

# ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES - MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016

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1. Venue Alkham Village Hall, 7:30pm
2. Present Parish Councillors: Neil Burrows, Fiona MacAskill, Den Barnard, Geoff Hillier and Anthony Barrier. Clerk: Angela Miller. Parishioners :6
3. Apologies Parish Councillor: Susan Lees
4. Regular Business
  - 4.1 The minutes from meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were received, approved and signed as correct records.
5. Matters Arising
  - 5.1 Parish Website – Mr Geoff Wells at EiS, the website design team for KCC, has made a temporary webpage available. The Councillors have viewed it and are all in favour of proceeding with setting up a dedicated Parish Council website. Angela will confirm this with Mr Wells and work alongside him to provide the information required to personalise the website. The Councillors agreed that the colours and ‘look’ of the webpage needs to be more dynamic and interesting and Mr Wells has confirmed that anything is possible!
  - 5.2 Parish Questionnaire – The Council discussed further ideas on this topic, such as a cheese and wine evening where parishioners are invited to come along to the Village Hall and place their questions and ideas on ‘post-it’ notes stuck onto notice boards. A parishioner suggested that perhaps an afternoon session offering tea and scones would be more suitable to allow people to attend with their families, especially if they would not normally be able to attend an evening event.

The idea of having a letter box (comments box) at the Village Hall still seems a popular one and the Village Hall Committee intend to discuss the possibility at their next meeting. They will advise the Parish Council of their decision in due course.
  - 5.3 Parish Council Vacancy – currently there are three people interested in applying for the vacancy. The deadline date for applications is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
  - 5.4 KCC Highways / Steve Rivers – There will be a meeting on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 between Steve Rivers (Dover District Manager), Richard Heaps (Traffic Engineer for Dover) and three Parish Councillors Neil Burrows, Anthony Barrier and Fiona MacAskill.

Topics for discussion may include the pinch point in the Alkham Valley Road outside The Marquis; the increase in traffic since the 40mph limit on the A20; speed limits through the Valley and their effectiveness; road surfaces; accident blackspot near to Chilton Farm and crash statistics for the previous 3 years on the specific crash website.

The Councillors discussed again the idea of borrowing a Police community speedwatch camera and Angela will make some enquiries with our PCSO to see what is involved.
  - 5.5 Insurance liability for Mr Lambourne - Angela has enquired with Came & Company Insurance Brokers to confirm that Mr Lambourne is properly covered under the insurance policy. We have received written confirmation that he is covered automatically.

- 5.6 The Parish Council discussed the merits of having a public access defibrillator located near the Village Hall. The cost of a unit plus a cabinet and batteries etc is in the region of £1,800. The Councillors decided they would like to find out some further information and details on costs from The British Heart Foundation before deciding whether to purchase anything. Angela will also try to find out if there are any grants available to assist with the costs,
- 5.7 The damaged Slip Lane nameplate has now been replaced and has been re-sited further away from the junction to hopefully avoid any more knocks from vehicles.

## 6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Lord Lieutenant of Kent Annual Civic Service :15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 11am, Maidstone. Two reps are invited to attend but no-one was able to confirm their availability at the meeting.
- 6.2 Cllr Burrows read out the Groundwater Situation Report that was sent to us from The Environment Agency (via Steve Rivers at KCC). Cllr Barnard will look into obtaining regular updates such as this from The Environment Agency.

## 7. Planning -

- 7.1 **DOV 15/01219 Land adj to Drellingore Rise, Alkham Valley Road** – Erection of a detached dwelling with integral garage.

The Parish Council strongly object to the application for the following reasons:

- The area is not within the designated area for development.
- The proposal is for a complete new build on the site NOT a conversion of existing buildings.
- The site is in open countryside and within the AONB of the Kent Downs.
- It does not abut any recognised existing settlement.
- The existing use of the land is agricultural and there is no application for the change of use of the land.
- No justification has been put forward to override the above points. Normally a case for 'Agricultural Need' would have to be proved as a justification for a new build in open countryside such as this.

- 7.2 **DOV 15/01201 Cluaran, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham** – Roof extension incorporating three front dormers and one rear dormer and erection of single storey front and side extensions (existing garage to be demolished).

The Parish Council has no objections.

Outcome of previous planning applications / queries: -

- 7.3 **DOV 15/01053 Flintwood Lodge, Slip Lane, Alkham** – Permission granted for a Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the garden area enclosed by a 28m wire mesh fence (tennis court).
- 7.4 **DOV 15/01054 Flintwood Lodge, Slip Lane, Alkham** – Permission granted for the installation of a geothermal heating system.

8. Delegates Reports & PACT

None

9. Interval

None

10. Finances The Parish Council resolved to pay the following:-

- 10.1 Clerks salary and expenses for December 2015 of £167.84
- 10.2 Invoice from L Lambourne for service to strimmer £40.00

11. Any other business

- 11.1 Neil reminded everyone to bring along any suggestions for a Guest Speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting to the next meeting in March.
- 11.2 Angela will write to Julian Mead to thank him for his service as a Parish Councillor.

12. The date of the next regular meeting is Monday 7th March 2016

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

Signed (Chairman) .....

Date .....