

Minutes of the Meeting of Penshurst Parish Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024 at 7.00 pm in Penshurst Village Hall.

1. PRESENT: Cllrs A Campbell (Chairman), Mrs D Broad, N Furnell, R Gerard-Sharp, J Horsford, D Howard, B Townsend, S Jolly. Clerk confirmed that Cllr Jolly had attended the June meeting, her name was added to the attendance list.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs M McArthur

In Attendance: PC Fergus Maunsell, 2 Parishioners

3. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Declarations of interests in agenda items: None

OPEN SESSION:

Highways: Kennards (799971): Clerk to check when the work would be undertaken, this having been promised but not executed.

5. KCllr Mrs Margot McArthur: Cllr Mrs McArthur advised the clerk that Operation Brock would be reintroduced from 10 July for the summer with a new permitting system for freight being introduced designed to stop vehicles rat-running off the motorway to avoid traffic queuing on the M20. Permits will be issued at the front of the Operation Brock queue and without a permit, freight vehicles will not be allowed to access the port. Local HGVs and deliveries will be issued with local haulier licenses and permitted to continue their journey, with passenger and local traffic, onwards to Dover. Latest traffic and travel updates in Kent will be shown on: **Check before you travel – Kent County Council.**

Cllr Mrs McArthur had also chased the Highways department again regarding the ongoing problems on Spring Hill, Fordcombe.

6. PC Fergus Maunsell attended the meeting to update members on his background and appointment to work with PC Kemp to cover of his beat areas and Parishes. He was aware of local issues relating to rural crime and initial work was underway to categorise crime to perpetrators to ensure efficient use of resources. A meeting was offered for the following day.

7. Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Furnell raised the issue of the Village Hall's policy regarding Posters, Cllr Howard would check this at the meeting he was scheduled to attend; the Water Company had not repaired the sunken access cover opposite Leicester Square despite repeated complaints; a cattle trailer had been stolen on the 5 June; a farm building on Rogues Hill was broken into on 10 June and tools had been stolen; a bull was rescued from the stream on 28 June by the fire brigade. Two reports from BBC's Rip Off Britain: Number spoofing where callers' numbers were incorrectly shown to enable them to gain access to bank accounts; scams relating to the use of Facebook to report lost pets when payment for vet treatment was demanded from the finder saying they were injured.

8. Matters Arising:

(i) Affordable Housing: Current information forwarded to both parish magazines for inclusion. No further update available currently.

(ii) Tree Surgery – Penshurst Churchyard: Confirmation of no objections to the work submitted via Planning Department provided 3 June, ED forwarded to Estate and Contractor. Work scheduled for completion between 1- 3 July.

(iii) Fordcombe Churchyard: Survey undertaken of work required to trees, circulated to members for their information. Clerk authorised to provide copies of the survey to three contractors for quotations for the work as identified.

(iv) Speeding: Clerk had forwarded another updated HIP form to KCC Highways on 14 May, speeding issue in Fordcombe listed as top priority, with Rogues Hill as being of concern, request for SID device submitted.

(v) Speedwatch Equipment: ED checking with KCC Highways regarding provision of a unit(s), what types were available and the cost of supply, installation and any running costs of the units considered acceptable. Existing unit owned by the PC possibly suitable for upgrading by original supplier and use as static unit for an approximate cost of £750 – possible use for Rogues Hill on private land; modern hand held unit for Fordcombe village entry, which required team to operate quoted at between £2 – 4K depending on type required, safety and legal requirements relating to use by Speedwatch Team requirements being checked. Members were aware that Speedwatch Teams required time and dedication.

(vi) Verge Cutting: Email forwarded regarding standard of verge mowing between the bridges in Peshurst.

9. PLANNING: Planning Applications:

24/01563/FUL: Coppers, Fordcombe Road, Peshurst: Demolition of existing dwelling and detached garage, erection of a replacement dwelling and detached garage with associated landscaping

24/00839/OUT: Land East Of Treetops, Grove Road Peshurst: Outline application for erection of a dwelling with some matters reserved except for access. Chairman to circulate draft response to councillors.

24/01323/HOUSE: Finch Green House Finch Green Chiddingstone Hoath Kent TN8 7DJ

Demolition of existing garage and sheds, ground and first floor extensions to the existing dwelling, roof alterations, alterations to fenestration, replacement garage, new pool house, porch, landscaping and all associated works.

24/01210/HOUSE: Watermill Oast, Salmans Lane, Peshurst: 3 new velux's. 2 new windows with alterations to fenestration.

24/01156/FUL: The Barns at Chafford Park Farm, Chafford Lane, Fordcombe: Conversion of barn to single dwelling with ancillary garage and gym building and external seating area. Demolition of additional barn and stable. Extension to existing track and car parking with associated landscaping works.

24/01268/LBCALT: Old Swaylands, Poundsbridge Lane, Poundsbridge, Peshurst: Removal of staircase. New staircase: Removal of concrete pillars and timber beams. Amend the positioning of internal walls and doors. Removal of first floor ceiling to the link building.

