Hougham Without Parish Council

13 Victoria Road, Capel-le-ferne, CT18 7LR

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**Minutes of the Meeting.**

**Wednesday 25th November 2020**

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**Present:**

Cllr C Bryan (Chair)

Cllr J Lamb (Vice-Chair)

Cllr C Peel (Member)

Cllr D Taylor (Member)

County Cllr G Lymer

Cathy Finnis -Clerk

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**20/32 To receive apologies for absence;** Don to enter meeting later for item 20/38

**20/33 To identify any member’s interests;** there were no member’s interests declared.

**20/34 To hear questions from the public;** there was no public present at the meeting

**20/35 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting.** It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate account of the meeting and was signed as such by CF (in place of CB)

**20/36 To consider questions arising** from the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no questions arising.

**20/37 Reports:**

* Chairman C Bryan: nil to report.
* Vice Chair J Lamb: nil to report.
* Village Hall Representative (CB): nil to report.
* District Councillor: nil to report.
* PCSO Megan Keehner: nothing to report for October 2020.
* **Kent County Councillor Geoff Lymer Report.**

My KCC report is concerning a perceived issue with the proposed Customs Declaration System to be constructed on a large swathe of land immediately behind B&Q on the White Cliffs Enterprise Park, Whitfield.  
To give you an idea of how large this freight holding area will be, the current operating dimensions of the business park stretching from Whitfield roundabout through to B&Q will fit into the proposed freight holding site nearly twice over. It will be a large mass of concrete that will encroach on the White Cliffs Trail, The North Downs Trail and The Roman Road.  
I have concerns for the amount of rainwater and pollutants from the HGVs that will run off onto the surrounding areas increasing the potential for flood risks to property as we have witnessed since the build development off the Sandwich Road, Whitfield where Forge Lane has suffered flooding on a regular basis.  
  
My other concerns are foreign HGV traffic movements around Dover post Brexit transition from January 2021.  
HGVs leaving Dover port to travel up Jubilee Way to the proposed freight Customs Declaration holding station will travel slowly uphill on the nearside two London bound lanes, whilst those HGVs carrying a lighter payload will wish to overtake the slower moving HGVs hence regularly there will be two lines of slow moving HGVs travelling west towards the Duke of Yorks Roundabout and a pinch point.   
Traffic waiting to enter the roundabout from Castle Hill to travel to Deal or vice versa will have to queue for unreasonable periods of time until the file of HGVs pass.  
I have been given an assurance this will be controlled at commuter times, but those roads carry a regular flow of traffic outside of those particular times during the day.  
  
My next concern is foreign registered and driven HGVs exiting the Custom Declaration System will use mobile phone sat nav system apps which do not cater for height, length, width axle weight ratios will be used to continue their journey to London. Using some  apps I notice they direct vehicles through the Business park and out to connect with the A2 at Whitfield Roundabout. can you imagine a line of these vehicles drifting through the business park, breaking down and then creating traffic mayhem.  
  
Other freight HGVs will wish to continue their journey along the M20 so once more using their mobile phone apps will attempt negotiating country lanes unsuited for the height weight and other dimensions of an articulated HGV.  
  
The Dover West Ward like so many other Wards around Kent are being blighted by foreign HGVs and serious consideration needs to be given as to the siting of these HGV parks being well away from urban areas.  
  
A resident from Church Hougham expressed her concern to me that when we have massive HGV queues similar to this Tuesday the 24 November when two of the three lanes of the coast bound M20 were blocked by stationary HGVs from the Eurotunnel site stretching as far back as towards Maidstone some 38 miles away, then frustrated car drivers will try to use narrow country lanes to avoid such delays. In using these narrow lanes they will drive at speeds that come close to being reckless in order to make up for time lost caused by the delays. Thus we will being seeing more of them in our local area if we have congestion on our roads. Road verges and road side furniture will become damaged and the peace and tranquility of residing in rural areas will be compromised.  
  
It is for these reasons I would ask as many of the parish council and residents of the parish to support an objection to this proposed freight parking zone,  to write objecting to this Customs Declaration freight park at Whitfield by addressing their emails to      [office.natalie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:office.natalie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk)     and to the Under Transport Minister for the Department for Transport    [rachel.maclean@dft.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.maclean@dft.gov.uk)

*Actions: write email from PC supporting the above (CF)*

20/38 **To consider requests for grants: village hall**

* + 1. 12.10.20 £2300 Internal room
    2. 3.11.20 £2048.62 Kitchen
    3. 3.11. 20 £1813.14 Water/Electric/Insurance
    4. 3.11.20 £430.00 Door

The Council discussed the four grant applications (all from the Village Hall) at length. No decision was taken at this meeting as there is a request for further clarification on further financial information from the Council.

*Action: CF to email to Diane Oxenham requesting the further clarification. Further extraordinary meeting may be required subsequently.*

**20/39 To consider planning applications:**

1. 20/01198 Change of use of land to residential and erection of detached home office, Meadow View, Crooks Court Lane, West Hougham, CT15 7BN

The Council agreed to support the application.

*Action: to enter onto the planning portal. (CF)*

**20/40 Proposal to change Payroll Provider to Ability Payroll.**

This was agreed and a cheque for £59.48 for the set-up, pension set-up and the first pay packet

End the contract with All Payrolls (aim January 2021 due to complexities with HMRC etc)

*Action: send cheque to Ability Payroll and complete starter documentation for January 2021 start. Serve notice to All Payrolls. (CF)*

**20/41 Proposal to increase payment for regular maintenance of Village Green,**f

From £50 **per** month to £65 per month from January 2021

The Council resolved to agree the new payment increase from January 2021.

Action: contact Simon Withey to inform for the increase in payment from January 2021 (CF)

**20/42 2021 Census - information**

Information given to the council 21st March 2020 by CF

**20/43 Hougham Village Playground Annual Report**

Information given to the Council regarding the report.

*Action: to establish remedial action on major points contained within the report. CF to seek quotes.*

**20/44 Update on bin - Satmar Lane**

There has been ongoing correspondence between DDC and CF. However, Cllr Peel to send photo regarding the confirmation of the location.

Bin is ready to be sited and cheque is being raised at today’s meeting.

*Action: CP to send photo of location to DDC. CF to send cheque to DDC for payment of bin.*

**20/45 Payments:**

1. Cathy Finnis 2 months. £480.68
2. Simon Withey 2 months £100
3. Payroll 2 months (plus cheque re-raised from April 2020 due to their non-cashing of cheques) £83.90
4. Playground Annual Report £78.00
5. New starter payroll company £59.48
6. Harmer and Sons for mowing of Village Green £810.00
7. DDC for the siting and maintenance of the new bin £414.23
8. PAYE £240.00

***The next scheduled ordinary meeting of Hougham Parish Council is due on Tuesday January 19th, at 7.30pm at Hougham Village Hall, and will be confirmed during the week before.***