

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Present:** Cllr.Ian Ginn, chair      **Apologies:** Cllr.A.Suttie  
Cllr.D'Arienzo                              Cllr.Isabelle Linington (LDC)  
Cllr.R.Baughan  
Cllr. M.Dodd      Cllr. J.Harmer  
Cllr.K.McBrown

**In attendance:** Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.      1 member of the public

		Action
61	<b>Apologies for absence – As noted above</b>	
62	<b>Questions from the public.</b> There were no members of the public present at the start of the meeting	
63	<b>Declaration of interest by</b> Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. Cllr.Dodd declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7a SDNP/16/05289 The chair and Cllr.Baughan declared an interest in item 6f.	
64	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> Minutes of the parish council meeting held 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2016 were agreed and signed by the chair.	
65	<b>Update on any matters arising from last meeting</b> <i>Min no.51.1: Clerk has contacted ee twice regarding their offer to survey for improvements to mobile phone coverage but still no reply. Clerk to contact Maria.</i>	clerk
66	<b>Financial matters</b>	
66.1	<i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300193      £88.92      LDC Dog bin empty Cheque No.300194      £607.59      Clerk salary/expenses September Cheque No.300195      £240.00      PFK Littlejohn. External Audit *Cheque No.300196      £608.99      Clerk salary/expenses October *Cheque No.300197      £9.75      Chair's expenses (Travel to Hellingly) *Cheque No.300198      £52.80      KPS Contractors. Grass cut at Malthouse park *Cheque No.300199      £66.00      SSALC fee for Chairmanship training 5 <sup>th</sup> October <i>*not yet drawn</i>	
66.2	Council noted the current financial situation.	
66.3	Council discussed the precept required for 2017/18 and agreed that £17,873 would cover budget items with unexpected events covered by reserves.	
66.4	Council noted that Unity Trust bank have introduced a charge of £72 per year but agreed to continue banking with Unity Trust for another year	
66.5	Council noted that a new internal auditor will need appointing for 2017	
66.6	Council considered a request from Cooksbridge station partnership for £150 to cover posters and flyers in support of the rail service consultation. Cllr.Dodd proposed council agreed the grant, seconded by Cllr.D'Arienzo and agreed by Cllr.McBrown.	
67	<b>Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee:</b>	
67.1	<b>Proposed Diversion of Public Bridleways Hamsey 17, ( Lewes Old Racecourse )</b> <i>Council agreed that as this path was not very familiar to them the decision was best left to the county rights of way officers.</i>	
67.2	<b>SDNP/16/05289</b> The Old Wheelwrights Shop,Offham BN7 3QD -Installation of an	

67.3	<p>emergency escape rooflight to the southern roof slope of the detached garage - <i>Council agreed that members of the planning committee should visit the site and if any comment is made this should be given under delegated powers.</i></p> <p><b>Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP</b></p> <p><b>SDNP/16/03793/HOUS</b> Little Bretts,Whitfeld Lane,Hamsey. Conservatory – <i>granted</i></p>	
67.4	<p><b>Council considered correspondence</b> relating to a proposal for development at The Platt, Beechwood Lane. This area is designated as a Local Green Space in the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan and was therefore protected from development. Chair adjourned the meeting (7.40pm) A resident suggested that a housing association could be involved to provide affordable housing to meet a local need. Meeting re-convened (7.45pm) Council asked the clerk to reply to the correspondent quoting the guidance for a protected green space. Cllr.Harmer arrived (7.50pm)</p>	Clerk
68	<p><b>Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall</b></p>	
68.1	<p>The trustees are no longer able to cut the hedge between the car park and the field Council agreed that it could be added to the PC mowing contract for next year.</p>	
68.2	<p>Trustees have been offered a public convenience which could be installed at the park and ask if the PC would be prepared to deal with this on their behalf. They would offer a grant to the PC to cover the costs and would cover future cleaning/maintenance if the PC would cover the insurance. This is a project that was raised through the neighbourhood plan. Council agreed to deal with the installation and discussed making a grant available to cover some of the costs. Cllr.Baughan proposed a grant of £1,000 seconded by Cllr.D'Arienzo and agreed.</p>	
68.3	<p>Cllr.Suttie had sent a report to council expressing her dismay at the amount of dog mess to be seen on the recreation field and suggesting that reluctantly it may be time to restrict dogs in some way. Cllr.Baughan said it was a problem not just in the park but throughout the parish. Requests to Clean up after your dog had failed. Clerk was asked to contact LDC dog warden service to see what might be done.</p>	Clerk
69	<p><b>Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting</b></p>	
70	<p><b>Council approved the risk assessment</b></p>	
71	<p><b>Reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk</b></p> <p>The chair and vice chair attended the ESCC Conference and found it interesting Councillors and N.Plan rep. met with LDC to consider exception sites (report attached to the agenda)</p>	
72	<p><b>Council considered rail and bus services.</b></p> <p>Cooksbridge rail group have written to local businesses and visited local councils, together with a leaflet and poster campaign to raise support for improvements to the Cooksbridge service. The council will respond to the consultation before the deadline 8.12.16. Council felt this would be the final opportunity this decade to get any improvements. An alert to residents would go on the website.</p> <p>Cllr.Baughan was still waiting to see proposals for cameras at the level crossing in the Drove. The Lewes-Uckfield re-opening study had been produced, but has still to be published by the Department for Transport.</p> <p>A reply had been received from GoviaThameslink stating that there were no plans to introduce charging at the station car park but it will be monitored to check vehicles are parked correctly.</p> <p>The chair will meet soon with a local land owner to discuss a possible bus waiting shelter for North bound journeys.</p>	Clerk
73	<p><b>Highway and Traffic issues including parking and speedwatch</b></p> <p>No speedwatch possible in winter months due to reduced visibility. Council noted that cars parking on the verge North of Hamsey Lane are damaging the grass.</p>	

