

SHEPHERDSWELL WITH COLDRED PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillors B Crush (Chairman), K Catt, R Edmond, M Elgar, P Mummery, G Peagram, C Pickaver, K Regan, I Robertson, C White, J Wolfenden
18 Parishioners

IN ATTENDANCE: S Durbidge (Clerk to the Council)
Dover District Councillor Mog Ovenden
Kent Community Warden Julliette West

024/2015 Apologies: None

Declaration of other significant interests:

Councillors B Crush, R Edmond, C White 031/2015a&b, K Catt 033/2015d.

025/2015 Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting:

Minutes of 18 March 2015 were proposed, seconded and approved as a true record.

026/2014 Public Participation:

One member of the public spoke regarding item 033/2015d.

Three members of the public spoke regarding item 029/2015c.

027/2015 Clerk's Report – on Matters Arising

- Signs attached to Recreation Ground play area, car park sign fixed to village hall.
- Trees and scrub on bank of Recreation Ground have been removed.
- The Highways Agency report that the A2 temporary sign regarding HGV traffic had blown down; the Route Manager is considering a more permanent sign at this location and has asked the local depot to replace the temporary sign.
- Contractors have been instructed to remove self-sown trees in the proposed village hall car park extension area and upgrade the entrance road lighting.
- Hedges cut at Meadow View, Cemetery and top of Recreation Ground.
- Two Cemetery graves levelled and the roadway cleaned.
- Documents forwarded to Diocesan Registrar regarding the consecration of an additional area within the Cemetery, see 037/2014a.
- Site meeting attended regarding location of broadband cabinet near Shepherdswell Green, Parish Plan objective C5.2.
- KCC reimbursed the Council £295.80 for Coldred verge mowing.
- A vat refund of £1,119.32 has been received.

028/2015 Finance:

a) Balances as at 18 March 2015	£
Current Account	1,671.16
Business Account	66,953.74
NS&I Account - Village Hall	1,958.53
Car Park a/c	3,559.73
b) To approve payments	
English Landscapes (February)	450.08

Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Annual subscription)	35.00
R K Signs Ltd (Signs for village hall and play area, see 007&008/2015)	90.00
H C Kennett (Duck house Coldred Pond 049/2013c, remove trees & scrub at Recreation Ground 136/2014e, Cemetery & safety work etc)	717.45
Coldred Forum (In lieu verge mowing for year 2014/15 - paid by KCC)	295.80
Philip Court (Hedge cutting)	438.00
S Durbidge (Expenses from 19/02/15 – 18/03/15 incl. printer drum)	69.88

- c) **It was resolved that** Mr G Gray be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2014/15 accounts.

029/2015 Planning

- a) The Planning Committee Chairman reported on one decision at the 18 March meeting (see Planning Committee minutes). Concern regarding equine development is to be reported to DDC Planning.
- b) A report of a working party meeting held on 9 March regarding affordable housing was given (minutes previously circulated) Parish Plan objective H1.2.
- c) The Bricklayers Arms, Coxhill, Shepherdswell CT15 7NW, an Asset of Community Value, is to be sold by the owner.

Meeting adjourned to hear seven members of the public speak regarding item 029/2015c. Meeting reconvened.

It was resolved that the Council submit a written request to DDC to trigger a full moratorium period (ending 19 August 2015) to enable a community interest group to raise capital and prepare a bid. Parish Plan objective C1.2.

Community Right to Bid: (The Localism Act 2011)

030/2015 Recreation Ground

- a) It was reported that the Clerk had attended a meeting with a number of parishioners regarding plans for new play equipment.
- b) A report of a meeting between the Parish Council, Scouts, Spartans FC, Cricket Club and Residents Association held on 17 March regarding the provision of changing rooms was given. All parties are now in agreement with the changing rooms plans. **It was resolved that** the Council will make an application for planning permission on behalf of the sports clubs. Parish Plan objective C2.2.
- c) **It was resolved that** a request from 18th Dover (Shepherdswell) Scout Group for permission to hold a boot fair on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 2 May be granted.
- d) **It was resolved that** a request from Shepherdswell Spartans Youth FC to use the Scout Hut on Saturday 16 May for an awards presentation be granted.

031/2015 Village Hall

- a) DDC Legal Dept is now producing a unilateral undertaking regarding planning permission for the car park extension, Parish Plan objective T3.3.
- b) A working party is to report at the next Council meeting regarding the rent charge as part of new 30-year Shepherdswell Preschool lease.
- c) A report of a working party meeting held on 12 March regarding proposed temporary allotment arrangements in Reed Meadow was given, Parish Plan objective C2.4. It was suggested that £100.00/plot/pa rent quoted at the meeting be examined. **It was resolved that** planning permission be investigated.

- It was resolved that** quotes be sought for: -
- i) Initial herbicide application and cultivation
 - ii) Metered water supply from village hall
 - iii) Post and wire perimeter fence with machinery gate
- d) The provision of a permissive path through Reed Meadow was considered. **It was resolved that** quotes be sought for the provision of two kissing gates and associated landscaping, Parish Plan objective C1.4.

032/2015 Shepherdswell & Coldred Parish Plan Association

- a) The Association may be wound-up if there are too few volunteers for election as Officers at the Annual General Meeting on the 23 April. The Council has taken control of the affordable housing project and may wish to take responsibility for Speedwatch activities. It is hoped that volunteers may come forward to develop a Shepherdswell and Coldred Neighbourhood Plan.

033/2015 Other Items

- a) Coldred pond dredging and cutting Coldred Green: It was reported that due to wet conditions over the period specified, the ground was too soft to support equipment. **It was resolved that** the work be rescheduled for late summer when conditions may be more suitable and duck nesting has finished. Although complaints had been made regarding initial cuts of Coldred Green, it was thought that the work was to an acceptable standard.
- b) Cemetery hedge cutting: Scheduling the work in late summer when ground conditions are favourable was considered for the future. It was agreed that contractors using hand-held petrol hedge cutters be researched.
- c) **It was resolved that** the Council supports the Wootton Environment Protection Group's objectives regarding Lydden Hill Race Circuit activities.
- d) **It was resolved that** a working party meet with East Kent Railway regarding noise nuisance complaints on Saturday 28 March at 10:00am in village hall.
- e) It was agreed that the Council support Eythorne Parish Council as regards fly tipping complaints to DDC.
- f) The 1st Shepherdswell Brownies suggest that to brighten up Shepherdswell Green a fountain might be installed. Although the Council thought this an exciting project, it was also considered to be impractical for the present. It was agreed that an alternative suggestion such as improving the wild flower status of Meadow View Land might be considered.

034/2015 Date of next scheduled meeting

Wednesday 15 April 2015 7:00pm in Shepherdswell Village Hall immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8:00pm. Additional items for the Annual Parish Meeting agenda are welcome and should be submitted to the Clerk by Friday 3 April.

Public and press are cordially invited. The Council meeting agenda will be displayed three clear days before the meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting agenda will be displayed seven clear days before the meeting.

035/2015 Closure of meeting: The meeting closed at 9:20pm

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 March 2015 at 7:30pm

Kent Community Warden Julliette West

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

Noise nuisance, pollution, neighbour dispute, parking (obstructions, nuisance and inappropriate), stray animals, nuisance dog running in road, litter, dog fouling, lost property, welfare issues, phone call scams and faulty traffic lights.

Julliette has also been partnership working with Highways, Environmental Health, Social Services, The Care Navigator Service, Family Intervention Team, Community Safety Unit, Kent Police and Trading Standards.

DDC Councillor Mog Ovenden

Mog reported that DDC has adopted the budget for 2015/16. The DDC portion of the Council Tax has been frozen, KCC, Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue portions of the Council Tax have risen a little. The Dog Control Orders consultation is coming to an end. When the Orders are adopted, DDC will provide signage but parish councils will be asked to make a financial contribution. DDC have won a major national award for their recycling and waste collection service at the 6th Annual Improvement & Efficiency Awards 2015. As well as saving money for the tax payer, the amount of waste being thrown away has reduced.

Statement to Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council from the Community and Conservation Group (2Cs) regarding The Bricklayers Arms (see minute 029/2015c): -

The Bricklayers Arms would provide Shepherdswell with Coldred with a much needed amenity as a meeting place and resource. With an aging population generally, and most specifically in the villages, such a centre would provide an opportunity for coordinated local support.

The building comes with parking for up to 12 cars. This in itself makes it more attractive.

Whilst applauding the efforts of the village hall which already offers a range of activities, the Bricklayers Arms has rooms suitable for small groups, could provide an area for permanent displays of arts, crafts and the history of Shepherdswell and its surrounds - a range of activities which cannot be achieved due to lack of storage facilities.

There could be permanent displays and exhibitions, computers, a small library and an additional meeting place for small groups of people of all ages. It could provide a social meeting point for many common interest groups from Mother and Babies, single parent groups, young people, music enthusiasts etc etc.

The one group not catered for by society are men, unemployed or retired, who numerous studies have shown become insular and isolated after years of work being central to their lives and social interaction. Hence the Kent Sheds initiative promoted and funded by KCC.

We believe that this is an opportunity worth serious consideration and a sub-group of the Parish Council with members of the community should explore funding for lease, rent or purchase.

V Ramsay-Cobb, Chair | Martyn Cobb, Secretary | Gary Gray, Treasurer