

HACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT TYLER HILL MEMORIAL HALL

ON THURSDAY 9th March 2017

Present: Cllr. R Evison (Chairman); Cllr. N Cronin; Cllr. A Cover; Cllr. T Hulks and Mrs D Horswell (Clerk).

Also present: Ward Cllr. Amy Baker; County Cllr. John Simmonds and seven residents including Lynne Evison (Tree Warden) and Penny Whiting (Gazette Representative).

(1) Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Ben Fitter-Harding - CCC meeting; Ward Cllr. George Metcalfe – Lord Mayoral Duties; Mrs P Reilly (Chairman of Blean, Hackington and TH Society).

(2) Note Declaration of Interest and DPI by Members in Agenda items:

No declarations.

(3) To Accept Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th January 2017:

The minutes were accepted as a true record and approved.

Proposed by Cllr. Cover, Seconded by Cllr. Cronin and AGREED by all members present. Minutes signed by the Chairman.

(4) Matters Raised by the Public:

(Members of the public may speak on any subject/planning application for 3 minutes)

Following the matters raised at the Annual Parish Assembly no further matters were raised.

(5) Matters for Discussion and Approval:

5.1 Formation of a Resilience policy and strategy for the village:

Cllr. Evison has called a meeting for next Friday when there will be a general discussion that will be reported back to the next Parish Council meeting.

5.2 Set up Funding Sub-committee:

Cllr. Cronin reported that there is a need to have a more formal sub-committee of three or four people made up of Councillors and non-Council members with Cllr. Cronin taking the lead. The sub-committee will give a quarterly report. There will have to be formal wording of the committee's aims and objectives.

5.3 Litter Signs:

Ward Cllr. Amy Baker said that she will find out about signs from Canterbury City Council. If that is not successful the Parish Council will look at into it.

5.4 Fire Hydrant Initiative - Meeting with Area Committees:

Cllr. Evison said that there is to be an address by a representative at the KALC Area committee meeting.

5.5 Replacement of the battery and pads for the defibrillator:

Mike Goggin and the clerk will work together to source the replacement batteries and pads.

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(6) Correspondence:

All correspondence and emails previously circulated to all Members including:

6.1 Rural Kent Membership 2017-2018

6.2 Invitation to the Village Hall Convention.

KALC:

6.3 Joint KALC/KFAS Information Event - Tuesday 28 February 2017: Delivering Effective Partnership Working in Kent's Communities 2017

6.4 Locality 'How to Keep it Local' Guide: Five step guide for councillors and commissioners”, which has been flagged up to us by our National Association. The guide aims to help “create a better commissioning environment - that supports local communities, maximises the value of limited resources and inspires excellence in public service provision” and provides practical tips and some case studies which should be helpful in any future engagement with your principal authority.

6.5 Online scams advertorial

6.6 RURAL CONFERENCE - 9TH MARCH 2017

6.7 DCLG published the Housing White Paper – “Fixing our broken housing market” (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-ambitious-plan-to-build-the-homes-britain-needs>), which includes a consultation on new planning proposals which will involve amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework. It also proposes changes to sustainable development and the environment. **The deadline for responses to the consultation is 2 May 2017.**

6.8 Chief Executive's Bulletins

6.9 Planning Conference 2017 West Faversham Community Centre - 23 March 2017 9:00

6.10 KALC 11th April meeting in Littlebourne

6.11 2017 KALC Membership Survey - deadline Friday 31 March 2017

6.12 Upcoming Councillor Events - Spring 2017

CCC:

6.13 Great British Spring Clean

6.14 Next week at Canterbury City Council notifications

6.15 Planning - Weekly lists and decision lists

6.16 Rural Area Member Panel - 13 March 2017

6.17 Changes to parking restrictions consultation Thank you for responding to the consultation on proposed changes to parking restrictions.

All objections will be reported to the Joint Transportation Board on Tuesday 28 February and the Regeneration and Property Committee on Thursday 16 March.

