

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 14TH 2015

Present

Chris Housman- Chairman
Martin Newman – Vice Chairman
Sue Beattie
Tim O'Connor
Also present 5 Parishioners

Paul Smith
Carol Washer
Mike Whatman
Graham Smith (Clerk)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford BC).

2 The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

There were no alterations to members Register of Interests or Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

3 Public Session

The parishioners present (Mr Alex Gwillim and party) explained the current situation regarding the Appeal Hearing (on 13th January) against refusal of Planning Permission for construction of a dwelling at Alex's Autos. They asked the PC if it would support the appeal if the applicant agreed to remove the pillars on the porch.

After some discussion the Chairman agreed to write confirming that the PC continued to support the construction of a dwelling on the site, as it would support the business which provided some employment in the village, provided that occupancy of the dwelling was linked to the business, and that the front porch was omitted. The Chairman also stated that he intended to attend the Hearing, and could speak if required.

4 Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that agreement has now been reached with the village shop to install the defibrillator and cabinet box on the rear wall of the shop.

He also commented that the 'Carols Round the Tree' had been a resounding success, and thanked Martin for organising tree, pies and wine. Thanks would be passed on to the Landlord of the Black Horse for provision on the electricity supply.

5 Neighbourhood Plan

Martin Newman reported that the Steering Group had now met with ABC Planners who had said they were minded to support 25 homes on the Brickworks site. This would include a contribution from the applicant. The Steering Group responded that the PC preferred fewer houses than this. However, if it was to be 25 it was requested that at least 4 of them should be smaller homes (2 or 3 bedrooms). ABC Planners agreed to put this to the Applicant.

The Steering Group also requested safeguards regarding protection of the lake/woodland, and that the field adjacent to Chambers Green Road / Station Road be protected as grazing land. ABC Planners said that this could be achieved using a 'Section 106' agreement.

After discussion, the PC agreed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan should reflect this, and the other policies included in the draft were also agreed. The draft NP would now be sent to Simon Cole (ABC Planning) as a pre-submission document for comments. Anticipating its release to ABC as a submitted document in January, it was agreed to hold a public consultation meeting in the Parish on 10th February in the Village Hall. This would be publicised in the forthcoming edition of 'Communicate'.

6 Planning

The PC noted the decisions, and considered the Planning Applications as per the attached Annex. Paul Smith would communicate these decisions to Ashford BC.

Paul also agreed to discuss with ABC recent situations where the PC's comments and requests had been ignored by the Planners in arriving at decisions - particularly where the PC had asked for 'conditions' to be inserted.

7 Ashford BC report

In the absence of Clair Bell there was no report.

8 Highways

Sue Beattie had met the Highways Steward and discussed various issues around the village. She received assurances that the drainage problems on Forge Hill would be resolved, and that the collapsed drain at Dering Close would be attended to urgently.

Dave Clements (parishioner) had cleared out and tidied the bus shelter in Egerton Road, but it needs some attention to its floor and road-edge. KCC Highways stated that this is not their responsibility. Sue (and Mike Whatman) agreed to continue to investigate ownership and responsibilities.

It was also noted that at the top of Forge Hill some overhanging shrubs needed cutting back, and this has now been attended to. Some potholes in Lambden Road also need attention, but the Highways Steward considered that the poor road surface in Chambers Green Road was not bad enough to warrant attention.

Charlie Simkins (our KCC Councillor) would be made aware of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan as it makes reference to the village long held desire for a wider 30mph speed limit.

9 Village Hall

Further quotations were still awaited for the VH Extension, and Mike Whatman would pursue these. Martin reported that the PC has now got over £43k of the finance for the extension put by, and that further grants should now be sought. He stated that 'BIFFA' should be contacted in this regard.

The Chairman stated that he would now be taking on the role of managing the extension project with Mike's support.

