

SHEPHERDSWELL WITH COLDRED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held in Shepherdswell Village Hall on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Councillors B Crush (Chairman), K Catt, R Edmond, P Mummery, G Peagram, K Regan, I Robertson, C White
4 Parishioners

IN ATTENDANCE: S Durbidge (Clerk to the Council)
Dover District Councillor Mog Ovenden

013/2015 Apologies: Councillors M Elgar, C Pickaver, J Wolfenden
Dover District Councillor Peter Walker
Kent Community Warden Julliette West

Declaration of other significant interests:
Councillors B Crush, R Edmond, C White 020/2015.

014/2015 Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting: Minutes of 21 January 2015 were proposed, seconded and approved as a true record.

015/2014 Public Participation: None

016/2015 Clerk's Report – on Matters Arising

- Letter sent to DDC Environmental Health regarding noise at East Kent Railway.
- Parish polls consultation and Action with Communities in Rural England funding petition supported.
- Precept demand and vat claim submitted.
- Coldred verge mowing expenses invoice submitted to KCC.
- Legal advice sought regarding Preschool rent charge.
- Signs for village hall and play area ordered.
- Revised tree safety work quote and timetable reported to meeting.
- East Kent Railway site meeting cancelled (by EKR).
- Parish Council election information provided to meeting.

017/2015 Finance:

a) Balances as at 18 February 2015	£
Current Account	870.18
Business Account	66,951.17
NS&I Account - Village Hall	1,958.53
Car Park a/c	3,559.73
b) To approve payments	
English Landscapes (January)	450.08
AJ Wells (Mole control at Coldred and Shepherdswell)	60.00
Travis Perkins (Bulk bag of MOT type 1 aggregate, see 009/2015b)	43.20
S Durbidge (Expenses from 21/01/15 – 18/02/15)	21.54

c) In response to a Grounds Maintenance specification being sent to three contractors as requested, three sealed tender envelopes were received and opened at the meeting. **It was resolved that** the quote from The Landscape Group - English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd for £4,590.85 +vat (payable in 12 equal payments) be accepted.

018/2015 Planning

- a) The Planning Committee Chairman reported on three decisions at the 18 February meeting (see Planning Committee minutes).
- b) It was agreed that a Working Party including non-Council members meet on Monday March 9 at 7:00pm at the village hall to consider progress with low cost housing, Parish Plan objective H1.2.

019/2015 Recreation Ground

- a) It was reported that rabbit damage is becoming more serious to both the football and cricket playing fields. **It was resolved that** an offer from a local group to control rabbit numbers by carrying out ferreting free of charge be agreed.
- b) New play equipment: Much of the existing equipment is coming to the end of its life expectancy. It was agreed that new equipment be researched and a site meeting held with a manufacturer with a view to initially replacing a single existing item (e.g. the slide which fails the requirements of BS EN1176 Part 3). Replacement of the fence and gates and extending the play area may also be considered.

020/2015 Village Hall

- a) Car park extension Parish Plan objective T3.3: It was reported that a form of unilateral undertaking to be provided by the DDC Legal Dept is still awaited. **It was resolved that** either the matter be brought to the attention of the Chief Executive or the Council produce its own document.
- b) Quotes for car park extension tree work and groundworks were considered. **It was resolved that** the lowest quotes be accepted i.e. £2,710.00 +vat and £6,120.00 +vat respectively.
- c) A report was given of a site meeting held on 31 January (to which neighbouring residents were invited) to consider screening and lighting. Approved tree work including the removal of five Cypress trees was pointed out. Additional hedge screening required by the planning authority was assessed and planting quotes sought. Improvements to the access road lighting were discussed.
- d) **It was resolved that** a quote of £874.00 to upgrade entrance road lighting be accepted (two replacement bollard lights and additional light above hair salon) see 020/2015c.
- e) **It was resolved that** a request by Preschool to permanently relocate store shed be approved.
- f) Proposed Shepherdswell Preschool Lease: It was agreed that a Working Party meet (time and date to be arranged) to consider the legal advice received so far regarding rent charge as part of a new 30-year lease.
- g) Temporary allotments: It was agreed that a Working Party meet with the proposed allotment association on Thursday March 12 at 9:30am at the village hall to progress allotment arrangements and constitution, Parish Plan objective C2.4.
- h) **It was resolved that** the recently purchased meadow be named as Reed Meadow.

