

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES - MONDAY 3RD JULY 2017

7.00pm PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MAIN MEETING:

Planning to discuss:

DOV/17/00639 Change of use and conversion to holiday let an associated parking and turning area

Barn at Sunnyhill Farm, Red Barn Lane Ewell Minnis, Alkham, CT15 7BZ
Council has no objection

DOV/17/00674 Change of use of land to a Gypsy Traveller site for the siting of six caravans and the erection of a single storey day room building (retrospective application)

Land rear of The Meadows, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, CT15 7EW

Council objects based on the following reasons:

- The owner has gradually added more caravans and this could set a precedent for future sites.
- The sewerage system is already stretched and there is already too many houses in the area for the system
- No provision made in the application for disposal of sewerage

**DOV/17/00724 Erection of a single storey front extension
(Existing garage to be demolished)**

Hillview, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DA

Council had no objection

DOV/17/00725 Erection of two storey side extensions, a single storey rear extension and erection of a garden room (existing conservatory to be demolished)

1 Standen Terrace, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, CT18 7EW

Council had no objection

Planning Decisions:

DOV/17/00394 Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the continued use of a mobile home for residential purposes and the stationing of shipping containers for storage purposes

Spring Meadow Alkham valley Road, Drellingore

Granted Permission

1. Venue:

Alkham Village Hall at 7:30pm

2. Present:

Parish Councillors: Neil Burrows, Den Barnard, Ruth Marczin-Bundy and Geoff Hillier.

Clerk: Janice Lambert

Members of Public: 25

District Councillors: Pauline Beresford

County Councillor: Geoff Lymer

Apologies:

Parish Councillors: Anthony Barrier

District Councillors: Nick Dixon

3. Regular Business

There are no minutes for approval as the latest minutes were signed at the AGM

4. Matters Arising

4.1

Resigning Councillors – Susan Lees & Fiona MacAskill

Cllr Burrows advised the meeting of the resigning councillors. He thanked them for their service. Cllr Burrows noted that Susan Lees has had continuous service since 1982. The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that there are now 2 vacancies and that a notice has been placed on the notice board. Cllr Burrows confirmed that if enough people request an election within 14 days, an election will take place.

4.2

Pimlico Way/Bull Run

The Clerk confirmed we have now come to a position where we either change the route to what KCC have on their records or we request a new Order to be done for the current route. A new Order can only be requested by the land owners and Andrew Hutchinson had advised that by asking land owners to reinstate may force them to request a new Order. Cllr Burrows reiterated that it is only a small part of Pimlico that is in question and the KCC are adamant they will not maintain that particular section. Cllr Burrows suggested another walk around should be made. Cllr Barnard asked if it is the councils thoughts are that a seasonal restriction be put in place. Cllr Burrows confirmed that it is still down to KCC to find a way to mitigate the damage during the winter months.

Cllr Barnard asked if Pimlico Way is still on the list for a specific Order and the Clerk confirmed that this was the case however we are against other similar byways. Cllr Hillier asked if the Council are wanting to gain a seasonal restriction, Cllr Burrows confirmed that at the minimum a seasonal restriction is required to mitigate winter damage. Cllr Hillier would like us to go forward as a united body and would like another meeting with Andrew Hutchinson in the autumn to check progress.

4.3

Drainage update

Cllr Barnard confirmed he has spoken to the new owner of the garden centre. The ditch has now been dug out along the garden centre to the level of the grill. Following the offer of the Short Lane ditch to be cleared, the work has now been done. Cllr Barnard has had a look and it looks very good. Cllr Barnard advised the meeting that he does not have an answer as to when the cement bags will be replaced where the wall was knocked down. He will however follow up on this and report at the next meeting. There is no news on Alkham Valley vineyard drain yet. Cllr Barnard also noted he would like to get in touch with the new owners of the property near Wolverton Woods to ensure the ditch is kept clear.

