

HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 12th October 2015

Present –Bob Branch, Trina Backhurst, Christine Kipping, Jenny Jullien, Julie Coxall, Ron van der Hoorn, Sue Watson, John Miller and Kirsty Walker. County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley was in attendance. There were no members of the public present.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** – Tony Adcock, Lucian Hatfield and District Councillor Robin Page sent their apologies.
- 2 **Members Declaration of interest for items on the agenda** – None
- 3 **Open Forum for Public Participation** – No members of the public were present.
- 4 **District Councillor’s Report** – None.

- 5 **County Councillor’s Report** – SCDC is now consulting on proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation for planning applications. Under the proposals, Parish Councils will no longer be able to refer automatically planning applications to planning committee where the Parish’s opposition goes against the officer’s recommendation of approval. This means the powers of referral of District Councillors would be strengthened. The District Councillor would have 7 days following the end of the public consultation period to refer an application to the Chairman of the planning committee.

SCDC is predicting that homelessness will rise significantly as a result of various steps taken by the Government. Their latest financial Budget Statement required councils to reduce council house rents by 1% a year for 4 years and the Government are now extending the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants at about 70% of the market value. This means a huge reduction in the amount of money available to build new homes, although this is obviously good news if you are a council house or HA tenant. The overall effect of this will be that SCDC will be forced to sell off high value council properties as they become vacant, and thus those homes will no longer be available to needy families.

- 6 **To approve and sign the minutes of 14th September 2015** ó Approved and signed.
Proposed TB, seconded JJ.
- 7 **Matters to be reported from these minutes** – The Village Hall car park light has now been repaired.
- 8 **Planning applications and decisions:**

S/1452/15/FL – Conversion of existing accommodation above and behind shop (currently a single dwelling) into 2 flats, erection of new dwelling, formation of new parking spaces and associated works; 21 Church Street - **Planning application now withdrawn.**

- 9 **Additional Matters for Discussion:**

It was decided to write a letter of thanks to Carol and Conrad, who are on the verge of completing the sale and will shortly be leaving the village shop. The village shop has been of much community benefit, taking appointments for the flu clinic, collecting food for the Food Bank, selling tickets and taking prescriptions. **Action CK/FL**

10 Committee and Working Party Reports:

- a) **Environment** – Sam Bowden (SB) is to be contacted about replanting the trees in Lilac Close and the Recreation Ground. It was thought that the end of October, as suggested by SB, would be too late in the year to rotovate and reseed the Lilac Close area.

Action FL. CGM are to be reminded to cut the whole Meadow and quote for cutting the walnut tree. **Action FL.**

The volunteers are to be contacted to tidy up the Wellhouse Meadow wall before bonfire night. **Action SW**

- b) **Traffic calming** ó John Miller is to ask Skanska to review the proposed measures and seek advice on the minimum number of chicanes required. It was decided not to extend the 30mph limit along Barton Road for chicanes, as it would open up the risk of development outside the village framework, as has happened in other villages. JM will also pursue the application for the Highways Improvement Grant and will ask Skanska to give a high level design cost for the application by 2nd November 2015. **Action JM**
- c) **Tennis Court** ó The Tennis Club have now decided to settle for a shed of 5meters by 3meters with a footpath of 1 meter between the shed and the tennis court. John Miller said he thought this would cause a safety risk, and Bob Branch wondered why it has a veranda and glass doors for storing electrical switchgear only, as this would not be secure. It was decided to go back to FIT to get approval for a revised arrangement and then get the solicitor to draw up a supplementary lease instead of a licence. It was decided that the shed should be within a fenced off area and kept to a minimal size. Trina Backhurst thought the access should only be from the tennis court and that the Tennis Club should bear the full cost. **Action RB**
- d) **Neighbourhood Planning** ó It was decided to shelve discussions for now, as the session on Neighbourhood Planning given at the last CAPALC meeting showed how troublesome, time consuming and expensive this can be, as it has to comply with the National Policy framework and would not give the village free choice of housing.
- a) **Village Hall** ó The guttering has been damaged twice since a movable goalpost has been put in front of the Village Hall. This has been repaired by Alan Stevens. The broken bulb in the floodlight has been replaced.
- b) **Allotments** – There is a meeting later this week at the Little Rose.
- c) **Trumpington Meadows** ó The new Community Centre is to be named The Clay Farm Centre. There has been trouble finding volunteers to help with after school bookings and the website is not fit for purpose. The referral rate for families needing support is double what was expected.
- d) **Sporting Village** – Bob Branch said he was concerned about the failure of Grosvenor to invite residents of Haslingfield to have their say on the proposals, especially as it is currently within our Parish boundary and will adversely affect the village. He said it is essential to arrange a meeting to brief residents on proposals. **Action RB/FL**
- e) **Connections Bus** ó Christine Kipping and Diana Offord will be attending the AGM. The Chairman of the Community Heartbeat Trust is going to come and talk to youngsters about how to operate the defibrillator, which will soon be installed in the telephone box.
- f) **Play Areas** ó The Skate Park is to be assessed next week and work quoted for.
- g) **C&V and website** ó Material for the November newsletter has been received and sent to Sheila Walker. Copy for the next newsletter should be sent by the first week in January.
- h) **Telephone box and defibrillator** ó The defibrillator has arrived, minus its cabinet which should arrive soon. The emergency phone system will be looked into by Tony Adcock in due course. **Action TA.** Jonathan Wells is happy to check the lock on the defibrillator cabinet on a regular basis. Every group in the village is to be emailed to make sure the training session on 3rd November 2015 is well attended. **Action CK**

i) **Cycle Path** – Lucian Hatfield sent his apologies for absence.

11 **Correspondence** – A letter has been received from the Methodist Church requesting permission from the Parish Council to erect a wooden cross on the green, between the two church structures, for 2 weeks from March 20th to April 1st 2016. Christine Kipping will attend the coming Church Council meeting and will find out more information. **Action CK.** Insurance angles and risk assessments will be investigated further. **Action JM/FL**
A letter was received from SCDC about proposed changes to the Planning Scheme of Delegation, with a questionnaire to be returned by 28th October 2015. Kirstie Walker and the Clerk to make further enquiries and complete the form. **Action KW/FL**

12 a) **Quarterly Accounts** – The Clerk will look into moving money from the current account into a 10 day interest account, and investigate other high interest bank accounts. She will also investigate online banking options with two signatories. **Action FL**
Pensions options to be investigated further. **Action TB/FL**

b) **Finance - Resolution to pay outstanding accounts** –

Salaries – Clerk, Roy Brown – proposed JM, seconded TB

Invoices 012/10/2015

Play Inspection Company	£180.00
T J Austin	£168.00
Clerks Fees	£630.28
Clerks Expenses - admin	£131.56
Roy Brown	£182.39
HMR&C	£80.40

Frances Laville
Haslingfield Parish Clerk
26/10/2015

Date of next meeting Monday 9th November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall