

# HARTLIP PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Village Hall, Hartlip on Wednesday 13<sup>h</sup> December 2017 from 8pm until 9.00pm**

**Present:** Chairman Graham Addicott OBE      Cllr Paul White  
Cllr Peter Boundy                                      Cllr John Davies  
Cllr Beryl Goodburn                                      Parish Clerk Rachel Girt

### **17/161 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Klaire Lander, Cllr John Wright and County Councillor Mike Whiting.

### **17/162 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Councillors of their duty to declare any interests.

### **17/163 Confirmation of the Minutes**

The minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were proposed by The Chair and seconded by Cllr White. All Councillors present were in agreement that the minutes were a true and accurate report. Under the Local Government Act 1972 (sch.12) The Chair signed the minutes.

### **17/164 Matters arising from the Minutes**

17/147 PCSO John Cork had been out on several occasions to advise people following reports of parking on pavements.

17/130 Dog bin request. The Clerk had spoken to a Swale Borough Council Officer regarding the siting of this and she has offered a site meeting. Clerk to contact Churchwarden for availability.

**Action Clerk**

Village sign. It was noted by the Chairman that finding a solution to refurbishing the worn sign was proving problematic due to its unusual construction. The Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Davies have pursued possible solutions without success. Cllr Davies to try KALC contacts for ideas.

**Action Cllr Davies**

### **17/165 Police matters & Neighbourhood watch**

No report.

### **17/166 Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Addicott reported that a KALC meeting had been cancelled at short notice due to weather preventing the speaker from attending.

Cllr Addicott reported on a visit to Antolin, local manufacturers of car components. He reported that the site was well organised and maintained.

The website has been updated with some policy & finance documents and obsolete events removed.

Cllr Davies has sent a letter from the Parish Council to Mike Whiting in support of bus subsidies.

Cllr Addicott read the following report from County Councillor Mike Whiting (below):

#### Rail services

*The Government has published its Tender document for the new south east rail*

franchise. To my huge disappointment, and despite me lobbying officials and the Secretary of State, it does not propose any increase in the number of trains to and from Newington Station.

I have written to the Secretary of State asking him why he has not taken this opportunity to improve services and take cars off the congested roads, however, we are past the point where the tender document will be changed and need instead to lobby the rail companies who will be bidding for the franchise.

The Tender is a minimum specification and does not prohibit bidders from including two trains per hour from Newington. I have met two of the rail companies bidding for the tender and I am aiming to meet the third as soon as possible.

I would urge the Parish Council to also lobby the rail companies, making the case for an improved rail service to help get cars off the roads, particularly the A2 Newington AQMA.

#### Bus services

The recent announcement that the 326 and 327 Chalkwell services are to be lost as a result of KCC removing its subsidy understandably caused a lot of concern locally. I immediately checked with the bus company who assured me that the subsidy it receives from KCC relates to evening services after 5pm and the Saturday service. School buses and daytime services Monday to Friday will not be affected as they are commercial services that do not rely on the subsidy. I have met with the Cabinet Member for Transport at KCC expressing my displeasure at the way this news was released and the unnecessary anxiety it caused.

While it is good news the weekday and school services will be unaffected by any change, the potential loss of evening and Saturday services from September 2018 is not welcome. KCC will be publishing its final proposals in January and a period of consultation will run for a couple of months. I would urge everyone to respond to that consultation before a final decision is taken in May 2018.

#### Lorries in Spade Lane

Further to complaints by residents. I have written to the police asking they enforce the lorry ban in Spade Lane. Clearly HGVs are only allowed to use the road for access, and parking over night does not, in my view, fit with that. I will keep members updated when I get a response from the police.

I hope the above is helpful, please let me know if I can be of any further assistance with these or any other matters.

May I wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2018.

#### **17/167 Footpaths**

No report.

#### **17/168 Recreation Ground**

A quote of £1800 has been received to replace the matting underneath the moving horse. This has been accepted and the work will be carried out when the weather is better.

The 2018/2019 Commercial Services quote for mowing had been received, Cllr White recommended accepting their quote. The service is good, reasonably priced and work done to time. Clerk to remind and request strimming around goals.

**Action Clerk**

#### **17/169 Village Hall**

The new stage curtains have been installed.

The Village Hall Management Committee meet tomorrow (14/12/17).

The Chairman reiterated his thanks to Cllr White for overseeing the redecoration of the Hall.

#### **17/170 Parkland**

An email has been received from one of the tenants requested that she take over the horse space & rent, either at a reduce rate as recognition of her contribution to the site or at full rate. Councillors discussed the request and decided to advertise the vacancy in order to fulfil their duty to the whole of the community.

#### 17/171 Allotments

All but two rents have been received for the 2018/2019 season.

#### 17/172 Clerk and Finance report

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had tendered her resignation as she is to take up a Clerk's position nearer her home. She won't leave until the end of January to give time for a smooth handover, this will also enable the Hartlip Village Hall independent examination to be completed. There is a query over availability for the January 2018 Parish Council meeting as both Parish Meetings fall on the same date. Clerk to organise & advise

**Action Clerk.**

The Clerk's Monthly Finance Report & projected year end cash position was distributed to all Councillors present.

Cheques were presented for signing:

Staff Costs	Clerks salary, expenses & HVH November	£229.46
Hedge Cutting	Mr J Davison	£55.00
Total		£284.46

#### 17/173 Planning

##### Applications received since the November Meeting.

##### Application Ref: 17/506169 (Maidstone)

Application for erection of annexe to serve existing dwelling at Homestead Farm, Yelsted Road, Yelsted **object**

##### Application Ref: 17/502988

Revised plans for erection of barn at Warren Lane, Hartlip **object**

##### Application Ref: 17/50805

Removal of condition relating to restriction of use as a holiday home at The Old Stables, Old House Farm, Hartlip. **no objection**

#### 17/174 Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated electronically.

Mr Richard Knox-Johnson has offered to speak to the Parish Council about Neighbourhood Plans. Councillors accepted his kind offer.

#### 17/175 Information Items

Cllr John Davies had attended the KALC AGM where one of the items for discussion was a motion to introduce 20mph restrictions in villages, but concerns over costs of surveys and signs were voiced.

A reminder was given that Hartlip Sings Christmas will again be held at the Village Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> December between 6 & 7pm. The event is being organised by Hartlip Parish Council and Hartlip Village Hall Management Committee in collaboration with Hartlip Methodist Church. Flyers were distributed for circulation.

**Meeting Closed at 9.00pm. The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 8pm in Hartlip Village Hall.**

Signed

Dated