

1. Venue Alkham Village Hall, 7:30pm
2. Present Parish Councillors: Neil Burrows, Den Barnard, Anthony Barrier, Susan Lees, Geoff Hillier, Fiona MacAskill and Ruth Marczin-Bundy. Clerk: Angela Miller.
District Councillors: Pauline Beresford and Nick Dixon
Members of the public: Brian Wimsett, Martin Hibbert, Jackie Holliman, Mairi Jones, Edith Neve and Peter Beckett (from TRF).
3. Apologies and approval of absences
None
4. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations
None
5. Regular Business
 - 5.1 The minutes from meetings held 7th & 28th Nov 2016 and 5th Dec 2016 were received, approved and signed as correct records. An amendment was noted for the minutes of meeting 7th November 2016, item 6.2, to ‘...A soakaway pipe installed in Lower Everden Lane ...’
6. Matters Arising
 - 6.1 Pimlico Way: An update has been received from Andrew Hutchinson advising that at the current time he has been unable to progress further towards a seasonal TRO for Pimlico Way due to lack of resources.
 - 6.2 Drainage Update – Cllr Barnard reported that the Pimlico Way drains, the repair to Short Lane wall and the clearing of Meggett Lane culvert is still to be done. KCC hope to advise a date for this work after their departmental meeting tomorrow. A discussion continued about how the water flows away from the village and Cllr Barnard explained that a continuous flow would happen once the level rises to a certain height. In the meantime, when the level of water is lower than this, there may be a collection of water in the culvert by the Village Hall. He explained that this doesn’t necessarily indicate a back up or blockage to the ditch. Cllr Hillier asked Cllr Barnard to ensure that KCC keep the culvert monitored.
 - 6.3 Parish Clerk vacancy: the deadline date for applications is 10th January and interviews will be arranged after this time.
 - 6.4 Bus Stop pole and flag at Meggett Lane: A response has been received from KCC Highways advising that they are unable to install a bus stop pole due to safety concerns. The Parish Council will monitor the situation and pursue the matter further if buses continue to miss passengers that are waiting at this location.
 - 6.5 Wolverton Woods – Dover District Council have issued a temporary 28day Stop Notice and a Tree Preservation Order on the owner of the woodland which is dated until the 18th January 2017. DDC have consulted with KCC Highways about the new access road that has been created and the visibility splay at the entrance. DDC are additionally planning to meet with The Environment Agency to discuss some drainage work that has already been done on site, consider their options and decide whether to serve an Enforcement Notice.

It has been brought to the Parish Council’s attention that the new access road may have been constructed across the ditch without any storm drains installed underneath to allow the water to flow properly and Cllr MacAskill requested we bring this to DDC’s attention. We are concerned that the drains will need to be an adequate size to cope with the flow of water. The Parish Council will also express concerns to DDC about the degree of tree removal that has already taken place, as it is not necessarily obvious if you were to see the site now because the felled trees have been cleared away and the remaining stumps are not noticeable.
 - 6.6 Village Entrance Gates: There has been a lot of parish support for the proposal of village entrance gates. The Parish Council has received details from KCC Highways indicating that

the cost for this scheme is likely to be £5,000. They have said that the Parish Council is unable to purchase and install gates without KCC Highways input, design and approval.

Additionally, Highways will not permit a narrowed entry/exit point at either end of the village because the volume of traffic using the Alkham Valley Road is too high. Arguably this is the very reason this proposal has been put forward so we will continue to establish evidence from sources such as Traffic Counts and Speedwatch and request a site visit with Highways to discuss options further.

All Councillors were in favour of Cllr Hillier leading a Traffic Action Group involving parishioners, where different methods of traffic calming will be explored and statistics and evidence can be collated from various sources to present to the Parish Council for consideration.

