

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 21ST 2016

Present

Chris Housman- Chairman
Sue Beattie
Mike Whatman
Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford BC)

Paul Smith
Carol Washer
Graham Smith (Clerk)
+ Dave Clements (Parishioner)

1 Apologies for absence

Received from Martin Newman (on holiday) and Tim O'Connor (attending a meeting on the traffic implications of the Chilmington Green development proposals).

- 2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th 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

The one member of the public present had no items to raise.

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that, the post of Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer had been offered to Caroline Levett, who had accepted subject to completion of formalities. She will also continue to be employed as Clerk to Benenden PC, and there was felt to be some useful synergy and economies with this situation.

Graham would complete the 2015-6 Accounts including the internal and external audit processes. The Chairman thanked Graham for his six years of service, and presented him with a card, a framed certificate and some wine. A gift would also be forthcoming at a later date.

The situation regarding the Trustees of the 'Hills & Unknown Donors' Charity was discussed. The Deeds state that the PC has a clear role to appoint the Trustees, but had not been involved since 2009. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman would write to the existing Trustees stating that the PC intends to correct this situation by formally appointing four Trustees at the Annual Statutory Meeting. The Trustees would also be invited to provide a brief report/statement to the Annual Parish Assembly in May.

5 Planning

The items discussed (see attached list) were all supported and Paul Smith agreed to transmit our views to Ashford BC.

The Chairman reported that at ABC's Planning Committee meeting held on 16th March Councillors had voted unanimously to approve outline planning permission for 25 homes. This was an excellent outcome to the difficult and lengthy negotiations undertaken by Martin Newman and the Neighbourhood Plan team.

6 Ashford BC report

Clair reported that reports of anti-social behaviour in the village were currently being followed up by ABC.

Clair invited the PC's comments on the format of the Ashford Parish Forum (which she chairs) as she felt that it was not always 'fit for purpose'. The Chairman commented that one possibility might be to combine it with the KALC Ashford Area meetings.

She reported that new guidance had just been issued by ABC on dealing with the unauthorised occupation of land by Travellers. The Chairman reported that, coincidentally, a caravan had just moved into the old coal yard (south of the station). It was agreed that the PC should alert ABC and the landowner/agent as soon as possible (*note: this was done by Paul Smith, the caravan has left, and prompt action was taken to block access to the site*).

7 Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan was currently out for public consultation, but response has been low. A banner has been purchased which would be erected outside the Rec ground inviting public comments.

8 Traffic and Highways

The proposals to reduce the 40mph zone to 30mph have now been supported by KCC, but with the proviso that the PC needs to employ a 'Traffic Consultant' to advise on the 'calming' measures required, and will need to fund the subsequent work itself. Our County Councillor (Charlie Simkins) was supportive and may be able to contribute some grant-funding towards the cost.

Sue Beattie reported that road damage and potholes were constant problems, and she would continue to liaise with our Highways Steward to remedy problems. She reported that considerable work had been done to remedy the water leakage on Forge Hall, and that the drainage/road damage in Dering Close has also been repaired.

Sue reported that, although bus shelters are theoretically the responsibility of KCC, the Egerton Road shelter needs an urgent repair to its base. It was agreed to ask Dave Clements (who was present) to examine and cost remedial works. KCC has previously had a grant scheme that provided 50% of the cost towards bus shelter repairs. We are awaiting an update from KCC as to whether this will still be available in 2016/17.

9 Village Hall

It was agreed that Judy Pool (Chair of Village Hall Committee) should open a new bank account for the Village Hall, and the balance of the current Co-operative account should be transferred to this. The VH Committee would then be responsible for management of its own payments and receipts.

The Chairman reported that, due to the likely contract size, it will be necessary to seek formal tenders for the VH extension work via the Government tendering/procurement process. He will be pursuing this.

10 Recreation Ground, Sport Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Mike Whatman reported that the grass had been cut at the Recreation Ground and at the Village Hall.

He advised that he has the agreement paperwork between the Parish Council and Pluckley Sports Association and would be useful for the Parish Council to collate all deeds in one place.

11 Safety and Security

No report this month.

12 Environment

Carol reminded Councillors that the annual Village Clean-up was on Saturday 2nd April at 10am on the Rec Ground. She has obtained some purple 'Clean for the Queen' rubbish bags to assist us!

Sue will collect posters from the printers and post on the Village Hall and Recreation Ground notice boards.

13 Website and Communications

Carol reported that a draft of the new Village Website is now available to look at (it has dummy data) and provided Councillors with the URL. The new site will be via a new Host, but it was agreed that we should pay the annual licence fee for the existing Host (Manxhosts). Once the new site was up and running the URLs and email host would be transferred over, and Carol would then inform Manxhosts.

Sue reported that the remaining BT cabinet had now been ungraded, and the whole village can now 'benefit' from super-fast broadband (Paul, however, reported that long copper wire lengths meant that he has seen very little benefit).

14 Finance

The cheques were approved and signed as per the attached list. The Chairman reported that the detailed budget for 2016-7 was still a 'work in progress' but it was hoped to provide figures at the next meeting.

15 Correspondence

The box was available for Councillors perusal. There was a new date for a 'Dynamic Councillors' Training Conference (previous date had been cancelled). Sue agreed to attend, and the KALC invoice had been received.

The Clerk had received a letter requesting the addition of a name on the Village War Memorial for a resident who had been killed in action in 1943. He would pursue this with the Royal British Legion.

16 Next Meetings

The new Clerk cannot attend PC Meetings on the 3rd Monday, as this is also the Benenden PC Meeting date. It was therefore agreed to move Pluckley PC Meetings to the 2nd Monday in each month (although this has since been changed to the 2nd Tuesday). The next meeting will be on **Monday 11th April 2016** at 7.30pm.

The Annual Village Clean-up would be on Saturday 2nd April.

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk, 01622 890596 parishclerk@pluckley.net

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

16/00195 *Oven Green, Smarden Road*. Extension to house increasing the size of the kitchen/dining room and adding a new utility/storage room and a new garage.

Supported

16/00346 *Fredlands Farm, Elvey Lane*. Acknowledgment of prior approval, notification of change of use of agricultural barn and land within its curtilage to two dwellings.

Raise no objection.

16/00264 *Daniels Farm, The Pinnock*. Certificate of lawful development (existing) Unrestricted residential use contrary to condition 7 of 98/01260 (agricultural occupation condition) for B8 storage use **Noted** {actually in Smarden}

16/00284 *Surrenden Bungalow, Surrenden Road*. Enlargement of roof space with additional half storey height along with single storey rear extension and first floor extension over existing rear extension. **Supported**

Decisions

14/01116/AS - *Pluckley Brickworks and Station Garage, Station Road*. Outline Permission for the construction of 25 dwellings etc. **Noted (PC had supported)**

THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS

£429	Clerks salary	One cheque	501106
£6.48	Second class stamps	One cheque	501106
£100	Clerks annual petrol allowance.	One cheque	501106
£41.76	Recreation Ground electricity		501108
£291.59	Staples, Neighbourhood Plan printing		501107
£40	Action with Communities in Rural Kent 2016/17		501109
£72	Sue Beattie, Dynamic Councillor course		501110
£ 90	D Heasman, Street sweeping		501111
£45	J Johns, Recreation Ground tidying		501112
£31	C Hoad, bus shelter sweeping		501113
£99.60	Manxhosts 2016-7 Website Domain hosting		501114

The following Village Hall payments were approved

£122

Sue Exell, Keyholder's wages

500558