

## **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **HORSTED KEYNES PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Horsted Keynes Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 11 April 2017 at 8.15pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Rufus Clarke, David Colville, Michael Kirk, John Luckhurst, Keith O'Regan, Celia Vince, Sarah Webster and Christine Wheatley

8 members of the public signed in.

In attendance: Michaela Frost, Clerk to the Parish Council

Cllr David Colville, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 10 May 2016**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 10 May were noted.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these Minutes and is available on the website.

The main focus for the meeting was the development of a vision/business plan for the village. The Chairman explained that work had now started on developing a vision/business plan for the village. Parish Councillors had volunteered earlier this year to head up a particular area and set up a working group to look into specific issues. It was hoped that residents would volunteer to be part of these groups. The main areas were:

- Youth - work on the provision of facilities for young people- explore this further;
- Refurbishment and replacement of the playground equipment and how it will be funded;
- Community assets & services ( eg cricket pitch, allotments, public toilets etc)
- Sports & leisure faculties (encourage organisations in the community which promote cultural and sporting activities)
- Communications (Parish Council's website, produce a monthly newsletter etc)
- Volunteering - neighbourhood watch, HACKERS etc
- Discretionary Grants - P&P magazine, local community groups etc.

It was hoped that following the debate and discussions at this meeting a business/vision plan could be developed.

The Chairman requested that the Parish Councillors updated the meeting about each of the areas they had volunteered to lead. The Chairman also invited questions from the floor on the content of his report, copies of which had been made available.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Cllr Wheatley explained that she had been focusing on youth facilities and provision within the village. Cllr Wheatley suggested that there was currently sufficient provision for very young children in the village - It was noted that there is a pre-school, toddler group, school and other curricular activities for children aged 10 and under. There was also a Brownie club in the village, but it was noted that there was not a scout/cub pack within the village or even locally. The tennis club/cricket club also provided recreational activities for the youth within the village.

As from September last year in partnership with Danehill a full time Christian youth worker had been employed. The worker provided one session a week in the village on a Tuesday afternoon running a youth cafe. The youth worker was on a three year contract supported by Family Trusts. Cllr Wheatley had not set up a Working Group for youth yet, but had consulted the youth who attended the cafe. Those present at the cafe suggested they would like to see more sporting activities offered within the village like rounder's, trampolining, basketball and a teenage hang out. It was noted that these of course would require adult supervision which would mean some community involvement. Further work would be needed to establish how this would be developed

One of the residents present at the meeting suggested it would be an idea to look into whether a scout pack could be started up again. Cllr Wheatley agreed and requested local resident, Phil Miles to speak to the District Commissioner for Scouts about the possibilities of setting up a pack. Cllr Field reminded the meeting that there would be grants available for this.

Cllr Webster reported that informally some local parents had set up a rugby training session. She suggested she would talk to them about whether this could become more formal and more of a community based group.

Another resident suggested table tennis sessions at the Martindale Centre should be offered. It was noted that this would need adult supervision and volunteers.

It was noted that it was hoped that if the refurbishment/replacement of the play area progressed a table tennis table was part of the tender.

Cllr Webster also updated the meeting about the plans to refurbish and replace the play area. Tenders were currently out and waiting for submission. There had been a positive response to the facebook page about the play area and the majority of responses were in support. The Parish Council was looking at grants and other fundraising ideas to fund the project, but it was likely that a loan would be needed. Cllr Webster explained that from emails received and comments made at the past events and the made in Horsted Keynes event, there was a lot of support for this project.

Cllr Mike Kirk then went on to discuss the area of Community assets and services which he was leading. He had managed to set up a working group which consisted of Alan Johnson, Adrian Woods and Billy Dye. One of the subjects they had discussed was the public toilets within the village and whether this should remain an asset of the village. The toilets currently cost about £3700 a year to maintain. The working group would be looking into this further. Another area which would need further investigation was whether the car park by the Horsted Club should become a village asset. It is currently owned by MSDC. The working group suggested that now it is paved, the car park should become as asset of the Parish Council. The working group would look into this further and report back to the Parish Council. It was noted that there had also been some discussion about whether the Green Man pub should become a community asset.

Helena Griffiths suggested that the local shop should become a community asset as most residents considered the shop a vital part of the village.

Cllr Kirk would request Cllr Dye to speak to the owner of the shop concerning his plans for the future and the working group would then be able to take this forward and report back to a future Parish Council.

Cllr O'Regan spoke about the sports and leisure facilities within the village. It was noted that the tennis club was a popular and vibrant club. The cricket club, stall ball, snooker and darts were other facilities on offer within the village. The informal rugby sessions taking place each week should be encouraged and it was hoped they would start to have a more community based session at the recreation ground.

Another suggestion received was for badminton in the Martindale Centre and perhaps encourage the football club to start again.

Cllr Clarke spoke about communications. Together with Cllr Humphries-Davies they had looked at how best to communicate with the village. The P&P seemed to be the main source of communication together with the Parish Council website. It was suggested that more use of social media should be made and better notices around the village. The working group would look into communication further and whether the Parish Council should have a facebook page.

Cllr Clarke also questioned how best it would be to integrate local people who have recently moved to the village. It was suggested that the Parish Council may be able to input into the church welcome pack.

Cllr Clarke also reported that the Working Group would look at whether it was appropriate to have a mobile network mast in the village as coverage was so poor.

Cllr Colville was leading up volunteering and discretionary grants. The Parish Council would be looking for views from residents and local groups in order to encourage a greater sense of involvement. In the village we already have the HACKERS, Friends of St Giles and Friends of Westhall. As part of the vision it was hoped that ways of supporting volunteers could be developed. The Parish Council should be a community hub for volunteering.

Cllr Colville also spoke about the discretionary grants that the Parish Council administers. A vision would allow us to look ahead and plan for more monies to be available for discretionary grants for local groups. For example, recently the churchyard had contacted the Parish Council for further support as their costs are rising. This would need to be part of the vision for the future.

It was hoped that the working groups would begin to develop and through the Parish Council a vision/business plan would be established.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and contributing to the discussion.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm.