

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo on Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 7.30pm.

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

Also: Parish Clerk, Ward Councillor Roy freshwater, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Tildesley.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews, Savage and Counsell.

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 Hipsey to accept these as a true record following clarification of a matter raised by Cllr Rees, this was seconded by Cllr Gatfield 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.

No matters were raised.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk informed members that two applications had been received for the Parish Councillor vacancy, she circulated their details to all present.

Both applicants were present at the meeting and the Chairman invited them to give a short talk on their reasons for wanting to join the Parish Council.

The applications from Jean Fray and Elaine Cutting were considered by members and it was agreed that a vote by ballot would be held to determine who would fill the vacancy.

Voting papers were circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk, and the Chairman asked members to vote for the applicant that they wished to be cooped onto the Parish Council.

Members cast their vote and the voting papers were then collected and counted by Cllr Williams and verified by the Clerk.

The vote was cast in favour of the Co-option of Jean Fray onto the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked both candidates for their interest in the vacancy and welcomed Jean Fray onto the Parish Council.

The Clerk passed Co-option papers to Jean Fray who confirmed that she would sign these at the next PC meeting.

7. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave a report to members.

He reported that he and Cllr Williams had attended a meeting with the Surveyor undertaking the Feasibility Study for the Village Hall, he reported that this should be completed within the next month. He confirmed that the initial opinion was that a new village hall was needed.

Cllr Williams spoke regarding the grant opportunities available for Village Hall projects.

Cllr Pratt gave a report of the recent KALC meeting that she and Cllr Chambers had attended.

She reported that vandalism was a problem on the whole of the Peninsula and she reported on the activities of other local Parish Councils.

8. Clerks Report.

The Clerks Report was noted and accepted by members.

9. Ward Councillors Report.

Ward Councillor Roy Freshwater gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on a meeting that he had held with the police and their funding and he confirmed that the rumours regarding the closure of the doctor's surgery were untrue.

He reported on the progress of the BAE site development and stated that the demolition had started. He spoke regarding the problem with mud on the road and stated that this was currently being addressed by Medway Council.

Councillor Freshwater spoke regarding an outline planning application for Greenfields, off Chattenden Lane, seeking permission for 500 houses. He stated that he felt that this site was a rural feature and the proposals should be objected to. He urged residents to rise objections to this planning application.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Freshwater for his report.

10. Police Report.

Cllr Gatfield reported on police matters.

She stated that there had been a problem with boxes of meat being dumped in the parish and this matter had been reported to the police and Medway Council.

She reported that the problem with graffiti around the village had now escalated to rocks being thrown through windows. She confirmed that the police had been notified of the problems and they were dealing with this.

It was reported that youths were setting fires in the Recreation Grounds and evidence of drug taking had been found in the infants play area. Cllr Gatfield stated that these problems had been reported to the police.

The Chairman reported that a response to the letter to the police had been received from the police and Kelly Tolhurst MP and he reported on this.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that the Police Crime Commissioner would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

11. Public Question Time.

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns about regular fly tipping that occurred each week on the verge near The Stables. She stated that the residents frequently placed rubbish for collection that could not be taken away and as a consequence it was left on the verge.

This was discussed, and it was noted that this was on Medway Council land. It was therefore agreed that this matter should be raised with Medway Council.

Action: Clerk to progress.

A resident spoke regarding the traffic monitoring on Four Elms Hill and stated that there were now rubber strips across the road.

A resident attended the meeting to ask when the footpath work would take place next to the allotments.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would be progressing this and all allotment holders would be informed before this was started.

A resident spoke regarding the antisocial behaviour in the village, he stated that he was willing to start a private security firm to deal with this and patrol the parish. He stated that the cost of this would be in the region of £400000 a year and he suggested that the Parish Council could finance this by including this in its budget.

The Chairman thanked the resident for his report and suggestion and stated that members had noted this.

12. Finger Posts.

Cllr Pearce stated that he had looked into the options for finger posts in the village centre.

He reported that the cost would be in the region of £310 for the post and £184 for each sign, an overall cost of approximately £1500 plus installation costs.

Cllr Perfect suggested that additional signs were needed to identify the location of the Public Conveniences, Car Park, churches, and the sports centre.

