



Horndean Parish Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

A MEETING OF HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ONLINE ON MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2020 at 7.00 P.M.

Members of the public can login – please follow this link:

Documents pertaining to the meeting are available to download from the HPC website.

Members are summoned to attend

Carla Baverstock-Jones GCILEx, PSLCC, MCMI
Chief Officer

04 August 2020

AGENDA

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.
2. ***Declaration of interest: Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.***
3. ***To open the meeting to members of the public to enable them to address questions to Parish Councillors. The period of time which is designated for public participation shall not exceed 20 minutes. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. Questions shall not require***
4. To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 23 March 2020 and 13 July 2020.
5. To receive a report and consider the purchase of replacement trees within Catherington Lith funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy: Neighbourhood Portion.
6. To receive a report and consider the purchase of a DDA compliant roundabout – Five Heads Recreation Ground, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy: Neighbourhood Portion.
7. To receive a report and consider the quotations in respect of the repairs within Lith Lane.
8. To receive a report and consider the installation of signage and barriers within Lith Lane.
9. To discuss and agree the date of the next meeting of the Council.
10. ***To resolve to exclude the public and the press, in the view that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or arising out of the business about to be transacted. (Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960).***
11. To approve the Confidential Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 23 March 2020.
12. To consider the termination of the Lease pursuant to Clause 21 pertaining to Tyfield House.



HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2020 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs L Evans (Chairman), A Forbes (Vice Chairman), R Veitch, P Beck, J Lay, D Alexander, B Raymond, D Prosser

IN ATTENDANCE: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Chief Officer; Chereé Garvey, Office Manager (Minute Taker); Simon Ritson, Responsible Finance Officer; Matthew Madill, Grounds Manager

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There were 2 members of the public present. No press attended.

HPC 246/19/20 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs I Weeks, Mrs E Tickell, D Evans and County Councillors Mrs M Harvey.

HPC 247/19/20 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of pecuniary interest were received.

HPC 248/19/20 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS M HARVEY REGARDING COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

No report was received from Cllr Mrs Harvey. Cllr Mrs L Evans updated members with regard to the layby in Havant Road. This has been approved for reinstatement and works are scheduled to start on 23rd March 2020.

Members had no questions for Cllr Harvey.

HPC 249/19/20 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REGARDING DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

No report was received from District Councillors. Cllr Mrs L Evans informed members that Penn's Place has been closed to the public and that EDHC meetings have been cancelled due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus) restrictions.

HPC 250/19/20 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman reminded members to wear their HPC ID badges if they are volunteering in the community.

The Chairman informed members of the resignation of Cllr Dr C Jacobs.

HPC 251/19/20 TO OPEN THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 2 members of the public present. No members of the press attended.

HPC 252/19/20 TO CONSIDER THE ELECTION OF: DEREK PROSSER TO THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Derek Prosser be elected to the Planning and Public Services Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr R Veitch. All agreed.

HPC 253/19/20 TO CONSIDER THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES

Cllr B Raymond indicated an interest in the Grounds Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr B Raymond be elected to the Grounds Committee.

This was proposed by Cllr J Lay and seconded by Cllr D Alexander. All agreed.

HPC 254/19/20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th FEBRUARY 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes are signed as a true record of the meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr A Forbes. All agreed.

HPC 255/19/20 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ORDERS FOR PAYMENT (LIST 12 ATTACHED)

The Orders for Payment was received.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Orders for Payment (List 12 attached) be approved and duly signed.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr A Forbes. All agreed.

HPC 256/19/20 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The monthly finance report was received and circulated. .

The RFO noted the following:

- With regard to the Jubilee Hall Construction, there is still a remaining £140K available for use before there is a need to draw down the Public Works loan.
- the budgeted tree works with regard to Ash dieback has yet to commence and therefore will fall in the new financial year.

The monthly finance report was noted.

HPC 257/19/20

TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE REPAIRS TO LITH LANE, AND THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION

The Grounds Manager gave a verbal update as he has been unable to gather 3 quotations for the report. To date only one quotation had been received. Further quotations are awaited and the resolution has been deferred. All agreed.