At this meeting councillors will consider the Board's recommendations, and decide whether the proposals concerned should still be implemented.

HPC support the installation of the lines as described, and would like to ask for an extension to be considered in the future up to the bus stop markings

6.18 Parish Update November 2016

KCC:

6.19 Notices of road closures

6.20 Tree and Pond Warden activities, February and March

Ref 6.12: Cllr. Evison invited any Councillor who would like to go on a training course and mentioned that the clerk attends the annual Clerks Conference.

Ref 6.11: The Chairman and clerk would complete the survey jointly.

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(7) Reports by County and Ward Cllrs and PCSO:

County Cllr. John Simmonds reported that £2billion has been found by the Government to help with the huge gap in Social Care. KCC had already increased Council Tax by 1.99% plus the social care charge. As the Council Tax bills had already been sent out it is being carried over for future years

Ward Councillor report (sent by Cllr. Fitter-Harding)

The past year at Canterbury City Council has been overshadowed by continuing merger talks as reductions in government funding start to reach their natural conclusion. The four year funding deal we reached with Parish Councils, in no small part due to their realistic and productive approach to the issue of Concurrent Function Funding, has largely sheltered them from further cuts at the current time, but once a merger decision is reached this will undoubtedly be a matter of focus once again.

The district Local Plan is on course for approval and adoption in mid to late 2017, and it largely preserves and protects Hackington in its current form. The University of Kent's development of a new Master Plan, however, continues to be a concern, potentially having significant consequences for both Blean and Tyler Hill, and I am personally monitoring developments very closely. I have made it clear to the Planning department that simply folding proposals in to the Council's policies will not be acceptable and will continue to push for thorough challenge and consultation to ensure any resulting Master Plan that is recognised by the district is robust and fair. The University continues to engage and I am optimistic about the outcome.

Blean Forest ward councillors continue to enjoy a positive relationship with their counterparts on Hackington Parish Council and we hope that this will continue. We would also like to give special thanks to Ray and Denise for their attendance at the Rural Area Member Panel, ensuring that Hackington's issues and the issues of Parish Councils in general are kept current on the city council's agenda.

(8) Reports and Matters Relating to:

8.1 Highways (Cllr. Fitter-Harding)

Cllr. Fitter-Harding had sent a report:

'Whilst highways matters continue to present pressing concerns for residents and the Parish Council, this year has been marked by the successful installation of the village's second flashing speed sign. This sign is helpfully relocatable to multiple sites, giving maximum coverage and helping to keep it effective over the long term.

As such, speedwatch is largely dormant at the moment, but sufficient volunteers exist to perform ad-hoc speed checks when desired.

The adhesion of 30mph indicator stickers to wheelie bins presents motorists with an impressive regular reminder to curtail their speed. In my view this initiative has been very successful and there is anecdotal evidence of people having seen the sheer number of them and taken note.

There is limited further potential for speed reducing measures in the village. However, it would be advisable to perform another speed check in the coming year so that the data can advise any future strategy.

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The surface condition of the roads and pavements in Hackington parish remains otherwise acceptable. Issues are reported via the Kent County Council online tool and are mostly attended to promptly. The parish continues to benefit from a productive relationship with both KCC Highways and KCC councillor John Simmonds, and their continued attention is greatly appreciated.

The Parish has also been increasingly involved in parking restrictions, liaising with Canterbury City Council. This is largely due to the continued success of the village pub, but other issues have also required the council's intervention. Parking restrictions in rural areas are often an unpleasant addition to the street scene, and so finding an appropriate balance is likely to continue to be an issue in the coming year.

As always please continue to make highways-related matters known to myself and the clerk so that we can keep improving Hackington for the good of its residents.'

Speedwatch:

Cllr. Fitter-Harding had sent a report that Speedwatch has moved online and he has enrolled Hackington and will undertake the new online training course when time allows. This will make it easier to add new members in future and to submit results of sessions.