Cllr Rees asked whether this cost would be effective. Cllr Tildesley suggested that Cllr Andrews was approached to see whether he could assist and whether the existing post could be utilised for the additional finger signs.

Action: Cllr Tildesley to liaise with Cllr Andrews.

13. Public Conveniences.

Members agreed that this matter would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and they would then make a recommendation to the Full Council.

Cllr Rees stated that if Medway Council were to transfer these over to the Parish Council then they would need to be in a good condition, as at present this was not the case.

It was agreed that the PC would seek to ensure that they were refurbished before the it would consider taking over the responsibility for these.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.35pm for refreshments.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.45pm.

14. CCTV.

It was agreed that this item would be removed from the agenda.

15. Recreation Grounds.

Cllr Pearce reported that the new trees would be planted at Kingshill Recreation Ground in the future as this project was ongoing.

He reported that he had planted spring bulbs in the Horse Trough and planters.

It was agreed that supplies would be ordered for the dog bin dispenser

Action: Clerk to action.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Warden had undertaken work at the Recreation Grounds to remove the overgrown vegetation.

He reported that the contractor had turfed the area where the bench had been removed at Pottery Road Recreation Ground, however this had been vandalised.

16. Recreation Ground Border Plan.

This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

17. Parish Website.

The Clerk reported that the website was now up and running.

Action: Cllr Pearce and Clerk to action.

18. Land for use as a Burial-Ground.

Cllr Rees reported that the rotavating had been undertaken at the burial ground and the next step was to sow the wild flower seeds.

She stated that the hedging was due to be delivered on 17th November and this would be planted in stages.

19. Planning Matters.

MC/17/3594 181 BELLS LANE, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9JA
Construction of a first-floor extension to side/rear - resubmission MC/17/2319.

MC 17 3097 1 FOURWENTS ROAD
Change of use from retail shop (A1) to hot food take away (A5).

Cllr Sands reported that concerns had been raised by residents regarding the additional parking and this would be monitored.

MC/17/3685 9 ARMYTAGE CLOSE, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9AP
Construction of a single storey rear extension.

MC/17/3416 12 BROADWOOD ROAD, CHATTENDEN, ROCHESTER, ME3 8LU
Construction of a two storey extension to side; single storey extension to rear; porch to front; extension to existing vehicle crossover and repave and extension to driveway.

Bellway Homes

It was reported that complaints had been received regarding the amount of mud and dust being generated by the works on site, as the machinery was being used for ten hours a day. Cllr Sands stated that this had been reported to Medway Councils Planning Officers.

Cllr Sands reported that a cafe had appeared at the Hoo Marina without planning permission and he had reported this to Medway Council.

Cllr Shepperd raised queries regarding the work being undertaken at the Quarry and Cllr Sands confirmed that the work would be undertaken out of order.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Planning Hearing for the Goatham Plant and Cllr Sands confirmed that he would be attending this to support High Halstow Parish Council.

Cllr Williams spoke regarding the Local Plan and stated that Medway Council had been asked to build an additional 8000 houses in Medway on top of the amount already in the Plan.

20. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

Members approved additional cheques as follows:

Royal British Legion - £60.00
M Pearce reimbursement for spring bulbs - £39.95

The financial statement was then proposed by Cllr Chambers, seconded by Cllr Rees, and agreed by all present.

The approved cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

Cllr Williams asked for approval to purchase some wet weather clothing for the Parish Warden at a cost of £32.00 plus vat. This was approved.

21. 2018/2019 Budget.

It was agreed that the draft budget would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee who would make a recommendation to the Full Council at the next meeting.

Action: F&GP Meeting to be arranged.

22. Allotments.

Cllr Perfect reported on the allotments.

She reported that the water pressure at the allotments was a problem and she felt that there may be a leak. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise with Southern Water.

Action: Clerk to Action.

Cllr Perfect reported that there was a dangerous tree on Parish Council land that needed to be removed. It was agreed that a Tree Warden would be appointed to remove the tree.

Action: Tree Warden to be appointed to remove tree.

23. Urgent Items.

Cllr Pearce circulated the new upgraded PC Logo to members and this was approved.

24. Date of next meeting.

7th December 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting to the press and public at 9.26pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....