: Thames Water Major pipework replacement remedial work commenced on 9th April with a 4 way traffic control on the junction with Dale Road and Station Road. A request for care with the verges and daffodils has been forwarded to Thames Water.
- e. Red Street: The Chairman will pin point the areas of concern on photographs to query with KCC Highways on the correct KCC boundaries. This is to avoid possible disputes in the future.
- f. Station Road: It had been agreed to erect bollards in some gaps alongside the low level footpath (eastern end). 12 bollards have been ordered and installation will be arranged. Tree planting will also take place in the future.
- g. KCC Highways Volunteer day: Due to the disruption caused by excessive road works KCC Officers have offered to volunteer in the parish on projects other than roads due to health and safety requirements. It was agreed either removal of the tree protectors and litter picking at the Pepperhill Waste Unit or vegetation cutting on DR137 will be suggested.
- h. Tram Project: It was noted in an article in the KM that an "ambitious" scheme of a tram system is being considered from Essex to Bluewater.

34/18 FOOTPATHS:

- a. DR133: A complaint from a resident on litter and overgrown vegetation had been forward to Prep World who agreed to check the area and remind their employees not to leave rubbish on the ground.

- b. DR48, DR28: Highcross Road. The KCC Footpaths Officer had recommended that the land owner be approached for refurbishment of the stile. This will be reviewed.

35/18 PLANNING:

- a. The following observations given by the Planning Sub Committee on planning applications were noted:- (Appendices)
- Land at Hook Place Farm DA/18/00182/TRCON – Removal of trees:
Members of the PC met with residents who were very concerned that trees had been felled in the Conservation Area. A complaint at the premature removal of the trees and request for the tree surgeon report will be forwarded to DBC and a photographic inspection will take place to ascertain trees that should be protected.
 - Opposite Old West Barn DA/18/00264LDC - Storage of ironmongery and building supplies.
 - Belmont House DA/18/00286/FUL – erection of a single storey rear/side extension
 - Annex Chapter Farmhouse DA/18/00234/FUL – alterations and conversion to separate 3 bed dwelling.
 - Greenfield DA/18/00343/TRCON – Tree works to Sycamore
 - 13 Barker Fields DA/18/00355/FUL – Conversion of existing garage into habitable room
- b. The following planning permission granted were noted: None
- c. The following planning permission refused were noted:
- 7 Rectory Meadow DA/18/000555/FUL – Erection of a single storey front/side extension
- d. The following planning applications were considered: - None
- e. The following planning application was received as of 10th April. None
- g. Consideration and responses to consultations. Noted
- Dartford Town Planning Framework Consultation. The Chairman had replied to suggest the history of villages in the Borough be included in the plan.
 - National Survey on “Traveller” sites noted.
- h. Enforcement Issues: (Cllr Brown left the meeting)
- Foxhounds Lane: Boot Fairs – Complaints from residents of disruption due to excessive parking and mobile generator noise was reported to DBC. The boot sale on Sunday 8th April was better organised.
- i. Appeals: Station House. It was noted the appeal for retention of a swimming pool had been dismissed. Information for time frame and enforcement will be forwarded to DBC.
- i. Development Control Board: It was noted that an application for a temporary Marquee at the Ship Public was recommended for refusal.
- j. Ebbsfleet Urban Development Corporation: It was noted more land had been sold to developers by Land Securities including Eastern Quarry.
- k. TPOs: The letter from a resident regarding trees in Highcross Road was noted, but explained that as the trees/hedge concerned had no TPO, the owner had rights to remove. The Chairman and Cllr Tomkins will survey trees in the Parish to make suggestions to DBC for their protection.

36/18 KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:

- a. Parish News: Noted. None.
- b. Membership: The benefits of continuing with Membership of KALC were discussed, a vote taken and unanimously agreed to withdraw Membership for the year 2018/2019 and write to KALC with the reasons

37/18 ALLOTMENTS:

- a. There are 2 whole allotments available.
- b. General maintenance of allotments: The allotments generally are looking neat and tidy. Information on Potato/Tomato blight will be forwarded to the allotment holders.

38/18 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION: None

39/18 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS/POLICE/LICENSING

- a. Police, Kent Fire and Rescue. Nothing to report.
- b. Environment:
 - Rubbish/Recycling/Dog Bin:
 - Dog Fouling: Correspondence had been received by the Village Hall and residents requesting assistance with extra dog bins. The Chairman had contacted KCC Footpaths and DBC Environment asking for assistance and 10 DBC “dog poo” signs had been and will be placed along the allotment path DR139. DBC were unable to assist with the supply of extra dog bins and it was agreed that sustainability of the emptying of bins, if owned by the Parish Council would be a problem. It was agreed to put up signs in public areas in the first instance and issue notices on the website warning residents of the problem.
- c. Defibrillator: This was considered under Donations.
- d. Trees and Bulbs: The receipt of bluebells “in the green” was noted.

40/18 CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, STANDING ORDERS:

- Data Protection: The Clerk reported on her attendance at DBC training on 10th April and the compliance to date with the new regulations. Longfield and New Barn Parish Council had approached the Clerk for assistance and a possible share of a DPO. It was agreed to liaise with LNPC to share advice and seek quotes on an external DPO Officer as there were strict guidelines on the qualification of a DPO.
- Dartford Forum: The meeting on 10th April had been cancelled due to lack of business.
- Community Governance meeting 28th March. The short notice of invite to attend was noted. The Clerk had requested a copy of the presentation.
- Voting rights: The information and poster was noted which will be placed on the website and notice boards.
- Timing of Parish Council Meetings. It was agreed to amend the start time from 8.15pm to 8.00pm.

41/18 ANNUAL MEETING 23rd April (revised date) Attendance by Mr Ian Piper and Paul Boughen of Ebbsfleet Corporation were noted.

42/18 VILLAGE SIGNS/STREET FURNITURE: Noted.

- Highcross/Westwood sign
- Seat by the bus stop in Dale Road
- Bollards in Station Road.

42/18 DONATIONS/GRANTS:

- WW1: The letter from SVH regarding their proposed celebrations was noted. The Chairman explained that meetings had already taken place with various groups and it was unfortunate the PC had not been included as historical information may have been helpful to the Group. The request will be considered and agreed at the May meeting.
- Sedley’s School: (Cllr Brown left the meeting) A donation request towards expenses with regard to the installation of the defibrillator was noted. The PC was unaware the School faced these expenses, as the Defibrillator had been financed by the Village Hall and donations had been gained by various Groups. The Clerk will request a breakdown of Income and Expenditure from the Village Hall in order to reach an informed decision at the May meeting.

- Southfleet community bus: The letter from Prep World proposing a Community bus was noted. More information will be sought on the scheme before a decision can be made on the financial and Code of Conduct implications of a suggested PC involvement.

44/18 FINANCE:

a. Cheques agreed

- J Parkers wholesale (Bluebells) £57.54

b. The cheque for Kedal (Seat and bollards) for £868.44 including VAT and delivery charge was noted.

c. The cheque for Darenth Print for £85 newsletter was noted

d. The cheque for Aqua cut for £1,170 for Highcross/Westwood sign was noted

e. The receipt of £8.31 for UK Power Networks Wayleave payment was noted.

f. 2017/2018 Audit: The receipt of Audit information re: Annual Governance and Accountability Returns from PKF Littlejohn was noted and agreed to appoint Mr D Johnson as internal auditor.