

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2007 AT 11.00 a.m. AT PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

**Present :** Cllr Mr C Alford  
Cllr Mr A Barnett  
Cllr Mr J Gaywood (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr M Harris (*left the meeting at 11.55 p.m.*)  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay  
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby

**In attendance :** Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)  
1 member of the public

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr A Tremain.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mrs Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 5 in respect of matters relating to the areas of land owned by the London Borough of Southwark in Hartley Wood and the land fill site, as her private residence backs onto Hartley Wood. She considered that her interest was only personal and not prejudicial, as the area of land owned by the London Borough of Southwark in Hartley Wood did not immediately abut her property and therefore she felt the land owned by Southwark was too remote from her property to cause her interest to be prejudicial.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Hoselands Green**

It was reported that Sevenoaks District Council had received expressions of interest from a number of parish councils wishing to take over ownership of amenity land retained by the District Council and that this had caused a delay in progressing the transfer of land at Hoselands Green to the Parish Council. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had requested the legal department at Sevenoaks District Council prepare all the documentation in respect of the transfer of land. It was confirmed that Hoselands Green would continue to be maintained by the District Council until such time as the transfer had been completed.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**5. Hartley Wood**

The Committee was informed that Southwark Council had recently undergone internal restructuring and considered it would not be appropriate to meet at this stage. The Committee considered that the recent ruling in the House of Lords, (Trap Grounds case), had clarified the position regarding village green applications and felt that it was in the public interest to proceed with the application, as it would secure public access in perpetuity to the land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood. The Committee believed that if the Parish Council's application was successful, it would be of benefit to Southwark Council as it had previously expressed support for public access to be maintained in Hartley Wood. The Committee noted that the Council had resolved at its meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006 that the detail of the village green application be amended to omit the area of land to the south of the landfill site from the application, thus

confining the extent of the land to be included in the application to land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Parish Council proceed with its application, as amended, to seek village green status on the land owned by the London Borough of Southwark in Hartley Wood and that Southwark Council be informed of the Parish Council's action.

## **6. United Reformed Church**

The Committee was informed the Synod Secretary had requested a meeting with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That, a meeting be arranged with the Synod Secretary.

## **7. Cherry Trees**

(a) At the last meeting of the Special Projects Committee it had been resolved that, (1) investigations be undertaken with Sevenoaks District Council to enquire whether any assistance could be provided to ensure the area surrounding the shops was regularly cleared of litter and rubbish and, (2) the Highways Committee was requested to investigate the reports of parking on the pavements outside the Cherry Tree shops.

The Committee noted that Sevenoaks District Council was not able to undertake a regular clearance of rubbish to the area surrounding the Cherry Tree shops, but could, from time to time, remove any accumulated rubbish through the "Clean Kent" scheme.

The Committee noted that the Highways Committee had considered the problems associated with parking on the pavement at recent meetings and had contacted Kent Highway Services to enquire whether the road traffic island located in front of the shops could be removed, which would increase the number of parking spaces available and thus encourage customers and shop tenants to refrain from parking on the pavement. As a response had not yet been received, the Highways Committee was seeking a meeting with an engineer to progress the matter further.

The Committee expressed concern about the parking on the pavement in front of the shops, which caused damage to the paving slabs and created a trip hazard. The Committee felt that the discussions with Kent Highway Service on the removal of the road traffic island should include the reinstatement of the bollards to prevent parking on the pavement.

RESOLVED: That, the Community Warden be asked to investigate the parking on the pavement in front of the shops at Cherry Trees.

RECOMMENDED: That, authority be delegated to the Clerk to make arrangements for litter picking to be undertaken in the area surrounding the Cherry Tree shops and that the expenditure incurred be authorised under Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

## **8. Gorse Wood**

The Committee considered the latest plans provided by West Kent Housing Association to develop a number of areas within the Wellfield estate, as set out below:

- (1) the car park between 21 and 66 Caxton Close, including an area of Gorse Wood immediately adjacent to the car park, for 2 no., two-bed dwellings,
- (2) amenity land between 27 and 37 Porchester Close for 4 no., two-bed flats and 2 no., one-bed flats and,

(3) the car park at the rear of 22 to 32 Porchester Close, including part of Gorse Wood, for 3 no., three-bed dwellings.

RESOLVED: That, the plans provided by the West Kent Housing Association to develop three areas on the Wellfield estate be noted and further investigations be conducted on the procedures to be followed to pursue the matter.

(b) The Committee considered letters dated 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 from the developer at Down Ampney off Gorsewood Road and the Clerk's response dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The Committee noted that the Council's application to designate the footpath as a public right of way had been put on hold by Kent County Council. Whilst the Committee acknowledged that the Council's objective in seeking the designation was to maintain pedestrian access along the drive leading to Down Ampney, it felt that vehicular access to the development site should not be denied and considered the application should be amended accordingly to permit such use.

RESOLVED: That, a meeting be arranged with the developer at Down Ampney.

## 9. Community Warden

At the last meeting of the Special Projects Committee it had been resolved to seek clarification from Kent County Council on the future operations of the Community Warden scheme in Hartley and investigations be undertaken with the Police to establish the role of the two PCSO's currently operating out of New Ash Green.

The Committee considered a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 from the Head of Operations for Community Wardens at Kent County Council, outlining the role of the Kent Community Wardens and explaining the current staffing position in relation to Hartley. The Committee felt that Community Wardens should be in regular contact with parish councils on a structured basis and should not rely solely on their attendance at parish council meetings to satisfy this requirement. The Committee was informed that the Hartley Community Warden was in regular contact with the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That, Kent County Council be informed that liaison with parish councils on a regular and structured basis should be incorporated into the job specification for Kent Community Wardens.

The Committee considered a letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006 from Inspector Allen. The Committee noted that the two PCSO's dedicated to New Ash Green had been asked to take ownership of policing issues within Hartley in the absence of a Police Constable for the Ash-cum-Ridley and Hartley beat and expressed its disappointment that, since the appointment of a Neighbourhood Constable in November 2006, these PCSO's had now been reassigned to work in New Ash Green.

RESOLVED: That, the letter from Inspector Allen be noted and Chief Inspector Gill Ellis be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

*Cllr Mr M Harris left the meeting at 11.55 a.m.*

## 10. Exclusion of the press and public

RESOLVED: That, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of minute item 11, "New Burial Ground", on the grounds that the likely disclosure of exempt information would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

## 11. New Burial Ground

The Committee considered legal advice in respect of the restrictive covenants on land at Manor Field.

RESOLVED: That, the legal advice be noted.

**12. Date of the next meeting**

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 12.17 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

