

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 20th 2015

Present

Cllr Chris Housman – Chairman

Cllr Carol Washer

Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford BC)

Also present 7 members of the public

Cllr Sue Beattie

Cllr Paul Smith

Graham Smith (Clerk)

1 Apologies for absence

Received from Cllrs Martin Newman, Paul Ellard, Tim O'Connor and Chris Warricker.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on March 9th 2015 had been circulated and were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no alterations to members Register of Interests or Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

3 Public Session

The applicants' Agent spoke in favour of Planning Application 15/00381 and provided more detail of the plans to construct two detached houses on land between Long Meadows and Little Farm in Smarden Road. The PC noted the comments made.

Alan Symonds, on behalf of the Cricket Club, asked if the Pavilion could be cleaned as a previous user (School or Football Club) had left it dirty. The Chairman agreed to pursue this.

4 Chairman's Report

Parish Council Election: Only 7 candidates had been nominated for the 9 Parish Councillor vacancies. Accordingly **Chris Housman, Martin Newman, Sue Beattie, Carol Washer, Tim O'Connor, Paul Smith** and **Mike Whatman** have been elected unopposed from 7th May. The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to Paul Ellard, who did not stand for re-election, and to Chris Warricker who is moving away.

The Chairman had attended a meeting with two Parochial Church Council members regarding the Church's need for stonework repairs costing around £300k. An application has been made for funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund, and includes the creation of a 'village heritage centre' in the back of the Church. The PCC have asked for a letter of support from the PC, and this was agreed by the members present. The PCC also requested the PC's support in placing 'dog mess' signs in the Churchyard. It was agreed that the Chairman would email the PCC with the PC's support.

5 Planning

The list of applications is attached with the PC's decisions and comments noted. There was extensive discussion about the 'Little Farm' application, and the PC voted unanimously to object on grounds of its non-adherence to the Parish Plan, and the need to protect the 'green heart' of the village. Paul Smith would send our response to ABC Planners.

There was also some discussion regarding the refusal of permission for a new dwelling at **Alex's Autos**. ABC have now refused permission for a dwelling on the site despite, at the previous Planning Committee meeting, giving the applicant to understand that a dwelling would be permitted if the design were acceptable. The applicant therefore incurred considerable expense revising the house design to no avail. The PC supported the applicant's need/desire for a dwelling, although not its design, and expressed concerns at what had now taken place.

6 Ashford BC report

Clair Bell reported that the Local Government boundary review now under way would have implications for Parish Councils and District Councils. The PC agreed to carefully consider the implications and our response to the public consultation.

Clair also commented that any District Caretaker proposals would be better shared by at least 2 parishes, and the Chairman would be taking this forwards.

7 Neighbourhood Plan

Two strategy meetings have now been held and the next step is public 'workshops', the first of which are scheduled for May 14th and 15th. These will be essential to gauge public reaction to any potential building developments, particularly on the old Brickworks site.

8 Traffic & Highways

The provision of an interactive speed sign would now be pursued by the incoming Parish Council after the May elections.

HGV movements to/from the clay extraction site were causing problems, and a letter to the company involved has not produced a response as yet.

It was agreed that no action could be taken about the brown sign to the 'Egerton George' at the junction with Egerton Road as this was legitimate and legal. It was up to Pluckley's traders to advertise in the best way possible to attract trade.

9 Village Hall

The Planning Application for the south-side extension is now with ABC for consideration and, hopefully, approval. The Panto's Workshop/Store has now been constructed. The Chairman reported that Judy Pool has now taken over hall bookings from him.

10 Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Actions on this item were deferred to the incoming Parish Council as Chris Warricker had now resigned from the Council.

11 Safety and Security

In the absence of Tim O'Connor there was no report, but it was noted that crime in the Parish remains very low.

12 Environment

Carol Washer reminded Councillors that the annual Village Clean-up would be on Saturday 25th April, There was an unfortunate clash with a Church event, but she reported that we should have sufficient volunteers.

