

Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in Hoo Village Hall on Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7.00pm.

Councillor's present: Cutting
Freshwater
Pearce
Sands
Savage
Styles
Tildesley
Winstanley

Also: Parish Clerk and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Sands .

1. Apologies.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Counsell, Perfect, Williams, Gissing, Pratt, Fray, and Rees.

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

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

a. Parish Christmas Tree.

Following the decision made at the last meeting, the PC has written to MC and Norse to seek their permission to plant a tree in the Village Centre near the shops.

The Clerk reported permission had now been given to plant the tree at the agreed location. This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Cutting would seek an updated quotation and further details regarding the planting timescales.

Action: Cllr Cutting/Clerk to action.

b. Parish Tour.

It was agreed that the Parish Tour would be arranged for one evening in May from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The Clerk reported that the cost of hiring a coach and driver for two hours would be £225, using a local company.

This cost was approved.

The Clerk stated that dates would be circulated for members to agree, and an itinerary would be circulated prior to the tour, and members were asked to let the Clerk know if they had any specific areas that they wished to visit.

c. Village Hall.

Cllr Styles reported that the VHMC had now contacted him and let him know about the dates of the future Management Committee meetings.

d. Safe Crossing of Bells Lane.

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had been requested, and she was awaiting a date from Medway Council Officer David Warner, and answers regarding the Section 106 allocation for a safe crossing of Bells Lane.

e. Parish Council Email Addresses.

The Clerk reported that most members had now been issued with a Parish Council email address and instructions on how to use this.

5. Public Comments.

A resident raised concerns regarding the current poor condition of the ponds at Chattenden and asked who was responsible for these, he stated that they currently had algae growing in them.

The Chairman stated he understood that Cllrs Rees and Fray had attended a site meeting to discuss these, and he asked the Clerk to seek an update on the site visit.

Action: Clerk to action.

A Resident from the Peninsula Crescent Residents Association attended the meeting to speak regarding issues relating to Island Park Medway, the former Port Werburgh Park.

He spoke regarding the Parish Councils recent letter to Kent Fire and Rescue asking for the Emergency Plan of Island Park Medway to be reviewed, and their response to this stating that it was satisfactory. He stated that he did not agree with their view and spoke regarding an incident at the site that proved that it was not satisfactory.

The Chairman stated that he would continue to assist where possible as a Ward Councillor, however there was little more that the PC could do.

The resident thanked the Parish Council for their support on the issues raised.

The resident spoke about a project he was involved in starting up a Peninsula Mens Shed Project. He explained about this project and asked the PC if there were any funding opportunities from the Parish Council.

The Chairman advised him to apply for a grant and asked the Clerk to send him a grant form.

Action: Clerk to action.

6. Urgent Matters.

Cllr Freshwater raised concerns about the Blood Donation Service no longer coming to the Village Hall location due to youths causing issues at the site.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council should try to encourage the service back to the Parish.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Blood Donation Service to establish their long-term plans, and whether they would be returning to the village, either at the village hall, or at another location.

Action: Clerk to action.

7. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

This was proposed by Cllr Tildesley, seconded by Cllr Freshwater, and agreed by all present.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Parish Councils level of reserves and suggested that the PC should review its policy on this.

This was agreed.

Cllr Freshwater spoke regarding the public conveniences in the village centre and asked if these could be transferred to the Parish Council.

Cllr Sands briefed members on the history of these, and the need for the public conveniences to be refurbished before the PC considered this further.

8. Clerks Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted and approved by members.

1. June PC Meeting Date.

The June PC meeting will now be held a week later on Thursday 9th June 2022 as the original date clashed with the June Bank Holiday.

2. Presentation to the PC by MC.

Medway Council will be attending the May PC meeting to present the Parish Council with further information on SEMS and the species that they have found and further details regarding highways.

The PC meeting will be held from 7pm to 8pm and Medway council will follow with their presentation at 8.15pm until 9pm.

3. Reminder – Hire of Kingshill Recreation Ground from Football ‘4’ all.

Easter holidays for Monday 11,12,13th April

Time: 9-12am

Insurance details and Risk Assessment have been received from the hirer.

Members approved a further request from Football ‘4’ all to use the recreation ground on 30th,31st May and 1st June.

9. Chairman’s Report.

The Chairman reported on the following:

Diffusion Tubes

He stated that 20 diffusion tubes had been placed in various locations around the parish for a period of one month. The analysis results revealed that four locations were above the legal limit and three were close to this.