8.2 Footpaths (Cllr. Evison)

Cllr. Evison reported that all the footpaths are well used and in a good state. We have a good service from PROW team.

A resident that there is a bridge made out of a few boughs of trees through Honey Wood. An application has been made to PROW but it would need major construction and it is not a high priority. Cllr. Evison said that PROW have a small budget with lots of footpaths across the county needing to be repaired.

A resident asked whether a bridge could be made ourselves. Cllr. Cronin said that it would have to be good and perhaps it could be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

A resident raised the matter of motorcycles riding across land, Cllr. Evison said that the University had put up fences and styles making it so that they cannot access Hackington fields.

8.3 Street Lighting (Cllr. Cronin)

Cllr. Cronin reported that very few incidents had been reported and all had been resolved quickly.

Cllr. Simmonds said that the lights should be changed to LED by the end of the year. Residents can report any faults on street lights and other highway issues on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel

8.4 NHW (Cllr. Cronin)

Nothing to report.

8.5 KALC (Cllr. Cover)

We have not had a meeting since that held on 17th January 2017 at Littlebourne, which as I reported at our last P.C. meeting proved to be a good venue.

We used to hold our meetings in different villages but our hall was liked because of the good parking facilities and being more central for most villages. However, it is

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probable that we will now be using Littlebourne regularly for our meetings as the meeting rooms are accessible for members with a disability.

Unfortunately, the small meeting room in our village hall is inaccessible to some members who cannot attend because of the stairs. It would be good if we could have a lift put in but again the problem is the cost involved which we cannot undertake at the moment because of the new roof and electrical work etc.

On other matters within K.A.L.C. there have been many very good and informative meetings which our own chairman attends on our behalf and is far better able to provide in depth information which he always passes on at our own P.C. meetings.

Cllr. Evison reported that he is no longer Chairman of KALC.

On the subject of devolution, Cllr. Evison said that he will represent Parish Councils as Chairman of the Devolution Committee. Ward Cllr. Baker said that a decision will be reached next Wednesday at the District Council.

8.6 Memorial Hall: (Cllr. Cover)

We are obtaining quotes for the new roof which has proved more difficult than originally thought because of newer and better materials now on the market. Discussions will take place and agreement reached on the best way forward when we have our meeting on the 7th March so hopefully I will have an update for our P.C. meeting.

Dependent on the cost will be the other work including electrical, drainage, and decorating. Some we would like to have done may have to be postponed but glad to say the new Memorial Hall name over the front door has now been done. It does need a better light which will be included when the electrical work is done.

Robin Whiting has done research into the types of modern roofing materials now available giving better insulation with less maintenance. During our meeting on Tuesday he provided us with encouraging details of roofing which look like traditional slates and tiles, ideal for our hall. Our treasurer, Phil Ashdown, agreed to try to go to Enfield this week to have a look at some properties who have used it. Hopefully the cost will be okay and it will be acceptable to C.C.C. Planning Dept. as well as residents in the village because of our conservation area status.

Hopefully we will have the three required quotes shortly to submit with our application for a grant towards the costs of all the work needed at the hall.

8.7 Conservation Area (including The Greening Project update) (Cllr. Hulks) Conservation Report 2017

Litter and traffic nuisance continue to be a problem in the village and financial constraints at the District Council have meant that less CCC staff are available to assist with parish problems.

SERCO have generally been emptying the bins on Hackington road and the footpath by St. Johns car park regularly after persistent efforts by Cllr. Cover and myself to

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ensure that this is done. It can sometimes be very difficult to contact SERCO with complaints.

Several St. John's Crescent residents have complained about rubbish and old furniture dumped by the flats in St. John's Crescent. This was reported to EKHA and most of the rubbish has now been removed. Mrs Smith, the EKHA local Manager, regarded this as fly-tipping and is trying to find out who is responsible.