13 Village Activities

Nothing to report. This role will need to be filled on the incoming PC as Paul Ellard was not standing for re-election.

14 Website and Communications

Carol Washer reported that the Website was up to date. The Chairman reported that the Annual Report was about to go to press for distribution as soon as possible, and would also go on the website.

Sue Beattie agreed to continue to press KCC (to press BT Openreach) to improve Broadband speeds throughout the village rather than leaving one area unimproved.

15 Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that the Council's financial records were now with our Internal Auditor.

16 Finance

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

17 Correspondence

The box of general correspondence was available for inspection.

The Chairman circulated a letter received from Judy Pool querying the Council's previous decision not to donate the VAT refund from the shed purchase to Panto funds. After some discussion it was agreed that the PC would now pass on this refund (£300).

18 Next Meeting

The next PC Meeting will be the Parish Council AGM on **Monday 18th May at 8:30pm**. This will be preceded by the Parish Assembly (Annual Parish Meeting) which will take place at 7pm.

Graham Smith,
Parish Clerk
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PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS

AT ITS MEETING ON APRIL 20TH 2015

£429.00	Clerks salary*
£6.36	Second class postage stamps*
£84.20	Clerks tax to HMRC
£90.00	D Heasman, Street sweeping
£45.00	J Johns, Recreation Ground tidying
£31.00	C Hoad, Bus shelter sweeping
£180.00	VH Fire extinguishers (now on a cheaper 5 year contract)
£40.80	Budget Graphics Ltd. Spring clean posters
£20.00	Kent County Playing Fields Association

As at April 20th the PC account stands at £34018.90, the Reserve a/c at £8908.67

THE COUNCIL IS ALSO ASKED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING VILLAGE HALL CHEQUES

£124.00	S Exell, Keyholders wages
£27.51	Initial Hygiene. Hygiene equipment
£150.00	Jason Collins. Village Hall grass cutting.

As at April 20th the VH account stands at £654.41

*one cheque

**PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING
MATTERS AT ITS MEETING ON APRIL 20TH 2015**

Applications

- 14/01625 The Hollies. First floor rear roof extension and balcony. **SUPPORTED**
- 15/00381 Land between Long Meadows and Little Farm, Smarden Road
Erection of two detached dwellings with detached garages and access.
**OBJECT - GOES AGAINST THE PARISH PLAN/DESIGN AND ADVERSELY
AFFECTS THE 'GREEN HEART' OF THE VILLAGE**
- 15/00519 Glebelands, The Street. New window in first floor side elevation
No plans received yet – Deferred?
- 15/00958 Saracens Paddock. Discharge of conditions 2 & 4 **NO COMMENT**

Decisions Noted

- 14/01411 Thorne Manor. Discharge of conditions 3, 4 &5
- 14/00958 Saracens Paddock. Discharge of conditions 2 & 4
- 10/0156 Sheerland Farm. Discharge of conditions 2, 3, 6, 7,8, 9, 10 & 14
- 15/0003 Jennings Farm. Change of use of land to residential garden. Application for
Lawful Development Certificate. **Development is lawful**
- 14/2870 Stanford Bridge Farm. Erection of storage clamp building (retrospective)
Permit
- 14/01184 Lambs Lea, Lambden Road. Revision to rear roof formation to improve
structural stability and a log store. **Revision approved**
- 14/01125 Land at Alex's Autos. Erection of detached dwelling and new vehicular access.
Refused
- 15/00134 Rushbrook bungalow. Proposed rear extension & replacement conservatory
roof. **Permit**
- 15/00194 Shepherds Hey. Rebuilding a retaining wall. **Permit**
- 15/00300 1 Chambers Green Cottage.Erection of detached double garage with roof
space above. Revision to 14/00807. **Permit**
- 15/00001 Former Pluckley landfill site, Chambers Green Road. Proposed solar park.
EIA not required