

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 15TH 2016

Present

Chris Housman- Chairman
Martin Newman – Vice Chairman
Mike Whatman
Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford BC)

Paul Smith
Carol Washer
Graham Smith (Clerk)

1 Apologies for absence

Received from Cllrs Sue Beattie and Tim O'Connor

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no alterations to members Register of Interests or Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

3 Public Session

None present.

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Ashford Parish Forum at which there were presentations about the new Junction 10a, and the forthcoming 'boundary review' which could impact on Borough Councillors and Wards (but not Parish boundaries).

He had undertaken some further investigation into the 'Hills & Unknown Donors' Charity. He has now spoken to two of the Trustees, and it was agreed that he should write to them as the PC has not been receiving annual reports from this Charity. He would also locate the Trust Deeds thought to be lodged with the Council's Solicitors.

Chris referred to the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations, where villages were invited to light beacons. It was agreed that Pluckley would not participate in this, but the PC agreed to support the Village School if it decided to celebrate in some way. Clair Bell reported that there was a "Clean for the Queen" initiative which the annual village Clean-up could perhaps be linked to. The date for this was agreed to be on April 9th. [Subsequently this has been changed to **Saturday 2nd April** to avoid a clash with the Pluckley Spring Gardening Show on the 9th]. Carol agreed to contact ABC to arrange collection of the rubbish, and to explore where the PC could borrow a trailer to collect the accumulated litter.

Chris had presented Judy Pool with a letter informing her that she had been voted as 'Honorary Resident', and that she had been delighted to be awarded this.

It was agreed that Chris should attend the KALC Chairmanship Conference on Friday 26th February, at which the Right Hon Greg Clark MP would be the keynote speaker.

He reported that advertising in the KM for a new Parish Clerk had so far produced a somewhat disappointing response. It was agreed to run an advert in the Wealden Advertiser to try and elicit a greater response.

5 Planning

Applications were discussed, and decisions reached, as per the attached appendix. Paul Smith would convey our decisions to Ashford BC.

The Chairman noted that the Alex's Autos planning appeal (to build a house on the site) had been refused by the Planning Inspector, as was their claim for costs.

The Brickworks outline planning application was likely to come before the March Planning Committee. The situation regarding 'Section 106' money that could be available from the Brickworks development for suitable village projects was discussed. ABC has agreed that the village hall extension and/or cladding would be an eligible project, as would the provision of traffic calming measures in the village.

6 Ashford BC report

Clair Bell reported that she was investigating the effect on Ashford International of the proposed Chilmington Green development (and also on Pluckley station). She was also following up on some issues of anti-social behaviour in the village.

7 Neighbourhood Plan

Martin reported that the draft plan had now been published, with copies available at various village locations for reference. There was now 6 weeks consultation. The required 'Consultation Statement' was also being prepared.

The Plan included an opportunity to identify some 'Community Assets' for which the PC would have 'first refusal' if they came up for sale. The PC would have 6 months to consider and put together a bid. After discussion it was agreed that the Village Shop / Post Office and the Black Horse pub would be identified as Assets.

8 Traffic and Highways

Sue Beattie had provided a report highlighting various items:

- The drainage works on Forge were scheduled to be finished by Friday 12th February. Martin agreed that the situation on Forge Hill was much improved.
- The loose drain cover further down from Glebe Cottages has been reported to Darren Anderson (Highways Steward).
- The blocked drain in Dering Close has now been unblocked, and the large puddle has now drained away. KCC will be putting tarmac down around the gully area to make it safe. Residents have asked for the whole entrance to be done but KCC have said they will only do this if there is evidence of damage.
- The poor condition of Dowle Steet has been reported to KCC Highways, who will make a site survey and report back.
- There is no progress on ownership of bus shelters (Clair is chasing this), but the PC will probably need to undertake the repairs to the Egerton Road shelter.

The issue of mud on roads at the Pinnock and Dowle Street was discussed. Although KCC has a road sweeping contractor, this is the responsibility of the land owners concerned. The Chairman agreed to write to the two farmers concerned.

9 Village Hall

Chris had nothing to report. He was still investigating issues around the provision of broadband/WiFi in Village Halls.

10 Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Mike had received two quotes for replacing the damaged fence. It was decided to accept the lower of these and to proceed. The same contractor had also provided a quotation for re-installing the Village Notice Board that had been demolished by a CountryStyle vehicle. CountryStyle had agreed to pay for this, so the quotation was accepted.

11 Safety and Security

In the absence of Tim O'Connor there was no report this time.

12 Environment

No report this time

13 Website and Communications

Carol Washer reported that 50% of the cost of development the new village website was now due to Dewar Green, and a cheque was signed at the meeting. This project was proceeding well, and she had registered to attend a website training day run by KALC on March 31st.

Martin asked Chris if there had been any follow-up to letters about poor mobile phone reception. He agreed to test the service in various postcode areas, and Chris would write to the providers.

Sue had reported that BT OpenReach were now undertaking preliminary work to upgrade Cabinet 1 (in Egerton Road) to provide high-speed broadband. She would continue to monitor progress.

14 Clerks Report

The Clerk offered to remain in post if the PC had problems recruiting a new Clerk by the end of March. The Chairman thanked him for this offer.

15 Finance

The cheques were approved and signed as per the attached list.

16 Correspondence

The box was available for Councillors perusal. There was an invitation for new Councillors to attend the 'Dynamic Councillors' Training Conference. Sue expressed an interest and it was agreed that she should attend.

17 Next meeting

Monday 21st March 2016 at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting / Parish Council AGM was set for **Monday 16th May.**

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk,

01622 890596 parishclerk@pluckley.net

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

- 16/00142 Hazel Cottage, 3 New House Farm Cottages, New House Lane, Pluckley
Proposed loft conversion, adjusted roof form, new front dormer windows and rear velux windows **SUPPORTED**
- 16/00105 2 Millpond Cottages, Malmain Road. LBC to replace existing single framed casement windows in downstairs front with triple window. Restore frames as necessary. **SUPPORTED**

THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|
| £429 | Clerks salary | One cheque* |
| £6.48 | Second class stamps | One cheque* |
| £84.20 | Clerks tax to HMRC | |
| £106.21 | Headley Bros, | Winter edition of "Communicate" |
| £531 | C Housman, | Advertising in the Kent Messenger |
| £24.00 | Serious print group. | Neighbourhood plan self-adhesive posters |
| £56.48 | Staples, | stationery |
| £33 | Staples | CAD prints |
| £31.01 | SE Water | Sports pavilion, clean water |
| £2.67 | Cricket Ground, | clean water |
| £500 | Community Spirit Partnership, | Advice on Neighbourhood Plan. |
| £900 | Dewar Green. | Development of new village / PC website |
| £90 | D Heasman, | Street sweeping. |
| £45 | J Johns, | Recreation ground tidying. |
| £31 | C Hoad, | Bus shelter sweeping. |

As at 20.01.16 the PC current a/c stood at £46,249.10, the Reserve a/c at £8,912.08

The following Village Hall payments were approved

| | | |
|----------|----------------|--|
| £58.10 | Southern Water | VH "dirty water" |
| £40.18 | SE Water | VH "clean water" |
| £228.78 | Eon | VH electricity to 21.01.16 (Winter period) |
| £ 111.60 | PRS | VH Licence |
| £122 | S Exell, | Keyholders wages |

As at 20.01.16 the VH a/c stood at £2,064.12