

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 July 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (Chairman), Mary Grove, Mike Parry, Paul Pattinson and Philip Underwood; Jane Woolley (clerk); Cllr. Nick Holder; and one member of the public

Apologies: Karen Jones and Cllr. Anna James

QUESTION TIME

At the invitation of the Parish Council, Peter de Savary, now the owner of the Merry Harriers, spoke about plans for its future. He attached great importance to its remaining a country village pub, albeit with some changes to enable it to remain a going concern. A lot of structural maintenance was required and this was already under way; the kitchen was being up-graded; the B&B block would be extended from three rooms to six (with planning permission); the first floor would be up-graded to four en suite guest bedrooms (with listed building consent); and a small one-bedroom cottage would be constructed at the rear of the building (with planning permission) to provide manager accommodation. The llamas were staying and lama trekking would remain a feature. Six - eight gypsy/romany-style caravans, not permanent fixtures but with in-situ plumbing connected to a clargester, would replace the camping facility adjacent to the car park and dedicated parking spaces had been provided, at no charge, for the tenants of the two adjacent National Trust cottages. Danielle and her partner Sam were continuing as manager and chef and all other staff would be locally employed. Mr de Savary also stressed that he would not be moving out of the locality and that he looked forward, along with the Merry Harriers, to being part of the Hambledon community. On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman wished Mr de Savary well with his plans for the pub and thanked him for all that he was doing to ensure that it retained its character and remained an integral part of Hambledon.

FORMAL BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2017 were **agreed** and signed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Chairman: Director, Hambledon Village Shop; Trustee, Hambledon Almshouses;
Trustee, Hambledon Football Club

Mike Parry: Trustee, Hambledon Almshouses

Paul Pattinson: Trustee, Hambledon Almshouses

Stewart Payne: Trustee, Hambledon Nursery School

Mary Grove: Member, Village Hall Committee; Trustee, Hambledon Football Club.

3. FINANCE

Financial statement

Noted that the current account was in credit and included a credit of £1372.90 from HMRC (but without any details); and that the Internal Auditor had advised that this would probably be reclaimed as a wrong payment in due course. **Agreed** no further action for the time being.

Cheques for signature

Tim Coleman – June and July maintenance	£360.00
Nigel Jeffries – cricket green cutting, June	£235.20
Workstation – ink	£ 88.24
Mike Parry (for HPC) – informal playground costs	£667.25

4. PLANNING

Planning applications

- WA17/1230: Bonners, Vann Lane: conversion of barn to provide ancillary residential accommodation. Noted the pre-application advice but suggested that the proposed roof lights were somewhat unsightly and queried the need for an entrance of the size proposed, a “coats” (?cloakroom) area and a range of downstairs toilets which appeared to designed for conversion to “ladies” and “gents”. **Agreed** to suggest to Waverley that, if it were minded to grant planning permission, this should be accompanied by conditions preventing any public or commercial use of the building.
- WA17/1238: 1 The Hydons: rear extension. Noted that this would not be visible from the road, that the increase to the overall size of the property would appear to be within Waverley’s set limits; and that materials matched those of the existing building. **Agreed** not to object.

Decisions on recent applications

- WA17/0829: Land at The Old Coal Yard, Hambledon Road – erection of two buildings (use Class B1). Decision pending.
- WA17/0552: Glebe House – demolition/extensions. Full permission.

Orchard Farm

Noted that, as yet, there were no further developments and that the earlier suggested meeting between Paul Stone/Richard Young and the planning committee had been postponed at the former’s request.

Waverley Local Plan

Noted the previously circulated reports and expressed disappointment at the increase in housing numbers that had resulted from the Examination in Public of Part 1 of the Local Plan. Also noted Cllr.Holder’s report on possible adjacent housing developments, including at Tigbourne Farm and the Milford Golf Course.

Confirmed the earlier agreement not to comment on Part 2 of the Local Plan.

Local Green Spaces in Waverley

Noted Philip Underwood’s oral report on the seminar he had attended on this topic on 7 July and his conclusion that there were no areas in Hambledon that were appropriate for identification for possible inclusion in Part 2 of the Local Plan.

Dunsfold Park

Noted that the Planning Inquiry was currently in progress; welcomed the daily summary reports that were being provided by POW and circulated, inter alia, to the Joint Parishes; and **agreed** that their circulation to individual Councillors should continue.

5. VILLAGE MATTERS

Parking at the Village Shop

Noted the previously circulated correspondence between Peter Knight and the Clerk about the difficulty the former was having in getting large farm machinery past parked cars outside the shop and that, with harvest time fast approaching, an immediate solution was needed. Noted various ideas for improved parking facilities, in both the short and long term, including (i) repairing the degraded road edges to the west of the shop as far as the Lane End junction and cutting back some of the tree overgrowth; (ii) creating an area for chevron parking on the east side of the shop forecourt; and (iii) piping the ditch or moving it further away from the road to enable it to be widened along its north side between the shop and the entrance to Hambledon Hurst. **Agreed** to pursue (i) in the short term and requested the Clerk to discuss this with Stephen Dean (as the land owner), Richard Field (who would have the materials needed to effect immediate repairs) and Peter Knight (who could lop the trees). Also **agreed** that visitors to the Cricket Club and Oakhurst Cottage should be asked to park at the rear of the cricket green rather than outside the shop.