HPC 258/19/20

TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE TREE CARVINGS TO BE CREATED WITHIN CATHERINGTON LITH

The report was received and circulated. A brief discussion took place. The Grounds Manager recommended Quote 2.

The sketches of Quote 1 for the proposed artwork have yet to be received. It was proposed to defer the resolution until these have been received and the decision will be made under delegated powers. All agreed

HPC 259/19/20

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR SIGNAGE TO BE PLACED ON PARISH LAND IN RESPECT OF DOWN ROAD

The 2 members of public attended for this agenda item.

The request was received and a brief discussion took place.

The current road sign on Down road is not visible until you have turned into the road and is not visible at night. The proposal is to put a shared sign on Parish land indicating both Down Road and Lith Lane. It is further requested to add 'PRIVATE ROAD' to the proposed signage. The residents said that occupants of Down Road properties were willing to contribute to the costs.

Cllr Mrs L Evans proposed that Council agree in principle to this request. All agreed.

The Chairman requested that the residents of Down Road source the sign and submit the proposed cost to the Chief Officer

HPC 260/19/20

TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES IN ORDER TO PROTECT STAFF/PUBLIC/MEMBERS AND RESTRICT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The Chief Officer updated members with regard to the Government Guidelines and the advice from HALC and NALC as to appropriate actions.

A discussion took place and it was **RESOLVED** to implement the following interim measures:

1. The Parish office is closed to the public and where possible staff are to work from home.

The arrangements are in place for the Chief Officer, The RFO, the Office Manager and the Operations Officer to work from home.

Employees who are unable to work from home have been furloughed for the period indicated by the Government Guidelines. It is agreed that they shall remain on full salaries for a period of 3 months. This will be reviewed as required.

This was proposed by Cllr J Lay and seconded by Cllr A Forbes. All agreed.

2. The Countryside team will continue with essential duties and Grounds Manager has been granted some flexibility in managing the team to reduce risk. The Countryside team can leave the office early if there are no suitable essential tasks to be undertaken.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr D Alexander. All agreed.

3. Both Jubilee and Napier halls are closed. Regular hirers are suspended for the closure period and will not be charged.
4. All Council meetings and Committee meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Cllr Mrs L Evans proposed that decisions required by Council are delegated to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Chief Officer. All request will be emailed to Members for consideration and comment prior to a decision being made. Should any particularly difficult decisions need to be made, it may be possible subject to approval from Central Government, for these to be considered within a virtual meeting. This was seconded by Cllr R Veitch. All agreed.

5. All play areas including outdoor fitness equipment will be closed to the public.
6. Jubilee Field car park will be closed to prevent risk to the public, however it will remain open for pedestrians.
7. The hire of the football pitches will be suspended for the time being and no payment will be required for the duration of the suspension.
8. To commit the remaining grant funding available to any community groups bringing forward new initiatives to assist residents during their isolation periods.

HPC 261/19/20 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE INVITATION RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE TO ATTEND TO A PRELIMINARY MEETING PERTAINING TO AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY AQUIND

Cllr P Beck volunteered attendance. It is noted that potentially Cllr Mrs E Tickell will also attend should the meeting go ahead considering the current restrictions.

HPC 262/19/20 TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE ON THE 16th MARCH 2020, IN RESPECT OF THE FLEXIBLE WORKING POLICY

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Flexible Working Policy. This was proposed by Cllr R Veitch and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Evans. All agreed.

HPC 263/19/20 TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE ON THE 16th MARCH 2020, IN RESPECT OF THE TRAINING AGREEMENT

It is proposed that the word 'qualification' is to be replaced with 'training' throughout.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Training Agreement following the proposed amendment. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr P Beck. All agreed.

HPC 264/19/20

TO NOTE THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BEING 27 APRIL 2020, AND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 06 APRIL 2020

There will be no Council meetings until further notice.

It was **RESOLVED** to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr J Lay. All agreed.

HPC 265/19/20

TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS, IN THE VIEW THAT PUBLICITY WOULD PREJUDICE THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS OR ARISING OUT OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED. (PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.

Members of the public were excluded.

Public Meeting closed at 9:15pm



Confidential part of the meeting

HPC 266/19/20

TO APPROVE THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 17th FEBRUARY 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th February 2020 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr R Veitch. All agreed.

HPC 267/19/20

TO CONSIDER THE WAY FORWARD AS TO THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE JUBILEE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Due to ongoing trespassing onto the construction site, subsequent vandalism and a danger to the intruders (they have been climbing on the existing roof), HPC has a duty of care to ensure that the site is secure and protected.



It was **RESOLVED** to use CCTV and to install such measures now.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr P Beck. All agreed.

Meeting concluded at 9:45pm.

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Signed - The Chairman

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Date



HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE MONDAY 13th JULY 2020 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs L Evans (Chairman), A Forbes (Vice Chairman), R Veitch, J Lay, D Alexander, B Raymond, D Prosser, Mrs E Tickell, D Evans

IN ATTENDANCE: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Chief Officer; Chereé Garvey, Office Manager (Minute Taker); Simon Ritson, Responsible Finance Officer; Sarah Guy, Operations Officer (Facilitator)

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There were no members of the public or press present.

HPC 001/20/21 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs I Weeks and P Beck

HPC 002/20/21 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of pecuniary interest were received.

HPC 003/20/21 **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

See appended comments.

HPC 004/20/21 **TO OPEN THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

HPC 005/20/21 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2019/20**

The RFO explained that the internal audit was conducted remotely due to Covid-19 restrictions. The report shows no additional comments or recommendations to the interim report.

Recommendation R3: *"Due to the protracted period of non-usage of the Petty Cash system, the Chief Officer and Members should consider closing the system."*

It was **RESOLVED** that the Petty Cash system is closed down in accordance with the recommendation.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr J Lay. All in favour.

HPC 006/20/21

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2019/20:

- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return was received and approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to that the AGAR for 2019/20 is signed by the Chairman.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr D Alexander. All in favour.

HPC 007/20/21

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE FINANCE REPORT

The monthly finance report was noted. The RFO highlighted the following:

- The deadline for drawing down the public works loan is 8th August 2020. Taking the delay in construction into consideration, the final amount necessary to be drawn down is unclear at this time.
- The income and expenditure report indicates that at the start of the financial year the reserves were below the recommended CIPFA levels. At the end of Q1 the status is considerably below the recommended reserve.

It was **RESOLVED** that a mandate be given to the Chief Officer and the RFO to request from PWLB an extension to draw down the loan.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr R Veitch. All in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold a pre-budget workshop meeting to establish a policy to provide staff with a clear direction as to which options to pursue with regard to budget preparations.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr D Alexander. All in favour.

Meeting concluded at 8:20pm.

.....
Signed - The Chairman

.....
Date

Chairman's Remarks

"I would like to records thanks to all the staff and Councillors for ensuring that it was, as far as possible, "business as usual" and to Mrs Baverstock-Jones for managing this.

Everyone played their part but especial thanks go to those who have worked all the way through the lockdown and to those who have assisted residents to get what they need by way of shopping and medicines. Many people within our community have volunteered to help others get through lockdown so thank you to them too.

SUBJECT TITLE: Replacement Trees - CIL

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The ash clearance works are now close to being finished. There is an area of woodland between Down Rd and Lith Lane that I am waiting for TPO approval on (from EHDC) and there are 3 trees that still need felling but at the time of writing this report they have bird nests in them.

As part of the Ash Clearance works we will have to restock the site with new plantings over Autumn/Winter. The plan is to restock with species such as Oak, Beech, Hazel, Whitebeam, Cherry, Yew, Hornbeam and Hazel. The plan is to diversify the species range to increase tolerance from future pest and diseases that may attack trees.

