SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th April 2023 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT Mr R Lane (Chairman)
Mr R Theobald
Mr J Bugg
Ms Clifton
Mrs S Lindley
Mrs L Williams
Mr C Rea
Mr R Hardy

APOLOGIES None

80. Notice of Uncontested Election Result

The Parish Council elections were uncontested, and the notice of the result was published on 5th April. All current councillors were re-elected. There is still a vacancy in Shorne West. Mr Lane has been informed by Simon Walsh that we can advertise to fill the vacancy by co-option immediately after 4th May. If the vacancy is not filled within 5-6 weeks, GBC will need to publish an official Notice of Vacancy.

81. To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda

None received.

82. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2023

The minutes were circulated on 25th February, and were recirculated on 6th April with a minor correction to the finance report. No other comments have been received. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

83. Any items raised by Parishioners in attendance at Chairman's discretion

None in attendance.

84. Review of the Finance Report

The report on expenditure was circulated prior to the meeting, and was reviewed at the meeting.

Date	Method	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		B/F	£26,718.73	£1,548.86	£28,267.59
02/02/2023	DD	Vodafone	£28.22	£5.64	£33.86
09/02/2023	DD	Nest	£68.35	£0.00	£68.35
24/02/2023	DD	Eslip Payroll	£20.48	£4.10	£24.58
		C/F	£26,835.78	£1,558.60	£28,394.38

Date	Method	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
		B/F	£26,835.78	£1,558.60	£28,394.38
01/03/2023	Chq 102767	HMRC Apr-Feb	£454.28	£0.00	£454.28
06/03/2023	BACS	Microsoft	£112.80	£22.56	£135.36
06/03/2023	BACS	Parish Council Website	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
07/03/2023	DD	Vodafone	£28.97	£5.79	£34.76
09/03/2023	DD	Nest Feb (Pension)	£68.34	£0.00	£68.34
09/03/2023	DD	Mrs S Poole (Salary February)	£937.25	£0.00	£937.25
24/03/2023	DD	Eslip Payroll	£20.48	£4.10	£24.58
30/03/2023	BACS	Open Spaces	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
30/03/2023	BACS	KALC	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00
30/03/2023	BACS	SLCC	£144.00	£0.00	£144.00
30/03/2023	BACS	S Poole Expenses Kings Coronation	£225.07	£45.01	£270.08
		Year End	£29,151.97	£1,652.06	£30,804.03

(a) To approve the appointment of the new internal auditor.

At the previous meeting, it was agreed that Mrs Poole would obtain proposals for an alternative Internal Auditor and make a recommendation to Members. Mrs Poole's recommendation is April Skies Accounting. Their quotation was circulated to members on 14th March 2023 and was discussed at the Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee meeting on 23rd March. It was agreed to appoint April Skies Accounting, and Mrs Poole will instruct them to start the Audit as soon as possible.

85. To receive an update from the Planning & Highways Committee

Planning:

Mrs Lindley reported on a number of cases of interest, including:

- 19m x 6.7m caravan and hardstanding at Lark Rise, Pondfield Lane – Lawful Development Certificate granted.
- Side extension at 2 Bunny Hill, Tanyard Hill - appeal dismissed.
- Outbuilding at Bucklebury, Pear Tree Lane – appeal granted.
- Rear extensions at Beech Stables, Ifield Farm – appeal pending.
- Detached 4 bedroom house for manager at New Green Farm – appeal pending.
- Concerns regarding the installation of containers and importing of hardcore to premises in Shorne Ifield Road have been raised with GBC for investigation.

Highways:

Tanyard Hill will be closed again from 24th April for gas replacement works. It is believed that following the replacement of gas mains into properties, the main gas pipe needs replacement.

Lower Thames Crossing: The former Southern Valley Golf Course has now been purchased by National Highways and they have now secured the site, which includes fence repairs as well as concrete blocks. They will try to preserve the hedging around the site, and are considering other measures that may benefit residents in the interim before construction.

The Government has announced that the start of the LTC will be delayed by 2 years, irrespective of the Development Consent Order. The PADS tracker document has now been submitted. There are now 686 documents to go through on the library on the website. Thurrock Council has been late in submitting pre-examination information and has been granted an extension until July 2023. A timetable of the next steps is expected to be published in due course.

National Highways will be carrying out a mini consultation, with the main areas concerning Blue Bell Hill and north of the river. It will also include changes to the tunnel boring plans. It was originally planned to use two machines to bore from the north side. It is now proposed to use one machine from the north side, which will be turned around and bore back towards Essex. It is intended that the spoil will be returned to Essex via the first tunnel, but this does mean that there may be more vehicle movements.

National Highways will be inviting interested parties to submit a local impact report, but parties can submit a report without invitation. There are currently 1047 registered interested parties, some were omitted due to technical issues, now corected.

20 mph Zone: KCC sent the proposed 20 mph zone design to us on 8th March. Mrs Lindley would prefer that the zone in Mill Hill Lane is extended to include the entrance to NS167, but KCC has pointed out that the sign would need the permission of the land owner. Mr Lane has asked the land owner whether he would object to the sign being located on his land. However, if this results in further delay, Mr Lane considers that we should advise KCC Highways to go ahead with the 20 mph zone as soon as possible. The current scheme is far superior than that which we agreed at the Planning & Highways Meeting in May 2022.

Shops Forecourt: Mrs Lindley identified the owner of the forecourt from Land Registry, and Mr Lane drafted a letter to the owner about the dangerous condition of the surface, which was sent on 29th March. Mr Lane also wrote to Haroona Chugtai, KCC's Director of Highways, about their statutory powers under S165/S166 of the Highways Act, as he received no response to his emails dated 3rd November 2022 and 22nd February 2023 to Kevin Gore. Mrs Chugtai responded to say that KCC is not prepared to use its statutory powers, but would consider sending a letter to the property owner.

86. To receive an update from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

Ms Clifton thanked Mr Theobald for getting the church clock working again, with a new contractor. The resumption of hourly chimes has resulted in good feedback from

parishioners. Mr Theobald will chase the invoice as we are still awaiting this to pay the contractor. It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for an annual service visit to the church clock, but in the event that repairs become necessary the Parish Council would need to consider what support we could offer to help the Church with the costs.

Ms Clifton reported that the Scouts have started planting the trees that were donated under the Queens Canopy, these are mainly hawthorn and hazel. Mrs Poole reported that the Scouts have paid their 5p peppercorn rent this week.

Ms Clifton reported that at the GROWC meeting on the 30th March, Mr John Pelham advised that KCC had received £115,000 from Ebbsfleet Development Corporation to KCC which has enabled him to attend to a number of PROW issues, including laying hardcore on NS156, and that there will be no financial cuts to services in 2023/2024.

Mr Theobald asked if Butchers Hill could be reported to KCC either under Footpaths or Highways, as this needs attention as the surface is breaking up after the blocked drains and water coming up. Mrs Lindley said she has reported it and will report it again.

Sustrans has given KCC £100,000 to tarmac the surface of NG2 and NS317 as far as Shorne Mead.

Mrs Poole has received the new electrode pads for the AED which she has passed to Mr Lane for replacement.

(a) Update on Bus Shelters

Mr Rea has met with a contractor with Mr Bugg's specifications and is awaiting to hear from the contractor with a price. Mr Rea reported that the building contractor will not deal with the ivy. Ms Clifton will ask Veolia if they can cut back the ivy from the bus shelter, as they have offered help previously. Ms Clifton has another contractor to look at the bus shelter on the 14th April.

(b) AED update

Mr Rea and Mrs Poole have been working with UK Power Networks to try to establish the connection costs. After being passed from various departments we now have a lady who is going to help. We are waiting to hear from Defibsafe regarding the Charge Code for the cabinet as is this is needed for energy billing. *(**Post minute note:** UKPN has now asked which energy company we want the contract with, eg Eon or Npower, as they need an energy billing company. Mrs Poole has a meeting booked for Thursday 20th April to discuss this with them.)*

87. To receive a report from Borough Councillor R Lane

Mr Lane will not be standing for election to the new Higham & Shorne Ward and will be stepping down from Gravesham Borough Council on 4th May. Mr Lane's last official meeting was the Council Meeting on 11th April, but nothing worth reporting was discussed.

Mr Theobald thanked Mr Lane for his work in getting things done for Shorne over the past 4 years. Mr Theobald observed that this will be the first time in his experience that we will not have a resident of Shorne representing the Ward as a Borough Councillor.

88. To receive any report from County Councillor B Sweetland

Nothing received.

89. Update from Mrs Lindley on the King's Coronation celebrations

Mrs Lindley reported that the committee are progressing with the celebrations. The commemorative coins have arrived which we will be giving to the children of the Parish and the School under the age of 11 for free. If anyone wants one they are £5.00 each to buy. We have also ordered and awaiting delivery of the mugs which will be sold at £5.00. The request forms for the mugs and coins are available from the Clerk.

Mrs Lindley reported that we did put in an application for some Lottery grant funding which was unsuccessful this time.

The event will start at 10am in the Village Hall. We have a projector for the ceremony, which will start at 11am. We have 100 tickets available and we will need a minimum of 40 tickets sold for the event to take place, and any surplus money will go to charities in the village after deduction of costs. We have already purchased the children's activities crafts. We will make a decision on whether the event is going ahead next week, as we will need to purchase food, etc.

Flyers have been distributed around the village and on noticeboards, and we have advertised the event on facebook, the website, and in the Parish Magazine. Mrs McCluskey, Mrs Poole and Mrs Lindley attended the last Pop up Café to try to get people to come along and support the event.

90. Parish Assembly and Parish Report Update

Mr Lane reminded members that the Parish Assembly is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th April and requested members to attend early to help setting out tables and chairs. Chairpersons should share their reports in advance to avoid duplications and omissions. Mrs Poole reported that about 8 organisations have already sent in their reports, and second reminder letters have been sent out. Mrs Poole will do a buffet and get some wine for the refreshments after the Parish Assembly.

Mrs Poole was asked to obtain quotes for printing the Annual Report. Mr Rea has suggested a company that might be able to give a quote.

91. To review and adopt amended standing orders

These were circulated on 12th March, no comments have been received. The main changes are clarification on the 3 clear days' notice required for matters raised by the public to be included on the agenda, and proposals to limit public input to 3 minutes instead of 5 minutes, and to exclude members of the public from parts of meetings when confidential or exempt information as set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be discussed. Mr Lane proposed that these are adopted with effect from 4th May 2023. This was agreed.

92. To review the Risk Register

This was circulated on 17th January for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting. There are no changes from the current version and no comments have been received. As the current councillors have been re-elected, Mr Lane proposed that the register is approved for a further year. This was approved.

93. Correspondence requiring action

(a) Email from Mr Riddick circulated on 6th March.

Mr Lane apologised as he did not realise this has been discussed at the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee on 23rd March when this agenda was prepared. Members were invited to consider whether a potential land swap would be to the benefit of parishioners or not before deciding whether to pursue the matter further. Mr Rea, Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy did a site visit on 12th April to look at both pieces of land. A discussion took place regarding the potential advantages and disadvantages. It was decided that Mr Lane should contact Mr Riddick to find out more about Mr Riddick's proposal.

(b) Correspondence with Dandelion Time and approval to renew licence.

Dandelion Time wrote on 24th March to apologise for not consulting the Parish Council prior to their open morning as they did not consider it necessary, but have undertaken to inform us of any future events. They have since asked if the Parish Council would have any objections to another Open Morning on the 26th May, plus some filming. Members had no objections and Mrs Poole will write to Dandelion Time to confirm our agreement. The licence is due for renewal, and Members were invited to approve the renewal. This was approved, and Mrs Poole will advise the Scouts and Dandelion Times, and sign on behalf of the Parish Council.

(c) Shorne Scouts letter dated 27th March and draft response circulated on 2nd April.

The Scouts have decided not to accept the Parish Council's offer of a conditional licence for permitting use of the premises for non-scouting purposes by third parties, and these activities have been discontinued. Mr Lane's draft response was agreed, and Mrs Poole will send the letter of response accordingly.

94. General matters raised by Members for discussion

As agreed in item 86 above, Mr Theobald will write a letter to the church proposing that the Parish Council will pay for an annual inspection and service of the clock.

Mr Rea reported that he contacted the Police to report bikers on the footpath and land adjacent to the A2, as they were causing a nuisance and damaging crops. The Police spoke to the bikers on Mr Rea's phone, but they denied being on motorbikes.

Mr Rea said there is more fly tipping in Shorne Ifield Road, which he will report again on the website. This is the second instance in two weeks at the same location. Mr Lane reminded members that we own camouflaged cameras, the problem is installing and maintaining them. Mrs Williams reported that she may be able to arrange for this to be carried out. The CCTV policy will need to be updated to reflect this.

Ms Clifton reported that there is graffiti on the sign in the play area. Mr Rea will remove this with thinners.

Mrs Williams reported that the parking at the end of Vigilant Way is becoming increasingly dangerous since the closure of the golf course and the resulting use by dog walkers. Buses are struggling to turn into Vigilant Way due to parked vehicles. It has been the cause of some near misses as people are parking on both sides right up to the junction.

Mr Bugg said about the parking in The Street, is getting more and more dangerous especially opposite the old post office, which is the narrows part of The Street

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Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual General Meeting to be held at 19.30 on Thursday 11th May.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.20

Signed Mr Lane:…….. Dated:……..