

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo on Thursday 1st June 2017 at 7.30pm.

***Councillors present: Andrews
Counsell
Hipsey
Rees
Pearce
Perfect
Pratt
Sands
Savage
Shepperd
Tildesley
Williams***

Also: Parish Clerk and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Tildesley.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gatfield and Chambers and Ward Councillor Roy Freshwater.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. It was proposed by Cllr Andrews to accept these as a true record, subject to an agreed alteration, this was seconded by Cllr Sands and agreed by all present.

The approved Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Cllr Sands informed members that the Planning application discussed at the previous meeting for 27 Whyllie Road had been worded incorrectly and following clarification of the application description the Planning Committee raised no objections to the proposals.

5. Urgent Matters.

No urgent matters were raised.

6. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave a report to members.

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerks Report was noted and accepted by members.

8. Ward Councillors Report.

Ward Councillor Roy Freshwater gave his apologies to the meeting.

9. Police Report.

No matters were raised.

10. Public Question Time.

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the felling of trees at the Arethusa Sports Ground. He stated that a number of trees had been cut down and there were rumours that the site was for sale for development.

The Clerk was asked to raise this with Medway Council.

Action: Clerk to action.

A resident spoke regarding the problems with the bench at Pottery Road Recreation Ground and the comments that had been put on Facebook regarding the noise and rubbish from antisocial behaviour. She suggested that it would be better if the Parish Council consulted with residents regarding the location of the benches.

The Chairman stated that no one had complained directly to the Parish Council regarding the benches and there had been a serious problem with them that he would raise under the agenda item for Recreation Grounds.

A resident spoke regarding the litter on the footpath from Whyllie Road to Knights Road and asked the PC who was responsible for maintaining this.

The Chairman confirmed that MHS were responsible for this footpath.

A resident asked if an article could be placed in the Village Voices to summarise the discussions at the Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Savage stated that she would send an item to the Village Voices following the PC meeting.

Action: Cllr Savage to action.

11. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

It was agreed that the following additional cheques would be raised for payment:

Martin Thomas – Auditor - £220.00 Chq 843

Unique Landscapes - £1036.80 Chq 844

The financial statement was then proposed by Cllr Hipsey, seconded by Cllr Shepperd, and agreed by all present.

The approved cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

12. 2016/2017 Accounts and Annual Return.

The 2016/2017 Annual Accounts and Return were circulated to Members for approval. These were noted and approved by members, proposed by Cllr Rees seconded by Cllr Pearce and agreed by all present.
The Chairman signed the Accounts and Annual Return.

13. Dog Bag Dispenser.

Cllr Pearce spoke regarding his proposal to supply free dog bags for residents as a trail at Kingshill Recreation Ground.
He circulated a report to all members detailing the costs of the proposal.

Cllr Sands stated that he felt that the proposal was sound but may be abused.
Cllr Rees stated that she would support having the system installed at Kingshill Recreation Ground for a trial period.

This was discussed further and Cllr Sands proposed that the dog bag dispenser was installed at Kingshill Recreation Ground for a trial period, this was seconded by Cllr Savage and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to order dog bag dispenser as agreed.

14. Horse Trough.

Cllr Pearce thanked the Chairman and the Warden for filling the Horse Trough with soil, he stated that he had now planted the wild flower seeds as agreed.

Cllr Williams informed members that the old Horse Trough sign would need to be replaced and he would action this.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that the PC would purchase two signs for the Horse Trough. Cllr Williams stated that he would progress this.

Action: Cllr Williams to action.

15. Village Sign.

The Chairman informed members that the PC was seeking quotations for the cleaning of the Village Sign.

16. Parish Website.

The Clerk reported that the Website was now progressing and she would circulate the link for members to view the site before it was progressed further.

Action: Clerk to action.

17. Land for use as a Burial-Ground.

Cllr Rees informed members that weather permitting, the spraying of the land would take place on 15th June 2017.

She reported that the Woodland Trust had approved the application for hedging and the PC would receive the trees in November 2017.

Action: Cllr Rees to progress.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rees for her work on this project.

20. Planning Matters.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- | | |
|------------|---|
| MC/17/1593 | 5 GUELDER ROSE DRIVE, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER
Construction of conservatory to rear.
<i>No Objections.</i> |
| MC/17/1617 | 154 MAIN ROAD, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9HB
Construction of two storey extension to rear.
<i>No Objections.</i> |
| MC/17/1690 | 3 HAIG VILLAS, MAIN ROAD, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER
Construction of a porch to front, part first floor part two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
<i>No Objections.</i> |

Cllr Sands stated that he had been in contact with Tarmac regarding the quarry and he would now receive regular updates from them.

