

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
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Members of the **HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL** are required to attend a **meeting** of the Hamsey Parish Council to be held on **Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.15 pm at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge. BN73QG** Please share transport where practical.

Up to fifteen minutes only, are available at the start of the meeting for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the following agenda. It would be helpful to inform the clerk of any questions in advance. Public are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
2. **Questions from the public**
3. **Declaration of interest** by Councillors on any agenda items
4. **Minutes** of the meeting held 19th January 2017 (to be agreed & signed as a true record)
5. **Update on any matters arising from last meeting** (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) to note actions taken and note any further action:

6. **Financial matters**

a) **To approve payment of invoices as detailed** (including v.a.t)

Cheque No.300213	£25.00	CPRE Sussex donation
Cheque No.300214	£607.59	Clerk salary/expenses January
Cheque No.300215	£20.00	National trust – Beacon licence fee
Cheque No.300216	£642.96	Oakhill construction – path and landscaping
Cheque No.300217	£1560.00	Healthmatic – public toilet assistance
Cheque No.300218	£600.39	Clerk salary/expenses February
Cheque No.300219	£330.00	Healthmatic – public toilet service

b) **To note the Council's current financial situation**

Unity Trust statement 038 **£9,827.53** less cheques not yet drawn
Co-Op Account: 31/01/2017 **£5,293.33** (£2,165 is ring fenced)

- c) **To consider funds available** toward play equipment at Beechwood Rural park
- d) **To consider a request for funds** from Sussex Air ambulance
- e) **To consider a request for funds** from Lewes Citizens Advice

7a. **Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee:**

LW/17/0126 4 Chandlers Mead, Cooksbridge - Erection of a log cabin to rear garden to run a dog grooming business

LW/17/ 0030 Knights Court South Road South Common - Redevelopment of the site with six residential units to replace business units - *objection*

SDNP/16/06376 The Old Wheelwrights Shop The Street Offham BN7 3QD
- retrospective application for replacement of conservatory – *support*

SDNP/17/00397 - 7/8 Offham Cottages The Street Offham BN7 3QA -Retention of doorway on ground floor and partial removal of stud partition on first floor – *no comment*

LW/17/0117 Former Hamsey Brickworks, South Road South Common - Removal of condition 27 attached to planning approval LW/14/0712

7b. **Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP**

LW/16/0935 Chatfields Yard, Cooksbridge – Erection of 27 dwellings with landscaping, access and parking – *still pending*

SDNP/16/03729/PA16 Telecommunications poles. Offham Road, Offham - *refused*

SDNP/16/06376 The Old Wheelwrights Shop The Street Offham BN7 3QD
- retrospective application for replacement of conservatory – *granted*

- 7c To consider any response** to LDC regarding telegraph poles in Wickham Lane
- 8. Any report from Beechwood Hall trustees**
To note that Cllr Suttie has volunteered as a trustee
To note hall trustees have agreed that dogs should be kept on leads when in the recreation ground as the problem with dog mess has become extreme. Also, someone is taking away all the dog waste bags provided by the trustees.
- 9. To note correspondence received since the last meeting and any action required**
- 10. Any update on the parish council logo** – Cllr.D'Arienzo
- 11. To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk**
- 12. To consider any rail and bus issues**
- 13. Highway and Traffic issues including parking and speedwatch**
- 14. To consider Waste and Recycling Issues** – Cllr.Baughan
- 15. To consider a Neighbourhood watch group for Chandlers Mead** – Cllr.D'Arienzo
- 16. Report on fundraising activities for Hamsey church** - – Cllr.D'Arienzo
- 17. Update on use of the telephone box in Cooksbridge**– Cllr.D'Arienzo
Note: the box is now the property of HPC
- 18. Any update on a defibrillator for Offham**– Cllr.D'Arienzo
- 19. To consider installing cctv cameras at Beechwood hall**
- 20. Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda**
ESALC conference 14.3.17 from 9.30am, Hellingly
Cllr.Ginn will attend the SSALC first aid course
Cllr.Ginn has offered to keep dispensers at Offham and Cooksbridge topped up with the Hamsey walk leaflets. Cllr.Dodd has agreed to check the Offham hill bench monthly.
- 21. Meeting dates for 2017** – 18th May, 20th July, 14th September, 16th November
– all at Beechwood Hall, 7.15pm

Signed ----- Dated-----Mrs. J. Toomey, clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

Agenda Item 9 -Relevant correspondence received since last meeting

- 11.1.17 CPRE news – emailed to all
12.1.17 Maria Caulfield re. Phone signal – advertised in newsletter
16.1.17 LDALC minutes
17.1.17 Maria Caulfield – rail update
19.1.17 ESCC budget proposals
25.1.17 LDC Estelle Maisonnial – neighbourhood plans

- 26.1.17 Details of ESALC spring conference
- 3.2.17 SSALC employment awareness event 6th April – emailed to all
- 6.2.17 Biosphere reception – emailed to all
- 6.2.17 SSALC Training for chairman – emailed to all
- 8.2.17 ESCC Waste plan now adopted
- 9.2.17 SDNPA Upgrade to planning access system
- 10.2.17 Biosphere reception March 15th – input required
- 13.2.17 ESCC budget proposals update
- 13.2.17 Maria Caulfield – newsletter
- 13.2.17 HMRC end of year payroll changes
- 22.2.17 LDC Re. Confusing correspondence regarding Cooksbridge bus shelter
- 22.2.17 Sussex Police. New District Commander – Emma Brice.
- 23.2.17 CPRE News – emailed to all
- 24.2.17 Npms – plant monitoring scheme – emailed to all
- 25.2.17 Maria Caulfield – news
- 28.2.17 Sx Air ambulance offer of meeting
- 28.2.17 ESCC re. Customer service award – emailed to all
- 1.3.17 SDNP details of planning meeting 9.3.17 – emailed to all as the traveller site in Offham is on the agenda.
- 1.3.17 LDC changes to application LW/16/0935 – emailed to all