24/00797/FUL Land South Of Hallborough, Poundsbridge, Peshurst: Erection of a forestry and wood workers workshop with solar arrays. Hardstanding and landscaping.

23/03652: Land West Of Drummond Hall, Peshurst Road, Peshurst: Variation of Condition 1 (land restoration timescale) of 23/01274/CONVAR related to 21/00195/FUL (Erection of a temporary access road off the B2176 into the curtilage of Drummond Hall, including a temporary compound area.) for the date for the restoration of the land to be amended to 30 June 2024.

24/01210/HOUSE: Watermill Oast, Salmans Lane, Peshurst: 3 new veluxs, 2 new windows with alterations to fenestration.

Appeals:

24/00025/CHGADD STREET NAMING & NUMBERING - SECTION 64 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS ACT 1847 Site: Peshurst Off Road Cycling Club, Grove Road, Peshurst New Address: Treetops, Grove Road, Peshurst, TN11 8DU. UPRN: 050002019006

Tree Surgery:

24/01518/WTPO: Redleaf, Peshurst Road, Peshurst: KT165 Lime - reduce height and spread to original points @ 12 meters and raise to 5 meters.

24/00697/WTPO: Beech Glade, Doubleton Lane, Peshurst: Removal of 2 dead dangerous trees and general dead wood removal.

24/01164/WTPO: Beech Glade Doubleton Lane Peshurst: Works to various trees. **GRANTED**

24/01187/WTPO: Alderwood House, Peshurst Road, Peshurst: T1: Spruce & T2: Birch – Fell. **REFUSED**

10. HIGHWAYS

Fordcombe Road/Old House Lane/Cleve House/Leggs Lane: Already all listed for work in connection with drainage.

Marlpit Corner/Poundsbridge/The Lodge/Drummond Hall/Old House Lane/Beggars Heaven: All reported for work in relation to drainage.

817283: Clerk submitted further report on behalf of Parish Council asking when the work on the sites listed will be actioned having been previously scheduled: (814110: Leigh to Stocks Green: Repeat report of 802174 and 813059 requesting date scheduled for work to be completed. Work advised as scheduled, subsequently not carried out. 799971: Kennards, Leigh: Numerous potholes and delaminating of road surface. 2 reports of damage to cars received, issue reported. Work scheduled 10.4.24. **Response Received:** Work curtailed due to withdrawal of funds, application resubmitted for funding to be reinstated but doubtful that work would be undertaken during current year.

754951: Silcocks-Cleve House: Drains blocked and overflowing – previously reported. Issue investigated as of 3 November, passed to Tunbridge Wells. No further information available.

755185: Finches, Fordcombe Road: Flooding due to blocked Drain/Gulley. Gulley scheduled to be cleaned 3.11.2023. **Still showing to be cleared.**

756211: The Lane, Fordcombe: Sinking length of road adjacent to ditch reported plus water leak – marked as not Highways and past to others; further report submitted under reference 759381 providing more detailed information after site visit. Listed as not highways and passed to others for action. Investigated 7.11.23 *Notification received of road closure to complete work.* **No further updated.**

753905 Coopers Lane: Work on 754869 completed 3.11.2023: **758601:** Flooding from adjacent fields affecting properties along the lane. Further investigations on 15 November, works being programmed – Completion target 31.8.24.

746512/762493 : Chafford Lane: (Work on 746512 done 19.9.23) Overgrown hedges restricting width for pedestrians using route: Action on the other initiated 4.12.23, passed to enforcement for a S154 process.

798778: Blocked Drains: Blocked with leaves along the corner from the Penshurst Road round the corner resulting in water running down into the High Street. Scheduled for clean 5.12.2023. Advised as under investigation on 5.4.24.

770746: Rogues Hill: Drainage and Flooding, Blocked Drain/Gully: Under investigation as of 5.1.2024, drain clearance of run of drains downhill awaited. (Previously reported under 734351 – 17.7.23)

789182/789751 & 805070/807029: New Road: Potholes – one centrally in road, others along the line of the hedgerow. Work carried out 6 & 7 March to first two reports, others scheduled May/June 2024.

811889: Signage damage reported again for action. 795035: Damaged Sign: Junction near Saints Hill between New Road and Colliersland Bridge – road sign knocked down but monumental stone in situ. Investigated 2.3.24. Works being scheduled as of 6.6.24

Closure of The Lane: 794731 (Work completed 20.3.24) **& 779993** – further update sought of proposed and/or ongoing work. Under investigation 9.2.24.

795035 – Damaged Sign: ED to chase Kent Highways regard outstanding repairs. Reported 6.6.24 works being scheduled. Reported 21.3.24 works being programmed.

