

Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held via Zoom on Thursday 5th November 2020 at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: Cutting
Counsell
Fray
Freshwater
Gissing
Pearce
Pratt
Rees
Sands
Savage
Tildesley (arrived late)
Williams
Winstanley

Also: Parish Clerk.

The meeting was chaired by Councillors Williams and Tildesley .

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

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 Rees to accept these as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Savage and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Safe Crossing of Peninsula Way – Section 106 Project.

Cllr Sands confirmed that the Section 106 funds were still in place with Medway Council, but there were no plans to progress this at present. He stated that he would monitor this matter.

Railings outside of Hundred of Hoo School

Cllr Sands stated that the railings outside of the Hundred of Hoo School had now been installed to stop parking on the verges.

It was stated that now that the Sports Centre was closed, their car park was not assessable for school pickup parking.

This was discussed and it was noted that the Sports Centre did not like parent parking in their car park.

Cllr Sands stated that he had been in contact with the School Principal regarding this matter, as there were limited parking places for parents, and this was a matter that was being considered. He stated that there were alternative options that could be explored by the school.

Cllr Tildesley joined the meeting and took over the role as Chairman.

5. Public Question Time.

The Chairman stated that members of the public had joined the meeting, however none had requested to speak. He stated that representations had been received regarding a recent accident at Four Elms Hill and this had been circulated to all members.

He referred to an email received from a parishioner raising matters concerning the incident and the concerns regarding the safety of the A228. This was noted by members who expressed the same concerns.

The Chairman informed members that the Clerk had invited representatives from Medway Council to attend the meeting this evening to speak on the concerns raised, however they had declined to do so, as an investigation was currently taking place. He stated that Medway Council had offered to engage with the Parish Council when the investigation was concluded.

Members expressed their disappointment that Ward Councillor Phil Filmer was not in attendance at the meeting. The clerk confirmed that all Ward Councillors had been invited to attend. They raised concerns that as a result of the accident, HGVs were diverted through the rural lanes as a diversion route, when the country lanes were unsuitable for such traffic.

Cllr Sands referred to historical minutes from the Rural Liaison committee and stated there had been efforts to put a plan in place previously in 2015 and 2017. He stated that he had been in contact with the police regarding this matter and Kelly Tolhurst MP was also willing to take this up with Medway Council.

It was agreed that there needed to be a will from Medway Council and the police to take action regarding this road.

They raised concerns that Medway Council would hide behind the fact that they would have the HIF funding, and there were basic safety issues that needed to be addressed. This was discussed further by members.

The Chairman suggested that a small working party should be set up to look at this issue and liaise with Medway Council. This was discussed by members.

It was agreed that a working party should be set up to look at the options and put the views of the Parish Council to Medway Council. It was further agreed that a letter should be written to the Leader

of Medway Council to request that a meeting was arranged with the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity to jointly discuss these issues.

Action: Clerk to progress.

6. Highway Matters.

Cllr Williams stated that he had travelled along the Ratcliffe Highway and had counted 32 lorries parked on the verges. He stated that in Gillingham, signage in different languages had been used to prohibit parking. He questioned why these could not be used in Hoo.

Cllr Sands stated that he had been in contact with Medway Council regarding this, and they were currently trialing the prohibition of parking on road verges, he said that he had now written to see if this trial could be used on Stoke Road and the Ratcliffe Highway.

He stated that he had also been in contact with Ward Cllr Phil Filmer to see if facilities could be put in place if the lorries continued to park there, as the Management Company were not interested in assisting. He stated that this was now becoming a major problem that did need to be addressed.

7. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

8. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk reported that the cooption notice for the Councillor Vacancy had now been displayed, and therefore applications could now be considered for cooption at the December 2020 Parish Council meeting.

9. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that a meeting with Medway Council was due to take place to discuss the Hillcrest access onto Kings Hill Recreation Ground, however this meeting had been cancelled at short notice and would be rearranged.

He stated that he had now asked Medway Council Officer Dave Harris to attend the meeting too.