Allfrey's Pond

Noted Mary Grove's suggestion that the National Trust be asked to designate this as a nature reserve given the presence of blackcaps, whitethroats and newts. Queried the feasibility and /or significance of such a designation and **agreed** that Mary Grove would pursue the idea further with Tim Coleman who had raised it in the first place.

Surrey's Community Recycling Centres – Public Consultation

At Mary Grove's suggestion, **agreed** that the Parish Council should comment on the proposed closure of four centres and reduced opening hours in others, given that these would increase both fly tipping and the strain on whatever centres did remain open.

Grass cutting outside Hambledon Hurst

Noted that the present contract was proving unsatisfactory and that the Clerk and Stephen Dean would be meeting Nigel Jeffries (whose firm currently cut the Cricket Green) to discuss the possibility (and likely cost) of his doing a final cut this season and taking over the contract in future. Noted that £120 was available for one further cut this season and **authorised** expenditure up to that amount. **Agreed** to discuss next year's contract again at the next meeting and that the existing contractor should be stood down.

Highways and footpaths

Noted that all promised RoW vegetation cuts had been carried out by SCC but that further news regarding repairs to BW185 was still awaited.

Noted that Mike Parry and the Clerk had recently met the SCC local highways team; that in place of the localism scheme SCC had contracted a firm which, in Hambledon's case, would provide five days' vegetation clearance by a two-man hand-cleaning gang; that details of the required work would be provided to SCC during September; but that this could not include digging out ditches (for which SCC would make a substantial extra charge). **Agreed** therefore to ring-fence up to £1,500 in the 2017-18 budget to cover additional work that might need to be commissioned from Colin Rapley.

Noted that a list of gullies in Hambledon that needed jetting had been given to SCC; that the work might be done by the end of September by SCC's contractor; and that residents would be encouraged, via the web site and the Parish Magazine, to watch out for and inform the Clerk if they noticed any mechanical jettors operating anywhere in the village.

Quite Lane Zones in the Surrey Hills

Noted that Steward Payne and Mary Grove were now members of the working group.

School places

Noted that there had only been one response to the articles in the July Parish Magazine and on the web site requesting information on problems that Hambledon parents were encountering in getting children placed in local primary schools and **agreed** that it would therefore be inappropriate to pursue the matter for the time being.

Superfast Broadband

Noted that the contract with BT to provide the facility to the eastern part of the village (Vann/Upper Vann/Roundals Lanes) had been signed on 21 July and that the cost had reduced substantially from the original quote, mainly due to reduced cabling requirements and the high level of take-up.

Thanked and congratulated Peter Howell-Davies and John Stoneham, who had master-minded the project, for all that they had done to ensure such a successful outcome.

Noted that only that part of the village running from Rock Hill to the entrance to Feathercombe Lane now remained without coverage and **agreed** that the level of interest from residents in that area should be ascertained with a view to carrying out a further (and final) project.

Village of The Year 2017

Noted the verbal advice of the organisers that, as no further news had been received, Hambledon's application was unlikely to have reached the short-list.

6. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Almshouses

Noted that insufficient further planting had taken place to warrant release of the Henry Smith Charity funds currently held in the Parish Council deposit account and that a risk assessment was about to be carried out.

Village Hall

Noted that insulation of the roof was due to be carried out within the next fortnight.

Village Shop

Noted that trading remained good.

Oakhurst Cottage

Noted that visitor numbers to date were up on the 2016 equivalent period and that a further grant from the NT Three Counties Association should enable the barn refurbishment to start in the autumn.

7. RETIREMENT OF CLERK

The Chairman reported that the Clerk, with regret, had tendered her resignation. Notes were circulated setting out (i) the differences as between existing costs (salary, incidental expenses) and those that were likely to be incurred in respect of a successor (for whom NI, PAYE and pension contributions might well be payable); (ii) the budget for the current financial year; (iii) the existing clerk's terms/conditions of employment and job description; and (iv) the recruitment package offered by SSALC. The following were **agreed**:

- that the existing Clerk would give three months' notice wef 1 August, with the option to carry on until at least 1 December 2017 and possibly 1 January 2018 as available funds precluded the appointment of a successor until 1 December at the earliest;
- that SSALC should handle the recruitment process (cost: £200 plus £85 for a Clerk's training course if required);
- that once the job advertisement was agreed it should be placed on the village web site and in any other appropriate free local media;
- that the budget for 2017-18 and future years would need to accommodate revised costs for the new clerk's salary and allowable incidental expenses, which could require an increase in the precept or cuts to other expenditure items such as grants

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.15

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5 September 2017