I have applied for a Woodland Tree Health Grant through the Rural Payments Agency/Forestry Commission, which should help fund and supply the planting of whips (young trees) and guards. This grant is calculated by looking at the area of land cleared and the restocking rate required to replant the woodland. I believe we could receive in the region of £2,269.44 if the grant application is successful and would need to replant 788 trees. COVID allowing, I would like to invite local schools to assist with the replanting.

There is one area in the woodland where ash were part felled without a felling licence and I am currently awaiting TPO clearance to complete the works. After initial chats with the Forestry Commission, I believe we will be required to pay for restocking this area ourselves. The above grant will not cover this. I have estimated, using the same calculations used in the grant application that this will cost HPC around £250.00, but I will have to wait for official confirmation from the FC regarding restocking levels/expectations. I will also look into applying for a free tree pack from the Woodland Trust, as this would reduce costs to the Parish.

Before the works took place, it was also discussed that HPC may purchase some more mature trees to enhance the replanting and give the site more of an instant impact. I contacted Hillier regarding tree prices but they have not yet been set for winter 2020/21. However, looking at last year's prices I estimate that to plant a tree approx. 6-8 feet in height would cost in the region of £50-£80 depending on species. If we were looking for some immediate impact, I would assume we would need to plant approx. 25 trees of this size across the site.

I believe we could apply for these trees through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and 25 trees would cost in the region of £2,000.00. We would also require stakes and ties which would cost around another £250.00 (total estimated cost for Catherington Lith £2250.00).

Are Council happy for us to apply for this funding through CIL?

Additional to above: if there is no objection, we also need to replace trees at Jubilee, which have been damaged/snapped. I would like to investigate, when doing the application if these trees could also be paid for through CIL.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Matthew Madill

AGENDA ITEM: 6

To receive a report & consider the purchase of a DDA compliant roundabout – Five Heads Recreation Ground, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy: Neighbourhood Portion

SUBJECT OF REPORT

Play Area Maintenance quotation, following RoSPA Inspection

BACKGROUND AND COST

Following the latest RoSPA inspections in May, it was highlighted that the speedwhirl roundabout at Five Heads Recreation Ground has been flagged as Medium risk. Quotations have been requested for repairs and maintenance work to be undertaken, as well as a quote for replacement equipment.

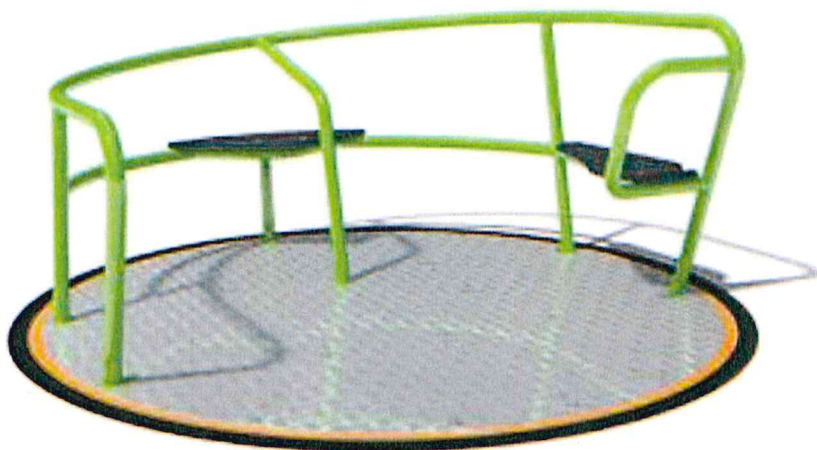
Please see photo below of existing roundabout.



Repairs & Maintenance of Existing Equipment

Play Equipment	Location	Action/work	Quote 1	Quote 2
Speedwhirl Roundabout	Five Heads Recreation Ground	Replacement bearings	£1,012.50 + VAT Remove & replace the bearing	£972 + VAT Check bearing fixing & replace. Additional cost may happen depending on if the bearing is more expensive, as have no details on make or model of roundabout.

