

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOO ST WERBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Thursday 2nd June 2011 at 7.30pm
At the Red Cross Centre, Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh.

Present: Councillors Mr Andrews
 Mrs Bamber
 Mr Bunkall
 Mrs Chambers
 Mrs Counsell
 Mr Flack
 Mrs Gatfield
 Mrs Hipsey
 Mr Pearce
 Mrs Perfect
 Mr Sands
 Mr Tildesley

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillor Rees.

Councillor Hipsey informed the Chairman that she would have to leave the meeting early.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy – Co-option of Councillors.

The Chairman informed the meeting that following the May elections there were currently two vacancies on Central Ward of the Parish Council.

He informed members that five applications had been received for the two vacancies, and each vacancy would be treated separately.

The Chairman informed members that each applicant should be proposed and seconded by the parish council, the results were as follows:

Mrs Pamela Pratt – proposed by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Counsell
 Mr Harry Bhattal – proposed by Councillor Tildesley and seconded by Councillor Gatfield
 Mrs Tongs-Ralphs – proposed by Councillor Perfect – no seconded therefore application fell
 Mr Ken Bamber – proposed by Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Counsell
 Mr Dean Lacey – proposed by Councillor Sands – no seconder therefore application fell

The first vacancy was considered by members. Ballot papers were circulated to all members and the first vote was cast as follows:

Mrs Pratt – 4 votes
 Mr Bhattal – 4 votes
 Mr Bamber – 4 votes

As there was no clear majority vote cast a second vote was cast as follows:

Mrs Pratt – 5 votes
 Mr Bhattal – 4 votes
 Mr Bamber – 3 votes

Mr Bamber was therefore illuminated from the next vote.

Members were asked to cast their votes for Mrs Pratt and Mr Bhattal and the results were as follows:

Mrs Pratt – 5 votes
Mr Bhattal – 7 votes

Mr Bhattal was there co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The second vacancy was considered by members. Ballot papers were circulated to all members and they were asked to cast their votes for Mrs Pratt and Mr Bamber, the results were as follows:

Mrs Pratt – 8 votes
Mr Bamber – 4 votes

Mrs Pratt was there co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked all applicants for their interest in the parish council and welcomed the new members onto the Parish Council.

3. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Co-opted Councillors.

Mrs Pratt signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her seat around the table. Mr Bhattal was not present at the meeting, therefore this item was deferred.

4. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting.

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Councillor Andrews asked for allotments to be placed on the agenda as he had further information to report on this. The Chairman suggested that he fetch this matter up as an Urgent Item.

7. Urgent Matters.

Councillor Andrews asked for the Allotments and Burial Ground to be discussed as an urgent matter. This was approved by the Chairman.

8. Police Matters.

Councillor Gatfield reported on policing matters. She spoke regarding the problem with youths and anti-social behaviour at Hoo Common. She informed members that the police were aware of this and were making regular inspections of the area.

Councillor Gatfield spoke regarding the Beacon at Hoo Common and stated that this was in a poor condition and was currently lying on the ground.

Councillor Andrews informed members that this was a gift to the Parish Council a number of years ago; however it had been erected on Aruthusa Land.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Aruthusa Club to ascertain their future plans for the beacon, as there were plans to light these as part of the Jubilee celebrations next year.

Action: Clerk to progress.

9. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report, he informed members that the next KALC meeting was due to take place on 15th June and he would attend.

10. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

11. Public Question Time.

A number of allotment holders attended the meeting to speak regarding allotment matters. They thanked the Parish Council for agreeing to replace the fence at the site and asked that the contractor ensured that the allotments were made secure at the end of their working day. The Clerk was asked to raise this matter with the contractors.

Action: Clerk to action.

12. Financial Matters.

It was resolved to accept the financial statement with the addition of cheque number 213 for £60.20, this being the reimbursement of expenses for the wardens overalls. (Chambers /Sands)

13. Annual Return and Accounts.

The Clerk presented all members with the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011 and the Annual Return for the Audit Commission. These were noted by all present.

