Meeting No 5

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on

9th January 2020 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT

Mr R Lane (Chairman)
Mr R Theobald
Mrs L McCluskey
Mr R Hardy
Ms Clifton
Mr C Rea
Mr S White
Mrs S Lindley

APOLOGIES for non-attendance were received from Mr Bugg,

Parishioners in attendance: None, but Mr Lane reported that Mr Lance, who often attends as a parishioner, had died just before Christmas. He will be sadly missed.

57 To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda

None received.

58 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2019

The draft minutes were circulated for comment on 16th December 2019. No comments were received. The minutes were **AGREED** and signed as a true record.

59 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

Nothing received.

60 To approve the cost for the continued use of the KCC/Cantium website platform

The Parish Council has received notification from Cantium that from 30th August 2020, the website will no longer be hosted and the current service will be replaced with one that is compliant with The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. To continue with the hosted website, there will be a charge of £995 for 2020 and £675 for subsequent years, based on a 3 year contract. This offer is only valid if 100 Parish Councils sign up for this offer before 31st January 2020.

It was agreed to approve this expenditure and to authorise the Clerk to enter into discussions with Cantium to secure continuity of the website hosting service.

61 To discuss the mobile phone mast proposal and to agree response and actions (35)

On 6th December 2019, Galliford Try wrote to the Parish Council requesting to enter into negotiations for an agreement for the land at Shorne Common for their proposed telecommunications base station, and advising the Council to obtain independent professional advice.

Mr Lane contacted Kingsley Smith, who were prepared to support the Council on planning issues, but were not able to assist with issues relating to the imposition of code right agreements, as they considered this to be highly specialised area. On further enquiries, they suggested Landmark Chambers, a firm of barristers. Mr Lane questioned whether a firm of barristers is the appropriate course of action at this stage.

There are a number of organisations that specialise in negotiating code agreements on behalf of landowners, but it is difficult to find any organisations that specialise in opposing the imposition of code agreements before it reaches court. Mr Lane has made enquiries with Paul Stokes, of Richard Buxton Environmental Law, who has previously provided legal support regarding the Lower Thames Crossing, and is awaiting a response.

A number of options were discussed. It was felt that if we inform Galliford Try that we do not wish to enter into any form of negotiations for an agreement, it is likely that they will apply to a court to impose a code agreement on us. We may well then need to engage a firm of barristers.

It was decided that the Parish Council would carry out its own local consultation to gauge public opinion, and advise Galliford Try that we would not consider entering into any negotiations until this had been carried out. In the meantime, we would continue to seek legal advice, and Mr Lane would contact KALC, GBC, and KCC to see if they had any previous experience and could offer advice or support.

62 To discuss the closure of Shornemead level crossing and to agree actions

As reported at Committee meetings, CCTV images of a near miss incident involving a youth on a motorbike has resulted in the closure of the crossing for 6 months while investigations take place. Mr Theobald reported that he has notified the Chairman of the Kent County Access Forum, Chairman Thames and Medway Canal Association, Chairman Gravesham Rights of Way Committee, Chairman Meopham Footpaths Group, The Ramblers Association (Head Office), and Gravesham BC. Mrs Lindley will also notify the cycling association as they often use this footpath. Mr Theobald will now write to Network Rail requesting a meeting. Consideration will also be given to carrying out a public consultation.

63 To receive any update on Planning & Highways matters requiring attention (39)

It was noted that the application to build a block of 64 flats on the parish boundary at Cobham Lodge, Valley Drive, was rejected at the Regulatory Board on 8th January.

The planning application for a stable block at Courtlands will be on the agenda for the Regulatory Board on 5th February 2020. They have now applied for lawful

development for a pool house and games room, all large enough to be small houses. Mr Lane will not be attending the meeting, but Mrs Lindley will represent the Parish Council.

The closure of the Brewers Road overbridge across the A2 was discussed. Following a meeting between KCC and Highways England, it has been agreed to cut back the surface and repair the waterproofing at 7 joints, before resealing and resurfacing. The repair work is provisionally scheduled to commence on Thursday 16 January. In the meantime, it was noted that drivers were disregarding the road closure.

Mrs Lindley reported that Highways England are planning to hold a Lower Thames Crossing information event at Village Hall on 18th March 2020.