74	<p><b>Council considered Waste and Recycling Issues</b>  Thanks were extended to the Blacksmiths Arms, Offham, for supplying refreshments to participants in the last Litter Pick. Sadly, some areas of the parish are suffering from a lot of litter and more volunteers are needed to keep this under control. LDC have agreed that a recycling waste bin can be installed by the Cooksbridge bus stop. Cllr.D'Arienzo proposed that council pay £697.38 plus £66 installation for the bin, seconded by Cllr.Baughan and agreed by all. She will contact LDC.  A chailey resident had asked if the PC would provide a waste bin in the layby on the A275 by Wickham Lane. Cllr.Baughan proposed the PC provide a bin at a cost of apx. £400 plus installation seconded by Cllr.D'Arienzo. Agreed. The chair felt that people who use a bin would take litter home and those who drop litter will not use the bin provided. He had some concerns that a bin may encourage flytipping.</p>	<p>Cllr.D'Arienzo</p> <p>Cllr.D'Arienzo</p>
75	<p><b>Update on improvements in parish council website/communication</b>  Cllrs.Suttie was not available but she and Cllr. D'Arienzo are working on the layout for the updated website. Good photographs of the parish are needed.</p>	
76	<p><b>Report on fundraising activities for Hamsey church</b>  There will be a Christmas fair on November 19<sup>th</sup> to raise funds.</p>	
77	<p><b>To consider adoption of the telephone box in Cooksbridge</b>  Cllr.D'Arienzo had approached a local company who have agreed to sponsor the telephone box if the PC agree to adopt it. Council asked the clerk to complete the forms that would give the PC responsibility for the kiosk and agreed that it would make a useful community facility perhaps for community notices.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
78	<p><b>Update on maintenance of Malthouse playground</b>  Following complaints that the roadside hedge had become far too tall and was causing excessive shading of the play area, two quotes were received to prune the trees to 1.5m high. Clerk has instructed the supplier of the lower quote to carry out the work at a suitable time. No suggestions have yet been received regarding any future improvements to the little park.</p>	
79	<p><b>Council considered</b> the LDC response to the PC request for one more parish councillor and felt that it was not likely that 225 residents would bother to vote for the increase and that the timing meant that no change would come through before the next elections in 2019.</p>	
80	<p><b>Items for noting</b></p>	
80.1	<p><b>Council noted</b> the response from Sussex police to the PC concerns about recent incidents of petty vandalism (reply attached). The police do need residents to report ALL incidents so they have an up to date log and can act accordingly.</p>	
80.2	<p>Note: SDNP East Sussex Parishes workshop 21.Nov at 6.30pm,Town Hall (AS, MD)</p>	
80.3	<p><b>Note request</b> for lighting of the beacon 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.2018 (100 years since end of WW1)</p>	
81	<p><b>Meeting dates for 2017</b> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> November – all at Beechwood Hall, 7.15pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

JT 21/11/16

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

**Minute No.80.1:**

Recorded crime in Cooksbridge for the periods 01/01/2016 to 17/11/2016 and for the same period in 2015. In general terms the following crime types have been reported :

2015

Criminal Damage - 5  
Burglary Non Dwelling - 6  
Theft offences - 8  
Public Order Offences - 1  
Violent crime - 6  
Vehicle Crime - 1  
Malicious Communications - 2

2016

Criminal Damage - 9  
Burglary Non Dwelling - 1  
Burglary Dwelling - 1  
Theft offences - 8  
Public Order Offences - 1  
Violent Crime - 3  
Vehicle Crime - 4  
Sexual Offences - 2  
Fraud - 1  
Malicious Communications - 2  
Harassment - 1

There has been a small numerical increase in Criminal Damage offences in 2016 however the overall numbers are so very low and this type of offence equates to less than one a month. With such low numbers it is very difficult to draw definitive patterns. Minor damage to vehicles is the most common type of the 9 reports.

We are keen to be contacted with local issues and concerns and even though there is no named PCSO for Cooksbridge we can still be contacted by the District email address [District.lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:District.lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk) which is monitored daily. Although we do proactively monitor incident reports ourselves it is far better to receive information in a timely fashion rather than be presented with it in the run up to a council meeting. Due to the changes and new ways of working PCSOs will no longer routinely attend council meetings purely to give a police report.

PCSO provision in Sussex Police may look different now but we still aim to be responsive to our communities and be there when people need us the most. There has to be an acceptance that we can't do everything for everyone but deployment and problem solving activity in Cooksbridge will receive the same consideration as any other area in Lewes District based on an assessment of need and threat, harm and risk.

I would hope that you and the councillors can be somewhat reassured that Cooksbridge currently accounts for less than 1 % of all crime on Lewes District and less than 1% of all Anti-Social Behaviour incidents.

Kind Regards

Rob Lovell  
NPT Inspector – Lewes District  
East Sussex Division