Members then agreed the accounts and annual return; it was proposed by Councillor Andrews to accept these, this was seconded by Councillor Counsell and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to forward Annual Return to the Audit commission.

14. To Consider Grant Requests.

No grant applications were received.

15. Hoo Partnership.

The Chairman informed members that the Hoo Partnership was coming to an end and that this was to be phased out over the next two months.

He informed members that Catherine Smith had given a statement regarding this and he read this to members and asked for their views.

Members expressed their disappointment at the decision to disband this forum. The Chairman spoke regarding its achievements over the years.

Councillor Perfect suggested that it would be nice to invite Catherine Smith to attend the next meeting; this was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to action.

16. Planning Matters.

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

MC/11/1030 Land Adjacent to 163 Main Road, Hoo.

Construct two link-detached dwellings on disused site adjacent to Hundred of Hoo Swimming Pool, as previously approved by Medway Council ref MC/2000/0703.

Medway Council Planning Decisions

MC/11/0233 – Peppercorn, Elm Avenue, Chattenden - REFUSED

PROPOSAL: Construction of detached garage to rear and conversion of integral garage to habitable room.

17. Parish Council Notice Boards.

Councillor Perfect spoke regarding this item; she stated that better communication was needed in the village. She suggested that the notice board was moved from the side of the Indian Restaurant to the wall of the post office.

This was agreed by all present subject to permission being granted by the owner of the post office.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the post office to seek their permission, and if agreeable Councillor Perfect would arrange for the work to be undertaken.

Action: Clerk to progress and liaise with Councillor Perfect.

18. The Brook

The Chairman informed members that Councillor Rees had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. He stated that she had asked for a letter to be sent to all residents whose properties were adjacent to the Brook to make them aware of their responsibilities regarding this. This was discussed and it was agreed that an item should be placed in the Village Voices regarding this.

Action: Chairman to progress.

19. Recreation Grounds.

The Chairman reported on the play areas in the parish.

Hoo Common – Nothing to report.

Kings Hill – The Chairman informed members that the work to the play area was currently being undertaken. He spoke regarding the repair of a piece of equipment and informed members that this was unserviceable and needed to be replaced. He informed members that the contractors did have a reconditioned item for the sum of £280.00 and he asked for member's approval to replace this.

This was proposed by Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Tildesley and agreed by all present.

Action: Councillor Pearce to progress.

Pottery Road – The Clerk informed members that she was seeking a revised quotation regarding the tarmacing of the footpath at Pottery Road Recreation Ground.

20. Ward Councillors Report.

Councillor Tony Watson attended the meeting; he gave the apologies of Councillors Filmer and Erwin.

He praised the work carried out by Councillor Janice and Ken Bamber over the years. He spoke regarding the recent elections and the good turnout for these. He informed members that the first Council meeting had taken place on 25th May and the committees had been appointed along with the new Mayor, Mr Ted Baker.

He spoke regarding Medway Councils bid for City Status for the Queens Diamond Jubilee and stated that a decision would be made in February 2012.

He informed members of the committees that he had been elected onto and his plans to send out written reports and updates as often as possible.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Watson on his success in the local elections and thanked him for his report.

It was agreed by members that the Clerk should invite the new mayor to attend the February Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to progress.

21. Urgent Items (referred from item 7.)

Burial Ground/Allotments – Councillor Andrews circulated correspondence from Medway Council regarding the status of the burial ground.

He suggested that members should consider changing this into allotments.

Councillor Andrews suggested that the parish council should consider alternative options.

The Chairman stated that this item should be placed on the next agenda for full consideration by members as to the options open to it regarding the land for the burial ground. He stated that members needed to be clear on the options open to it for the future of this land.

It was agreed that a small working party should be set up to look at the alternative uses, Councillor Andrews, Sands, Tildesley, Flack and Pratt agreed to form this working party and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

22. Date of next meeting – Thursday 7th July 2011 @ 7.30pm.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....