

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOO ST WERBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Thursday 1st September 2011 at 7.30pm
At the Red Cross Centre, Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh.

Present: Councillors Mrs Bamber
 Mr Bhattal
 Mrs Chambers
 Mrs Counsell
 Mr Flack
 Mrs Hipsey
 Mr Pearce
 Mrs Pratt
 Mrs Rees
 Mr Sands
 Mr Tildesley

Also present: Mrs Babington (Clerk), Ward Councillor Watson and members of the public.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Bunkall, Gatfield, Andrews and Perfect.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record subject to a minor alteration, (Chambers/Bamber) these were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Urgent Matters.

Councillor Pratt – Petition for a safe crossing at the junction Church Street, Stoke Road and Main Road. The Chairman accepted this as an urgent item.

Councillor Chambers – Tree blocking footpath at the bottom of Bells Lane.

Councillor Chambers stated that she had telephoned Medway Council regarding this matter but they had not taken any action. She stated that it is no longer on the footpath however it is in a precarious position and needs to be moved.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Medway Council regarding this matter.

Councillor Hipsey – Car park to the rear of Spar.

Councillor Hipsey reported that the bushes were overgrown and needed cutting back.

Action: Clerk to action.

6. Police Matters.

It was reported that there was a problem with youths taking badges from cars in the area.

7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report; he informed members that complaints had been received concerning mess (vomiting etc) left for several days in and around the bus shelter outside the Co-op from the evening of the village fair. He stated that after he had telephoned Veolia and they had cleaned the area.

8. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

1. Letter from resident regarding weeds at Kingshill Recreation Ground – The Chairman stated that he had been in contact with Medway Council to seek a quotation for having the weeds treated with a weed killer.

He stated that he had asked the Warden to inspect the area to undertake some strimming.

2. Letter from Hoo Institute Football Club re water supply at the allotments – Members noted this request and Councillor Rees suggested that the PC should not discourage the football club, however before this request could be considered further, the PC did need to establish further details in relation to the proposed connection and the plans on how this would be achieved.

It was agreed that the PC would wish to assist the football club, but further details on the suggested system would be required before this could be considered further by the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to respond to correspondence.

3. 2010/2011 Audit – This has now been completed with no recommendations; the certificate is available from the Clerk for Inspection by Members – This was noted by all present.

9. Public Question Time.

No matters were raised.

10. Financial Matters.

It was resolved to accept the financial statement. (Chambers/Tildesley)

11. To Consider Grant Requests.

No grant applications were received.

12. Allotments.

The Chairman informed members that the allotment fence was due to be erected by the end of the month.

Councillor Hipsey declared an interest in this matter.

13. Burial Ground.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

14. Planning Matters.

Members considered the planning applications received during the course of the month:

MC/11/2036 Hoo Carpet & Bedding Centre (New House, Tudor Farm), Stoke Road.
Demolition of the existing site shop and retail premises known as 'The Hoo Carpet and Bedding Centre' and the construction of 8no self-contained flats with associated off-road parking, cycle storage waste storage and amenity space facilities.

It was agreed to oppose this application with regard to lack of parking etc and the Chairman and Vice Chairman were given delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Chair/Vice Chair to progress.

The Chairman reported on a letter received from Robin Cooper of Medway Council regarding the Lodge Hill Development reassuring the PC that its views would be taken into account.

He also reported on the Medway Publication Draft Core Strategy/Lodge Hill Development Brief and informed members that consultees had until 14th October to submit comments to Medway Council. It was agreed that the PC would look at the policies that affected the Peninsula.

The Chairman referred to the policy affecting Lodge Hill and spoke regarding the development brief with especially access and transport to the proposed development. He recommended that members read the document in relation to this.

He stated that transport was a major issue that the PC needed to consider in the LDF and the Lodge Hill Development Brief.

It was agreed that Councillor Pearce, Bamber Sands and Rees would look at the Core Strategy in order to formulate a response by the Parish Council.

Action: Councillors Pearce, Bamber, Rees and Sands to progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.50pm for refreshments.

The meeting was reconvened at 9.05pm.

15. Hoo Partnership

The Chairman informed members that the Hoo Partnership had now been disbanded.

16. Remembrance Sunday.

The Chairman informed members that the Remembrance Sunday Service was due to be held at the Church on Sunday 13th November and he asked members for a volunteer to represent the Parish Council at the service to lay the wreath.

It was agreed that Councillor Chambers would represent the PC at the service.

It was further agreed that a donation of £60 would be made to the Royal British Legion, the Clerk was asked to order a wreath for the service.

Action: Clerk to progress.

17. The New Working Hours for Retained Fire Crew at Hoo.

Councillor Sands circulated details regarding the Retained Fire Crew in Hoo and he explained these to members.

It was suggested that Hoo Parish Council write to the Chief Executive of the Fire Service in order to establish further information on the future plans for the retained fire crews in Hoo.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that the PC would write to Ann Millington, the Chief Executive of the Fire Service in order to seek further details for the plans for Hoo Fire Station.

Action: Clerk to progress.

18. Recreation Grounds.

The Clerk informed members that the safety inspections for the play areas were due to be undertaken during the next week.

Councillor Tildesley asked to be informed of the date to enable him to attend this.

19. Queens Diamond Jubilee.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

20. Christmas Lighting.

The Chairman informed members that a quotation for the Christmas Lighting in Hoo had been received for £500 by Medway Council. He stated that they had appointed a new contractor and therefore this should resolve the problems encountered in the previous year with the lights.

Members discussed the Christmas tree for the Village Centre and it was agreed to have one again this year. The Chairman informed members of the liability of the PC with regards to the Christmas tree and the need for further clarification to be sought from the PC Insurance Company.

Action: Clerk to order tree and seek clarification for the Insurance Company.

21. Ward Councillors Report.

A report from Ward Councillor Tony Watson was noted by all present.

22. Urgent Items (referred from item 5.)

Councillor Pratt spoke regarding the need for a safe crossing at the junction of Church Street to Stoke Road and Main Road. She informed members that the Marina Park Residents Association had started a petition to try to press Medway Council to add a central island long the road to ease the crossing for residents, and she asked members to support this.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council did support a safe crossing point in this area and had pressed Medway Council for this in the past. He stated that a Risk Assessment had been undertaken by MC and they had rejected the request for an island. He suggested that the PC should send a further letter to Medway Council requested a safe crossing and supporting the planned petition.

Action: Clerk to action.

23. Date of next meeting – Thursday 6th October 2011 @ 7.30pm.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....