

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOO ST WERBURGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held on Thursday 5th April 2007 at 7.30pm at the Red Cross Hall, Stoke Road,
Hoo St Werburgh.**

Present: Councillors Mr Pearce Mrs Rees
 Mrs Grewcock Mrs Chambers
 Mr Singleton Mrs Counsell
 Mrs Gatfield Mr Reeves
 Mrs Pratt Mr Bloomfield
 Ms Simpson

Also present: Mrs Babington (Clerk), Police Inspector Wolfe, Cllr Angela Prodger the Mayor of Medway and her escort and several members of the public.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Hipsey and Flack.

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 (Singleton/Counsell) these were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Bus Stop, Chattenden – The Chairman confirmed that the Warden had inspected and cleaned the bus shelter at Chattenden. He stated that one of the bus shelters had been roped off as a metal panel was in need of replacing.

Councillor Grewcock reported on an incident that had occurred at Hoo Common during that day.

Footpath to the rear of the Allotments – The Chairman confirmed that this was in hand.

5. Urgent Matters

Councillor Gatfield reported on some fly tipping at Four Elms Hill.

Action: Clerk to report to Medway Council.

6. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to all present.

7. Clerks Report.

Members noted the Clerks report (Singleton/Pearce)

a. KAPC Membership – Members noted the annual invitation to join the KAPC. It was proposed by Councillor Reeves to take no further action regarding this matter; this was seconded by Councillor Bloomfield and agreed by all present.

b. Letter from resident regarding allotments – A letter from an allotment holder was circulated to all members. This raised concerns about the fence currently in place at the allotments, adjacent to the Hoo Institute's Football Field.

The Chairman explained the current situation to members and informed them that the Hoo Institute originally erected the fence many years ago when their field was used for football. He stated that there was now currently a problem as the field was once again being used for football and there had been further damage to the fence. Members discussed the current situation and it was suggested that quotations were sought for the replacement of the fence.

It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the Hoo Village Institute to see whether they would be willing to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the replacement fence.

Action: Clerk to write to Hoo Village Institute.

Action: Chairman to seek quotations for a replacement fence.

8. Financial Matters.

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

The Chairman invited the Mayor of Medway Angela Prodger to address the meeting. She thanked the Parish Council for her invitation to the meeting whereupon she went on to speak about the issues raised, so far at the PC meeting was concerned, and then added that the issues raised were very similar to those in other areas. She finally spoke of her Mayoral year, describing it as being 'truly magical'.

The Chairman then gave members the opportunity to ask questions of the Mayor, finally thanking her for being her attendance.

9. Public Question Time.

A resident attending the meeting addressed members as the spokesperson for allotment holders, and spoke regarding the allotment fence.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to seek quotations for the replacement of the fence, however no decisions would be made until a cost had been established.

A resident of Bells Lane raised concerns about HGV's using Bells Lane to access the Church Lane development. The Chairman confirmed that there was very little that could be done regarding this matter, as weight restrictions did not restrict vehicles using the road for access.

A resident raised concerns about the speed limits outside Broad Street Cottages. She stated that she lived in the cottages and was very concerned about the speed of vehicles travelling along Main Road. She pointed out that that this was a route used by children walking to school and she asked if the PC could establish the speed limit at this location and then to ask Medway Council to enforce that limit.

Members debated this matter and it was agreed that this stretch of the road was very dangerous. It was suggested that Interactive Signs may assist with the reduction of the speed limit and the Clerk was asked to write to MC to firstly establish the speed limit and ask for additional signage and other measures to be considered in order to slow the traffic along this road.

Action: Clerk to write to MC as directed.

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10. Police Matters.

PCSO John Hucks attended the meeting and gave his report to all present.

He reported that he now had a police office at Chattenden Community Centre where he would be undertaking regular police surgeries, and he also had a small office at Hoo School.

It was also reported by Inspector Wolfe that the police car facility had been withdrawn from PCSO's.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hucks for his work for the parish and stated that the Parish Council appreciated this.

PCSO Hucks reported further on the condition of the Recreation Ground following the visit by the circus and he reported that the dog bins at the recreation ground were full and had not been emptied for some time.

Action: Clerk to report to Medway Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.34pm for refreshment.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.45pm

The Chairman spoke further regarding the situation regarding PCSO Hucks transport and he suggested that the Parish Council might wish to write to the Chief Superintendent to raise concerns at the lack of a police vehicle. This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to write to Chief Superintendent.

11. Planning Matters.

MC/2007/0150 Toad Hall, Main Road, Chattenden – Objections.
Construction of 2 x 2 bed semi detached houses.

MC/2007/0405 Hoo Methodist Church, Bells Lane, Hoo – No Objections.
Outline application for construction of a 2-storey block comprising of 8 self contained flats with associated parking and a pair of 2 bed roomed semi-detached bungalows.

MC/2007/0409 Plots 52 to 95 Land at The Searchlight, Hoo – No Objections.
Part approval of reserved matters pursuant to Condition 1 (landscaping) of outline planning permission MC2007/0686 for construction of 44 dwellings (comprising houses and flats with associated access roads and parking/garaging)

13. Youth Proposals.

The Chairman reported that this matter was still being progressed by Hoo Partnership and at present there was nothing further to report.

13. Website.

The Chairman updated members on this matter and stated that this was still being progressed by Medway Council.

14. Fun Fair.

The reported circulated by the Clerk on the fun fair was discussed by members. The Chairman informed members that he had received a number of concerns from residents regarding the proposals to have a fun fair in the village.

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Councillor Bloomfield spoke regarding this matter and stated that he had no objection to the fun fair.

Councillor Reeves spoke regarding their insurance cover and the letter received from the fun fair operators regarding their times of operations.

The general problems with youth activities in the village were discussed.

Members discussed this matter further and the chairman confirmed that the police had agreed to be in attendance during the course of the fun fair operating times.

The Chairman summed up the discussions and confirmed that should members agree to having the fair in Hoo that certain conditions would be added to the hire agreement regarding vehicles, rubbish, insurance and operating times.

Following these discussions it was proposed by Councillor Bloomfield to allow the fun fair to hire Pottery Road Recreation Ground subject to the agreed conditions, this was seconded by Councillor Chambers and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to write to fun fair operators detailing the conditions of the Parish Council and seeking a full list of rides and their insurance details two weeks before the proposed operating dates.

Action: Clerk to inform police of dates of fun fair.

15. Parish Council Elections.

This item was noted by all present.

16. Hearing Impairment – Red Cross Hall.

Councillor Reeves spoke regarding this matter. He stated that he had written to the Red Cross on two occasions regarding the possibility of having hearing impairment equipment at the hall.

He stated that to date he had not received a response and he asked the Parish Council if they could write to the Red Cross regarding this matter. This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to write to Red Cross.

17. Parish Council Annual Assembly.

The Chairman confirmed that the Annual Assembly would take place on Thursday 26th April 2007.

18. Reports from Ward Councillors.

Apologies were received from Councillor Bamber.

19. Urgent Items (referred from item 5.)

No urgent matters were raised.

20. Date of next meeting

Thursday 10th May 2007.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated