



MINUTES
ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 3rd July 2017 at 7.30PM
ELHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: **Acting Clerk: Sally Hayter**
Councillors: Clive Stanyon (Chairman), Geoff Clements (Vice Chairman), Jenny Gurney, Sally Hayter, Stuart Peall, Ken Percival, Brian Swan, Jon Worrall
KCC Community Warden: Gary Harrison
9 members of the public

059/17 GOVERNANCE

i. Apologies for Absence

Received and noted from the clerk, Cathy Skinner, and KCC Cllr Susan Carey.

ii. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

iii. Clerk's Notices

None.

iv. Chairman's Remarks

Cllr Stanyon noted that:

- the clerk, Cathy Skinner, was unwell and unable to attend the meeting, but that Cllr Sally Hayter had, kindly, agreed to take the minutes of the meeting;
- to his disappointment, the minutes from the parish council had not appeared in the Elham Newsletter for July, because of their length. Therefore, it would be necessary to precis these in future for inclusion in the newsletter;
- he would encourage councillors to, optionally, submit recommendations for the agenda ahead of meetings to act as a start point for discussions to follow;
- he will be meeting this week with Richard Chubb, chairman of Lyminge Parish Council, and Rob Howell, chairman of Acrise Parish Meeting;
- there will be no parish council meeting in August;
- the social event on 14th July, in the Abbot's Fireside, would go ahead, unfortunately without Cllr Worrall; and
- an application for co-option to the parish council had been received from Kevin Moore, who was in the audience.

v. Council Meetings

Cllr Stanyon recommended that a parish council meeting be held in January. Cllr Clements suggested that it be held on Monday 8th January.

Resolved: That a parish council meeting will be held on 8th January 2018.

vi. Minutes

Cllr Worrall suggested that the title for minute 054/17 xix be changed from 'North Elham Speed Restrictions' to 'Elham North Speed Restrictions'. This was agreed.

Resolved: That, subject to the agreed amendment, the minutes from the parish council meeting, held on 5th June 2017 are agreed as a true and complete record of that meeting.

Cllr Stanyon noted that he had asked the clerk for a reconciliation from the accounts to the figures provided in the audit return. He suggested that a reference in minute 058/17a to '2015/2017' be amended to '2016/17'. This was agreed.

Resolved: That, subject to the agreed amendment, the minutes from the extraordinary parish council meeting, held on 27th June 2017 are agreed as a true and complete record of that meeting.

vii. Approval of Payments

In the absence of the clerk, there was no knowledge of payments to be approved.

Resolved: That the clerk circulates a list of payments for approval and that these payments be made as soon as the majority of councillors have approved these.

viii. Insurance

Cllr Stanyon noted that, as ownership of the Speed Indicator Device had passed to the parish council, it should be included in the parish council's insurance. Cllr Peall advised that, if the insurance could not be arranged immediately, the sign should be turned off until it had.

Resolved: That the clerk arranges an immediate extension to the parish council's insurance or, if this is not possible, arranges for the sign to be switched off.

060/17 PLANNING

ix. Otterpool Park

Cllr Hayter advised that, due to ill health, she had been unable to attend the workshop on 14th June. She will, however, attend a meeting later this month. Cllr Stanyon asked whether councillors would like to hold a special meeting to form a parish council view on the merits of the proposed garden town.

Resolved: That a meeting is not held to form a view on the merits of the proposed garden town, but that responses be made as and when appropriate. Cllr Hayter wished to record her opposition to this resolution.

x. Planning Application Y17/0732/SH: East Kent Hunt Kennels, Cullens Hill, Elham

An application had been received to fell five sycamore trees, these being subject to Tree Preservation Order no. 6 of 2017.

Resolved: That no objection is made to the above planning application. Cllr Peall wished to record his abstention.

xi. Planning Application Y17/0664/SH: Little Orchard, Exted Hill, Elham

An application had been received for an annexe extension.

Resolved: That no objection is made to the above planning application. Cllr Peall wished to record his abstention.

Meeting Adjourned for Public Session

- Cllr Peall provided a report on Shepway District Council matters.
- Gary Harrison noted that parking outside the school was becoming an issue again, and that he had been reminding those dropping children off at school to park safely. He advised that he had been placing polite notices on vehicles in the vicinity of The Square, which seemed to be having a positive effect. He noted that the Speed Indicator Device appeared to be having a positive effect. He noted that he had been patrolling the playground area but had found no further evidence of syringes being left lying around.
- A parishioner raised the possibility of having stickers applied to wheelie bins, in order to encourage careful driving, as this had been done in Barham. Gary Harrison agreed to find out more information about this. Cllr Peall added that he would be prepared to put some of his members fund towards any costs.
- A parishioner asked the parish council to remind KCC Highways that it had promised to clear the gullies in Wingmore twice a year, but that this did not appear to be getting done. It was agreed to write to KCC Highways, with a copy to KCC Cllr Carey, as a reminder.
- A parishioner asked that we consider signage to ask lorry drivers to drive more carefully. Cllr Worrall agreed to give this his consideration.

061/17 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

xii. Appointment of Lead Councillor

Cllr Stanyon proposed that Cllr Gurney be appointed to this position. There was general agreement that this might be a little onerous, especially for a new councillor.

