

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20TH 2011

PRESENT

Martin Newman – **Chairman**
Andrew Wickham – **Vice Chairman**
Debbie Breach
Tony Evans

David Hocking
Chris Housman
Helen Missing
Mike Whatman

1 parishioner was present

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Tim Maddrell and Clair Bell (Ashford BC).
- 2 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests.
- 3 There were no declarations of interest on agenda items but A Wickham said he would not vote on the Sheerland Farm planning application.
- 4 Issues raised by parishioner present.
The parishioner drew attention to blocked drains and ditches at various locations and also overgrown hedges on Forge Hill. All day parking in The Square was also raised.
- 5 Minutes of the meeting held on May 16th 2011.
These were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6 Local Needs Housing.
A meeting with English Rural Housing to review the Westfields proposal is scheduled for June 24th.
Chris Housman reported on the Older Persons Housing Scheme proposed for a site in Smarden. This would cater for a “cluster” of local villages. The proposed 40 units was a cause for concern (in Smarden) and a smaller 30 unit scheme may be considered by Ashford BC.
- 7 Village Hall refurbishment.
Mike Whatman drew attention to the new set of doors that had just been fitted. Sanding and resealing the floor was scheduled to commence on Monday (27th). Internal redecoration and the fitting of the sound loop would follow. It was thought all the Phase 1 works would be complete by the end of July.
Mike Whatman proposed and Tony Evans seconded that the remaining window on the east side be replaced by a patio type window at a cost of approximately £1000. All agreed this would enhance the Hall and approved the expenditure.
Debbie Breach agreed to cost a planting scheme along the Hall fence line. She would check if a rose hedge presented a thorn hazard.
The Chairman and Mike Whatman were meeting Ashford BC Planning Dept. on June 23rd for informal discussions re Phase 2 proposals.
- 8 Recreation Ground refurbishment.
This was now basically complete and the grassed areas were beginning to grow. The relocated petanque court was complete and in use.
The bank along Forge Hill had been cut as it presented a sight line hazard. The Cricket Club had drawn attention to the potential problem of balls landing in the new play area. It was agreed (Proposed by Mike Whatman, Seconded by Tony Evans) that 4 new sections of portable barriers be purchased. The Cricket Club were responsible for their erection and storage pre and post matches.
It was anticipated that the “old” play equipment would be relocated to the field by Thorne Estate.

It was hoped the Mayor of Ashford would formally open the new Playground on July 16th as part of the School Fete. The Mayor was keen to visit all parishes in the Borough.

9 Sports Pavilion Licence.

The Chairman agreed to follow up with Ashford BC as to whether the Parish Council could hold a permanent licence in its own name for events in the Pavilion.

On the subject of the Pavilion the Chairman reported that revised plans for its enlargement/refurbishment had been prepared. One idea was that the upstairs could be accessed by a new staircase. The school had also asked whether they might use the pavilion as an extra classroom.

All agreed that this idea was fraught with Health and Safety, Licence and ownership problems and should not be pursued. However if the school just wished to use upstairs space for storage this would be acceptable.

10 Traffic matters.

The report was now basically complete and fundamentally suggested a 30pmh limit for the core of the village. The Parish Council will forward the report to Kent Highways after an Open Morning has been held in the village. It was agreed the Open Morning for village comments could be at the School fete day on July 16th.

11 Broadband grants.

Tony Evans said there was no progress to report.

12 Planning – See attached

13 Finance – See attached

The payments were all approved.

14 Audit Commission return.

As the 2010-11 accounts had been cleared by the Internal Auditor the Council agreed they should now be sent to the Audit Commission.

15 Sustainable Communities Act.

This topic arose from an email from Leiston PC (in Suffolk) who were concerned at a proposed Tesco development taking place without face to face consultation with the local population. They felt it should be mandatory for any large development. Councillors agreed not to comment.

16 Ashford Borough Councillors report.

In view of the absence of Clair Bell there was no report.

17 Clerks report.

The Clerk said his items had been covered by 8,9,14 and 15 above.

18 KALC Councillors Conference, Lenham July 23rd.

Debbie Breach and Helen Missing agreed to attend. (*Helen Missing subsequently had to withdraw*)

19 Correspondence.

The box was circulated to Councillors. Chris Housman agreed to progress “The Horse Drawn Cinema” application to visit the Hall in August.

20 Next meeting.

July 18th at 7.30pm

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk 01622 890596

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