

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 15th DECEMBER 2015

Present: Cllrs Pilcher, Greening, Norris, Stone, Tutt.

Cllr Andrew Finnis from Hougham Parish Council were in attendance for the presentation by Mr Kevin Bown.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Hale, Leppard and Shaw, Mrs M Leppard (Parish Clerk) and County Councillor G Lymer.
2. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS** - None.
3. **RECEIPT OF A PRESENTATION BY MR KEVIN BOWN OF HIGHWAYS ENGLAND.**

Mr Bown divided his presentation into 3 parts, Operation Stack, Dover TAP and illegal lorry parking.

- a) Operation stack. The problems last summer were the most severe to date, on occasions Operation Stack was implemented for 5 continuous days. When all 4 phases are implemented 7,200 lorries can be held in a temporary 'lorry park'.

Several alternatives have been explored, including a movable barrier (which works for a short stretch of road but not for the lengths involved with the M20). Experience has shown that there were several problems with this option, the most significant of which was unsafe traffic flows.

Planning to construction of new roads takes 7½ years so an off road solution is required. For logistical reasons and to gain the best chance of compliance a single site is the preferred option. Manston airport central runway has the capacity but gaining compliance is not easy.

Folkestone Racecourse has been suggested but its use would mean the lorries turning right off the motorway, leading to snarling of traffic and difficulties in marshalling the lorries. Thus a solution north of the M20 is required.

There are currently 4 alternatives on which Highways England began to consult. The 4 alternatives are that the site should be used

- a) Only for Operation Stack
- b) For Operation Stack and TAP
- c) A lorry park to help tackle the current problem of illegal overnight parking by lorries
- d) A full truck stop with all associated facilities

The current proposal is that Manston would be used in place of phases 3 & 4 of Operation Stack. To date there has been no need to implement it.

Consultation on options for alternative to Operation Stack runs until 21st January and invites comments on the proposals and suggested alternatives

- b) TAP. The project is being extended until 8/9/16. ANOB have agreed the use of lightweight solar powered signage to implement a variable speed limit. A buffer zone in Dover Docks, with 220 truck capacity opened recently, which should reduce the number of occasions TAP is implemented.
- c) Illegal lorry parking. Several councils have introduced by laws making overnight lorry parking illegal. The problem escalated during Operation Stack when authorities were overwhelmed dealing with Operation Stack and did not have the capacity to additional monitor parking. The informal lorry drivers' network has shared information on where they have managed to park, increasing the problem.

SignedK Pilcher.....
Chairman / Vice-Chairman – 19th January 2016

Questions and answers from the presentations followed.

Q. Could a levy on cross channel fares which covers the cost of the use of overnight lorry parks be implemented?

A. Schemes are being investigated but current lorry parks are virtually full. Laybys in various areas have been closed because they had become crime hot spots.

Operation Kindle has been introduced by a police/highways partnership to move lorries on from motorway hard shoulders. This focuses on the major problem areas and once lorries are moved on site monitoring continues to ensure that further illegal parking is prevented.

On the spot fines are tried but often ten the lorry drivers do not carry sufficient cash. Taking them to an ATM ties up police resources and often the police are called to deal with a live incident elsewhere. Some councils are treating these as civil penalties, which means they can be perused across Europe.

Costs of truck stops are around £20 -£30, much less than the fines for illegal parking.

Q. Drivers need education on what is or is not acceptable.

A. Multi lingual leaflets to do this are being considered. Verbally drivers are advised of the comparable costs of truck stops and fines for noncompliance.

Q. Would lorries be charged for using the proposed lorry park.

A. Not if they were sent thereunder operation Stack or TAP.

Q. Could the M2 be extended to Dover?

A. When the motorways were planned it was decided that the M20 would service Folkestone and Dover whilst the M2 would focus on Ramsgate. Plans to extend the dual carriage way are in hand.

Q. Parking at the Courtwood Roundabout is continuing to cause problems, could more planters or bollards be used?

A. That would be up to Kent County Council.

Q. Tugs and trailers often have different number plates so in the event of an incident it can be difficult acquiring the correct information. What is being done to cope with this?

A. The police and VOSA are trying to deal with this.

Q. Lorries often fuel enough to just get across the channel, leading to potential problems they if are diverted to Manson. What help will there be for drivers in these circumstances?

A. There is little evidence that this is true. Capel le Ferne Councillors reported that they do have evidence and were able to cite specifics.

Q. Does the Highways Agency appreciate just how dangerous the road is when TAP is not implanted – local drivers drive at 40 mph whilst speeding lorries weave in and out at greater speed?

A. This will be addressed when the variable speed limit signs are installed. Various councillors responded that many locals no longer use the A20, adding that journey times are now excessive.

Q. Who is responsible for opening and closing the gate at the Courtwood Roundabout? Local Experience shows that it is often not opened when TAP is not implemented.

Q. Some positive comments have been made. What are the timescales?

A. Consultation on the current proposals began on Friday and runs until the end of January. A preferred option will be selected in the spring and a final decision taken in summer 2016. It is intended that work will begin virtually straight away and with incremental opening.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bown who gave consultation documents to both Capel le Ferne Parish and Hougham Councils.