10 Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Mike Whatman reported that the tennis court work has now been completed, and the invoice settled. Andy Samson's work on the Pavilion has also been completed, and invoiced. The situation regarding the insurance claim for the Pavilion was unclear, and the Chairman agreed to investigate this with the Clerk.

11 Safety & Security

Tim O'Connor reported that, although Pluckley remained a safe place to live and work, there continues to be a high level of petty crime (for example shed break-ins often with nothing stolen) and anti-social behaviour. Both of which are often not reported. It was agreed to highlight this in 'Communicate' to ensure that residents know what action to take.

12 Environment

Carol Washer had nothing to report.

13 Website and Communications

Carol Washer reported that it would cost around £2,000 to have a fully-functioning and flexible Website to which it would be easy to add and amend items. Discussion took place about the possible use of advertising to defray these costs but no decision was reached. Carol agreed to obtain some additional prices.

Martin reported that he was working on the Winter edition of 'Communicate' which would be distributed in early January.

14 Clerks report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

15 Finance

The payments were agreed and cheques signed as per the attached list.

The Chairman stated that the PC needed to agree its Precept for 2016-7 at the January PC Meeting. He would work on the income and expenditure spreadsheet with the Clerk, and circulate this in advance of the January meeting. His first thoughts were that a small increase would be prudent as the PC no longer receives 'recycling credits' from ABC (£3.5k), and two other grants have been reduced. Finance for the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Hall would also be needed.

Mike agreed to provide budgetary costings for 2016-7 for rec ground and pavilion maintenance and mowing. Martin had already provided figures for Neighbourhood Plan costs.

16 Correspondence

There were no urgent items.

17 Dates

The next PC Meeting is on Monday 18th January at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Graham Smith

Parish Clerk.

01622 890596 parishclerk@pluckley.net

**THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING MATTERS AT ITS MEETING ON
14th DECEMBER 2015**

APPLICATIONS

2 Millpond Cottages. To replace 9 timber framed single casement windows with like for like new single casements and restoration of main outer frames. **SUPPORTED**

4 Station Cottages, The Grove. 5 Leylandii in the garden to be removed. **SUPPORTED** (ABC had already agreed this)

Dering Wood, Smarden Bell Road. Tree felling. Coppice Hornbeam. Oaks to be retained. **NOTED**

15/01563 The Nook, Station Road, Erection of single storey side extension **SUPPORTED**

15/01580 Jennings Farm, Charing Road, Change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to dwellings. **SUPPORTED** as the buildings concerned were out of sight of any others and access already existed

DECISIONS (NOTED)

Lower Thorn Barn, Smarden Road, Single storey link extension **PERMIT** (PC had supported)

1 The Grove. Installation of 4 kw photo voltaic array in the rear garden. **PERMIT**
(PC had supported subject to hedging/screening, but ABC had not included this as a condition)

5 Jennings Farm Cottage. Erection of 2 storey rear extension & single storey infill extension
PERMIT (PC had supported)

**THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS AT ITS MEETING ON
14TH DECEMBER 2015**

£429	Clerks salary	501072
£6.48	Postage stamps (2 nd class) One cheque	501072
£84.20	Clerks tax to HMRC	501073
£835.49	KCC Commercial Services. Second half yearly gang mowing.	501074
£90	D Heasman, Street sweeping.	501075
£45	J Johns, Recreation Ground tidying.	501076
£31	C Hoad, Bus shelter sweeping.	501077
£103	SLCC Annual subscription	501078
£10.70	Chairman, Glow sticks (for Carols)	501079
£150	Hole Park, Christmas Tree	501080
£38.51	EDF Recreation ground electricity. 14.08 to 27.11	501082
£56.22	Vice Chairman's expenses for Mulled wine and children's drinks	501081

PC account balance at 1st December 2015: Current £49,106.47 Reserve a/c £8,912.08

The following Village Hall cheques were signed

£122	S Exell, Keyholders wages
£27.51	Initial Hygiene, Hygiene equipment

VH Account Balance at 1st December 2015 was £2,081.25