Mrs Lindley reported that KCC Highways are considering the request for yellow lines at Forge Lane, and have asked the Parish Council to undertake a consultation on the matter.

64 <u>To receive any update on Footpaths, Properties & Greens matters requiring attention (40)</u>

Mrs McCluskey reported that Mrs Poole and Miss Clifton have looked at the gate from Bowesden Lane into the meadow to see if vehicle access for maintenance could be re-established. At present it is not possible to open the first gate from Bowesden Lane as there are a number of small trees on the far side which would need clearing. The second gate is accessible and currently gives access to the path leading to one of the meadows. This path could be widened to allow access for a tractor etc. Mrs McCluskey will arrange to meet Tom Gozzett on site to discuss what needs to be done and to obtain a quotation. At present only the first two meadows are cut from the orchard, but the third meadow is not cut.

Mrs Poole reported that the Police requested contact details for the football ground regarding an incident on 5th January, Ref 05-04-99. No details of the incident were given.

Miss Clifton reported that the Juniors team had left the gate open at the football field. Mr Lane asked her to contact Lee Boyson as he is responsible for the ground

Mrs McCluskey reported that she has asked for a proforma invoice from Langley Design for the recycled plastic bollards, and has written to Southern Water regarding the location of a pipe thought to be under the footpath adjacent to Venesta.

Mrs McCluskey has also received the playground inspection report and will ask John Vilday to address any significant issues during his annual maintenance activities.

65 Finance Report (53)

Date	Type	Description	Sub Total	VAT	Amount	Precept Left
04/12/2019	DD	Vodafone	£30.21	£6.05	£36.26	£7,421.79
04/12/2019	Chq 102743	All Seasons Garden Maintenance	£123.95	£0.00	£123.95	£7,297.84
05/12/2019	Chq 102741	Unipar	£192.70	£38.54	£231.24	£7,066.60
09/12/2019	DD	Nest Pension (Nov)	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£7,009.08
09/12/2019	Chq 102746	S Poole Expenses (Poppy Appeal, Catering)	£94.30		£94.30	£6,914.78
20/12/2019	DD	Professional Wage Slip (Period 8)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	£6,891.98
			£517.68	**£48.39**	**£566.07**	

The Precept request was sent to Andrew Barnett at GBC on 30th December 2019.

Mrs Martin has submitted her receipts for her long service award and the cheque was signed by Mr Lane & Mr Theobald. A letter and her cheque will be posted.

Mrs Poole reported that she is still waiting for action from Mr Theobald and Mr Bugg for bank electronic authorised signatories. Mr Theobald will need an up-to-date bank statement so he can speak to them before the next meeting.

66 Correspondence Requiring Action

Mrs Poole asked if the local Clerks would be able to meet in Shorne in March for their quarterly meeting. This will incur a small cost. This was agreed.

Mrs Poole confirmed that the Pension Enrolment forms have been filled in.

Mrs Poole asked when the next Drop in session would be. Mrs Poole was requested to speak to the hall secretary and get something booked in for March. NB Note. The meeting has now been booked for Saturday 7th March 2020 at 10am. This needs to be put in the Parish Magazine, Website, Noticeboards and Facebook.

67 To receive any report from Borough Cllr Lane

Mr Lane gave a brief update from the Regulatory Board on 8th January. Meetings were suspended during the General Election period. The rescheduled dates are causing some clashes, including the Joint Transport Board this evening.

68 To receive any report from County Councillor Sweetland

Nothing to report.

60 Any other business

It was noted that KCC has erected the poles in readiness for the speed indicator device (SID). The SID is likely to arrive shortly. We will need to organise a schedule for its periodic relocation, battery maintenance, etc.

Mr White reported that the retaining walls for rear gardens in Crown Green backing onto Forge Lane appear to be unsafe and could fall onto the pavement.

Mr White discussed problems he has been involved with at Sirius in Green Farm Lane. The party wall to the neighbour's garage was damaged. This has now been attended to following Mr White's intervention.

The weight limit signs in Green Farm Lane were pointing the wrong way, Mr White has turned these to the correct way.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.17

Signed Mr Lane:…….. Dated:……..