He stated that they were planning to open a small centre to display the artefacts from the site.

Action: Cllr Sands to progress.

19. Lionel and Elsie Pearce Memorial.

Cllr Tildesley reported that this was now with the Archdeacon awaiting the permission to progress with the installation of the bench.

20. Allotments.

Cllr Perfect reported on the allotment inspection and she reported on this.

She stated that the allotment tap was still leaking and asked the Warden to inspect this.

The Chairman stated that the Warden had cleared the vacant allotment plot and it could now be relet.

Cllr Pearce stated that he had recently visited the allotments and thanked Cllrs Perfect and Rees for their work on these.

21. Recreation Grounds.

Kingshill Recreation Ground.

Cllr Pearce informed members that he had sown the Poppy Seeds and Wild Flower Seeds at Kingshill Recreation Ground.

He stated that the tree stakes had been received and would be actioned in the near future.

Cllr Tildesley stated that the grass around the planted trees was long and needed to be cut. Cllr Pearce stated that he would action this.

Action: Cllr Pearce to action.

Cllr Williams informed members that a specification was being drawn up for the tarmacing at Kingshill Recreation Ground and when completed quotations would be sought for the work.

Cllr Tildesley reported that the additional fencing had been installed at the Rec to prevent motorbikes from entering it.

Pottery Road Recreation Ground

The Chairman informed members that there had been a serious problem with the bench at the recreation ground. He stated that this had been moved from its original position and placed in a secluded location at the recreation ground.

He reported that he and the Warden had moved the bench into storage and the Warden had removed the flag stones from the area.

He stated that following agreement at the previous meeting a quotation was sought to relocate the bench along the footpath in Pottery Road Rec.

This was installed on Thursday, 25 May and the following day the bench had been moved again back to the secluded location. He stated that the flag stones had been left in place and therefore on Saturday, 27 May, he and the contractor reinstated the bench, however on Sunday, 28 May the flag stones had been lifted and the bench had been disturbed.

He stated that he reported this to the police and informed them that it was likely that the bench would be moved over night. On Monday 29th May he reported that the bench had once again been vandalised and moved to another location at the Rec.

He expressed his disappointment at the lack of action by the police.

He stated that they were now two options, one, to reinstate the bench at Pottery Road Recreation Ground and two, to reinstate the bench at Kingshill Recreation Ground.

This was discussed by members and Cllr Sands stated that he felt that all benches should be removed from the recreation ground, but also felt that the Parish Council should not be dictated to by the actions of some residents.

Cllr Williams suggested that the Parish Council should place an article in the Village Voices to raise public awareness of the vandalism within the parish, and asking residents to keep their eyes open and report any suspicious activities to the Parish Council and the Police.

Cllr Tildesley stated that he had been in contact with the police and had invited them to attend the meeting. He stated that when reporting the problem to the police he had informed them that there was evidence of drug taking at the site, but they still had not attended.

He asked members what action the Parish Council wish to take regarding this matter.

Following a further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to the Police Commissioner regarding this matter and leaflets would be drawn up to circulate to residents regarding the problem of vandalism at the recreation ground.

Action: Clerk to action.

It was also agreed, following a vote by members that the bench would be relocated at Kingshill Recreation Ground. (6 votes in favour of this and 6 votes against, the Chairman then use his casting vote to carry the motion to relocate the bench at Kingshill Recreation Ground).

Action: Chairman and Warden to action.

Cllr Williams suggested that the Parish Warden should have a Polesaw to assist with his duties. This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Williams would seek quotations for a polesaw and report back to a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Williams to progress

The Chairman reported that the safety signs placed around the fitness equipment had been vandalised.

He reported that the access road signs had been completed and would be erected in the near future. It was noted that gritting signs for recreation grounds also needed to be considered at some point in the future.

The Chairman suggested that a meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee was arranged to discuss the proposals and grant application being put forward by Cllr Sands for a new infants play area. Councillor Sands stated that he would circulate a date for this meeting.

Hoo Common

The Chairman reported on Hoo Common.

22. Urgent Items.

No matters were raised.

23. Date of next meeting.

6th July 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....