

The **Minutes** of the **Parish Council Meeting** held in Upchurch Village Hall on **Thursday 3rd January 2019** at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr John Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Pam Denny, Cllr Alan Horton, Cllr Gerry Lewin, Cllr Gary Rosewell and Cllr Neil Sheppard;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting Wright and eight members of the public.

147. Apologies for absence

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Arnold took the Chair.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tyrone Ripley (holiday); Cllr Janet Marshall (unwell) and Cllr Peter Masson (holiday); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from Ward Member John Wright (attending another meeting); apology noted.

148. Declarations of interest

Cllr Horton declared an interest in item 165 as he knows a candidate.

149. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th December 2018

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2018 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Rosewell: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Arnold duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

#1- Please can I have an update regarding speeding traffic in Horsham Lane?

Cllr Horton said the Parish Council has heard the concerns of residents in Horsham Lane.

KCCllr Whiting said that he has been liaising with Cllr Horton and they will pay, from their Members' Funds, to have a speed survey carried out in Horsham Lane and to ascertain what measure can be put in place to slow down the traffic.

Cllr Sheppard reported there had been two bad accidents in Wallbridge Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to send details to KCCllr Whiting.

Cllr Horton said the Council has accepted a quote for two roundels and there is provision for measures in the budget.

Cllr Sheppard said the Council suggested more roundels were needed at the last meeting.

KCCllr Whiting said he would be happy to contribute towards the cost from his Members' Fund.

Cllr Horton said there needs to be a roundel at each end of the village.

#2- I am concerned about the traffic by the church where there is no pavement, the road is used by people commuting from Iwade and Bobbing to the Medway Towns.

#3- There has been extensive building in the area and when there is a problem on the A2 all the traffic goes through the villages.

KCCllr Whiting said speeding traffic is an issue in every village and the Police have the power to deal with it.

Cllr Horton said the problem has become more significant and Upchurch is a busy rat run from Lower Halstow to Medway. Upchurch Parish Council objected to the proposed development

on the Lower Rainham Road. The Parish Council has Speed Watch equipment but it needs volunteers.

KCCllr Whiting said some villages operate Speed Watch for each other. The Police can be asked to carry out patrols.

Cllr Denny said that there have been Speed Watch sessions in Oak Lane and Forge Lane and it was found that the vehicles were not actually speeding.

Cllr Lewin said the issue the parish is facing is an increase in the volume of traffic and if this is slowed down it will cause congestion in the village. One-way traffic may need to be considered.

#4- Articulated lorries and refuse trucks are also a problem, in a recent incident two met but neither would give way so the refuse lorry drove on the pavement. Another time a cement mixer lorry drove down Horsham Lane with no regards to others.

KCCllr Whiting said it is impossible to legislate for bad driving.

#5- The problem is the lack of enforcement as the Police have been cut back.

KCCllr Whiting said there will be a public meeting at Lower Halstow with the Police and Crime Commissioner and issues can be raised at the meeting.

#6- Can the bush at the entrance of the Recreation Ground car park be cut back to allow those using the car park to go to the Doctors' Surgery to walk through the pedestrian gate?

Cllr Denny said she will look at the matter.

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The meeting was reconvened.

150. Correspondence

Cllr Arnold reported that thank you letters have been received from the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, ABF- The Soldier's Charity and the Royal Naval Association for the money collected at the Beacon of Light event on 11 November.

ACTION: Clerk to put a copy of the letters on the notice boards.

151. Planning

Cllr Denney **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2018 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Rosewell: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Rosewell duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Lewin reported to Councillors that the appeal on the proposal for Tranquility in Otterham Quay Lane has been dismissed.

Cllr Lewin informed Members there had been a retrospective planning application for a brick wall at Jack Russell Place which had been refused and subsequently went to appeal and the appeal was dismissed.

Cllr Denny said she has noticed the hedge has been cut down in Windmill Hill and replaced with boards.

Cllr Rosewell it is on private land and in November several pieces of tree came down in the storm and this has been cleared up.

152. General Purposes Committee

Cllr Arnold said the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee is on 16th January.

153. Allotments

Cllr Arnold informed Members that Swale Borough Council, the Sittingbourne Allotment Association and the Net have been approached to advertise the vacant plots.

Cllr Horton asked for an update on the Freedom of Information request regarding the Allotments finances.

The Clerk reported she had sent the information requested.

154. Paddock and Recreation Ground

Cllr Denney reported to Councillors that the new play equipment has been installed and is being used. She is meeting contractor to sign off work on Friday 4th January to sign off the work and to discuss more pegging for the matting.

