

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOO ST WERBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Thursday 7th April 2011 at 7.30pm
At the Red Cross Centre, Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh.

Present: Councillors Mr Andrews
 Mr Bhattal
 Mr Bloomfield
 Mrs Chambers
 Mrs Counsell
 Mrs Gatfield
 Mrs Grewcock
 Mrs Hipsey
 Mr Pearce
 Mrs Pratt
 Mrs Rees
 Miss Simpson
 Mr Tildesley

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Bamber 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 subject to a minor alteration, (Andrews/Gatfield) these were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Vicar – It was noted that the Vicar, Andy Harding was due to leave his post at the end of the month. It was agreed that a best wishes letter should be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

Hoo Common Play Area – The Chairman informed members that this matter was still pending.

Circus – The Chairman stated that he had held site meeting with John Lawson as agreed prior to their visit.

5. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

6. Police Matters.

Councillor Gatfield spoke regarding police matters. She informed members that there had been a reduction in PCSO's and spoke further regarding this.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council be kept informed of such changes and asked the Clerk to write to Police Headquarters regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to progress.

It was reported that there had been unauthorised camping at Hoo Common and the Police were asked to intervene.

7. **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman reported further on the unauthorised camping at Hoo Common. He informed members that the police had also been informed of this problem by the Aruthusa Club.

8. **Clerks Report.**

The Clerks report was noted by all present.

9. **Public Question Time.**

A Number of allotment holders attended the meeting to raise concerns about the poor condition of some allotment plots. They handed the Clerk a list of problem allotments.

An allotment holder raised concerns about the condition of the fence to the rear of her allotment plot. She stated that in her view this was the main reason for the numerous break-ins at the allotments. She stated that her shed had been broken into a number of times resulting in a loss of tools and damage to her property. She informed members that she had not yet paid her allotment fees and was not prepared to do so until action had been taken to repair the fence and make the allotments secure.

The Chairman stated that he was aware of the problems with the fence and the Parish Council would discuss this matter and agree a way forward.

Allotment holders also raised concern regarding rule enforcement of the site and the status of the Allotment Association. The Chairman recognised that these concerns needed to be addressed by the Council.

The Chairman thanked allotment holders for attending the meeting and stated that the PC would take on board the comments made and endeavour to try and remedy the concerns raised.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

A resident asked if the lights at the playing field could be adjusted and tilted down to deflect the light. The chairman stated that it would be he would actioned.

Mrs Perfect reported that the street party arrangements were progressing to plan.

10. **Financial Matters.**

It was resolved to accept the financial statement. (Hipsey/Rees)

11. **To Consider Grant Requests.**

No grant applications were received.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm for refreshments.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.35pm.

12. **Planning Matters.**

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

MC/11/0677 St Werburgh Court, Pottery Road, Hoo. (MHS Homes)

Demolition of existing two storey residential homes for the elderly and construction of eleven 2,3 and 4 bedroomed houses and ten 1 and 2 bedroomed flats including 32 car parking spaces, cycle and bin stores and landscaping.

Members considered this planning application and the chairman suggested that all councillors should look at the plans before forming an opinion. He stated that he would try and liaise with Medway Council in order to establish the deadline for comments.

The Chairman reported on other planning matters, planning decisions and appeals.

13. Parish Council Burial Ground.

No matters were raised.

14. Play Areas.

The Chairman reported on the play areas in the parish.

Hoo Common – The Chairman reported that a site for the new play area was still to be identified. He informed members that he had been in contact with a landowner regarding the use of some land for a recreation area.

Action: Councillor Pearce to progress.

Kings Hill – The Chairman stated that the work to the play area would be undertaken in the very near future as agreed.

Pottery Road – Councillor Gatfield raised concerns regarding the cable slide at Pottery Road. It was agreed that this should be inspected as soon as possible.

17. Ward Councillors Report.

Councillor Bamber gave her apologies to the meeting

18. Parish Council Annual Assembly.

The Chairman informed all members that the Annual Parish Assembly would take place on Thursday 21st April 2011.

19. Local Elections.

Members noted the date of the elections.

20. Urgent Items (referred from item 5.)

No matters were raised.

21. Date of next meeting – Thursday 12th May 2011 @ 7.30pm.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....