- 6.7 New litter bin for Village Green: Dover District Council has confirmed that a new bin will cost £150 and the annual fee to empty it would be £87. The Parish Council discussed the current litter bins and agreed that there are enough available at this time, therefore will not take the matter any further.
- 6.8 Parish Plan: The Parish Council are continuing to look into the questionnaire idea and agreed that a separate meeting would be the best way to discuss the matter in more depth and progress this proposal forward. A discussion followed to establish the difference between a Neighbourhood Plan and a Parish Plan.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 ER188 complaint about off road vehicles was read aloud for information.
- 7.2 The Toolkit publication for ideas on how to reduce traffic was discussed
- 7.3 Emails have been received in support of a Parish Plan
- 7.3 The Groundwater data from Steve Rivers would indicate that there is no imminent risk of groundwater flooding occurring within the Dour or Alkham Bourne.
- 7.4 Letter from Larry Lambourne confirming continuation of 2017 maintenance job.
- 7.5 Copy of letter from AVS to DDC re: Wolverton Woodland
- 7.6 Letter from Charlie Elphicke regarding the closure of the byways, which only reports the situation that we are already aware of.

8. Planning -

- 8.1 **DOV 16/01400 Barn at Sunnyhill Farm, Ewell Minnis** - Conversion of a barn to a dwelling house.

The Parish Council has no objection. It is pleasing that the conversion is modest in size and it should not generate an increase in traffic.
- 8.2 **DOV16/01439 Lower Standen Pumping Station, Alkham Valley Road** – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DOV13/00606 to allow changes to approved plans.

The Parish Council has no objections.

Outcome of previous planning applications / queries: -

- 8.3 **DOV 16/01236 Lone Barn Bungalow, Hogbrook Hill Lane, Alkham** – Permission granted for the erection of a rear dormer roof extension and creation of a roof terrace.
- 8.4 **DOV 16/01079 Flintwood Lodge, Slip Lane, Alkham** – Permission granted for the change of use and conversion to holiday let.
- 8.5 **DOV 16/01395 Land adjoining Wolverton Cottages, Alkham Valley Road** – Prior approval is required for a forestry barn for seasonal logs.
- 8.6 **DOV 16/01221 Wolverton Court, Alkham Valley Road** – Permission granted for the erection of a single storey building for C2 use comprising four flats.
- 8.7 **DOV16/01190 Upper Westhill Farm, Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis** – Permission granted for the erection of a single storey extension with balcony over (existing extension to be demolished).

9. Delegates Reports & PCSO

District Councillor Pauline Beresford reported that BAM contractors have been appointed for the new leisure centre.

District Councillor Nick Dixon reported that the removal of the average speed check on the A20 is scheduled to start in March 2017. Works to Snargate Street should be completed in three weeks with the handover to Highways following. He confirmed that River Parish Council would support our case to Highways when attempting to re-direct traffic back onto the A20 because River are suffering an increase in traffic also.

10. Interval

A member of the public expressed a view on the damage to Pimlico Way and suggested that the Parish Council obtained road friction level information from KCC Highways in respect of the Alkham Valley Road.

Another member of the public suggested a way to help reduce the speed of traffic through the village could be yellow lines painted across the carriageway that get closer together thus giving the motorist the feeling of still travelling too fast.

It was suggested that a list should be passed around the audience for names to be recorded as those present at the meeting.

A representative from the Trail Riders Fellowship enquired about any future permanent closure plans for Pimlico Way and The Bullrun. The Parish Council confirmed that it would prefer to see a seasonal restriction placed on the routes to minimise damage in the wet months. He was keen to distinguish between motorbike users and 4x4 users saying that TRF members are responsible riders and abide by an agreed code of conduct to respect the landscape and other users. Damage caused by motorbikes is minimal and no worse than damage caused by horses. He is equally dismayed when irresponsible 4x4 users ruin the BOATS for everyone.

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

11.1 Clerks salary and expenses of £253.81 for December '16

11.2 Invoice from Larry Lambourne for service costs and fuel of £64.03

12. Any other business

12.1 The Chairman asked for thoughts/suggestions for a Guest Speaker at the Annual meeting in April and it was suggested that perhaps Mark Robson might like to come and talk about Alkham's War Heroes. Cllr Barnard will enquire accordingly and Councillors were asked to bring further suggestions to the next meeting.

13. Next meeting is on Monday 6th March 2017 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

Signed (Chairman) Date