

Parish Council meeting
3rd March 2008

Your scribe for the month was aware on arriving at the Village Centre that this was going to be an unusual meeting as there were 20 members of the public in attendance rather than the usual one or two. The concern of these parishioners was an attack that had been made on two members of the public by a rottweiler whilst they were walking on a public footpath adjoining Birchwood Road. The attack was sufficiently vicious for both of them to need hospital treatment and when the police attended, one of them was also bitten. The anger of these protestors was because this is not the first instance of these dogs threatening walkers using this public footpath which has become a no-go area to some which is clearly of great concern. These parishioners were looking for Parish Council support in removing this threat.

Whilst councillors were totally sympathetic, it was explained by the Chairman that the Parish Council had no powers as such to act as this was a problem for the SDC dog warden in the first instance and the police if an attack has been made. Both of these are already involved and the police are pursuing this particular incident. We hope for further feed back at the next KPC meeting. Meanwhile, if any walker has problems, they are urged to immediately report it to the Dog Warden and the police. What a sad state of affairs if we are not able to walk our Public Footpaths without being threatened in this way.

This was all raised before the meeting opened when parishioners are able to air issues that are of concern. This involvement is welcomed by the Council.

The following is a summary of the main items then discussed:-

- 1) Sevenoaks Highways Dept have repaired the pot holes in Harrow Rd using the new jet patching method which is supposedly more durable. Please report any damage needing repair to Doreen Jones.
- 2) Michael Fallon, our MP, is to be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish General Meeting at 8.00pm on 9th April in the Village Centre. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.
- 3) Our PCSO Dennis Glasspool, who we share with Halstead, is moving on and his replacement is Nick Barker. We wish Dennis well in his promotion and welcome Nick to the village
- 4) 5 recorded crimes were reported in the last month- the dog incident as above, a burglary in Main Rd, the break in at the Village Stores and a burglary and attempted burglary on Rushmore Hill.
- 5) Hines, the developers of the Fort Halstead site, are to hold a series of open meetings although dates have yet to be fixed.

There are still no firm proposals let alone Planning Applications so these are really Public Relations exercises.

- 6) There is a vacancy on the Council due to the resignation of Jane Sanger so volunteers are sought. Please consider offering you services for this rewarding and not too onerous a role. It is disappointing that out of a village population of over 1000, there is often a problem in filling vacancies. Please contact Doreen Jones if you are interested.

The next meeting of Parish Council 7.45 on April 7th and all parishioners are welcome..

Tim Broadhurst