Cllr Denny said the Recreation Ground is fine and there has been discussion about putting extra bollards where the plane tree was but the stump is still in the ground so there it would be difficult for a vehicle or caravan to access the field.

Cllr Arnold said invoices were sent to the recreation Ground car park users in December

155. Burial Ground and Churchyard

Cllr Arnold said the Diocese has been contacted regarding consecrating the rose beds.

The Clerk reported she has been given a contact name at Diocesan House.

156. Church Clock

Cllr Horton reported to Members that he is making progress with the memorial plaque and has found a suitable stone mason. When the details have been drawn up a Faculty will be applied for from the Diocese to obtain permission to erect the memorial.

157. Highways and Street Lighting

Cllr Arnold said the public consultation to increase the precept to pay for upgrading the street lights had a favourable response and KCCLr Whiting has offered a grant of £2000 which has been applied for.

Cllr Arnold informed the Council the drain at the top of Windmill Hill is blocked and has been reported to Kent County Council.

158. Footpaths

Cllr Arnold said the Clerk needs the co-ordinates of the bridge on the Saxon Shore Way to report the problem.

159. Environment

Cllr Arnold informed Councillors that the Tikspacs have been ordered and the Council is waiting to hear back from the company the price of extra bags.

Cllr Denny asked when the dispensers will be sited, most of the dog fouling is on the footpaths in Oak Lane and Chaffes Lane. Cllr Denny said she was concerned that if a dispenser is in the Paddock is might discourage dog owners from carrying their own bags.

Cllr Horton reported that dog walker have said there is a need to have a dispenser one hundred and fifty yards past Poot Lane although there is no bin nearby, this site had been dismissed. Evidence in Swale is that the dispensers have had a positive effect and this will be a small contribution the Parish Council can make and it will be a positive one. The dispensers need to be placed near litter bins.

Cllr Lewin said the dispensers will be reviewed in two years.

160. Finance

i) Cheques for approval and signature

Chq No	Payee	Reason	Amount
3747	Mr C Hansford	Village Caretaker	£90.05
3748	Upchurch Village Hall	Committee Room Hire	£8.50

3749	Cancelled		
3750	Vincent James Landscapes	Empty Burial Ground compost bins	£40.00
3751	Mrs P Denny	Christmas Tree Lights	£68.99
3752	Mrs W Licence	Admin expenses and Christmas Lights	£348.35
3753	Streetscape (Products & Services) Ltd	Supply and install play equipment	£11,766.00
3754	HMRC	PAYE	£128.80

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to sign the cheques.

ii) Budget 2019-20

Cllr Horton said the draft budget for a precept of £32,218 gives a slight increase per band D property to £32.10, the 2018- 19 precept was £30.26 per band D property. This figure does not include the project to upgrade the lights to LEDS. The Parish Council needs to take out a loan for the lighting project which will cost approximately £80,000 and if this was repaid over a five-year period it would require an increase of £16 per annum per Band D property or £20 per annum over four years. If the Council has to pay for this from reserves the project would be completed in phases and there would still be maintenance of the old lights.

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** to set a precept of £50,177 which includes £17,959 as a special lighting project; **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewin: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Street lighting- If the precept is increased by £1.50 per month per Band D property that will bring in £18,063 extra = total of £50.10 per band D per annum and an increase of 65.57%
Total £50281

There is no cap on precept

Cllr Horton said he has received superb feedback from residents regarding the Christmas lights.

Cllr Sheppard said he has also received good feedback about the lights.

It was agreed to give the resident flowers as a thankyou for the use of electricity.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange flowers.

161. Defibrillator

Cllr Sheppard reported there were no issues with the defibrillators.

162. Administration

Further information is being sought from EiS to ascertain if it is possible to do add emails within the Parish Council's website. Item deferred to February meeting.

163. Reports from representatives

Police Liaison Officer

The new dates for PCSO John Cork's surgery are 25th January at 1400-1500; 28th February at 1400-1500 and 23rd March at 1400-1500.

Crime in the area between November-December

Fork Lift stolen from Gore Farm.

Threat to destroy and damage property in, Bishop Lane .

Assault outside The Three Sisters pub.

Assault in Chaffes Lane.

Theft from boat at Shoregate Lane.

No reports of any anti -social behaviour

164. Matters arising

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 11th April.

Cllr Horton reported that the Parish Council had negotiated for the Sittingbourne Christmas Lights sleigh round to visit Upchurch on 10th December and Councillors volunteered to help with the event. £275 was raised on the evening and the village has been invited to take part again this year.

165. KALC Community Award

Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

166. Date of next meeting Thursday 7th February 2019 at 7.30pm in Upchurch Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated this 7th day of February 2019