

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
HOO ST WERBURGH PARISH COUNCIL  
Held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.30pm  
at the Red Cross Hall, Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh.**

<b>Present:</b> Councillors	Mr Pearce	Mrs Grewcock
	Mrs Hipsey	Miss Simpson
	Mrs Rees	Mrs Chambers
	Mr Bhattal	Mr Bloomfield
	Mrs Counsell	

**Also present:** Mrs Babington (Clerk) and members of the public.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Pratt, Bamber, Gatfield, Andrews and Flack.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

Cllr Rees – Request for financial assistance from Church, Personal Interest.

Cllr Hipsey – Allotments, Personal Interest.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

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

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Garaging of Parish Council Van – The Clerk was asked to give notice to Bradford's Garage.

**5. Councillor Vacancy.**

The Clerk reported that the notices could now be posted advertising the vacancy for co-option.

**6. Urgent Matters.**

Councillor Bloomfield raised concerns about the amount of rubbish in the village centre. He questioned the efficiency of the street sweeping contractors in the parish.

Councillor Rees confirmed that she had seen the street sweepers in the parish on a Sunday but stated that they had not been sweeping the roads.

The Clerk was asked to raise this matter with Councillor Bamber.

Concerns were also raised regarding the amount of dog mess on the pavements in Hoo, questions were raised regarding the enforcement of this by MC, it was agreed to report these concerns to Councillor Bamber.

It was also reported that the litterbin in the village centre near to the horse trough had been knocked off its post. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Councillor Bamber regarding this matter.

***Action: Clerk to raise items with Councillor Bamber as requested.***

Councillor Hipsey reported that the village voices would not be published this month; the next edition would be produced in April 2009.

**7. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on changes to forthcoming parish council meeting dates and times as follows:

**April 2009** – Meeting to start at the earlier time of **7.00pm**.

**Annual Assembly** date was set at **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**.

Because of Elections the **June Parish Council meeting** is to be held a week later than normal on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009**.

**July Parish Council meeting** to be held a week later than normal on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009**.

The Clerk stated that she would send a memo to all councillors to inform them of these changes in writing.

**Action: Clerk to send a memo to all councillors confirming these date and time changes.**

The Chairman informed members that the additional signage for the play area was still being progressed.

**8. Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

**9. Financial Matters.**

It was resolved to accept the financial statement. (Grewcock/Counsell)

**10. Request for financial assistance from Hoo Church.**

Councillor Bloomfield introduced this item to the meeting. He explained that the church had sent a formal request to the parish council to seek financial assistance to help with the costs of maintaining the churchyard. He briefed members on the history of this matter and spoke in favour of the parish council making a financial contribution to the church.

Councillor Rees spoke in support of the request, as did Councillor Chambers.

The Clerk informed members of the protocol regarding the parish council's ability to give grants to outside bodies.

Councillor Bloomfield proposed making a financial contribution of £2000 towards the maintenance of the churchyard. This was seconded by Councillor Bhattal and agreed by all present.

**Action: Clerk to write to Church to inform them of the Parish Councils decision.**

**Action: Cheque to be placed on next financial statement.**

**11. Public Question Time.**

No matters were raised.

**12. Allotment Rules.**

The Chairman informed the meeting that new allotment rules and tenancy agreements had been drawn up and approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its recent meeting. The new rules etc were circulated to all members for their formal consideration and adoption.

It was proposed by Councillor Bloomfield to accept these and this was seconded by Councillor Counsell and agreed by all present.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Rees for her efforts on these.

**Action: Clerk to send a copy to the Allotments Association and then forward onto all Allotment Holders to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.**

**13. Police Matters.**

Nothing to report.

**14. Planning Matters.**

MC/2009/0161      204 Damson Drive, Vicarage Lane, Hoo Marina Park.

Erection of single storey side extension.

*Councillor Pearce informed members that he had made representations on this application on behalf of the Parish Council due to the deadlines.*

Councillor Pearce spoke regarding an objection that he had submitted from the Parish Council on the planning application for the Hotel Barge at Damhead Creek, he summarised this for members.

He also spoke regarding the Local Development Framework and the area identified in this as Chattenden, He spoke of the potential development at Chattenden and the necessity for the infrastructure to be in place before any commencement of the development. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to monitor the situation.

**15. Hoo Common Play Area/Pottery Rd Infants Play Area.**

The Chairman stated that there was a covenant on the land at Hoo Common, which prohibits a play area from being placed on the land. He stated that he would pass the details to Councillor Rees for further inspection and clarification regarding the legal matters.

***Action: Councillor Rees and Pearce to progress.***

He also informed members that the infants play area at Pottery Road was being progressed by Councillor Bamber.

**16. Hoo Partnership/Kingshill funding request.**

The Chairman reported on the progress of the improvements to the Village Centre.

He informed members that Groundwork Kent & Medway were in the process of submitting a grant application for projects at Kingshill Recreation Ground and he asked members if the Parish Council would give its support to the grant application. This was agreed by all present and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of support to the application.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

**17. Reports from Ward Councillors.**

Councillor Bamber gave her apologies to the meeting.

**18. Urgent Items (referred from item 6.)**

No matters were raised.

**19. Staff Review.**

To be discussed as a confidential item excluding the press and public.

**20. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 @ 7.00pm.

***There being no other business to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed to the press and public at 9:00pm.***

***Signed.....***

***Chairman***

***Dated.....***