4.4

Wolverton Woods

The Clerk confirmed that she was still trying to confirm that a permanent TPO has been applied following the temporary one that ran out on 22nd June 2017.

4.5

Parish Planning – Cllr Barnard & Cllr Hillier

Cllr Barnard confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan is an official legal document which takes a long time and costs a lot of money. The document has to be authorised by Dover District Council.

Cllr Barnard suggested a Community Led Plan which is not a legally enforceable plan. This would give a strategy for the village, showing what we are doing, what we plan to do and what we are not doing. Cllr Barnard

& Cllr Hillier would need clarification on whether we want a 5 year or 10 year plan. Cllr Barnard said that they would create a team from various parts of the village to come together to assist in the preparation of the Community Led Plan. This would involve questionnaires, focus groups and village meetings.

Cllr Barnard asked for a resolution from the Council for a Community Led Plan. Cllr Hillier advised that there are various tool kits to help with creating the plan and said it will take approximately 18 months to produce the plan. There are four stages that take a long time. Cllr Hillier asked for any interested members of the public to come forward. Cllr Burrows asked for an agreement to go forward with the Community Led Plan and this was passed.

4.6

Major Incident Plan – Cllr Barnard

Cllr Barnard would like to create a Major Incident Plan, to lay out exactly who has a village hall key, know where the first aiders and Doctors are. Cllr Hillier noted that he has looked at other Parishes Incident plans which cover things like electricity outage, severe weather, gas explosions or health epidemics. Cllr Marczin-Bundy suggested the plan should be available on the website too. Cllr Burrows asked for a resolution to go ahead with the plan and this was passed.

4.7

KCC Reduction of Speed Limit 50 to 40

Cllr Barnard wanted to know where this has come from. The Clerk confirmed that this is stage 2 of the works at Kearsney, Cllr Barnard asked if there was a phase 3. Cllr Marczin-Bundy noted that as she has a lot of experience with the speeding along the road. Cllr Marczin-Bundy suggested we propose that the whole of the 50 limit section be reduced and that she would be happy to write a letter to respond to KCC on the Councils behalf. Cllr Hillier took the opportunity to give some early statistics from the recent traffic surveys. He advised that they are still analysing the results. Cllr Burrows asked for confirmation that we wish for the whole of the 50 to be reduced to 40. The Councillors agreed.

5. Correspondence:

5.1 Letter from the Alkham Valley Society

The Clerk read out a letter from the Alkham Valley Society which formally gave a £100 donation towards the May traffic surveys.

6. Delegates Reports

County Councillor Geoff Lymer reported that South Eastern are looking at improving the infrastructure. KCC wants to improve the movement of freight. KCC has highlighted to South Eastern rail that they are not to do freight movement during peak times. It was also reported that the franchise for operating Network South East is coming up for renewal.

District Councillor Pauline Beresford commented on the proposed changes to the Stagecoach services. An extension of 10 days for the consultation has been agreed. Cllr Beresford reported that Stagecoach do not legally have to consult with the public on any changes they make. It was reported that the new timetable will not affect the school buses. Cllr Beresford also reported there are planned improvements to the rail network which will reduce current journey times. A member of the public commented on the truncated routes and also suggested better lines of communication should be offered. Cllr Burrows asked if upgrades to the rail will make it faster as currently the line is only high speed from Ashford. Cllr Lymer confirmed it is being looked at to improving the railway system. A lot of grid work will be carried out with one of the routes being Dover to Canterbury. Cllr Lymer noted that the Dover to Folkestone route may soon disappear due to the high maintenance of the line. The Hastings to Ashford line is being upgraded to get the high speed services. Cllr Burrows asked for the Clerk to

give an update on the Parish's views of the Stagecoach changes. The Clerk confirmed that an official objection has been sent in within the required timescale.

7. Interval

A member of the public noted that it was good that the Council has given attention to parish planning. It was felt that a Community Plan would better suit the Parish at the moment. A suggestion was made to hold a community day where things can be discussed in more detail. The member of the public thanked the Council for the good work.

A member of the public commented that there was not enough emphasis given to the comments made by the public during intervals within the minutes. Cllr Barnard asked the parishioners to let the Council know if they feel anything has been missed for the Council's consideration. The Clerk confirmed the minutes from the AGM in May 2017 will not be approved until the AGM in May 2018 so if any comments are needed, members of the public are free to bring them up. A member of the public noted that the road surface where they live is extremely bad. Cllr Burrows asked if they have reported this online. Cllr Lymer asked for these reports to be done online so that if KCC need specifics they can go straight back to the person who reported. The Clerk confirmed a reference number is given and you can follow up with that reference number.

A member of the public advised that slip land will be closed soon for re surfacing. A member of the public also offered support for the good work done by the retiring Cllr Lees & Cllr McAskill. Another member of the public asked if there was more that could be done for Cllr Lees long service. Cllr Burrows asked for suggestions. Cllr Burrows thanked Brian for his 20 years' service to the Alkham newsletter. A member of the public asked where an election would be held, Cllr Burrows confirmed it would be held at the village hall at a cost to the Parish. A member of the public queried the route of Pimlico Way. Cllr Burrows confirmed it appears there was a clerical error when the Magistrates Order was put in place. A general discussion took place around the subject and various comments were made. Cllr Burrows confirmed the Parish would like to keep looking for ways to work with KCC PROW to mitigate the winter damage to Pimlico Way. Cllr Barnard asked a member of the public whether they are looking for a permanent TRO or just a seasonal one. The member of the public confirmed that it is easier to police a permanent TRO. Cllr Barnard noted that KCC have said they do not like to close byways. A member of the public said we should continue to push for a resolution. Cllr Burrows advised that face to face contact works better than emails. A member of the public asked if the County Councillors can do anything. Cllr Lymer confirmed that full closures are difficult but a seasonal closure would not be a bad thing. A member of the public asked for the support of Cllr Lymer for a full closure. Cllr Lymer advised he would only support a seasonal closure. Cllr Lymer noted he can only support things where he feels there is budget and the legislation allows it. A member of the public noted that the costs of upkeep of the byway far outweigh the costs of a closure. Cllr Lymer noted there may be a type of gate that could be used to restrict the use. A member of the public asked about the village gates that were recently discussed. Cllr Hillier noted this is all part of the case they are putting forward to KCC and that the gates should be where the 30 mph signs are however we don't know at the current time where the 30 mph limits will be. Cllr Marczin-Bundy suggested that suggestions are put forward to the Council in a very succinct manner for consideration. A member of the public noted what a good idea it was to have a list of people to contact in the case of a local emergency.

8. Finances

The Parish Council resolved to pay the following:

- 8.1** Invoice from Clive Batchelor for £35.00 for conducting the internal annual audit.
- 8.2** Clerks salary and expenses for May and June 17 of £594.06
- 8.3** Invoice from Road Data Services Ltd for £588.00 for the Alkham traffic survey
- 8.4** Invoice from Harmer & Sons for £148.80 for June 2017
- 8.5** Invoice from KALC for £11.20 for 3 x The Good Councillor Guides
- 8.6** The Fixed Deposit of £16,676.08 with United Trust Bank has been renewed for a further 1 year and shall receive interest in June 2018

9. Any Other Business

Cllr Barnard now has access to a website which shows the crimes over the last 5 years. He noted that there is no longer a neighbourhood watch scheme due to lack of interest. Cllr Barnard suggested notes be placed in the newsletter about securing your home and who to call in an emergency. The Clerk asked for the 101 non-emergency line to be highlighted on the next newsletter. Cllr Barnard noted the mirror work is still in progress.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next regular meeting is Monday 11th September 2017 at 7:30pm with planning being discussed before the main meeting at 7:00pm.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed: Chairman

Date