

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
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Minutes of a meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on 14th July 2011 from 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. M.Dodd (vice chair)

Cllr.Ian Ginn

Cllr. T Squires

Cllr. R.Pinder

Cllr. R.Armstrong

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.

Six members of the public

Apologies:

Cllr. R. Baughan

Cllr. J.Harmer (chair)

J.Hughes (Beechwood Hall chair)

Cllr.D.Edmunds (LDC)

	In the absence of Cllr.Harmer, Cllr Dodd took the chair	
25	Apologies for absence As above	Action
26	Questions from the public A resident told the council that the Hamsey Village Day had been a great success with a good turnout of residents. He felt it was a pity only one of the seven parish councillors had attended and hoped more would attend the next event. Bevernbridge residents then spoke about Item 7a – Hamsey Brickworks.They outlined their objections to the application and a copy of their letter of objection was given to the council.	
27	Declarations of interest and update of interests. There were no declarations	
28	Minutes of the last meeting Minutes of the annual meeting held 19 th May were agreed and signed by the Chair	
	Council agreed to move item 7 – planning- to this point.	
29	Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee:	
29.1	LW/11/0629/NP Great North Barn Old Church Lane - Insertion of four roof lights to the north west elevation and replacement of an existing roof light to the north east elevation. - The parish council had made no comment on this application and there was a short discussion about the procedures for dealing with planning applications.	
29.2	APP/P1425/A/11/2151069/NWF – Appeal - The Pump House, Cooksbridge. Demolition of former public house and adjacent bungalow and erection of six dwellings with associated parking and access. There was some debate about the appeal. The parish council had supported the original application but some members of the council later agreed with comments made by the LDC planning officer regarding design, lack of space, over development of the site and the aspect as seen from the road. A vote was taken and it was agreed that the clerk should write to the appeal, to offer the continued support of the council for the original development.	Clerk
29.3	LW/11/0726 Former Hamsey Brickworks. Consultation by ESCC - Variation of condition 5 of planning permission LW/380/CM to allow changes to the approved access road for East Sussex County Council (County Ref LW/0/668/CM) – after some discussion it was agreed that clerk should write in objection to the application on the grounds that the clause was put with good cause by ESCC and the PC could see no reason to vary this.	Clerk
29.4	LW/11/0769 Offham Farm – erection of agricultural building under a general permitted development order – council had received no objections to the application and had made no comment.	
29.5	7b. Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC - none	
29.6	7c. LDC had sent details of planning training Cllr Armstrong helped the clerk to complete the request for training and Cllr.Pinder also agreed to attend the training session. Details will go to all when available.	
30	Update on any matters arising from last meeting	
30.1	<i>min.no.6 – Clerk has requested autumn reseeding</i> <i>There was no update re: Offham noticeboard as Cllr.Harmer was dealing with this. If a new board was to be provided, council would need to decide on the position. Council</i>	

30.2	<i>agreed to delegate the choice of board to Cllr.Squires and the clerk</i>	Cllr.Harmer/ Cllr.Squires/ clerk
30.3	<i>Clerk had reported soil in Whitfeld Lane to ESCC – again and had been informed that this is an LDC road sweeping matter. It is now with LDC.</i>	
30.4	<i>min.no.8 – Council made no response to the area plan for provision for travellers</i>	
30.5	<i>min.no.10 – Cllr Armstrong requested details of the Wealden tree project. These are available on line or a copy of the report available from - alisonwright@sussexwt.org.uk</i>	
30.6	<i>min.no.11.4 – Clerk has written to LDC re. Reception costs – a reply had been received and was read out.</i>	
30.6	<i>min.no.11.5 – Clerk has put this item onto the website</i>	
30.6	<i>min.no.14 – Clerk showed the flyer that will go out with the Summer newsletter requesting residents email addresses. This was approved by council.</i>	Clerk
31	Financial matters	
31.1	Council approved the following payments (including VAT): Cheque no.2090 £1468.23 – Zurich Insurance *Cheque no.2091 £150.00 – Afternoon Club – grant under s.137 *Cheque no.2092 £88.92 – LDC – Dog bin empty *Cheque no.2093 £494.40 – J.Toomey, wages/expenses for May Cheque no.2094 spoilt *Cheque no.2095 £138.74 – Sussex Express – public notice for bylaws *Cheque no.2096 £74.10 – Playground safety inspection *Cheque no.2097 £580.05 – J.Toomey, wages/expenses for June *Cheque no.2098 £336.0 – Barcombe Landscapes	
31.2	Current financial position: Council noted the current financial situation.	
32.0	Recreation ground, Beechwood Hall and update on Beechwood Lane footpath	
32.1	Jo Hughes had sent her apologies (report attached)	Clerk
32.2	Council noted that the clerk has advertised the proposed bylaws as required.	
32.3	The chair reported that he and Cllr.Squires are now trustees on the hall committee. The council wished to propose Cllr.Armstrong as an additional trustee, this would mostly be as cover should Cllr.Dodd or Squires be unavailable. Clerk was asked to write to Jo Hughes. Minutes from the July meeting had been sent to all councillors. Minutes from the May meeting together with the income/expenses from the Village Day were passed to all. Cllr. Pinder asked why the village day sheet, dated July 2 nd , assumed the parish council would be giving £300 towards the costs 12 days before the council meeting. He felt this was a presumption. Cllr Squires explained that this was probably the expected or hoped for income. Cllr.Dodd reported on the trustees discussion of the wind turbine, which will be monitored for running costs/income until Feb.2012 and then reviewed. Cllr.Pinder felt it was pointless for council to discuss matters which should and would be dealt with by trustees. Cllr.Dodd explained that the purpose of parish councillors becoming trustees was so that matters regarding the hall could be reported back to council. It was pointed out that the hall and the wind turbine were owned by and assets of the parish council despite their capital costs being met totally by grants obtained on behalf of the parish, by the trustees. Cllr.Dodd explained that at the trustee meeting, which was the previous evening, a request had been made for council to discuss the principle of supporting a paid hall manager in light of the resignation of trustee Lynda Ridge who has carried out all the overall management of the hall for the last few years. Cllr. Pinder objected to this item being raised at short notice and council agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting – September. Cllr.Pinder asked if the clerk had written to the hall trustees to ask why the council had ever been charged rental fees for council meetings and whether this would be refunded. Clerk explained that she had not because when this was discussed at the last meeting it had not been made clear that this was a request from the full council. It was agreed that this matter was now off the agenda.	
33.0	Council noted correspondence received since the last meeting	
33.1	Council had made no response to the proposal 'should developers be required to call a public meeting for large developments'	
33.2	No councillors attended the Lewes Association meeting	
33.3	Clerk had been contacted by Cllr.St.Pierre regarding felling of "ancient" trees just below the junction of Deadmans and the A259 at Cooksbridge between the road and	

33.4 33.5	North End Stream. As Hamsey has no tree warden or parish councillor responsible for trees, clerk advised she contact LDC. Details of the proposed Lewes Citizens panel had been emailed to all Clerk had received details of 'The big Tree Plant' scheme. Council suggested these go to hall trustees.	Clerk
34	To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk: Councillors had not attended any meetings. Clerk attended a meeting about access to services for young people within the Chailey Secondary School area on 30 th June at Chailey Children's Centre and gave a report (attached). Several topics arose at the meeting and council agreed that any further information received regarding possible funding of the youth bus, should be reported back to council.	
35	Youth issues No report from HCOY but LDC Cllr. Donna Edmunds had sent a report on youth issues (attached). Cllr.Pinder felt the district councillor, being newly elected, was too keen and rushing in without consulting the parish. Cllr Squires felt her enthusiasm was an asset. The chair supported her views but Cllr.Pinder said he would not be happy to see any use of the school field outside of school hours as there was already noise from local children climbing into the field and playing. Council asked the clerk to contact Cllr.Edmunds and arrange an informal meeting.	Clerk
36.0	Website– www.hamsey.net Newsletter & Parish report. Nothing to report	
37	Police & NHW issues Clerk read out the report from the pcso (attached) Council asked clerk to put the piece about sheep worrying onto the website. Cllr.Squires reported that police no longer wish to be informed if residents are planning to leave their home empty for any period and also that they would no longer respond to alarms. He had been advised that this would be a matter for the alarm company. Council agreed that these matters could come up at the next meeting with police.	Clerk
38	Traffic issues including footways and parking Cllr.Squires reported that there was no funding for major works at Landport Fork but a potential reduction in speed will be considered as well as improved road markings. Cllr. Pinder suggested that no left turn from the junction on to the A275 and no right turn coming down the hill from Lewes might improve safety. Cllr.Dodd adjourned the meeting for an update from resident K.Froude. (meeting reconvened)	
39	To consider rail services to Cooksbridge. Cllr.Baughan sent in a full report (attached)	
40.0 40.1 40.2	To consider any report regarding SDNP Council noted the next SDNP Forum is Tuesday 19 th July 2011, at Stanmer Park. Richard Winter will attend and report to council. Cllr.Squires might also attend. Clerk asked council to consider the SDNP consultation document. Council agreed to the responses made by clerk on behalf of the council.	
41	Rights of Way issues – there was no report from Jenny Millington.	
42.0 42.1 42.2 42.3	Council considered the progress of the parish action plan Rail issues were being covered by Cllr.Baughan Cllr.Dodd had spoken to Mathew Bird regarding the proposed cycle path to Lewes and will gather more information and speak to MP N.Baker. Council asked the clerk to circulate, again, the minutes from the action plan update meeting so that council knew who had agreed to cover what items. Councillors would report back to the next meeting.	Clerk / all
43 43.1 43.2	Council received a report from the Village Day Cllr.Dodd said it was a great day and very well attended and enjoyed by residents. He will attend a follow up meeting with the other organisers. Council considered a request for a donation of £300 towards the village day. Cllr.	

	Armstrong felt that the parish council should cover all the outstanding expense, being a sum of £409.84. Cllr. Squires proposed a donation of £409.84 be made. Seconded by Cllr.Dodd. Agreed by Cllrs. Armstrong and Ginn. One vote against.	
44.0	Council considered the council standing orders item 82 - Allowances for members Council approved the amount for car use. These allowances may be paid to all members undertaking approved duties under Regulation 26 of the 2003 Regulations. The HMRC tax-free rate is 45p per mile – this was agreed.	
45	Council considered the purchase of a new council copier/printer Council agreed to purchase a copier at a cost of £76.	Clerk
46.0 46.1 46.2	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda To consider support for a hall manager To consider council support for the Village Day 2012 (November meeting)	
24.0	Date of next meetings – 8 th Sept., 10 th November 2011. Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.	

JT 15/07/11

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....

Item 32 - Beechwood Hall Trustees Report.

Hamsey Festival was a great success for all parties involved, and had a wonderful community feeling. The accounts for the event are submitted for your inspection.

As you will see from the minutes of the meeting 13th July, there was a proposal to review the post of Hall Manager. This is a key position in terms of the smooth daily running of the hall, but more is being asked of the Hall Manager, and we foresee that the amount of work will out-strip the honorarium. If after careful review, we find that proper part-time paid employment is the way forward, we would like to ask the Parish Council to consider match-funding the Hall Manger's wage.

We were pleased to welcome Mike and Terry last night as your Parish Council representatives, and to induct them as trustees. We would like to suggest another joint meeting of the Council and Trustees in September, date to be discussed at tonight's forum.

You will have before you copies (somewhat colourful) of minutes of the last two meetings, and I hope they will provide all the information you need about the future development of the Hall and grounds.

Jo Hughes (Chair) July 14th 2011

Item 34 - Clerk attended a meeting about access to services for young people within the Chailey Secondary School area on 30th June at 10.30am to 12, at Chailey Children's Centre. Only East Chilmington PC and Newick PC had councillors attending. Most of the discussion was regarding the youth bus which used to call at Cooksbridge as well as the school, with free advice on teenage issues – transport, housing, grants, health etc. This is only funded in West Sussex now. Funding from East Sussex has stopped. Children in rural areas have almost no access to any youth services now. The discussion centred around working together to raise the funds to provide the bus service at least to the school, weekly. There was then a short discussion around clubs for teenagers who may find access to clubs in town difficult. Wivelsfield PC fund a youth club which meets twice a week to cater for two age groups.

Item 35 -Youth matters – report from LDC Cllr.Edmunds

I'm not going to be able to make the Parish Council this evening.

However, as you may recall, I met with Ruth O'Keefe and some of our local police officers (Sally-Ann Reed, PC Pete Hall and PC Darren Goudie) to discuss youth provision in the area following complaints about bonfires on Offham Hill. I thought you might like a report for this evening's meeting.

- The police have confirmed what I think many of us suspected: that in reality only a small number of youths who are already known to them are causing any trouble. The remainder are more than happy to comply with any rules or regulations.

- Regarding Offham Hill specifically, the issue of signage was discussed. I'm told that there are some signs that tell people that the land is private, and an SSSI. The police suggested that most people, particularly teenagers, will not be affected by notices about the SSSI status. Instead, a large sign declaring something along the lines of "No bonfires - fine £500" or similar would probably be much more effective.

- They have reiterated that they are unable to constantly police the hill.

- We then discussed what other provision might be made for people wishing to camp in the area. I personally am of the belief that we should be offering these sorts of facilities to teenagers who wish to explore being independent in what is a relatively safe environment. I therefore ask the Parish council to consider whether any local landowners might be approached with the suggestion that we could lease or buy a small plot of land in an area that is accessible to teenagers where they could camp during the summer months. It doesn't need to be a particularly large area, and a very basic firepit could be installed for their use.

- From this, the discussion led to what can be done for younger people in our communities. The Police seem to have a few funds that are accessible for youth provision. They have a Police Property Fund which can be accessed in order to pay an amount towards projects such as skate parks which can be popular for teenagers and provide a focus for them in terms of somewhere to go. I did mention the ping pong table at Beechwood Hall, but was told that many of the children (I assume the younger children) don't like to cross the road as the cars pass by very quickly, making the hall effectively off-limits.

- The Police have run Operation Blitz, which offers £2.40 vouchers for young people to spend at the leisure centre (which buys them a swim, I think).