Please see photo below of a DDA compliant roundabout, as quoted for below.



Replacement Equipment

Play Equipment	Location	Action/work	Quote
Roundabout	Five Heads Recreation Ground	Supply of a DDA compliant roundabout	£5,908.50 + VAT

RECOMMENDATION

Council may wish to consider the above quotations for the repair and maintenance work of the roundabout at Five Heads Recreation Ground, in order to meet the recommendations from the recent RoSPA inspection report. They may also wish to consider the quotation received for a replacement roundabout, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy: Neighbourhood Portion.

Report prepared by:

Sarah Guy
Operations Officer

HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

7

10th August 2020

SUBJECT TITLE: Lith Lane Repair

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

Now the ash dieback works are ending and a decision is needed on the resurfacing of Lith Lane at Catherington Lith.

I had received two quotes for the repair to the potholes, quote one being £3000.00 and the second being £3794.00.

I would recommend using quote 1 for the resurfacing of the lane, as I do believe the potholes require attention.

The residents did mention at a meeting that they would contribute to the works but I am not sure if that offer still stands. A letter would need sending to the residents. I believe HPC does have the money available in a marked reserve to pay for the works in full.

(Note: I am waiting on TPO confirmation to see if we can fell the remaining ash in the woodland compartment between Down Rd and Lith Lane. I will discuss this with the contractor but I do not believe heavy machinery will be needed to clear this section. If heavy machinery is required I would delay the works until the felling of this area has been completed.)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Matthew Madill

SUBJECT TITLE: Lith Lane Signage and Barriers

PURPOSE OF REPORT: The residents have expressed concern about the state of Lith Lane since the tree works started. I have attached the email for reading.

The residents have requested the contents of the email be discussed at Council to try to resolve their concerns.

Comments:

- There is money available in the budget to repair the Potholes on Lith Lane (see Agenda Item 7).
- I have seen members of the public driving down the Lane just to see where it goes. A sign saying Lith Lane, with a dead end logo may be a good idea. HPC could also look to install a collapsible bollard on the footpath after the Donkey House as vehicles have been stuck here in the past. (2 to my knowledge in the past 3 months). A collapsible bollard would cost in the region of £80.
- Long wheel based vans delivering goods to residents on the Lith cause an issue and I have spoken to the drivers who also have concerns. When delivering to Lith Lane they often struggle to turn around (as there is no turning point) and often have to reverse down the lane. I question if long wheel based delivery vans are suitable for this lane.
- There are 3 places that vehicles can pass along Lith Lane. My opinion is they are well placed. There is an issue when digging out new lay-bys. The site is a Nature Reserve and all the trees (including roots) are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- Delivery vehicles, including the mail carriers, often ignore the 10mph speed limit.
- It has been mentioned by Cllr L Evans that a professional surveyor looks at the lane.
- I am not sure how we can solve the issues of vehicles potentially driving off the edge of the Lane and falling down the bank. We could install a series of bollards or road traffic barriers along the edge, but I am not sure how much hold they would have if a vehicle were to drive into them and how easy they would be to install on the edge of a drop. This would need investigating further. If we were to install anything, it would need to be in keeping with a Nature Reserve and not hinder movement of wildlife.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Matthew Madill

Report

Resident email 1

Good morning HPC

I am writing to request that Horndean Parish Council provides us with an update on when we can expect to have the promised track improvements undertaken. I have personally tried several times to contact you by telephone to initiate a discussion on this matter and am aware that other residents have also tried separately to engage with the Parish Council, but as this has not succeeded in producing a meaningful dialogue to date, we are now in agreement that a more formal collective approach is required.

We were originally advised at the meeting held in February this year, that the required resurfacing work would take place when the project to fell trees within the Lith due to the Ash Dieback disease problem had been completed. However, to date work does not appear to have been completed to clear all of the trees, log piles and associated equipment from Lith Lane, we are becoming increasingly concerned over the knock on effect this is having on the start of the resurfacing project of the lane. In addition, we are very concerned that the significant additional damage that has been caused to the lane surface since tree felling works began will result in an increased cost to fully repair the road to a usable state, especially during the winter months.

