Meeting No 5

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2016 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT	Mr R Theobald (Chairman) Mr J Bugg Mr G Dent Mr R Lane Mr M Redfern Mrs S Lindley Miss P Clifton
APOLOGIES	for absence were received from Mr R Cooper and Mr D Hart
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE	Mr D Parmenter, Parishioner

54 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 December 2015

The minutes were AGREED and signed as a true record. Under Minute 52(a), it is to be noted that Mrs Lindley has requested photographs from members.

55 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

56 Crabbles Bottom (47)

Mr Lane reported that he is awaiting a quotation from Landscape Services. Mr Redfern reported that he is seeking prices for fruit trees to be planted in the gaps at Crabbles Bottom.

57 Shorne Mead Level Crossing (48)

Mr Theobald reported a letter will be sent the following day to Mrs Rumfitt. Members agreed to Mr Theobald writing to the Chief Executive at Gravesham for support.

58 Lower Thames Crossing (49)

An announcement is expected next month from the Secretary of State.

59 Gravesham Local Plan (50)

Information from the Borough Council is expected in February/March 2016.

60 Park Pale

Mr Lane had circulated members with an updated list on the nuisance vehicles disturbances at Park Pale. He reported that the problems have been particularly bad since Christmas and that he had been in contact with the police. There has also been more vandalism in Woodlands Lane.

61 Neighbourhood Plan (51)

Mr Theobald reported that as a Borough Councillor he had attended a Conference in Birmingham on 28th November 2015 organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute. He had made a point of attending the workshop on Neighbourhood Planning. This had been led by a representative from the Planning Advisory Service.

Meopham Parish Council arranged a meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Planning and Parish Plans on 7 December 2015 at the Cricket Pavilion, which he and Mrs Lindley had attended. The meeting was addressed by a Jillian Barr, a planner from CPRE, Jim Boot, a planning consultant dealing with Neighbourhood Plans and Wendy Lane from GBC.

A Neighbourhood Plan, after passing through all its stages, is a planning document and can influence the location of development. It is apparent however, from these discussions, that decisions on the Green Belt would be made at district strategic level. A Neighbourhood Plan can influence where but not if development takes place. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot be used to defend the Green Belt.

At Meopham the discussion broadened to include Parish Plans introduced by Kathy Bugden from Action in Rural Kent. Parish Plans are not planning documents but essentially management tools to assist in planning in the parish. Mr Theobald undertook to circulate the information from the Meopham meeting.

Mr Lane reminded the Council that they had agreed to set up a working party to look at these issues.

62 Boundary Review (52)

It is understood that a decision will be announced on 19 January 2016.

63 Website (53)

Mrs Sue Hill at the Borough Council has been contacted regarding the Borough Council's pecuniary interests. Mr Lane will forward onto members, the paper on the HMG's Department for Communities and Local Government's guide for councillors on Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests.

Mr Lane reported that he will look into the e-mail domain to be discussed at the Council meeting on 18 February 2016.

64 Report by County Cllr B Sweetland

No report.

65 Planning & Highways Committee

Mrs Lindley ran through planning applications dealt with since the last meeting.

Mr Theobald referred to an e-mail received regarding the "Changes to the National Planning Guidance" which talks about changes to small developments to try to increase the number of houses being built.

66 Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

(a) Village Hall Car Park (47c)

Mr Lane reported that the white lining in the car park at the village hall was carried out on 22 December 2015 by Hi-Way Services Ltd.

(b) "No Fly Tipping Signs"

These have now been received from Stuart Alford.

(c) Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens

A reply has been received from Mr David Hughes, CEO at Gravesham.

(d) Trees at Chestnut Green

Mr Lane met with KCC's tree surgeon to inspect the KCC-owned chestnut trees on Chestnut Green, and he has agreed to cut back the spurs and any dead wood.

(e) Tree at Shorne Common Rough

Mr Lane has received a quotation from Cobham Tree Surgery for £650.00 for the removal of the leaning tree. He will seek additional quotations for this work.

(f) Risk Management on Trees

Mr Lane has produced a proposed draft policy for consideration.

(g) Clean for Queen

Council has been advised that Gravesham Borough Council is participating in the national "Clean for The Queen" campaign which is encouraging litter picks and community clean ups in the run up to the Queen's 90th Birthday in April. This will be held on the 4/5/6 March 2016. The Parish Council will be holding this on Saturday, 5 March 2016 in the parish. Mr Lane reported that the Parish Council may need to purchase additional high viz vests and litter pickers.

(h) Recreation Ground

Council has received an e-mail from Aaron McCall, manager and joint owner of Saturday Rochester & District League men's side Rochester City Football Club, seeking use of the Recreation Ground. Mr Theobald will draft a reply, advising that the Parish Council, as landlords would decline the request.

67 Meetings of Outside Bodies

(a) Shorne Village Hall Management Committee

Mr Bugg reported that the Committee is applying for Lottery funding for the renewal of the roof which leaks. They are seeking two quotations for the work. They are also having problems with the maintenance contractor about the heating. They have sought two quotations to replace the boiler. The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 12 January 2016.

68 Finance

(a)	Talk Talk	Account (Jan'16)	£ 36. 31
	(Paid by DD)	VAT	£ 7. 26
			£ 43. 57
			=======
(b)	UK Power Networks	Wayleave (Paid into Barclays Bank)	£ 4. 60

(c) The following accounts were passed for payment and cheques issued.

Hi Way Services	Re-Marking White Lining in V H Car Park	£ 425. 00
	VAT	£ 85. 00
		£ 510. 00
		=======
Shorne Village Hall	Hire of Hall & Room	£ 36. 00

CPRE	Renewal of Subscription	£ 36. 00
Mrs T Martin	Salary - Jan' 2016	£800. 60
	Less Tax	- 92. 95
		£707. 65
		======
Inland Revenue	Tax deducted from Clerk's Salary	£ 92. 95
	PC's Contributions for NI	£ 18. 99
		£111. 94
		======

69 Stakeholder Pension

The Department of Work and Pensions had circulated the Parish Council as a potential employer. Following the Clerk's suggestion, Mr Theobald had contacted Mr NJ Wharton of M J Read & Co Accountants Limited who acted as the Council's accountant. He advised that the Council needed to be in a position to offer the Clerk a pension even if she had indicated that she did not want one.

Mr Theobald had commented that it was difficult to approach a pension provider when the amount of business on offer, if any, was so small. Mr Wharton advised that there was a government fall back scheme for this purpose. Mr Theobald would investigate.

It was agreed that in the circumstances, the Council should set up a Smart Pension fall-back scheme.

70 Correspondence

(a) From Medway Council re: Preparation of a New Medway Local Plan - Notice of Regulation 18 'Issues and Options' Consultation.

(b) From the Office of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent re: The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle MBE who will be holding his Annual Civic Service at All Saints Church in Maidstone on Tuesday, 15 March 2016 at 11.00 am.

71 Matters Raised by Members

There were no matters raised by members.

72 Matters Raised by Parishioners

There were no matters raised by parishioners.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.03pm.