

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 15TH 2015

Present

Cllr Chris Housman – Chairman
Cllr Sue Beattie
Cllr Paul Smith

Cllr Carol Washer
Cllr Mike Whatman
Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford BC)

There were no parishioners present.

1. Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Tim O'Connor and Martin Newman (Vice Chairman)
2. The minutes of the meeting held on May 18th were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. There were no alterations to members Register of Interests or Declarations of Pecuniary Interests
4. Permission for VH Trustees to speak on VH Matters: It was agreed that this should be taken as read in future, unless there is an objection raised.

5. Public Session

There were no members of the public present at the meeting

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported he had been unable to attend the last Ashford Parish Forum meeting, but that he expected to attend the next on July 22nd. Other councillors are encouraged to attend these meetings (and the KALAC Ashford group meetings) if possible.

The Chairman also reported that he had responded to the 'Local Governance' consultation that Pluckley would be content with 7 councillors rather than 9 as now. He had also put forward the minor parish boundary change (off Sparrow Hatch Lane) that the PC agreed on.

7. Planning

The list of applications is attached with the PC's decisions and comments noted. The meeting agreed that Paul Smith would henceforth be responsible for recording the PC's comments on the ABC Planning website (and/or to the ABC Planning Officer).

As regards the ongoing Brickworks development proposals, Paul Smith agreed to write to Stephanie Andrews at Ashford BC to establish the latest position and ensure that the PC was still kept informed on activities on this application.

8. Ashford BC Report

Clair Bell reported that there had been a change to the rules governing Member grants to Parishes and that some items previously eligible may no longer be so, she will keep us informed on this.

Clair reported she had hosted a major Tourism Conference to extoll the virtues of visiting the Ashford area. This conference included the launch of the 'Ashford & Tenterden Wine Trail', an initiative funded by ABC in partnership with major local vineyards to promote the high quality food and drink offer in the area and support local businesses. The trail leaflet is available at the Ashford and Tenterden Gateways or can be downloaded from the ABC website.

The 'Park Mall' shopping precinct has now been purchased by Ashford BC with a view to re-generation, which was likely to include some residential provision.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Martin Newman was absent, but had reported that Workshops for village residents were continuing, although more attendees were being sought.

10. Traffic and Highways

Sue Beattie and the Chairman would be attending a meeting in Charing with Kent Police, KCC Highways and Ashford Borough about traffic matters in general, but specifically concerning the heavy lorry nuisance affecting both Charing and Pluckley. Sue also reported that she would be receiving a briefing/handover on traffic matters from Martin before that meeting.

11. Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the detailed design for the extension was being prepared so that tenders could be requested.

12. Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Mike Whatman reported that the area around the whole recreation ground was overgrown with nettles and weeds and needed urgent attention. He had spoken to KCC's 'Landscape Services' (who currently undertake the gang mowing) and they have quoted to tidy/weedkill the whole area for a one-off cost of £250. This was agreed.

Landscape Services also provided a price of £640 to remove the small gate by the 'dog bin' and install it on the far side of the car park (where many people climbed through or over the fencing), and to lay a reinforced concrete pad at the car park entrance to prevent further ground erosion. Councillors agreed that this should also be accepted.

Mike had also received a quotation from Landscape Services of £435 for a 12 month contact for ongoing regular maintenance of the rec. This was considerably less than the PC's current supplier, so it was therefore agreed to proceed with this contract.

Mike had also received a quotation for £3,750 from Park Leisure to repair and partly resurface the Tennis Court. This compared to a quotation of over £9,000 obtained by the Tennis Club. The Chairman stated that he would investigate the Council's financial

situation to see if this money could be found, and that a decision could then be taken at the next PC meeting.

13. Safety and Security

In the absence of Tim O'Connor there was no report. However, the Chairman reported that the PC's trailer has been stolen from Pevington Farm where it was stored. Mike agreed to look up details of its size and construction so that the Chairman could make a police report and so that the Clerk could commence an insurance claim.

The Chairman also showed the meeting the new defibrillator. Discussion took place on a suitable case for it, and it was agreed to proceed with the one from AED Cabinets at a cost of £395. The Chairman would pursue this, along with finding a suitable site in the village centre for its installation. The package also included a 'self-guided' CPR training kit which the Chairman would explore further.

14. Environment

Carol reported that there had been some complaints about the smell from a pile of a substance in the Pinnock Area which turned out to be chicken manure. Although further investigation from ABC revealed that it was all 'above board' it led to a lot of enquiries/emails to various parties. Carol therefore agreed to contact the landowner to ask if it would be possible to keep us informed of such deliveries in future.

15. Website and Communications

Carol reported that the Clerks email inbox was once again full of 'spam'. It was agreed that a new email address parishclerk@pluckley.net would be set up and the old email address discontinued.

Carol also agreed that the PC's website needed a complete rethink and rebuild. Councillors were asked to put forward anyone who would have the suitable skills to undertake this work at minimum cost.

16. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the Annual accounts had been subject to an internal audit and were now ready to be sent for external audit. All agreed.

17. Finance

Payments were agreed and cheques signed as per the attached list.

18. Correspondence

It was noted that some important items of correspondence were 'buried' in the correspondence box. Care would be taken to ensure that this did not happen in the future.

19. **Next meeting – Monday July 20th at 7:30pm**

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk.

01622 890596

parishclerk@pluckley.net

**THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS AT ITS MEETING ON
JUNE 15TH 2015**

£429	Clerk's salary	*One cheque	501010
£6.48	Second class postage stamps	*One cheque	501010
£45	J Johns	Recreation ground tidying	501012
£31	C Hoad,	bus shelter sweeping	501013
£84.20	Clerks tax to HMRC		501014
£250	W J Collins	–internal audit of PC accounts for 2015	501015
£403.66	KALC. Annual subscription	(£67.28 VAT to be reclaimed)	501016
£50	M.Whatman	Filling roadway potholes in VH entrance	501017

As at 12th June 2015 the PC current A/C stood at £ 49,401.25, The Reserve a/c at £8,908.67

The following Village Hall Payments were approved

£122	S Exell, Keyholder's wages	500525
£27.51	Initial Hygiene, Hygiene equipment	500526
£38.05	Judy Pool, VH Floor reviver <i>(approved at previous meeting)</i>	500527
£293.94	Eon - Electricity (Winter period)	500528

As at 12th June 2016 the VH account stood at £1,160.39

**THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING MATTERS AT ITS
MEETING ON JUNE 15th 2015**

APPLICATIONS

15/00705 Land adjoining Lambs Lea, Lambden Road. Erection of 2 detached 'eco-friendly' residential dwellings.

This was unanimously OBJECTED to on the basis it was outside the village core, contrary to the Village Design Statement and on an attractive meadow. It was agreed Cllr Paul Smith would write and express the PC's objections.

15/00760 Stanford Bridge Farm, replacement front porch, part single and part first floor rear and single storey side extension.

Although a major extension, the PC had no objection to this proposal. Paul Smith would write with the PC's views.

DECISIONS (Noted)

13/O1314 - Saracens Diary, Discharge of Condition 2

15/00642 - Greystones, Station Road. Front porch extension **PERMIT**

14/4770 - 17 Thorne Estate. Revision to pitched roof design and changes in window designs to planning permission.

14/01150 - 17 Thorne Estate. Erection of front porch and first floor side extension above existing side extension **This is a non material change**