This was discussed, and the Chairman spoke regarding the £23,000 in Section 106 funding that was jointly allocated to Kings Hill Recreation Ground and the Burial Ground. He stated that investment was needed at the Recreation Ground to bring the facilities up to date for the new residents and users, and the Section 106 funds allocated was not adequate for this upgrade.

He stated that this matter had been discussed with Dave Harris at a meeting in March 2020, and the allocation did not reflect the Section 106 funds first discussed with Dave Harris.

Cllr Sands spoke regarding the request for access onto the Recreation Ground, and the maintenance of the fence which was now under question as there was a risk that the developer may remove the fence.

The Chairman stated that the palisade fencing that was erected at Kings Hill Recreation Ground approximately four years ago, as a safety issue, and at the time the adjacent land owner had assisted by clearing the vegetation on his land, to enable the fence to be erected. He stated that the responsibility for the fence was in question, and he had now sent a scanned copy of the deeds to Medway Council to prove ownership of the fence.

This matter was discussed, and it was agreed that should the Parish Council agree to the access, then it should also seek some compensation from the developer.

In the meantime, it was agreed that the Parish Council should seek legal representation to set out the Parish Council position regarding this matter. It was agreed that Cllr Sands would liaise with a solicitor and report back to the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Sands to progress.

10. **Clerks Report.**

The Clerks Report was noted.

11. **Monthly Financial Statement.**

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

This was proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Fray, and agreed by all present.

Cllr Sands spoke regarding Section 106 funding that should be forthcoming from Medway Council for projects within Hoo. He stated that the Parish Council should monitor these to ensure that they were not lost.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the forthcoming Finance Audit and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Action: Clerk to include on FA&GP Committee Agenda.

12. **Environmental Matters.**

Cllr Winstanley reported that the bridal path at the top end of Bells Lane had been destroyed by contractors, and was now impassible. She stated that she had reported this to MC Officer, Adam Taylor and was awaiting action.

Cllr Savage gave her apologies and left the meeting at 8pm.

13. **Planning Matters.**

Cllr Sands reported on planning related matters.

MC/20/2296 Flanders Farm, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester
Change in use of land for the stationing and storage of 24 rural worker caravans, for the erection of a recreational hall for use by farm workers, the erection of two smoking shelters and provision of associated hardstanding, drainage and landscaping (an update to application MC/19/1980).

No objections.

MC/20/2373 Hoo St Werburgh Primary School and Marlborough Centre
Variation of condition 2 on planning permission MC/19/3288 to allow for a minor material amendment removing proposed parapet roof.

No objections.

- MC/20/2379 Mill Farm, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester
Prior Notification under Schedule 2 Part 6 Class A/B/E of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for construction of a barn.
No objections.
- MC/20/2665 Mill House, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway
Construction of a two-storey extension to side/rear.
No objections.
- MC/20/2666 Mill House, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway
Listed building consent for demolishing the two single storey extensions to side and rear.
No objections.
- MC/20/2574 3 Newitt Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway
Construction of 2 storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear.
No objections.
- MC/20/2747 Nullisec, Main Road, Chattenden, Rochester, Medway
Construction of a single storey side/rear extension - demolition of existing conservatories and side projection.
No objections.

14. Hoo Surgery Update.

Cllr Williams circulated a report on the meeting that he, Cllr Sands and Cllr Freshwater had attended with Dr Mukherjee, regarding the new management of St Werburgh Surgery.

Cllr Freshwater confirmed that he was working on a follow up letter to Alan Jarrett, in response to his letter to the PC regarding the surgery.

Cllr Pratt expressed her concerns regarding the way the doctor's surgery had been run in the past.

15. Ward Councillors Report.

Medway Councillor Ron Sands gave his report to the meeting.

He stated that he had been in contact with Detective Constable Robinson regarding the recent accident at Four Elms Hill and stated that he would circulate the correspondence to members for information.

He reported that the yellow lines were due to be painted outside of Hoo Marina.

He stated that the Hundred of Hoo Principle was keen to engage with the Parish Council regarding his plans for the school. This was discussed and it was agreed that he should be invited to attend a future meeting of the PC.

16. Neighbourhood Plan Report.

CLlr Cutting gave a report on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

17. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 3rd December 2020.

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

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....