- We talked about the need for open spaces for children to utilise, and the police mentioned that the schools in the area often have large spaces, but they are only open during school hours. Could we approach Hamsey School to officially open the playing field to children out of school hours, again so that they have somewhere relatively safe to play in. I understand that we would need to start an association called something like "Friends of Hamsey School Field" and open a community bank account (Barclays do them free of bank charges), but again the police are willing to pay funds into that account from the property fund which could be used for insurance payments.

- Finally, Ruth O'Keefe is currently involved in setting up a Lewes Youth Council with funds from Lewes Town Council (I think they've donated £2000). The youth council will, with the help of adult representatives but led by the children, decide on their local priorities and have that money available to spend if needed. I would be happy to look into something similar for the children living in the villages north of Lewes, including Cooksbridge, Hamsey and Offham and reaching out to Chailey, Newick and Barcombe areas.

- Whilst by and large I think that young people today are actually fairly well catered for in terms of activities provided, compared to the past, I do think that young people are seen less and less as valid members of the community, and more and more as troublemakers to be 'moved on', which alienates them and doesn't actually solve any problems. I would like to foster a culture in the area of inclusion for all who live here, including the young, in which people take the time to talk to and work with one another. I think it's this, rather than the money spending element of the Youth Council, which makes it a really worthwhile idea, and hope that members of the parish councils in the area agree.

Kind regards,
Cllr Donna Edmunds.

Item 37 - PCSO Report -For the period of April to June there were 17 recorded crimes

	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
THEFTS	2	3	4	9
VEHICLE CRIME			2	2
BURGLARY			1	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE		1	1	2
VIOLENCE		2	1	3
OTHER				
TOTAL	2	6	9	17

UPDATES:

We have been conducting patrols during the key times on the Offham Plateau & youths have been escorted off there when we have found them camping, having bonfires & drinking under-age. This has been especially important after a number of youths were mugged on the plateau. The burglary in June was at a business premises on Resting Oak Hill on the 29/6, crime prevention advice has been given to the company & I am conducting patrols during the evening.

Speedwatch:

Speedwatch was conducted on the 15/6 no one was caught speeding on this occasion. Checks done on the 7/7 resulted in 3 drivers being sent letters with regard to their speed.

I have received calls with concerns about sheep worrying in fields in the parish. Many members of the public are not aware of the law when it comes to this so I would just like to clarify that if a farmer sees a dog worrying livestock he is entitled to shoot the dog. Fortunately in the 3 years I've been here this has only happened a couple of times but does cause a lot of upset & distress for all involved. Farmers will only do this as a last resort but all dog owners need to remember to keep their dogs under control when going through fields with livestock present & if there is not a right of way through the field make sure they have permission from the farmer to walk through the field.

Item 39 - Item15 - Rail Services from Cooksbridge

Since writing again to Southern in March of this year, and setting out specific and achievable enhancements to the existing timetable, a response is still awaited from Southern's timetabling team on this issue. Pressure will continue to be applied for Southern to implement improvements to the train service from Cooksbridge based upon our own customer usage data, the results of the parish Action Plan survey and the precedents that have been set at neighbouring Plumpton where the opportunity to trial service improvements has been provided.

Cooksbridge Station Partnership

The key item of news to report is the provision by Southern of a ticket machine at the station (see attached photo). After making a strong case to Southern for the provision of a ticket machine, this was finally installed during May. This means that after a gap of 26 years (tickets were sold from the signalbox in latter years but this closed in 1985), it is now possible to buy a ticket again at the station. With the QUICKticket vending machine you can use cash, credit or debit cards to buy daily or weekly tickets using the touch screen graphics.

Regular inspections of the station have continued with reports to Southern on issues requiring attention. This recently included graffiti which had been sprayed onto the old goods shed wall. This was removed by Southern within 48 hours of it being reported.

Cooksbridge Cutting Works

A further letter was written to Network Rail asking them to re-instate a hedgeline along the new fence that has been installed at the top of the cutting slope. It was also pointed out that the installed fence is inappropriate alongside a public footpath due to the safety risks associated with potential trespass by young children.

It is regrettable that, despite assurances to the contrary, Hamsey Lane has been left by the contractors in a very poor condition. A further letter has been sent to Network Rail reiterating the need for them to restore the conditions along the lane to those that existed prior to the works, in particular repair of the verges which have suffered a lot of damage.

Level Crossing Survey Data

A communication has been sent to Network Rail requesting the data obtained from the recent vehicle surveys carried out at Cooksbridge and Hamsey level crossings. An acknowledgement has been received and a full reply is still awaited.

Lewes to Uckfield Rail Link (BML2)

There has been no discernible progress with this initiative which still lacks a project sponsor and funding. Monitoring of the project will continue and the parish kept informed of developments.

Please let me know if you require any additional information. Robert