The old yellow van in St. John's car park is still a cause for concern. Mrs Smith of EKHA was contacted regarding this, as the car park belongs to EKHA, but her legal department informed her that the car park is not restricted to use by council tenants and EKHA have no legal grounds to remove the van. This is contrary to written advice given to Cllr. Cover three or four years ago when the Parish Council were advised that untaxed, unroadworthy vehicles would be removed. Enforcement Officer from CCC inspected the van and decided that it was not a hazard or an eyesore and could not be removed on those grounds. I showed the previous letter to the Enforcement Officer and Mrs Smith but they said the writer of the letter was no longer a Council employee and the letter could not be upheld. We seem to have exhausted all routes to get this vehicle removed.

Litter thrown from passing vehicles seems to be on the increase and the village has lost more residents who regularly cleared up litter from Tyler Hill Road. BHTHS have encouraged residents to have a 'litter pick' week and 17 volunteers, lead by Kevin Askham, recently took part in the national 'Clean up' weekend, collecting 30 black bagsful. Well done to those who helped! Incidentally, the City Council refused to give us support for the Clean Up! We are currently looking into purchasing some anti-littering signs.

Surveys of flora and fauna in Tyler Hill Meadow continue to be undertaken. We hope to have someone to do reptile surveys soon, but still need people with specific areas of interest to help with surveys. The dormouse boxes are in a bad state of repair, but we have three new ones to be installed this spring. The Stour Valley Group cut and tidied the Meadow late last summer and it is generally in a good state.

Conservation Status. The City Council is reviewing the Conservation status of many areas in the District, including ours. This is going to be a very long drawn-out process and it's likely that we won't hear anything for some time.

Finally, University expansion. Many residents are concerned about the University's plans to expand and outline plans suggested having business hubs and a huge park and ride along Tyler Hill Road and using the road as the main route into the Campus. The Parish Council has submitted comments opposing this sort of development within the Parish, but nothing can be done until more information is available from the University. The consultation process for this development was very poorly handled.

The Greening Project:

The third finger-post has been completed with the help of KCC and funding from RAMP.

All the funding has been raised for the new fence in Tyler Hill Road car park although it has become a nightmare getting it sorted. Margaret Smith of EKH has taken over the project side of it.

(9) Planning Applications:

1. CA//17/00127 - Proposed changes to external fenestration and addition of cladding - Orchard House, 2 Ivy Court, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NP -

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Hackington Parish Council support the changes to the exterior of the building so that it is similar to its neighbours in having weatherboarding above brick.

Also, the Parish Council have no objections to the proposed changes to the interior, (despite the lack of precise details for some electrical fittings).

We invite the planning officer to consider whether any of the proposed changes would affect neighbouring properties' amenities.

2. 17/00211 - Proposed dormer window to front and rear elevation together with front porch and window to side elevation - Daweswood Cottage, 71 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NE – *No objection by HPC.*

9.1 Planning Application Decisions:

CA//16/02882/FUL - Proposed single-storey rear extension - 43 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, CT2 9NE – **GRANTED**

CA//17/00057/FUL - Proposed single-storey and two-storey rear extensions including a new front porch following the demolition of existing single-storey rear extension - 56 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NQLOC - **GRANTED**

9.2 Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area - None

(10) Accounts

10.1 Approval and signing of cheques:

#727 - Mrs D Horswell – Clerks Fees February 2017 - **£207.94** and Clerks Fees March 2017 - **£207.94 = £415.88**

#728 – HMRC – PAYE & NIC Jan/Feb/Mar 2017 - **£155.40**

#729 – Mrs D Horswell – Petty Cash – Postage Sept – March & Ink Carts - **£33.10**

10.2 Money Received in: None

Bank Statement as at 2nd February 2017: - £8,124.49 (not including transactions above)

#721 - £36.00 & #725 – 50.00 – not yet cleared.

10.3 For Information: Internal Audit – 20th April

10.4 Cllr. Evison said that Hackington will set aside £120.00 per year for the training budget.

(11) Any Other Business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.