2/2 [ID:7961488]: / 801663 – Roadway Opposite Leicester Square: Water Access Cover/Pothole reported. **Reported to S E Water** and Highways for repair. Reported again 15.5.24: New Ref: 3002 5084 253794. **Reported again 24.6.24 under further new Ref: 255362**

CHAFFORD LANE, FORDCOMBE (Surface Dressing): 23/07/2024 – 31/07/2024

Road closed between Fordcombe Road and Bradley Road. A diversion will be in place via B2188 Spring Hill, Sandfield Road and Walters Green Road 07:00 – 19:00 Weekdays.

801957: Spring Hill: Continuous flow of water downhill, possible blocked drain/culverts. Under investigation 18.4.24. Previous reports: 794607/779993/749311 October 2023 Blocked Drains.

Openreach - Temporary Road Closure - Coopers Lane, Penshurst - 25th June 2024 for 1

day between 09.30hrs and 15.30hrs: The road will be closed for the entire length, alternative route via Poundsbridge Hill and vice versa. Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while works are undertaken by Openreach.

For the most up to date information on these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=138207228>

11. Finance/Accounts: The following accounts were presented and unanimously approved for payment.

Complete Weed Control	Fordcombe Parish Weed Control	£228.00
Penshurst Village Hall	Hall Hire	£12.00
Cantia Aboricultural Services	Fordcombe Churchyard Tree Survey	£590.00
HMRC	ED Tax	£141.40
Sevenoaks District Council	Bulk Freighter	£291.00
Lucy Fuller Rowell (June)	Penshurst Village Lengthsman (11.5 hours)	£115.00
Oast & Oak Services	Churchyard Maintenance June 2024	£590.68

(a) Internal Audit: The Clerk had visited the offices of Applied Accountancy and confirmed the Council's wish to maintain their services for the audit service as previously undertaken by the PCs accountant for whom they acted as Alternate. ED had provided details of the level of work involved together with an indication of the charges the PC had previously paid.

Accounts for April-June: Quarterly accounts had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, copies of the PC bank statements and accounts had also been forwarded to Internal Auditors. The accounts were approved unanimously, Chairman and Clerk initialled the original bank statements, Clerk to scan and forward the statements to the Auditors for counter initialling and return and retention for annual external audit.

(b) Play Area: Installation of last two items anticipated early July. RoSPA inspection being carried out during July, Clerk checked current signage for wording, RoSPA advised on new signage to be confirmed after installation of latest items and inspection. Royal British Legion Industries provide signage service recommended by other Clerks at reasonable prices, can be paid via S.137 Charitable Cost Centre. Option of new RoSPA check list for upgraded play area opted for to aid regular checks and records for insurance cover and provide proof of regular checks undertaken by the PC.

(c) Lloyds Bank: Clerk had provided information for Cllr Howard regarding the current account held with Lloyds; members had acknowledged it was necessary to transfer funds to alternative investment options due to level of cash in hand. After discussion it was agreed that in view of the financial liabilities of the PC it would be preferable to seek a set term Bond for 90 days and a separate account for the month-to-month financial activities to meet regular payments. Clerk to check with Santander and/or NatWest what options would be most suitable and report to members. Post Office also to be checked for any options available.

(d) Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance Service: Letter of thanks received for the contribution forwarded by the Penshurst Parish Council and the assistance it provided with regard to nearly 3,400 incidents they attended in 2023.

(e) Fordcombe Village Hall Rubbish Bin: ED contacted Dunbrik Depot for alternative larger unit to cope with the extra rubbish being generated by hall, play area plus general increased activities in the area. Options awaited.

(f) Bus Shelter New Road – Quote from PC Contractor £1000: After discussion of the current condition of the unit – the Chairman had inspected same – it was agreed the work be authorised, Clerk to confirm with PC contractor. The cost would also cover supply of missing cedar shingles, clean down and sand.

12. Any Other Business:

(i) Bottle Banks: Members were aware of local facilities for the disposal of bottles/glass.

(ii) Glebelands: Cllr Furnell reported that exiting from the site in a vehicle was becoming difficult due to overgrown hedges on either side of the road, Clerk requested to contact respective homeowners to ask that they be cut back to enable site lines to be safer.

(iii) Blue Badge Facility: Members were advised of the current difficulty in renewing the badges, there being a four month wait to obtain them.

(iv) Bottlehouse Allotments: Deer were gaining access to the site, Cllr Campbell to check area and introduce extra fencing as required.

(v) KSS Lorries: Members were aware of a number of heavy lorries using village roads, it was considered unsafe for vehicles this size to travel on the roads which necessitated them using the centre of the road to negotiate through heavily overgrown trees en route. Cllr Furnell to look into issue.

(vi) Parking: Inconsiderate parking in the roadway at the bend leaving the village towards Fordcombe was causing concern due to the narrowness. It was considered extending the yellow lines may only transfer the issue further along the road.

**FURTHER DATES FOR BULK REFUSE COLLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR:
14 SEPTEMBER AND 9 NOVEMBER.**