

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting on Monday 15th November 2010 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Martin Newman (Chairman), Andrew Wickham (Vice Chairman), Jackie Allen, David Hocking, Chris Housman, Tim Maddrell, Alan Symonds, Mike Whatman

Also present: Cllr Clair Bell

1. Apologies for absence: Jeff Moody, the Clerk
2. Any alterations to members Register of Interests: none
3. Any declarations of interest on agenda items: Andrew Wickham declared an interest in the planning application relating to Sheerland farm and absented himself from those discussions.
4. Any issues raised by parishioners. None were present.

Christian Burwash of ABC explained the programme of physical activity sessions he was organising for over-50s throughout the Borough. Session in Pluckley would be every Thursday 6-7pm in the Village Hall. The Parish Council undertook to assist in publicising the sessions.

5. Approval of the minutes for 18 October. TM pointed out that he had not undertaken to write to KCC re sat-nav as he had not been at the meeting. The Minutes were otherwise approved, proposed MW, seconded AW.

6. Any matters not covered elsewhere: JA reported on the Parish Forum which she had attended. The main topics covered had been Concurrent Functions, an Update in Play and the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD. Minutes would follow.

7. Traffic matters. JA had attended a useful traffic seminar at which it was made clear that speed limits were maximum limits and not recommended speeds. KCC also had no plans now to review speed limits. In view of this, it is even more important that Pluckley pursues its self-help exercise as agreed in the Parish Plan. TM and others would be conducting measurements this week.

8. Housing matters. MN advised that he had communicated the decision to support 3-4 units now to ABC. ERHA had replied that they considered 5 would be more viable. It was agreed that, as this was in excess of the village's need, we would not support more than 4 units and hoped that ERHA would be able to proceed on that basis.

9. Hallowe'en. The evening had passed off with less trouble than in previous years and with a good, family atmosphere in the earlier part of the evening. It was agreed that the arrangements organised had been successful.

10. Planning matters.

10/01426 Lower Thorne Oast, Smarden Road. No comment.

10/01516 Sheerland Farm, Swan Lane. (AW absent) The owners were seeking to remove planning constraints imposed in permission granted.

Condition 4. It was unanimously agreed that this condition should remain in place.

Condition 6. After much discussion, partly centring on interpretation of figures, it was agreed that we should ask ABC Planning for further time to assess this request. This would allow for a comprehensive understanding of all the figures involved and the consequent impact on the village.

Condition 13. The removal of this condition was supported.

Conditions 15/16. On balance, the removal of these conditions was supported.

10/00172/FC. Coppicing in Dering Wood. This was supported

10/00169/TC Stone Lodge, The Grove. This was supported.

11. Finance matters. The payments were all approved. It was agreed that CH, MN and the Clerk would draw up a proposed budget for next year and submit it to the next meeting.

12. Ashford Borough Councillor's report. Cllr Clair Bell reported that recent criticism of ABC's apparent record on waste management was unjust, in that most of Ashford's household waste goes to Allington for re-cycling, which is a greener solution than the alternatives.

ABC envisaged a cut in its budget for the coming year of around 15%.

13. Christmas Carols. Further to MN's note of 7 November, the school had undertaken to provide 50 mince pies baked by the children, and a Father Christmas had been found. CH undertook to organise music and soft drinks, MW would produce a poster, wives would be asked to bake further mince pies, JA would explore mulled wine, MN would contact the school about song sheets, TM would announce on the website.

14. Correspondence. In the absence of the Clerk, this was not available. Councillors should request sight of specific items.

15. Clerk's report. In the absence of the Clerk, MN advised that the Audit was now all signed off and the Accounts had been made available for inspection.

As regards the question of employee/contractor status for those helping the PC with jobs, the Clerk had ascertained that our insurance covered the helpers as contractors. It was therefore agreed that this was the preferred arrangement. A revised checklist/billing system would be instituted.

16. Hog Fair 2011. MN advised that Jeff Moody had said he would not wish to organise this. MN was to establish whether Egerton had yet selected a date for their event. Further discussion was deferred.

Next meeting – December 13th 2010 at 8pm