

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
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Minutes of the meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 11th January 7.00pm

Present: Cllr.D'Arienzo, chair
Cllr.Ian Ginn, vice chair
Cllr.K.McBrown Cllr. M.Dodd
Cllr.R.Baughan Cllr.J.Harmer
Cllr.A.Suttie

Apologies:

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. Cllr.Isabelle Linington (LDC)
10 members of the public.

		Action
82	Apologies for absence - None	
83	Questions from the public - None	
84	Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. None	
85	Minutes of the meeting held 16 th Nov. 17 were agreed & signed as a true record	
86	Update on any matters arising from last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda) None	
87	Financial matters	
87.1	<i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300264 £118.78 Chair's expenses *Cheque No.300265 £125.00 Grant to Sussex Air ambulance – s.137 *Cheque No.300266 £150.00 Grant to Lewes Citizen's advice – s.137 *Cheque No.300267 £75.00 Grant to St.John ambulance – s.137 *Cheque No.300268 Spoilt *Cheque No.300269 £632.98 Clerk's salary/expenses November *Cheque No.300270 £93.60 LDC Dog Bin empty *Cheque No.300271 £828.00 Barcombe landscapes mowing *Cheque No.300272 £622.05 Clerk's salary/expenses December *Cheque No.300273 £21.00 M.Highes. Artwork for community award	
87.2	Council noted the current financial situation.	
88	Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee	
88.1	SDNP/17/04678/FUL Land adjacent to Offham Barns The Street Offham: 2 additional pitches and conversion of 2 stables to day rooms ancillary to Gypsy site with alterations to existing site access - <i>no objection to 4 units only</i> LW/17/0994 The Malthouse Cooksbridge Road Cooksbridge: Conversion of Village Hall to form two houses with separate garages and associated courtyard car parking – <i>PC had some comments but no objection</i> LW/17/0988 Chatfields Yard, Cooksbridge Road - Variation of condition 23 relating to application LW/16/0935 to allow additional external (porch) lighting – <i>no objection but a request that the screening on the Northern boundary be re-established</i> LW/17/1002 Chatfields Yard Cooksbridge Road - Variation of Condition 1 of planning application LW/16/0935 for the alteration of approved materials – <i>objection due to lack of information</i>	
88.2	Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP LW/17/0758 & LW/17/0759 Highwell, The Drove, Offham - Kitchen extension to rear elevation -- <i>granted</i> SDNP/17/04169/HOUS Little Bretts, Hamsey - Erection of timber building - <i>granted</i> LW/17/0899 North End Barn, North End Lane, Hamsey BN8 5TE- retrospective application for the erection of a single storey 3 bay garage and log store – <i>granted</i>	

88.3	<p>Council considered matters relating to developments at Hamsey Old Brickworks. <i>a) Future management of the ancient woodland on site</i> Cllr.Dodd outlined two proposals 1) New residents will pay into a fund to maintain the woodland. This would be run by a management trust. Current residents and the PC would have a seat on the trust. It was considered that residents paying towards the upkeep would take a more pro-active role in the management of the woodland. 2) <i>The woodland would be gifted to the Parish Council for a nominal fee.</i> The parish council would have to take on all the management and costs including the legal fees, insurance, inspections and possibly fencing. Council considered whether residents would feel less ownership if the wood was seen as 'council land'. The meeting was adjourned at 7.15pm to allow residents to speak. A resident said that if the HPC owned the woods they could manage what went on there. Chair explained that HPC has no expertise in woodland management so would need to employ a management company. Cllr.Baughan said there are not enough volunteers to manage existing projects in the parish and maintain presently owned assets. He felt this was not another thing the PC could take on. Cllr.Harmer said it would not be too difficult to manage the woodland in a similar way to the Beechwood Hall. Chair asked how much time he could put into managing the woodland. Cllr Harmer said none. Chair said the woodland is already designated a 'Green Space' through the neighbourhood plan so could not be developed. A resident was worried that if new residents have to pay toward management but present residents do not, it may cause tension. Chair explained that the developers would take the cost of management for the first 5 years whilst setting up the trust. This would not happen if the woods were taken on by HPC. Cllr.Dodd asked residents present to indicate their preference and all voted for the HPC to take on the woodland management. Meeting reconvened 7.35pm. The chair felt the HPC just did not have the manpower to take this on <i>b)Development of the business units</i> Chair explained that the application was originally for 12 business units but this had been reduced to 8 units to improve viability of the site. The developers now say the outlay on building 8 business units before any residential is too onerous but the HPC felt that once the houses were built there was no incentive to build the business units. The chair proposed one unit to be built and properly marketed. If the unit is not viable 4 more should be built and could be converted to residential later. The land area of 3 units should be granted to HPC for a small sum so future residents could decide on its use – small park or community building if required. Seconded by Cllr.Dodd and agreed by all. Council discussed <i>a) Future management of the ancient woodland on site</i> again. The chair said the management trust option would represent all the residents who would manage the woodland for their own benefit. Cllr.Baughan said HPC could not make a decision to raise the council tax for the whole parish to manage a wood which few would be able to access unless a car park was provided, without consulting all the residents. Cllr.Ginn said the trust would provide access for all Bevernbridge residents and this was not something the developers had offered before the HPC stepped in as proposals were to fence off the woods, he proposed the option for the management trust. Seconded by Cllr.Baughan and agreed 5 in favour and 2 against. Cllr.Dodd asked for it to be minuted that he felt this was a lost opportunity for the parish. Residents left the meeting at this point but one resident did thank the chair for all the time and effort she had put into securing access to the woods.</p>	
89 89.1 89.2	<p>Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall a) Cllr.McBrown gave an update on the purchase of new play equipment for the park. 3 quotes had been received and equipment had been chosen.Chair proposed that the order be placed with HAGS SMP. Cost of the equipment with installation and moving the zip wire is £31,234 which will be paid with a grant from Hall trustees and a grant of up to £9,000 as agreed from HPC. Landscaping costs are not yet known. b) Update on installing CCTV - Trustees have this in hand.</p>	
90	<p>Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting</p>	

