

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo on Thursday 5th October 2017 at 7.30pm.

***Councillors present: Andrews
Chambers
Gatfield
Hipsey
Rees
Pearce
Perfect
Pratt
Sands
Savage
Shepperd
Tildesley***

Also: Parish Clerk, Reverend John Smith, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Tildesley.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs William, Counsell and Medway 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, this was seconded by Cllr Rees and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

No matters were raised.

5. Urgent Matters.

Members raised concerns regarding the parking along Main Road, it was reported that Contractors vehicles were parking on the road causing problems.

It was agreed that the Clerk should raise this with Medway Council.

Action: Clerk to progress.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk reported that Medway Council had now informed the PC that the Parish Councillor vacancy could now be advertised to be filled by Co-option.

Members were asked to display the Co-option notice on the PC Noticeboard.

It was agreed that the applications for the vacancy would be considered at the November PC meeting.

7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave a report to members.

He circulated a report to all members regarding the lease for the new village hall for consideration at a future meeting.

He reported that the Parish Councils Recreation Grounds had suffered from a spate of graffiti vandalism and Medway Council was due to remove this in the near future.

He reported that the Parish Warden had been asked to go around the village to remove the posters that had been put up.

The Chairman circulated the posters that had been drafted as part of the campaign to deter vandalism around the parish. It was agreed that the campaign would run for a period of three months.

The Chairman informed members that he and Cllr Chambers had attended a meeting on 27th September at Medway Council offices to discuss the facilities on the Peninsula. He stated that the PC needed to complete an audit regarding the facilities in the parish.

Cllr Rees stated that she and Cllrs Pratt and Shepperd were also due to attend this meeting, however they had been advised by Medway Council staff that this was not taking place and therefore did not attend.

The Chairman reported on the meeting.

8. Clerks Report.

The Clerks Report was noted and accepted by members.

Insert report.

9. Ward Councillors Report.

Ward Councillor Roy Freshwater gave his apologies to the meeting.

10. Police Report.

Cllr Gatfield reported that she had met with the new PCSO was Sean Alderton, and now had his contact details.

She stated that the problem with graffiti in the village had been reported to the police.

11. Public Question Time.

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns about the graffiti get around the village and the drug dealing that was taking place. She asked what action was being taken regarding this.

A resident stated that the drug dealing was being undertaken by people outside of the parish and the problem was escalating.

It was reported that the drug dealing was taking place at Pottery Road Recreation Ground and outside of the school, and the Parish Council was happy for this to continue.

The Chairman stated that members were concerned about this matter and it had been raised with the police on a number of occasions. He stated that a letter had been written to the police regarding these concerns.

Public Conveniences – A resident spoke regarding the Public Conveniences in the Parish and asked about the cost of maintaining and running these.

Cllr Savage stated that the costings that Medway Council had stated excluded the cleaning costs and these were quite high as they were part of a large contract with Medway Council.

A resident asked whether a traffic survey was being undertaken at the top of Four Elms Hill during the week. He stated that Medway Council officers were present on a number of days.

Reverend John Smith spoke to the meeting regarding arrangements that would be put into place following the death of a Senior Royal.

He reported that work on the windows of the church would be undertaken in the next two weeks and this would involve the erection of scaffolding.

12. Public Conveniences.

Cllr Savage informed members that following the last meeting she had undertaken a survey via Facebook to ascertain the views of residents regarding the future of the Stoke Road Public Conveniences.

She reported that she had received 118 responses, 111 of which were in favour of retaining the public conveniences, 4 were against and 3 favoured a change of use.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council wished to ascertain whether there was a need for the public conveniences and the survey had proved that they were needed.

Cllr Rees stated that there was now the evidence to support the need for the Public Conveniences being taken over by the PC within the two-year period stated by Medway Council.

It was therefore agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would look to allocating a budget for these in the 2018/19 budget.

Action: F&GP Committee to allocate budget for Public Conveniences in budget.

13. Waste Disposal Licence for Parish Warden.

The Chairman spoke regarding the work undertaken by the Parish Warden and asked members if the PC should apply for a waste disposal licence as the Warden carried waste to a collection point in the village where it was then picked up by Medway Council.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that a licence was not necessary as he did not have to dispose of the waste at a disposal site, therefore it was agreed that this would not be progressed.