He suggested that in order to have comparable results, the project should be repeated quarterly to complete a full annual assessment, the results could then be used by the PC when responding to planning applications.

Cllr Freshwater spoke in further detail about the results and suggested that the PC should invite Medway Council to undertake a joint project with the PC.

This was proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Tildesley, and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk/Chairman to action.

The Chairman reported that a small Working Party had been set to and met to discuss the Section 106 funds for Green Spaces, and in particular the report put together by Fiona Leadley in February 21.

He stated that the Working Party agreed with the improvements outlined in the report and the next step was to meet with Fiona Leadley to progress this.

He outlined to improvements that had been put forward and these were agreed by members.

Yew Tree Lodge

The Chairman reported that this planning application had been approved by the Medway Council Planning Committee at its meeting on 6th April. He spoke about the controversial decision by the Committee to approve it by the Chairman’s casting vote.

This was discussed by members.

PCC Grant

The Chairman read a letter of thanks from the Church for the grant of £1520 from the Parish Council.

10. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Jubilee Celebrations Committee.

The Jubilee Committee circulated a report outlining their plans for the Jubilee celebrations in the Parish.

The report was discussed and agreed by members.

b. Environment committee.

It was agreed that an Environment Committee meeting would be arranged to discuss the Wardens work schedule and the new work system.

Action: Clerk to circulate a date for the meeting.

11. Parish Council Policies.

a. Metal Detecting Policy

It was agreed at the previous meeting that the PC would consider a Policy for Metal Detecting in the Parish. Since then, it has been established that Medway council does not permit this on their land for the following reasons:

MC Stance:

We currently do not allow any metal detecting on council land; this is a policy as some of our woodlands have an ancient classification and activity may cause disturbance to sensitive areas of grassland or woodland where dormant plant could be dug up and wildlife disturbed.

This could also become a H&S issue if holes are left unfilled and we could be liable if there is an incident.

In light of this, members were asked to reconsider its view on permitting metal detecting on PC land.

This was discussed and it was agreed that metal detecting would not be permitted on any Parish Council land. (Williams/Cutting)

b. Parish Council Policies.

The Clerk informed members that a full review of Parish Council Policies was due to take place and the policies had been circulated to members by email to start this process.

12. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

MC/22/0519 Land Adj to Hoath Lodge, Chattenden Lane, Chattenden
Construction of 4x bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking and detached outbuilding to rear.

Action: PC Objections

MC/22/0626 25 Rochester Crescent, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway
Construction of a single storey extension to rear - demolition of existing conservatory.

No objections.

MC/22/0475 Net Tex Industries, Hoo Marina Industrial Estate, Vicarage Lane, Hoo
Construction of two replacement industrial units B2/B8/E with associated landscaping and using existing access.

Action: PC Objections

MC/22/0644 57 Chattenden Lane, Chattenden, Rochester, Medway, ME3 8LE
Construction of a single storey front and side extension.

No objections.

MC/22/0697 1 Dunnock Drive, Chattenden, Rochester, Medway, ME3 8FY

Construction of a single storey extension to side and rear with rooflight with internal alterations.

No objections.

MC/22/0756 1 Walters Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway, ME3 9JR

Construction of a single storey extension to front/ rear and two storey extension to the side.

No objections.

MC/22/0794 151 Bells Lane, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway, ME3 9JA

Construction of an additional vehicular crossover to front.

No objections.

MC/21/0979 Kingsnorth Power Station, Power Station Access Road, Hoo

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access (to be taken from Eschol Road) for the construction of flexible EG (iii)/B2/B8 use class buildings, sui generis uses for energy uses and a lorry park, together with servicing, parking, landscaping, drainage, remediation, demolition, and earthworks.

Action: PC Objections

b. Other Planning Matters.

No matters were raised.

13. Neighbourhood Plan Report.

Cllr Cutting reported on the work of the NHP Group.

She reported on the finances of the NHP and stated that they may need to seek financial assistance from the Parish Council.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the NHP Group should submit a grant application to the PC.

Action: Clerk to forward grant application to the NHP Group.

14. Ward Councillors Report.

Cllr Sands gave his Ward Councillor Report, and covered the following:

- Update on the work of Medway Council.
- Future Hoo Consultation.

15. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5th May 2022 @ 7pm.

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