91	To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk Community meeting – November 30 th . Minutes had been circulated by the chair. Council noted the LDC officer has still not spoken to the resident who was known to have been causing trouble around Cooksbridge despite the PCSO requesting this. The meeting was felt to be a success and problems have reduced since. The newsletter must emphasise the requirement for dogs to be on a lead in Beechwood Park.	
92	Council considered rail and bus issues. - Report from Cllr.Baughan attached A new timetable will be issued this month and HPC is hoping for an improvement to services.	
93	Highway and Traffic issues - Report from Cllr.Baughan attached Workers on the Chatfield (Covers) site are still not parking within the site. Cllr.Baughan will follow this up as it is ruining verges and causing commuters to park further into Cooksbridge. The chair has spoken to the new Hamsey School Headteacher regarding some parking/drop off on the school field.	Cllr.Baughan
94	Council considered any environmental issues- Report from Cllr.Baughan attached. Chair said Sustrans were looking into a number of multiuse paths and one was from Lewes to Cooksbridge using an old railway track but there are a number of difficulties with the route including a missing bridge. Chair has also contacted LDC/ESCC about 'Switch off your engine' signs for the Cooksbridge crossing. Chair will put an article into the newsletter asking drivers to 'switch off'.	Cllr.Baughan Chair
95	Update on the parish emergency plan Cllr.Suttie will circulate the draft plan prior to the March meeting.	Cllr.Suttie Cllr.Harmer
96	Items for noting HPC will present the Community Award and a small gift to Rev.D.Bastide on January 14 th in recognition of his 34 years serving the residents of the parish. Cllr.McBrown will make the presentation and all councillors were invited to attend. SALC have issued their 2018 training programme. I.Ginn to register for Charity Trustee awareness day on 22.3.18 Role of Data Protection Officer to be on March agenda – Cllr.Ginn has initially offered to look at what this role might entail. Review of financial regs, standing orders and risk assessment for March Review of councillor roles for March	
97	Meeting dates for 2018 - 8 th March,10 th May, 19 th July, 13 th Sept., 8 th Nov.	

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

JT 17/01/18

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

Minute no.92: a quick update on significant rail issues:

GTR 2018 Timetable – A response was provided during December to the consultation on weekend and late night services (to complement the consultation on weekdays services already carried out). We have now been informed that the May 2018 timetable will be published by GTR at the end of February 2018.

Brighton Line blockades – Network Rail have advised that there will be two week-long blockades of the Brighton main line south of Three Bridges during October 2018 and February 2019 to allow for urgent maintenance and upgrade work to be completed to improve

reliability. During these blockades there will be no train service from Cooksbridge and GTR will be publishing details of alternative transport arrangements in due course.

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Enhancements – Further to the meeting with Network Rail held in October 2017, I have written again to the project team responsible seeking an update on the status of the planned works at Cooksbridge level crossing and the proposed programme for implementation. Once received I will be circulate to all.

Minute no.93: update on significant issues that are currently being progressed with East Sussex Highways:

Case 114200 – Damage to footpath and wooden post - The repair to the damaged footpath in front of Downsview Cottages have now been carried out. East Sussex Highways advised today that the damaged wooden post will also be replaced by the end of this month.

Case 93114 – Repairs to damage caused to the verges of Hamsey Lane and The Drove as a result of road traffic diversions associated with closures of Cooksbridge CCTV level crossing – East Sussex Highways have been requested to advise the scheduled date when this work will be carried out.

Case 167567 - Bridge railings at North End - East Sussex Highways have been requested to advise the scheduled date when this work will be carried out.

Improvements to the junction of A275 and Town Littleworth Road – In response to issues raised during the residents' meeting of 30 November 2017, East Sussex Highways have confirmed that a recent review of the road accidents at this location identified that localised improvements on the A275 in the vicinity of the junction with the Town Littleworth Road would be appropriate. They have agreed with Sussex Police to renew the existing traffic signs and road markings on this part of the A275 and install some new hazard marker posts to help make drivers more aware of the alignment of the road and the junction.

'Speed Bumps' on Chandlers Mead – In response to other highways issues raised during the residents' meeting of 30 November 2017, East Sussex Highways have advised that they will not be able to progress the installation of 'speed bumps' on Chandlers Mead due to current budgetary constraints and the need to prioritise other areas based on their risk criteria.

Minute no.94

Environment Report – January 2018

Litter Strategy for England – Work continues with reviewing this government published strategy document and, in particular, what we can take from it now to apply here in Hamsey parish.

LDC New Recycling Bins – Lewes District Council is now implementing a new home recycling process across the district with thousands of new wheelie bins delivered along with improvements to local bring sites.

Phase one of the wheelie bin rollout is complete with homes in East Saltdean, Telscombe and Peacehaven now in possession of a green bin with a blue lid.

Newhaven, Denton, South Heighton and Seaford are part of phase two with the wheelie bins arriving during January and February.

It is planned that the whole of the district, including Hamsey parish, will be provided with the new wheelie bins by July 2018 with a letter sent to all residents to advise the exact date of implementation.

The introduction of the new wheelie bin marks the end of the assortment of old boxes and bags that residents in the district use to sort their waste.

The new system is much simpler and easy to use with paper, tins and cans, cardboard, glass, ready meal trays, yoghurt pots, tubs and plastic fruit punnets going in the one wheelie bin.

A meeting has been held with the LDC Waste and Recycling department to progress various other initiatives for Hamsey parish including 'bring sites' and we continue to build on our excellent relations with this team.

Litter Heroes – We are continuing to do all we can to encourage more residents to adopt their local areas as a key initiative to complement the quarterly parish litter picks. If anyone wishes to take part in this initiative and 'adopt' their part of our parish please do let us know.

Dog Fouling – This issue continues to be a problem within the parish, with regular breaches by some local dog owners of the Beechwood Hall trustees decision that dogs should be kept on leads when in the recreation ground. Page 2 of 2

The LDC Public Space Protection Order (PSPOs), covering dog fouling anywhere in Lewes district, came into force on 27 November 2017 with anyone found not to be clearing up after their dog facing a potential fine of up to £1000.

Occurrences of dog-related anti-social behaviour, involving the deliberate fouling of the drives of private residences within Cooksbridge, have been reported to Sussex Police for their attention.

Parish Litter Picks – The parish litter picks are held on a quarterly basis on Saturday mornings meeting at 10.00 at Beechwood Hall and are publicised in the Hamsey News, the community website and by posters, with the next litter pick taking place on Saturday 13th January 2018.

All are welcome and we hope very much to see as many parish councillors as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean!

Pollution at Cooksbridge level Crossing - We are continuing to pursue a number of work-streams to address the issue of pollution from road vehicles waiting at Cooksbridge level crossing. These include the potential repositioning by Network Rail / GTR of the stopping point of long London bound trains to reduce barrier down times and the provision of appropriate anti-pollution road signage by Network Rail, East Sussex Highways and on the fencing of selected local properties.

In relation to the provision of signage, we have become aware that LDC are implementing a similar scheme in Lewes to address pollution there, and we are working with them to ensure a unified approach to signage format and to maximise any synergies.

Vision - Tamsyn and Robert are continuing to talk with neighbouring parishes to share information and to join forces on environmental initiatives. We have many really exciting initiatives now in progress and more ideas in the pipeline and we would always welcome contributions and suggestions for consideration.

We continue to share a vision of Hamsey parish as a community working together to ensure a clean and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

Councillors Robert Baughan and Tamsyn D'Arienzo