

**HORSTED KEYNES PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the  
Meeting of **HORSTED KEYNES PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Tuesday 12 December 2017**  
**at 7:30 pm** in the Village Hall, Horsted Keynes

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Keith O’Regan  
John Luckhurst Sarah Webster  
Rufus Clarke Billy Dye  
Celia Vince Jez Humphreys Davis  
Chris Wheatley

Also in attendance: Michaela Frost- Parish Clerk  
16 Members of public

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Brian Oliver referred to the outline planning permission for the sledging field and stated that it was the most contentious site in the village as the site was part of the AONB and the difficult access in Church Lane. Brian Oliver advised the Parish Council that there was deep angst and distress about this planning application within the community and urged the Parish Council not to support it.

The Parish Council confirmed that they would be considering this planning application at their next meeting in January.

Tim Griffiths sought clarification on the previous Minutes as it was not clear that in the past the Parish Council as a whole had been discouraged from raising the precept and in the past had received advice that Parish Councils should not have large reserves. The Parish Council agreed an amendment to the Minutes to reflect this.

Nick Geering sought an update on Waterbury Hill and the treacherous conditions and the Clerk was able to confirm that she had reported the matter again to West Sussex, but would also contact them again following this meeting.

Phil Miles informed the Parish Council that the School Governors had written to the Parish Council requesting that there be a small change to the sign directing public to

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the school. The Clerk would look into this, but advised that highway signage was a matter for West Sussex County Council.

Mrs Kenton, a resident referred to the Parish Council’s plans for the play area refurbishment/ replacement. Mrs Kenton congratulated the Parish Council on their enthusiasm, but felt that there had been some misrepresentation about the state of the play area and also scaremongering that this was the only option or the village would lose the playground. She also criticised the latest voting process for the play area and stated that the information was not clear enough concerning the precept raise and potential costs. Mrs Kenton also requested information on why the Parish Council had not considered other options for refurbishing and replacing the play area. She urged the Parish Council to consider other options.

Cllr O’Regan confirmed that there was an agenda item later on which would address some of these issues.

Peter Willis also voiced concerns about the precept and sought clarification about whether the increased amount on a band d property was per year.

Cllr Webster was able to clarify that the rise in the precept would be for ten years and the rise would stay at that level for ten years unless of course the precept needed to increase for other reasons.

Peter Willis also sought clarification from the Parish Council about Lucas Field and the excess water from the field flowing on to the path by the village hall. The Clerk said that she would follow this matter up after the meeting.

**053 CHAIRMAN**

In Cllr Colville’s absence, Cllr O Regan as Vice Chairman took over the chair.

**APOLOGIES** – Cllr Colville, Cllr, Kirk, Cllr Hersey and Cllr Lea.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are invited to make any declaration of personal or prejudicial interests that They may have in relation to items on the agenda and are reminded to make any Declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is to be considered.

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Cllr O Regan declared an interest in any discussions concerning the coffee shop as a family member was the licensee of the coffee shop.

**MINUTES**

To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 November 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the amendment to the statement regarding Tim Griffiths as a previous Parish Councillor. (See above)

**REPORTS**

To receive a report from County Councillor: Apologies received from Cllr Lea as he was attending a meeting in Chichester,

To receive a report from District Councillor: Cllr Hersey had also sent his apologies and had circulated an update via email (held on file in office)

To receive reports from Parish Councillors:

Cllr Humphreys-Davis reported that since the outline planning permission for the parcel of land in Church Lane had been submitted people had been posting many comments on Horsted Keynes Gossip. These views are not seen by MSDC and it was important for residents to forward their views to MSDC whatever they may be.

Cllr Kirk reported that he and Cllr Wheatley had attended an Action in Rural Sussex training event concerning affordable housing. It was an interesting and stimulating course.

Cllr Luckhurst reported that there had been some damage to the Green opposite Farm Court . The Clerk would look into this further.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

054 **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments and note the receipts and year to date expenditure. The document was signed by the Chairman and a Councillor.

It was noted that the Finance & Governance Committee had met on 4 December and the Minutes would be available following this meeting. It was noted that the Committee was undertaking a review of the Tennis Club and hoped to report back at the next Parish Council meeting in January 2018. The Finance & Governance Committee also had been working on the roles of discretionary grants and would present a report to the next Parish Council meeting in January together with the draft budget.

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chairman read out the following statement:

A notice will be published in the Mid Sussex Times on the 7th December, which will then be the start of the statutory consultation period for our Plan. Due to the Christmas break the consultation will last for 8 weeks, rather than the minimum of 6. This will take us until the 1st February. The notice will say that the documents will be available to view at the Parish Council and Mid Sussex offices

**TOILETS, GREEN AND RECREATION GROUND AND HIGHWAYS**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Toilets, Green and Recreation Ground and Highways Committee (TGR) Committee Members and noted the unconfirmed TGR Minutes of 28 November 2017. The TGR & H Committee thanked Mr L Allan for supplying a beautiful Christmas Tree to the village and also thanks to Peter Willis and Mark Stretten for assisting with getting the tree in situ and lit up.

The Clerk reported that the light in the bus shelter was still not working and that she was trying to appoint an electrician to have a look at the problem.

055 **RESOLVED** –to note the update.

The Clerk addressed the Parish Council about the play area and the recent consultation exercise which had been undertaken and the results of the public vote. The Clerk explained that following some criticism from residents concerning the consultation and vote she had sought advice from the Chief Executive of SALC about the voting process and the question of raising the precept. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that his advice was that the purpose of undertaking the consultation was to meet the requirements of the loan application to public loans board. The Parish Council when completing the application would need to show evidence of the consultation. The Chief Executive advised that the Clerk was able to count and review the votes as she was impartial. The Chief Executive did advise that Parishioners should be given a little longer to cast their vote especially with the busy Christmas period.

056 **RESOLVED** that (1) the local Community be given until 6<sup>th</sup> January to cast their vote concerning the play area;  
(2) the Clerk would ensure the information to vote was available on the website;  
(3) the Clerk would complete the count of the votes and the results would be made available at the Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2018.

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Following remarks made at the beginning of the meeting, the Clerk suggested that if residents still remained concerned about the process and councillors conduct they should contact the Monitoring Officer at Mid Sussex.

**PLANNING**

The Planning Chairman provided an update on the planning applications received. There had been three applications for consideration,

**GENERAL**

057 **RESOLVED** – to agree the dates for 2018

It was noted the Clerk would be on Christmas leave until 2 January 2018.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9 January 2018

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A couple of residents present remained concerned about the lack of other options for the refurbishment and replacement of the play area and general lack of awareness and consultation about the huge costs in the village. One suggestion was that volunteers could tidy up and refurbish the play area in the short term and in the long term potential s106 monies could pay for a fuller refurbishment.

In response Cllr Humphreys Davis explained that the Parish Council regularly puts out requests for assistance, but there is often a lack of engagement from the community. It was hoped communication with the village would improve as the visioning exercise moved forward and the Council's website updated.

The Parish Council explained that the play area surface alone was beyond minor repairs and it would need replacing completely. Cllr Webster explained that this was the final consultation of many which had taken place over the last year and was to meet the requirements and guidelines of the loan application to the public loans board.

Alan Johnson congratulated the Parish Council for having the vision for a new play area and going for a gold standard. He also indicated that he had volunteered for several committees regarding the vision, but as yet had not been called upon.

The meeting ended at 09:05pm

Chairman .....

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