021/2015 Other Items

- a) **It was resolved that** a suitable topic for the Annual Parish Meeting (15 April) would be Lydden Hill Race Circuit, including possible developments.

022/2015 Date of next scheduled meeting

Wednesday 18 March 2015 7:30pm in Shepherdswell Village Hall.

Public and press are cordially invited. An agenda will be displayed three clear days before the meeting.

023/2015 Closure of meeting: The meeting closed at 9:35pm

Note: Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting

Reports and Parishioners' Question Time at the Parish Council meeting held in Shepherdswell Village Hall on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 7:30pm

Kent Community Warden Julliette West (written report)

Julliette has dealt with the following issues over the past month: -

Noise nuisance, neighbour nuisance, pollution, stray chickens, lost cat, welfare, theft, speeding, parking obstructions, dog fouling, litter, suspicious persons, suspicious vehicle, environmental health, highways, trading standards.

DDC Councillor Mog Ovenden

Mog reported that DDC has become the first local authority in East Kent to have a full Local Plan in place following adoption of its Land Allocations Local Plan (LALP). These key documents give developers and investors certainty about land identified for potential development for the next 20 years, although some development not in the Plan may be put forward such as the Monkton Court Lane development in Eythorne.

Kennel Hill, Eythorne is to be closed to traffic for a couple of days next month. It is probable that through traffic in Shepherdswell will increase during this time as the indicated diversion is likely to be tortuous.

DDC is asking their Councillors to indicate when making comments on social media that they are either acting as an elected member or in a personal capacity.

Household advice on recycling waste is to be offered to residents by callers.

The HGV sign on the A2 (before Coxhill) was removed by the Highways Agency because they considered the junction was becoming 'cluttered'. A permanent HGV sign has been requested but the existing foundations for a new enlarged sign structure are inadequate. This matter will be raised at the Dover Joint Transport Board (JTB).

Q. How can we help to get the HGV sign reinstated?

A. By emailing Council support to JTB (agreed by Council).

Q. Was the Local Plan changed before adoption?

A. No. (Policy LA29/Land to the west of Coxhill remains deleted from the Plan)

Proposed Football and Cricket Changing Rooms Extension to Scout Hut:

Q. The Team Manager of Shepherdswell Spartans FC raised the matter of a delay in getting approval from the 18th Scout Group to extend the Scout Hut to accommodate changing rooms for

cricket and football clubs using the Recreation Ground and whether a detached building may be necessary if permission is not granted.

A. The Council, as Landlord, agreed to host a meeting in the village hall on Tuesday 17 March at 8:00pm with the Sports Clubs, Scout Group, and Residents Association to try to resolve the situation.

Wootton Environment Protection Group:

A member of the Wootton Environment Protection Group spoke to the meeting: -

1. Who we are and what we are doing

2. Lydden Hill

- Not 'nimbys'
- But concerned that Lydden Hill does not operate within its operating conditions as set out by DDC

- increased noise and traffic
- plays scant heed to environmental regulations
- operates outside permitted times
- operates on more days per year than is permitted

Noise: - this has been increasing over the past years in particular with the introduction of events such as drifting.

It is not just the levels of noise we object to but the intensity and the type of noise. Drifting is the worst - the noise it produces is very dense.

We understand that a noise abatement notice is about to be served on Lydden Hill.

Noise from post race events - parties etc - a noise abatement notice was issued about this but late night evening events continue.

Environmental impact: - Lydden Hill is in an area of outstanding national beauty. In 2014 DDC ANOB unit strongly objected to the increasing number of events that Lydden Hill was proposing - in particular 2 day events.

Events cause pollution including toxic fumes, smells from spent fuel and burning tyres, haze and smoke; waste litter on and off site, sewerage waste and used tyres.

Traffic issue: - pre and post event traffic

This issue falls between several stools - DDC says it is the responsibility of the Police and Highways Agency. The Police say it is not theirs and the Highways Agency says unless traffic causes a major jam it is not theirs!

Local businesses: - Lydden Hill is of limited value to local businesses as catering is on-site and overnight camping is offered.

Lydden Hill calendar: - A calendar of events is issued by Lydden Hill but additional events have been added with retrospective permission granted by DDC. Emails sent to DDC go unanswered.

3. Conclusion

We would like to ask Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council if it would be prepared to support and endorse what we are doing. If so, would the Council like to have representation on our committee?

It was agreed at the meeting that the matter of affiliation to the Wootton Environment Protection Group be added to the March agenda.