

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in the Red Cross Hall, Stoke Road, Hoo on Thursday 7th October 2015 at 7.30pm.

***Councillors present: Chambers
Counsell
Gatfield
Hipsey
L Pearce
Sands
Sheppard
Singleton
Williams***

Also: Parish Clerk and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor L Pearce.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received Cllr Andrews, Rees, Pratt, Tildesley, M Pearce and Perfect.

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 Williams to accept these as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Chambers and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Police Matters – The Chairman informed members that he had raised the matter of drug use in the Parish with the police at the recent Rural Liaison Meeting.

He reported that a letter had been sent to the police as agreed at the last meeting and this had been copied to the Police Commander. He spoke regarding the policing of the area and the recent press reports regarding the future financing for policing.

Cllr Gatfield spoke regarding the gates at the Seawall and confirmed that this had also been raised with the police.

5. Urgent Matters.

Cllr Chambers – Crab apples covering pavement near Bells Lane.

The Chairman stated that this was the responsibility of Medway Council and this was a problem throughout the Parish. He advised Cllr Chambers to report this to Medway Council.

Cllr Sheppard informed the meeting that she had applied for a dog waste bin for the area through Medway Council but they have not responded to this request. The Chairman advised her to follow this up and report it on their website.

6. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave a report on the recent Rural Liaison Committee Meeting he had attended. He stated that he had been disappointed regarding police attendance as the meeting had been attended by a PCSO rather than a Sergeant.

He stated that he had made the Police aware of his concerns in the letter sent by the Parish Council

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerks Report was noted and accepted by members.

Speed Watch – Members discussed correspondence received from Ward Councillor Freshwater regarding the Speed Watch Scheme. This was discussed and the Parish Council agreed not to pursue this.

8. Police Report.

Cllr Gatfield gave a report to members.

She reported that the Police had been monitoring parking outside of schools and stated that this was a problem in the area.

She reported that there were problems with parking on corners in Knights Road. The Chairman suggested that Medway Council could be asked to send a camera vehicle to monitor the area.

9. Public Question Time.

A resident attended the meeting to ask the Parish Council who was responsible for the flower beds in the Village Centre. He stated that these were in need of planting.

It was stated that this task was the responsibility of Medway Council.

It was reported that the weeds were encroaching on the footpath in Stoke Road and needed to be cut back.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Medway Council.

The resident raised concerns regarding some canisters being stored in the car park of The Bell Public House. The Chairman stated that he thought that these were helium canisters; however he would liaise with the Pub Landlord regarding this matter.

Action: Chairman to progress.

10. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

The Chairman spoke regarding the outstanding payment for Safeplay for the sum of £72.30. He informed members that this payment had previously been queried and he felt that the payment was reasonable as the contractor had attended the site. This matter was discussed and it was agreed to release the outstanding payment.

It was also agreed to authorise an additional cheque, number 645 for the sum of £320 payable to Green Property Maintenance for payment.

The financial statement was then proposed by Cllr Pearce, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by all present.

The approved cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

11. Auditors Report.

The Audit Report and Completion Certificate for the 2014/15 Accounts were noted by members.

12. Grant Applications.

No applications were received or considered.

13. Land for use as a Burial-Ground.

The Chairman read out a report on the progress of the burial ground planning application to all members on behalf of Cllr Rees. Cllr Williams stated that he had received complaints that the new proposed burial ground was infested with rats. This matter was discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman would seek advice from Medway Council on how to deal with this problem.

Action: Chairman to progress.

14. Churchyard Pathway.

On behalf of Cllr Rees the Chairman stated that this matter was still ongoing.

15. Planning Matters.

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| MC/15/2981 | 24 WYLIE ROAD, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9EE <u>No Objection</u>
Engineering works to facilitate the construction of a single storey side/rear and single storey side extension together with retaining wall and relocation of steps to rear (demolition of existing side projection) |
| MC/15/3018 | YELSTEAD, MAIN ROAD, CHATTENDEN, ROCHESTER, ME3 8PP <u>No Objection</u>
Construction of an extension to existing outbuilding to form a garden room with a new patio area |
| MC/15/3104 | LAND NORTH OF PENINSULA WAY MAIN ROAD CHATTENDEAN ROCHESTER KENT
Outline application with some reserved matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) for residential development of up to 131 dwellings, landscaping, public open space and associated works (Resubmission MC15/0864) <u>Objection sent</u> |
| MC/15/3246 | 15 ARMYTAGE CLOSE, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9AP <u>No Objection</u>
Construction of a single storey side extension - Demolition of garage |

Village Hall Lease - The Chairman informed members that the lease was progressing; Cllr Rees was looking into a problem with the car parking at the Village Hall site and was awaiting a response from the Village Hall Management Committee.

16. Allotments.

No matters were reported.

17. Parish Surgeries.

The Chairman stated that this item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Cllr Sands and he invited him to speak on this matter.

Cllr Sands suggested that the Parish Council consider holding regular Parish Surgeries attended by two Parish Councillors. He stated that it was important that residents had access to Parish Councillors as he felt that many were unaware of the role of the Parish Council and that the agenda included an item for Public Participation.

This was discussed by Members and it was agreed that the Parish Surgeries were a good idea; however in the first instance the Parish Council should advertise the Public Participation item on the agenda in Village Voices to try to encourage public attendance at PC meetings.

Action: Chairman to progress.

Cllr Sands spoke regarding the need to have a relationship with residents and stated that Parish Surgeries were the ideal way to do this. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Village Library to see whether they would allow the Parish Council to hold Surgeries there should this be progressed.

Action: Clerk to progress.

18. Village Signage.

No matters were reported.

19. Provision of Disabled and Adult Fitness Equipment.

Disabled Play Equipment – Cllr Sands reported that this matter was now being progressed by Kelly Tolhurst.

Adult Fitness Equipment – The Clerk reported that she was seeking quotations for the signage as requested.

20. Recreation Grounds.

The Chairman spoke regarding Kings Hill Recreation Ground and the discussions that took place at the previous meeting regarding improvements to this area.

The Chairman suggested that if members were to consider improvements to the play facilities at Kingshill Recreation Ground then it ought to be formally agreed. Unanimously agreed.

Discussion then took place by members after which it was proposed by Cllr Sands to set a budget of £15,000 to undertake this work seconded by Cllr Singleton and agreed by all present.

It was further agreed that a Sub Committee be set up to progress this project which would consist of Councillors Sands, Singleton, Williams and Tildesley.

Delegated authority was therefore approved for the Sub Committee to progress this project.

22. Ward Councillors Report.

No matters were reported.

23. Urgent Items.

No matters were raised.

24. Date of next meeting.

5th November 2015.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....