From Residents:

- 9.1.17 Correspondence re. Condition of Whitfeld Lane. Passed to ESCC
- 11.1.17 Correspondence regarding land clearing in Offham
- 12.1.17 Comments on behaviour of a councillor
- 21.1.17 Resident concerned about road markings and salt bin.
- 31.1.17 Resident concerned about telegraph poles in Wickham Lane
- 5.2.17 Concerning poor phone coverage
- 7.2.17 Re. Whitfeld Lane/ state of roads
- 10.2.17 Mud and potholes on path between Cooksbridge and Offham garage
- 15.2.17 Concerning poor phone coverage in Offham
- 15.2.17 Concerning necessary tree work in Offham
- 22.2.17 Regarding a planning application

Reports concerning Felling of trees and land clearance in Offham:
Report 1 – from Daniel Wynn, Tree officer, LDC

Further to my site visit today. I understand some of your neighbours are unhappy with the removal of the Sycamore tree in your garden and have expressed the view that they didn't believe its removal was justified. I write to make clear my position on this matter

Once the tree was felled, my office received complaints from neighbours about not only the loss of the tree but also the view that its removal was not justified. In response to these claims I conducted a site visit today to inspect the remaining stump and I am grateful to you for allowing me to do so. As a result of my inspection I can confirm that the tree was indeed infected with Brittle Fracture Disease (*Kretzschmaria deusta*) and that there was an extensive area of decayed wood present. I can report my observations. There is a decayed segment of the stump which amounts to about 30% of the radius of the stem together with clear breaches of the mechanical and/or chemical barrier zones. The tree's barrier zones are part of the tree's defence mechanisms which have evolved to try and limit the ingress of parasitic organisms such as this. Compartmentalisation of the decay had failed in at least two places in this one cross-sectional plane and it is likely that a column of decay had formed both above and below ground – the below ground portions would be likely affecting the upper sections of the anchorage roots. There can be little doubt that the mechanical properties of the stem and most likely the below ground anchorage rooting system had been affected. Based on what is plainly visible, it is difficult to see how anyone could believe the stem to be 'healthy'. Based on my knowledge and experience, I am of the firm opinion that once an infection of *K deusta* is established, something like a quarter to a third of the cross section of the stem around the seat of the infection will be materially altered over each subsequent year.

It was suggested that the tree could have been 'pollarded' as part of a longer-term strategy to try and retain it. This is not a course of action I would have recommended. The problem with this approach is that by removing the entire canopy, which would be the minimum required to reduce the tree's 'sail' and thus lessen the risk of wind-throw, the tree would have responded by redirecting its resources into trying to replace the leaf-surface area. This in turn diverts resources away from limiting the progress of the pathogen and any subsequent secondary infections from other opportunistic pathogens, which is highly likely. As a result, as is often the case, the progress of the disease would have been greatly accelerated and this would have resulted in the need to remove the remainder of the tree at a later date, perhaps only a couple of years hence. In other words, it was not really a viable option from the outset and in any event not a cost effective one.

In summary, the Sycamore tree was infected by a known decay forming parasitic fungi with no known viable control remedies that would effectively treat the condition. The identified fungi is known to cause brittle fracture and as a result was at an elevated risk of failure. As a consequence, the tree did not qualify for a Tree Preservation Order and consent was issued to allow the complete removal of the tree.

Report 2: Mill Lane Farm

With respect to the work we have carried out, it has all been perfectly legal and above board and has not required felling licenses. Trees felled inside a conservation area require a felling license unless the case allows an exemption. Exemptions for felling licenses include: Fruit trees, dangerous or nuisance trees, lopping, pruning, topping or pollarding. For a full list of felling license exemptions please refer to the guidance provided by the forestry commission, this can be found online.

Some work has been carried out in a garden. This work was covered by the aforementioned exemptions. When this work was being done threats were made and the incident was reported to the police. Subsequently an old fence line which was not a hedge was cleared of wire and ivy, in order that a new boundary fence and hedge could be placed.

We are currently doing work on the farm to coppice and re-lay hedging. The hedge in question was never a properly planted hedge, but primarily invasive alder and ash which are not suitable hedging plants, but had grown up over the years along the fence line. Starting this Friday the re-laying will begin, carried out by Plumpton Students as part of their countryside management course supervised by Phil Hart. This hedge is being improved as part of our routine hedge maintenance for RPA cross compliance. No hedges are being removed, they are in fact being conserved.

Over the past few years we have carried out tree felling and scrub management on the Offham to Clayton escarpment SSSI. This work is part of our Higher level Stewardship Agreement aiming to restore ecologically valuable calciferous downland turf whilst removing the invasive scrub which prevents this rare habitat from returning. This work is being done for English Heritage and Natural England who subsidize the project. The removal of scrub cannot be considered responsible for flooding in the village as the entire hill was clear a relatively short time ago with no flooding taking place. The flooding is attributable to extreme weather patterns leading to ground saturation and run-off.

Having farmed here for the past two hundred years my family are well aware of the valuable ecosystems and natural beauty of the area, to which we have been the most significant contributors due to our hard work and commitment. Our conservation work is neither thoughtless nor ignorant as claimed. We are all well aware of the challenges presented by modern agriculture as each of us has attended university to study agriculture. Biodiversity and environmental management are significant parts of a degree in agriculture.

I hope this clears up any questions the council may have.

I would also like to add that any work that is carried as a part of our business is in a lawful manner on private land.