

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 20TH 2015

PRESENT

Cllr Chris Housman – Chairman

Cllr Sue Beattie

Also present 1 parishioner (Dave Clements)

Cllr Paul Smith

Cllr Tim O'Connor

Cllr Mike Whatman

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Martin Newman, Carol Washer and Clair Bell (Ashford BC)
2. The minutes of the meeting held on May 18th were agreed with two minor amendments, and signed by the Chairman.
3. There were no alterations to members Register of Interests or Declarations of Pecuniary Interests
4. Public Session
The one parishioner present had no items to raise.
5. Chairman's Report
Chris reported that he was unable to attend the next 'Parish & Urban Forum' on Wednesday 22nd, and Sue Beattie agreed to attend. Chris did hope to attend the next KALC Meeting on Wednesday 29th July.
Sue Beattie agreed to attend a training session for new Councillors at Lenham on 17th September and Tim O'Connor agreed to go to the session on Sept 9th.
6. Planning
Cllr Paul Smith outlined his meeting with Stephanie Andrews, Oliver Peel and Simon Cole from Ashford BC concerning the proposed housing development on the Brickworks site. Paul emphasised that ABC would very much like to work with the PC via the Neighbourhood Plan process, but in view of new Central Government policy to encourage development on 'brownfield' sites he believed that it would be unwise for the PC to maintain outright opposition to any form of development. ABC did state that they believed 50 houses to be an over-development of the site, but that some development was very likely. After some discussion, it was agreed that the PC should continue the dialogue with ABC about the site, with the Neighbourhood Planning process as the vehicle for doing so.
The two planning applications (see attached) were then considered, and the PC voted to support each of them.
7. Ashford BC report.
In the absence of Clair Bell there was no report.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Martin had provided a written summary of progress. The Residents Workshops have now been completed. During August there will be meetings with landowners who have sites to develop. Following this there will be a meeting with Simon Cole (ABC) to discuss the next steps for development of the Plan.

9. Traffic and Highways.

Sue reported that she and Chris had attended a joint meeting with Charing PC, Police, Kent Highways, KCC and ABC to discuss traffic issues. Although this mainly concerned Charing, it was very useful in providing background information and making contacts. Sue also reported that the 2-day closure of part of Forge Hill was for resurfacing rather than fixing the water ingress problems. She (and Martin) would continue to pursue this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

10. Village Hall

The PC noted that the recent Quiz night had raised over £600 for the Hall funds. Our architects are currently producing detailed works specifications to allow us to tender for the Hall extension. Three potential tenderers have now been identified.

11. Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Mike reported that Landscape Services have now completed the weed clearance of the car park and Rec, and would shortly be moving the pedestrian gate as previously agreed. Compliments had already been received from residents on the work so far. Regarding the resurfacing of the Tennis Court, the Chairman pointed out where funding could be found from PC funds, and the PC therefore agreed to go ahead with the work at the agreed cost of £3,700 from Park Leisure. However, Mike then reported that he confidently expected to secure a grant of £1,000 towards the cost from ABC, and he had this in hand.

12. Safety and Security

Tim O Connor reported that, despite some rural crime, Pluckley was still a very safe place to live and that what crime there was tended to be 'petty'.

The Clerk reported that our claim for the theft of the trailer was now with our Insurers.

13. Environment

No report.

14. Website and Communications

In the absence of Carol Washer there was no report. However, Mike stated that a resident has now offered to 'rebuild' the website at no cost, and Carol would be pursuing this.

The summer edition of 'Communicate' had been distributed, and included a questionnaire about Neighbourhood Planning with everyone was encouraged to complete.

15. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the 2015 accounts are now with the external auditor, and should be returned to him in September.

16. Finance

The expenditure (see attached) was approved, and cheques duly signed. The Clerk reported that the bank needed a new mandate for the 'new' Councillors to be able to sign cheques. The paperwork would be circulated as soon as possible for Councillors to complete with specimen signatures.

Mike Whatman then discussed the schedule of Council property, and it was agreed that it was in need of some updating and recosting to ensure that our finances are correctly reporting the worth of the assets. This could also affect our insurance.

17. Correspondence

There was no correspondence that had not been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

18. Next meeting

It was agreed that having a 2-month gap in meetings may cause problems with planning applications and finances, so the Chairman would consider whether to hold a meeting on **Monday 17th August**. [THIS HAS NOW BEEN AGREED].

The subsequent meeting will be on Monday 21st September.

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk, 01622 890596

Email grahamsmith36@btinternet.com

**THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS AT ITS
MEETING ON JULY 20TH 2015**

Parish Council

£429 + £429	G Smith	Clerks salary (July and August)	*One cheque
£5.19	G Smith	Envelopes	*One cheque
£6.48	G Smith	Second class stamps	*One cheque
£ 1437.71	Zurich.	Parish Council annual insurance (includes Village Hall)	
£180	D Heasman,	Street sweeping	
£90	J Johns,	Recreation Ground tidying	
£62	C Hoad,	Bus shelter sweeping	
£70	Ashford BC	Sports Pavilion licence	
£52.29	SE Water	Cricket Ground 'clean water'	
24.90	SE Water	Sports Pavilion 'clean water'	

As at 9th July 2015 the PC current a/c stood at **£47,903.40** , The Reserve a/c at **£8,908.67**

Village Hall

£122+ £122	Sue Exell,	Keyholders wages, July and August	
£55.02	Initial Hygiene	Hygiene equipment (for June and July 2015)	
£150	Jason Collins	VH grass cutting for May, June and July	
£38.59	SE Water	VH Water bill for 09.01.15 to 06.07.15	

As at 9th July 2015 the VH a/c stood at **£716.94**

**THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING ITEMS AT
ITS MEETING ON JULY 20TH 2015**

Decisions (Noted)

- 14/3699 Chambers Green Cottage, Discharge of conditions 2 and 4a
- 15/00694 Greystones, Station Road, Front porch extension. **Permit**
- 15/00222 Land east of Dering Arms. Alterations and extensions to garage block and change of use of land to dwelling with curtilage, storage shed and parking area. **Permit**

Applications

- 15/00868 1 The Grove, Formation of new first floor window to side elevation
SUPPORTED
- 15/00921 Littlebrook Lodge, Forge Hill. Recladding the entire property in cedar boarding.
SUPPORTED