We read with interest an article in the Petersfield Post on Monday 6th July 2020 in which Lynn Evans addresses the reasons as to:

- a) the delay in the start of the tree felling project, and b) the commencement of the project during bird nesting season against RSPB advice.

Whilst we fully understand that this project did need to be undertaken as a matter of priority we are concerned that the Council has prioritised the safety of the tree surgeons (where carrying out work in wet autumn and winter weather could increase the risk of accidents) and the public (due to fears of spontaneous collapse of trees killing walkers) over the safety of Lith Lane residents and associated Council employees and other private or commercial persons who are required to use the lane to deliver goods and services to the residents.

We would specifically request that you provide confirmation to the residents of Lith Lane what your intentions are to ensure our safety, as well as other individual required users of the lane. The main points we would like addressed are:

- The condition of the lane is in a far worse state than it was before the tree felling works commenced. We would therefore welcome the Parish Council's assurances that all efforts will be made to ensure that the original quote and assessment of the resurfacing works are revised to encompass any additional work that is required as a result
- After the removal of trees, there are now places along the lane where there are sheer drops of approx 80 feet. With the poor condition of the lane as it stands, there is a high risk of vehicles plunging down these drops, especially in wet weather conditions as the surface of the lane is in such a poor condition and there is nothing for tyres to grip onto. In addition, the amount of loose soil and debris that is now present on the edges of the road (on the right hand side as you drive up Lith Lane) is more than likely to wash away after sustained periods of rainfall, further destabilising the existing road structure. We believe these areas should be inspected by specialists and effective solutions presented to avoid such scenarios.
- It has previously been raised by the residents that additional passing points should be created. It is not uncommon to meet oncoming traffic on the lane, which requires one vehicle to reverse back to one of the few passing points that currently exist. With no trees to act as a guide as to where the edge of the track is, it has become an increased hazard to attempt this manoeuvre, especially for larger vehicles such as waste lorries and emergency service vehicles. Again, we would welcome a review of the current provision with a view to finding an agreement on where additional passing points could be most effectively positioned. This area is especially concerning for residents as whilst the summer months allow for longer and lighter evenings, the situation will become a great deal more dangerous when the winter months arrive. Our lives and the lives of others who are required to drive along the lane should not be put at risk in this way

- The amount of mud and debris that has accumulated on the upper banks of Lith Lane since the removal of the trees (on the left hand side as you drive up Lith Lane) is also of concern to the residents. With the ever increasing bouts of continuous heavy rain that we now experience in this country there is every likelihood that this mud and debris will wash down on to the lane after it has been resurfaced, causing a new problem that at the very least will result in the surface of the road becoming dangerous to drive over. We would welcome your assurances that all efforts will be taken during the road resurfacing works to ensure soil and debris drift is kept to a minimum.

- Residents are already finding an excessive amount of mud collecting on their vehicle tyres following the tree felling works. We are aware that the tree felling contractors have also voiced concerns about how slippery the lane has now become in places, when driving their machinery along the lane. The immediate danger here is that this results in vehicles having reduced grip on standard road surfaces. It is a Road Safety requirement for all vehicle users to ensure that their tyres are fit for the journey to be undertaken. As we drive off the end of Lith Lane on to the tarmacked Lith Avenue and beyond we are at risk of harm as there is insufficient tyre surface due to the collected mud to effectively grip to the road.

Whilst we as residents appreciate that we are fortunate to live where we do, the fact that Horndean Parish Council have claimed ownership over the lane and residents are unable to arrange sensible maintenance works themselves, we feel that the onus is therefore on the Council to ensure that we can effectively comply with the laws of road use as set out by the UK Government; we do after all have the right to leave our properties to go about our work and other commitments

We welcome the Parish Council's response to these concerns and hope that a way forward can be found and agreed before the onset of the winter months.