

The Minutes of the meeting of Hoo Parish Council
held on 2 April 2015 in the Red Cross Hall, Stoke Road, at 7.30 pm

Councillors present **Andrews**
 Bhattal
 Counsell
 L Pearce
 M Pearce
 Pratt
 Rees
 Sands
 Tildesley

Also present: Ward Councillor Tony Watson and members of the press and public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Lionel Pearce.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington and Councillors Bamber, Chambers, Gatfield, Hipsey and Perfect

2. Declaration of Interests

Councillor M Pearce – Flanders Farm planning application

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members. These were proposed by Cllr Sands, seconded by Cllr Andrews and agreed by all present.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 19, The Chairman reported that the Clerk was liaising with the company

5. Urgent Matters

No matters were raised

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that due to the election being held on 7 May 2015 the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 14 May 2015.

The Chairman explained that Cllr Tony Watson would not be standing as a Medway Councillor in the forthcoming elections. Cllr Pearce took the opportunity to thank Councillor Watson for all his hard work and support in representing the interests of the village and wished him well for the future. Members showed their appreciation of Cllr Watson with a round of applause.

The Chairman explained that Cllr Bamber would not be standing for the Parish Council. She had served as Parish Councillor for many years and in that time had also served as a Ward Councillor. Cllr Pearce thanked Cllr Bamber for her valuable advice and support over the years and wished her well for the future.

7. Clerks Report

The Clerk's Report was noted and accepted by members. It was noted that John Lawson's Circus would be in the parish from Monday 20 April 2015 to 22 April 2015. The Warden agreed that he would ensure that the gates were opened early to allow the circus access.

8. Police Matters

The Chairman reported that Cllr Gatfield was not available due to sickness and asked whether there were any police related questions and if there were then these would be referred to the police. It was noted that there were none.

There were two PCSO's patrolling the village.

Cllr Gatfield should be informed of all police related matters.

9. Public Question Time

Defibrillator. WI member, Mrs Brenda Murphy reported that fundraising for the defibrillator had raised £3000. A defibrillator had been ordered and would be installed on the outside wall of the Red Cross Hall together with a plaque thanking those who had contributed towards the cost. A training day would be held and members would be invited.

FP 98. A resident reported that there was an 8' gap between the new gate and the hedge along FP98 to the east of Bells Lane. This gap could allow motor bikes through. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Footpaths Officer.

Allotments. An allotment holder queried:-

(i) progress with obtaining costings for the reinstatement of the footpath adjacent to the north boundary of the Allotments. The Chairman explained that Cllr Perfect was awaiting a costing and Cllr Rees advised that she was also awaiting a costing.

(ii) the waiting list for allotments and progress in letting Plot 13.

Operation Enact. A resident asked the Parish Council to discuss Operation Enact with the Police now that the lighter evenings were upon us. She explained that a social media site had advised that a meeting of cars would be held the following day. The Chairman advised her to inform Cllr Gatfield.

The resident also commented on the fact that the police do not appear to be logging calls.

10. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members. It was proposed by Cllr Tildesley to accept this and authorise the cheques, this was seconded by Cllr Pratt and agreed by all present.

11. Grant Applications

No grant applications were considered.

12. Village Hall Lease

Cllr Rees reported that the draft lease prepared by the Parish Council's solicitor was under consideration by the Village Hall Management Committee.

13. Land for use as Burial Ground

Cllr Rees reported that she was awaiting Medway Council's advice on a solution she had put forward for a variation of the planning consent due to the withdrawal of the parking and access facility.

14. Churchyard Path

Cllr Rees reported that the Clerk awaited tenders for this work.

15. Planning Matters

Land West of Hoo. The Chairman reported that a planning meeting of the Medway Council had been held on 1 April 2015 and refused the application for 475 houses for land west of Hoo. It was anticipated that there would be an appeal.

MC/14/3063 – Flanders Farm. The Chairman reported that the site meeting had been held and the planning meeting held on 1 April 2015 had voted to approve this application. This would mean a doubling of the operations at this site.

MC/15/0864 – Land North of Peninsula Way, Main Road, Chattenden. This application related to a development of 131 dwellings - a very similar application to the adjacent application refused for 475 dwellings on land west of Hoo. Cllr Sands had attended the planning meeting on 1 April 2015 with Cllr M Pearce and Cllr Watson and was of the opinion that if the 475 dwellings should be approved on appeal then this application for 131 dwellings would also be approved. It was essential that residents be mobilized again and this application fought as before with objections repeated. Members agreed to object to this application and supported the Chairman's letter of opposition to the application.

MC/15/0952 – Flanders Farm, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo St Werburgh ME3 8QE. The main application had been approved on the 1 April 2015 and members agreed that there was little point in objecting to this application.

16. Highways Matters

This related to the problems caused by the increase in the volume of traffic using Bells Lane. The Chairman had discussed this problem with Catherine Smith at Medway Council who had confirmed that this matter had not been forgotten.

17. Allotments

The Chairman reported that Cllr Perfect had visited the allotments on 1 April 2015 and found them to be in order. (See also item 9 Public Question Time for more allotment matters).

18. Village Signage and information boards.

Cllr M Pearce had circulated a comprehensive report on progress with this matter and highlighted a number of issues that were being resolved. The Chairman thanked Cllr M Pearce for his hard work in progressing this matter.

19. Provision of Disabled and Fitness Equipment.

Cllr Sands reported that installation was scheduled for the end of April 2015. Quotes for the new path are awaited.

20. Recreation Grounds

Cllr Tildesley reported that there were no problems. He was waiting to move the swing and the Clerk is chasing this up. The Warden had the cable and seat from the damaged equipment.

21. Ward Councillors Report

Cllr Tony Watson explained that this was his last report as Ward Councillor and thanked the Chairman for his kind words and for the help and support he had received from the Chairman whilst serving as Ward Councillor.

He went on to describe the proceedings at the Planning Meeting held on the 1 April 2015 and noted that the final Planning meeting would be held on 29 April 2015 and he would try and persuade the other Ward Councillors to attend and speak on behalf of the village's interests.

Cllr Watson reported that he had attended the Health and Social Care meeting recently and described the inspection role of the CQC. Inspections focussed on whether systems were safe, effective and caring and it was noted that inspections would be complete in March 2016.

Cllr Watson explained the procedure for planning appeals.

22. Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly will be held at 7.30 pm on the 16 April 2015 at the Red Cross Hall. The Clerk will invite local organisations to report on activities.

23. Urgent Items

There were none.

24. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 May 2015.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....