

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 19TH 2015

Present

Chris Housman – Chairman
Martin Newman – Vice Chairman
Sue Beattie
Carol Washer

Mike Whatman
Paul Smith
Tim O' Connor
Graham Smith (Parish Clerk)

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford BC).
- 2 The minutes of the meeting held on September 21st 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 member of the public present (Dave Clements) had no issues to raise.
- 4 Planning
Applications were discussed and decisions noted as per the attached schedule.
Paul Smith reported that ABC appeared to have 'lost' some of his comments from the last meeting (despite him receiving an acknowledgement). In future he will send the PC's comments to ABC both via the on-line form and an email.
Regarding the Brickworks site, it was agreed to request a meeting with ABC Planners once the viability report had been received from the applicant/agent.
- 5 Ashford BC Report
The Chairman read the report provided by Cllr Bell. Clair reported that Ashford BC were taking 50 families from refugee camps outside Syria. They would be housed in privately rented properties so there would be no effect on ABC's social housing stock. Language training and support services would be provided.
- 6 Neighbourhood Plan
Martin reported that all potential site owners had now been met and advised if their development proposals were supported or not. It was noted that some who were not supported may still object, although no more sites can be put forward for development at this stage. The PC agreed that maps of the sites supported and not supported would be made available at the forthcoming public meeting.
It was also agreed that the issues around that old Brickworks site would be considered at the November PC meeting.
Martin reported that Clare Wright would be working with the Steering Group as an expert Consultant in preparing the draft Plan (She had previously assisted Bethersden with its Neighbourhood Plan). *[the Chairman had agreed this appointment with the Steering Group before the meeting]*

7 Village Hall

Thanks were extended to Dave Clements for his hard work replacing the ceiling in the storage area. The Chairman also thanked Mike Whatman for his presentation to ABC that had resulted in a grant of £8,000 towards the VH improvements. Other grants would be essential before building works could commence, and Martin is pursuing possible avenues.

Three quotes had now been received for the VH extension. However costs are still higher than anticipated. These will now be looked at in detail to identify possible work that could be undertaken by volunteers (eg decoration). Mike Whatman is also seeking additional quotations for the work.

The Chairman wondered whether gas heating was a possibility in the Hall. He agreed to investigate this.

8 Traffic and Highways

The poor state of many of the village roads was noted by Councillors. The road surface on the entire length of Chambers Green Road was raised as a particular concern. It was agreed that a "walk around" with the Highway Steward from KCC would be of benefit, and Sue Beattie would progress this.

The Chairman suggested that mirrors should be considered opposite Egerton Road and possibly opposite The Street. There was a query as to whether light reflection could be an issue. It was agreed to consider these further with KCC Highways.

9 Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Tennis courts

It was agreed that the PC should charge the Tennis Club £200pa from 1st April 2016 for the use of the Court(s), but that these should be free to use for the school. It was also agreed that a sign indicating that Courts could be hired for £5 per hour should be erected, and Mike Whatman would arrange this.

Mike reported that there were some issues with the burglar alarm at the pavilion, including what the response would be if it sounded. It was agreed that either Tim O'Connor, Chris Housman or Mike Whatman should be contacted, and neighbours would be informed of this.

10 Safety and Security

Tim O'Connor reported that, although there had been a "blip" in rural crime in July, overall Pluckley remained a safe place to live.

The Chairman was still investigating the back wall of the village shop as a suitable location for the defibrillator, for which the external case was now on order.

11 Environment

Nothing to report.

12 Website and Communications

The Chairman reported that there had been a delay in circulating the latest 'Communicate' because the printer had produced the Autumn 2013 issue by mistake.

Carol Washer reported that she had had a further meeting with Pluckley resident, Adam Finch, in order to progress the creation of a new website using "Wordpress". She said that before fully committing to this route she would like to approach a local web designer who has built other local parish council websites to obtain advice on the issue and investigate other options.

Sue Beattie reported that she had at last had information on the BT OpenReach situation regarding provision of superfast broadband from 'Cabinet 1' in Egerton Road. It now seems that a new, separate' cabinet is planned that may bring dates forward for some users. She would continue to pursue this.

The issue of poor mobile phone reception was also mentioned, The Chairman agreed to contact all the providers with our concerns.

13 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report on this occasion. However, the Chairman reported that Graham has decided to retire at the end of March 2016, and that a replacement would be sought.

14 Finance

The cheques were agreed and signed as per the attached list. It was noted that the final instalment of the Precept had been received.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Village Hall should take full control of its accounts as soon as practicable. The Chairman would arrange this with the VH Chair (Judy Pool).

15 Correspondence

The box was available for Councillors to peruse. The Clerk stated that there were no items requiring specific attention.

Martin reported that the Ashford Council Parking Team had received a letter from a Pluckley resident on Station Approach who has no off-road parking, and commuters' cars often prevent him from parking. He has requested that 2 'resident parking only' bays be provided for his family's use. Although it was felt that this might set a precedent, the PC agreed that this was an exceptional case. Martin would therefore email ABC supporting this resident's need for one space if a suitable solution could be found.

16 Dates

The next PC Meeting is on Monday 16th November at 7:30pm.

Martin reported that Carols Round the Tree would be held on Friday 4th December, and it was agreed that he should order the tree from Hole Park as in previous years.

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the Remembrance Day Service on November 8th and requested them to attend if possible.

Graham Smith , Parish Clerk.

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**THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS AT ITS MEETING ON
OCTOBER 19TH 2015**

£429*	Clerk's salary
£37.47*	Repairs to clerks computer (unable to accept current years Scribe accounts
£6.48*	Second class postage stamps
£528.72	SafeTec AED Cabinet and fittings
£50	C. Housman, delivering Communicate (via Postman)
£300	Donation to Parish Church for upkeep of graveyard
£1,068	Commercial Services (KCC) Clearing surrounds of Tennis Courts etc.
£105.14	Headley Bros. Printing Communicate.
£19.70	Staples. Printing VH extension plans

*one cheque

As at 1st October the PC account stood at **£60,033.70**, The Reserve a/c at **£8,908.67**

Village Hall Account

£122	Sue Exell. Key holder's wages
£27.51	Initial Hygiene, Hygiene equipment.

As at 1st October the VH account stood at **£1,059.30**

**THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING MATTERS AT ITS
MEETING ON 19TH OCTOBER 2015**

Applications

15/01213 Field East of 1 The Grove. Installation of 4kw photo voltaic array in NW corner of the field that lies to the East of the house. **OBJECT due to visibility from footpath and concerns of visual amenity. PC also does not support ground-based panels**

15/01311. Lower Thorne Barn, Smarden Road. Single storey link extension. **SUPPORT**

15/00995. Pluckley C of E Primary School. Provision of new entrance door to front porch of the main building and replacement fencing to the front boundary line. **OBJECT. The PC requests that the door surround should be in oak/wood not white. Also that the fence should not exceed 1 metre in height (to match adjacent properties)**

Decisions

15/01008 Land adjacent to the former Blacksmiths Arms, The Pinnock. Erection of detached 2-storey dwelling and 1.8m high close boarded fence along the boundaries, plus bin and cycle store.

PERMIT