

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 January 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (Chairman), Karen Jones, Paul Pattinson, Mike Parry, Stewart Payne, Peter Spall and Philip Underwood; Cllr. Elizabeth Cable; Jane Woolley (clerk); and 8 members of the public

QUESTION TIME

Public utilities in the village

Arising from the power cuts and other damage resulting from the pre-Christmas storm, the following suggestions and comments were put forward by members of the public:

- were the insulated overhead electricity cables that had been installed 15-20 years ago now deteriorating?
- modern living made regular power supplies essential
- should customers be paying full price for a sub-standard service?
- were trees surrounding the overhead cables being cut back sufficiently?
- should Hambledon's MP be appraised of the problems and should a public meeting be called, to be attended by representatives of SSE?
- should the Parish Council set up a working party on the provision of public utilities?
- it would be environmentally unfriendly if everyone were to resort to generators in the event of a power cut
- the temporary loss of water had been caused by the lack of back-up pumping facilities at the Hydon Ball pumping station
- the village regularly incurred two-three power failures a year and was always the last in the area to be restored to normal services
- security issues resulted arose from the loss of time-switch lights during a power failure
- remedial work by Thames Water was required on the mains pipe running through the village to prevent a reoccurrence of what were becoming regular bursts
- the gap between the edges of the road and the bank resulting from the resurfacing of the Hambledon Road was a major safety hazard.

Hambledon Cricket Green Trust

The Trustees reminded the meeting that the tree that had fallen across Vann Lane onto the Cricket Green was their responsibility, not that of the Cricket Club. Four quotes for its clearance, ranging from £2,500 - £600, had been received; two more were awaited. The Trust had little money at its disposal, no source of income and no insurance and was therefore seeking the help of the Parish Council as regards both the removal of the tree debris and the future of the Trust.

The Chairman thanked all those who had spoken and assured them that the points they had raised would be fully considered by the Parish Council.

FORMAL BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013 were **agreed** and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

3. FINANCE

Confirmed the following

C J Dozers & Partners - ditch clearance	£408.00
	£444.00

Approved and signed the following

Cricket Club – annual grant	£350.00
Football Club – annual grant	£350.00
PCC – annual grant	£400.00
Hambledon Village Shop – annual grant	£400.00
Hambledon Village Trust – annual grant	£400.00
Hambledon Village Hall – annual grant	£400.00
Workstation – ink cartridges	£ 23.99
Tim Coleman – December maintenance; Village Hall leaves	£260.00

Noted that, in accordance with previously agreed practice, the Village Shop would be asked to identify an appropriate item for the expenditure of its grant.

4. PLANNING

Planning applications

Confirmed the decisions of the Planning Committee not to object to the following

- WA13/1952: 3 The Hydons – alterations to elevation
- NMA13/0155: 8 Salt Lane – alterations to elevation
- NMA13/0161: 8 Nutbourne Cottages – alterations to roof design.

5. PROVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Thames Water

Noted the previously circulated written report and comments made at the start of the meeting. Noted that two pipes, one cast iron (?the high pressure one) and one plastic, ran in parallel under the road through the village; that relining (as opposed to replacing) the cast iron one might effect improvements; and that pressure in a high pressure pipe could be as high as 14 bar. Queried whether pressure levels could be adjusted and whether the pipes were gravity-fed.

Agreed that all of the foregoing, together with the comments made earlier by members of the public, should be pursued with Thames Water.

Southern Electricity (SSE)

Noted the previously circulated written report and comments made at the start of the meeting. Noted the suggestion of a public meeting but **agreed** that, providing SSE had something positive to say, the Parish Assembly would offer a better forum for a public debate and that this idea should therefore be taken forward with SSE.

Noted that, on account of the former hospital, there was a “protected circuit” at Hydestile that was unaffected by trees but that it had nevertheless lost power over the Christmas period.

Noted that SSE’s back-up generators provided power only spasmodically to households.

Agreed that communications with customers had largely been non-specific and that it would be far more helpful if particular locations where problems were being encountered could be highlighted.

Queried how SSE knew which were areas with/without power.

6. HAMBLEDON CRICKET GREEN TRUST

Noted the previously circulated written report and comments made at the start of the meeting. **Agreed** that, given the overall benefits that the Cricket Club derived from Trust, it would not be unreasonable for it to contribute to the clearing up of the debris.

Noted that one of the quotes received for removal of the debris was £600 and that the Cricket Club was just about to receive its annual grant of £350 from the Parish Council; and **agreed** that the combined resources of the Club (including perhaps some manual resources) and the Trust should be sufficient to pay for removal of the debris and any necessary subsequent remedial work to the cricket outfield.

Agreed that the Parish Council should be invoiced for the work in the event of VAT being payable.

Agreed to collaborate with the Trust in investigating its future and that as a first step the Parish Council needed to have sight of the Trust Deed.

Noted that other village Cricket Clubs played on donated land and **agreed** to try to identify a few such Clubs (perhaps via the ECB) that might be prepared to share their experiences with Hambledon.

7. VILLAGE MATTERS

Police

Noted that there had been one incident of criminal damage in the village during November/December, that bicycles continued to be stolen from Milford Station and that the A283 through Milford and Wormley would remain a casualty reduction route during 2014.

Highways

On consideration of the previously circulated report

- **agreed** that Colin Rapley should be asked to unblock the three blocked road-side drains in Lane End; that a formal request for £1000 towards the cost of hiring a jetter (which included root-cutting equipment) should be made to SCC via Cllr. Victoria Young; and that the possibility of the Parish Council hiring similar but smaller equipment, possibly from Conway, which Colin Rapley could use should be investigated

- noted the parking problems that were being encountered by residents of Hydestile Cottages.

8. PARISH ASSEMBLY

Guest speaker – SSE (see minute 5 above).

9. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Almshouses

Noted that a wheelchair-friendly access path had been constructed and the foundations dug out for the up-grade; that a building inspection was awaited; and that additional work so far identified included replacement of a chimney pot and some internal flooring.

Nursery School

Noted that the application to SCC for funding for the new windows would be known later in the week.

Village Hall

Noted that the floor was to be re-sanded at a budgeted cost of £2,000 and that the Hall would be closed for a week at the end of February to enable the work to proceed.

Village Shop

Noted the possible conversion of its legal entity into an industrial and provident society for the community which would benefit fund-raising and that a part-time paid manager's post was being advertised.

Village Pond

Agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Arthur Frearson for clearing the vegetation.

10. OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Nothing to report.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from Harry Hall asking whether the Parish Council would like him to cut the hedges along Station Lane: **agreed** that he should be informed that he needed to clear this with SCC and, as regards land on the south side of the road, with the Trustees of Denis Head.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Sandbags: noted that there had been one request during the recent flooding but **agreed** that, rather than the Parish Council holding its own stock, householders should be advised to make their arrangements.

Telephone box at the Village Shop: noted that it had been used during the recent power cuts and that BT was supposed to be cleaning it and fixing the broken light.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.40

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18 February 2014