14. Community Payback Scheme.

No matters were raised.

15. CCTV.

Cllr Pearce stated that he had no update to report at this meeting.

16. Recreation Grounds.

Cllr Pearce circulated a report to all members for consideration.

He asked if he would have the access key for Kingshill Recreation Ground to enable him to access this to remove the rubbish.

The Chairman stated that he would liaise with the Warden regarding this matter.

17. Recreation Ground Border Plan.

Cllr Pearce spoke regarding his proposal for a Border Plan for the Recreation Ground.

He explained the plans to members and the proposal to have a border at the perimeter of the recs with bollards to mark this.

The Chairman stated that he was not in favour of having long grass around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground as this would encourage ticks and he spoke regarding the consequences of this. Cllr Pearce stated that the alternative option would be to protect the trees with cages.

Cllr Rees suggested having a wild flower border, but it was agreed that this would cause the same problems as long grass.

This was discussed further, and it was agreed that authority would be given to Cllr Pearce to trail a border of six mature trees protected by posts and a cage. It was agreed that a budget of £120 would be allocated for this trail. This was agreed by a vote cast 7 in favour and 3 against the proposal.

Action: Cllr Pearce to progress.

18. Parish Council Logo.

Cllr Pearce proposed that the Parish Council have the Parish Logo Digitally enhanced to enable this to be of a better quality to use on electronically communication and the Parish Website at a cost of £50. This was agreed by all members.

Action: Cllr Pearce to progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.35pm for refreshments.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.50pm.

19. Parish Website.

The Clerk reported that this was being progressed.

Action: Cllr Pearce and Clerk to action.

20. Christmas Lighting.

Members approved the Christmas lighting for the village for 2017. (Savage/Gatfield).

Action: Clerk to order Christmas tree and lighting.

21. Remembrance Sunday.

Members approved the purchase of a poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday.
Cllr sands stated that he would organise this for the PC and a budget of £50 was approved.

Action: Cllr sands to action.

It was agreed that Cllr Tildesley would attend the church service and lay the Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

22. Land for use as a Burial-Ground.

Cllr Rees circulated a report on the progress of the burial ground to all members.
She stated that the hedging was due to be delivered in November and this would be planted in stages to avoid vandalism.

She spoke regarding the rotavating of the land and circulated a report with two options for this.
This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the quotation from contractor will Ostenton to have the land rotavated at a cost of £1040 for two visits. This was proposed by Cllr Sands, seconded by Cllr Perfect and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to accept quotation.

23. Planning Matters.

Insert

MC/17/3069 Cllr Sands stated that he had concerns about the parking and the change of use of this site. This was discussed, and it was agreed that objections would be raised regarding this on ground of safety and parking.

Cllr Sands reported that Medway Council had approved the planning application for the BAE site.
He spoke regarding the section 106 monies associated with the application and reported that this amounted to £2322000, and he spoke regarding the allocation of this.

He raised concerns that the money had been allocated to projects outside of the Parish. This was discussed, and the Clerk was asked to write to Medway Council to question this.

Action: Clerk to write to Medway Council.

The Chairman stated that he had spoken to Medway Council Planning Officer Dave Harris regarding the Section 106 allocations to seek an allocation towards the Village Hall.

Cllr Sands stated that it was his view that the allocation of Section 106 monies should not be negotiated before the application was considered.

24. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

The financial statement was then proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Gatfield, and agreed by all present.

The approved cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

25. Allotments.

Cllr Perfect reported on the allotments.

The Chairman reported on the quotations received for the new footpath adjacent to the allotments and reported that two quotations had been submitted.

These were reported to members and it was agreed that the quotation for £2895 would be accepted from Unique Landscapes, the Chairman stated that this would be split between the Parish Council and the Hoo institute.

This was proposed by Cllr Rees, seconded by Cllr Gatfield, and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to accept quotation.

26. Urgent Items.

No matters were raised.

27. Date of next meeting.

2nd November 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting to the press and public at 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....