Signed K Pilcher
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4. **PUBLIC ADDRESS TO COUNCILLORS** - None.**FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR SURGERY**

- a) There was a complaint from a resident about parking on the pavement in Avondale Road. *Action: Clerk to pass to PCSO for action*
- b) One couple came to discuss the proposed development at the junction of Winehouse Lane and Capel Street. Their concerns were about details rather than the principle of the development. They have been advised that it is believed the plans are being revised prior to submission for planning permission. The couple have been advised to respond to DDC once the formal consultation begins.
- c) Times of collection from the post boxes in the village have been changed and the only late collection is now from the box Helena Road. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate for the late collection to be from the box by the village shop. This was supported by the parish councillors. *Action: Clerk to write to Post Office Limited asking for this change*

5. **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November were approved and signed by the Chairman Cllr Keith Pilcher, proposed by Cllr Tutt, seconded by Cllr Norris.

6. **MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA**

Installation of the bus shelter at the Battle of Britain site has been delayed until 6th January.

7. **DELEGATES REPORTS**

- a) Neighbourhood Watch – none
- b) Play equipment – Repairs to the gym equipment have been completed. Wickstead have not replied to emails so Cllr Pilcher will contact the managing director. *Action: Cllr Pilcher to contact Wickstead MD*
- c) Village Hall Management Committee – none
- d) Highways
 - i) The village had been surveyed and replacement road marking requested for spring/summer – when weather conditions are suitable.
 - ii) Cattle crossing signs. The farmer has been advised that sign can be supplied provided he funds them. The farmer will contact us if he wishes to proceed.
- e) Public Rights of Way – an application has been made for funding for the scooter path on the Green Lane bridle path. A decision is expected at the end of January.
- f) Annual Playing Field Event – plans are in hand with a meeting of the working group to be held in the New Year. Councillors are asked to keep the date free and help with manning stalls. The petanque trophy is ready for presentation and Cllr Stone is to track down the 2015 winners so a presentation can be made. *Action: Cllr Stone to establish contact with the winning team from Sandgate*
- g) Training/workshops/seminars – nothing to report
- h) District Councillor Scales
 - i) The Devolution Bill offers opportunities for councils to work together and take on greater responsibilities. Talks about Canterbury, Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Ashford working together have begun and first steps in preparing a bid have begun.
 - ii) 12 Syrian families are due to arrive in Dover and volunteers to help integrate them are being sought. They have been vetted in camps in Syria and will be funded by central government for at least 5 years,
 - iii) Helena Road development, discussions continue between the developers and planning department. An independent viability assessment indicates “that 30% affordable housing is an appropriate requirement”.
- iv) During the roadworks in Tontine Street, Stagecoach buses were running down Canterbury Road, as requested by some Capel residents. DDC Cllr Scales will contact Stagecoach to understand what positive/negative impact this diversion had with a view to offering this route on a more permanent basis. *Action: DDC Cllr Scales*
- i) Report from County Councillor Lymer - none
- j) Other none

Signed K Pilcher
Chairman / Vice-Chairman – 19th January 2016

8. CORRESPONDENCE

List of email items received attached and/or previously forwarded.

- Reply from Charlie Elphicke on Operation Stack
- Stagecoach change of bus route – see item 7iv
- KCC Community Warden - The Community Warden phone is currently diverted to Nick Thistle. The recruitment process has begun and training for the successful candidate will begin in the New Year.

9. CHEQUES and BACS PAYMENTS

The following cheques and BACS payments were approved and authorised:

Proposed by Cllr. Tutt, seconded by Cllr. Stone and signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Pilcher having been previously confirmed by Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

Received/ Paid	Description	INCOME	EXPENSES	VAT	Cheque No: or BACS/S O/DD	TOTAL IN HAND	BANK A/Cs	Date	State ment No:	Amount Reconciliat ion
17.11.15	TOTAL IN HAND					6748.66				6748.66
KALC	Transparency Code Grant	592.00			100385					
Various	Grapevine Adverts	889.00			100385					
Greenview Nursery	Grapevine Advert	36.00			BACS					
Dover District Council	Election Costs		153.83		BACS					
TGOGC	Parts for repair		104.00	20.80	BACS					
Viking Direct	Ink Cartridges		48.95	9.79	BACS					
Harmer Landscapes	Grass Cutting		387.50	77.50	BACS					
Mr D Reed	Litter Clearing		75.00		BACS					
Mrs M Leppard	Salary £301.50, Petanque Trophy £25.94		327.44		BACS		Reserve	27.11.15	207	5760.54
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Oct-Dec 2015		183.00		DD		Current	26.11.15	697	408.19
		1517.00	1279.72	108.09			Project	30.11.15	17	728.43
										6897.16
								Less Un- Reconciled		-19.31
15.12.15	TOTAL IN HAND					6877.85				6877.85

10. PLANNING

Applications waiting decision by Dover District Council

Helena Road/New Dover Road progress was reported on by Dover District Councillor Scales.

Applications Granted

Abbotsland Bungalow, White Cliffs Caravan Park, New Dover Road – Erection of a bungalow and associated parking (existing bungalow and associated outbuildings to be demolished).

Applications being considered by Parish Council

Informal discussions have taken place with the architects for the Hollingsbury Farm Development

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11. **MATTERS CONCERNING THE PARISH**

a) There were some discussion about potential maintenance costs are planning for replacing equipment in the future. A specific contingency fund needs to be built up and a decision needs to be taken before the next precept is set.

b) Approved resolution to discuss any confidential issues in agenda item 13 – agreed by those present.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 19th January 2016

13. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Following a resolution passed in item 11b, items were discussed and recorded under separate cover.

Signed K Pilcher
Chairman / Vice-Chairman – 19th January 2016