Resolved: That Cllr Gurney be appointed as lead councillor, but that the situation is reviewed in three months' time. Cllr Gurney accepted the appointment.

xiii. Defibrillator

Cllr Gurney confirmed that she had read the BT agreement for the acquisition of the telephone box, and recommended that the lease be signed. Cllr Peall suggested that we should first understand the costs.

Resolved: That the clerk establishes the capital costs of commissioning the telephone box for holding the defibrillator and that the lease is signed provided that these costs are no more than £1,000.

xiv. Churchyard Wall

None of the councillors were aware of a response from the diocese to show proof of the transfer of responsibility for the churchyard and wall to the parish council in 1941. Mr Boughton advised that he had provided some evidence, although not the actual transfer, to the clerk, but agreed to send this information again. Cllr Clements advised that agreed work to the wall would now be taking place in July.

Resolved: That agreed work be carried out, but that no further work would be undertaken until councillors were satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to prove the parish council's responsibility.

xv. Nailbourne Clean-up/Planting

Cllr Worrall advised that there would be a further clean-up day on 2nd September, as organised by KCC Cllr Carey, with support from Shepway District Council. He noted that he had not yet heard back from the landowner about planting suggestions.

Resolved: That no additional planting be done unless approval is given by the landowner before 2nd September.

xvi. Goldpark Leisure Site, Wingmore

Cllr Peall noted that the planned appeal for the stationing of one residential caravan on site had been cancelled at the last moment, due to further evidence having been provided to the planning inspector. Cllr Stanyon gave a precis report on his meeting with Ben Geering (planning) and Sarah Robson (licencing and community safety), of Shepway District Council, on 29th June, to clarify the history and current position at the touring caravan site.

Resolved: That the parish council sends representatives to the rescheduled planning appeal and that it seeks an update from Shepway District Council on the touring/residential status of a coach, which has now been parked on site for some time, in one month's time.

xvii. Mobile Phone Signal

Cllr Clements gave a precis report on a meeting held between Mr Joynes, Cllr Stanyon and himself, on 29th June. Essentially a small group of people, led by Mr Joynes, was pursuing possible improvements to mobile phone signals.

Resolved: That the parish council lets Mr Joynes continue in his efforts to get mobile phone signal improvements, that the parish council offers its support as and when needed, and that an update be requested from Mr Joynes on a monthly basis.

xviii. Churchyard Maintenance

Cllr Clements advised that a successful, voluntary, working group session had taken place to tidy up the churchyard and that another session is to be organised for September. He also advised that he had obtained verbal permission from Mr David Sephton of Shepway District Council to get any dead wood removed from the lime trees that have been shedding small branches.

Resolved: That Cllr Clements obtains an estimate for the removal of dead wood from lime trees in the churchyard.

062/17 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

xix. Speed Indicator Device

It was noted that ownership of the Speed Indicator Device, and associated posts, had now been handed over to the parish council. Cllr Clements advised that he had attended the sites for the Speed Indicator Device and that one of the sites was being impeded by vegetation. It was agreed to write to the householder concerned to ask for the vegetation to be removed.

Resolved: That the parish council writes to the resident concerned to ask for the overhanging vegetation to be removed, or to give the parish council permission to remove the vegetation.

xx. Elham North Road Traffic Management

Cllr Worrall noted that he had met with a Mrs A Scott to look at the traffic situation at the north end of the village. He advised that he was very concerned, in particular for pedestrians, about the safety of the junction of Park Lane and Canterbury Road, due to poor sight lines. Cllr Stanyon suggested that it was not appropriate for the houses in Park Lane, Fairfield and the east end of Exted Lane to be in a 60-mph speed zone. There was also discussion about the merits of the school bus waiting in the entrance to the road leading to North Elham. Gary Harrison advised that there had been past discussions about where best this bus could wait.

Resolved: That Cllr Worrall considers a range of proposals for traffic management at the north end of Elham and distributes these proposals to councillors for consideration, this with a view to arriving at a preferred solution.

063/17 RECREATION

xxi. Appointment of Lead Councillor

Cllr Stanyon proposed that Cllr Clements be appointed to this position.

Resolved: That Cllr Clements be appointed as lead councillor.

xxii. Recreation Grounds and the People and Places Local Plan

Cllr Clements advised that he had read much of the emerging People and Places Local Plan document and confirmed that no recreation grounds for Elham had been identified within it. Cllr Peall advised that Shepway District Council is aware of the fact that its consultation on this was not successful and that recreation grounds for inclusion would need to be revisited.

Resolved: That the parish council writes to Ben Geering to express its desire to nominate recreation grounds to be carried forward into the emerging People and Places Local Plan.

xxiii. The Gore

Cllr Stanyon suggested that a Recreation Grounds Management Committee be immediately set up to manage The Gore, and potentially other recreation grounds, on a day to day basis, in anticipation of the parish council gaining a lease to The Gore from the trustees. A lengthy discussion ensued about the merits of setting up this committee.

Resolved: That a Recreation Grounds Committee be set up, with initial members being Cllr Clements, Cllr Swan, Gary Harrison, Pippa Hope, Angie Scott and Kevin Scott.

064/17

Close and Next Meeting Date

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:40.

Cllr Stanyon thanked Cllr Hayter for taking the minutes.

Next Meeting – Monday 4th September 2017 at the Village Hall.