

Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held via Zoom on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7.00pm.

***Councillor's present: Counsell
Cutting
Fray
Freshwater
Pearce
Perfect
Pratt
Rees
Sands
Savage
Styles
Tildesley
Williams
Winstanley***

Also: Parish Clerk, Chris Fryer, Quarry Manager Kingsnorth.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Tildesley .

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Gissing.

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 Savage to accept these as a true record, subject to an agreed amendment. This was seconded by Cllr Styles and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Cllr Savage asked about the progress of the Cabs for Jobs Scheme, assisting residents in travel for their Covid vaccination.

Cllr Williams stated that this was still running, the group had collected £8884, and to date 708 trips had taken place, at a cost of £6653. He stated that they still needed to raise approximately £1100, and the remaining funds were being reserved for second Covid vaccinations.

Cllr Savage proposed that a thank you letter was sent behalf of the Parish Council. This was agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Perfect spoke regarding an issue with motorbikes on the Sea Wall. She stated that she had witnessed 10 motorbikes along Abbots Road and had called the police, but they were sent out too late. Cllr Sands suggested that the Police Inspector was invited to a future meeting. This was agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to invite police to attend a future meeting.

Cllr Sands stated that he reported an incident where a gentleman was questioning residents about their dogs. He stated that the police had acted upon this report and as a result the man was arrested.

5. Public Comments.

Chris Fryer, Quarry Manager for Kingsnorth attended the meeting to give members an update on the work at the quarry.

He spoke regarding the work undertaken at the quarry and the Archaeological Survey that was being carried out. He stated that at present work had been suspended due to Covid, but the Archaeologists were due to return to dig the area in the near future.

He stated that he hoped to resume the Liaison Meetings this year, where he would share aerial photos with the Parish Council.

He confirmed that Phase 1 was now back to nature and would be handed back in the next year or two.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fryer for his report.

6. Urgent Items.

Cllr Perfect reported the following issues;

- Issue with flooding at Pottery Road Recreation Ground that seem to be caused by the ditches at the perimeter of the recreation ground not being maintained.

The Chairman stated that he and the Warden had inspected the ditches at Pottery Road and at present they were dry. He suggested that these were inspected after wet weather. In the meantime, he and the Warden would visit to the area and liaise with the residents regarding the situation.

- Potholes on the entrance road to the car park of Kingshill Recreation Ground.

The Chairman stated that the road entrance to the Rrecreation Ground was not the Parish Council's responsibility, and the matter should be reported to Medway Council. He asked the Clerk to follow this up.

Action: Clerk to progress.

7. Public Question Time.

No matters were raised.

8. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

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

b. Grant Application.

The Clerk stated that this item had been added to the agenda as there are currently grants available and Cllr Cutting had suggested that the Parish Council should consider this.

Cllr Cutting stated that she did feel that grants for a skate park should be pursued if funds were available.

Cllr Sands stated that the only option for a skate park would be Kingshill Recreation Ground, as Pottery Road was at capacity.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the Public Consultation due to take place for the Recreation Grounds would identify improvements that could be made.

9. Chairman's Report.

No matters were raised.

10. Clerks Report.

The Clerks report was noted by members.

Approval was sought for the Smiths Fun Fair to use Pottery Road Recreation Ground for a family fun fair from the 4th of May.

This was discussed and it was agreed provided that the fun fair was Covid compliant and social distancing regulations were followed.

Action: Clerk to respond to Smith's Family Fun Fair.

11. Neighbourhood Plan Report.

Cllr Cutting reported on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

She stated that the Neighbourhood Plan Group had requested maps from Medway Council over a month ago, and to date they had only received half of these.

She stated that the advert in the Village Voices had been delayed for a month, and the advert would therefore be placed in the May edition of the magazine.

She reported that work continued on the Neighbourhood Plan, and it was currently working towards Screening and Regulation 14.

12. Finance, Audit and General Purposes Committee Report.

The minutes from the recent Finance, Audit and General Purposes Committee meeting were circulated to all members with a recommend to approve the circulated Value for Money Report regarding the Part Time Warden, and progress with the appointment of a Part Time Warden.

Cllr Williams proposed that this matter be discussed as a Confidential Item, excluding the press and public.

This was agreed.

13. Environmental Committee Report.

The minutes from the Environment Committee were circulated to all members with a recommendation covering the Burial Ground. This were considered as follows:

Burial Ground

The recommendations put forward for the Burial Ground were approved by members.

14. Planning Matters.***a. Applications Received.***

MC/21/0568 156 Knights Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway, ME3 9BY
Construction of single storey extensions to front and rear, and two storey extension to side.

No objections.

MC/21/0144 2 Knights Close, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway, ME3 9DR
Change of use of amenity land to residential to facilitate construction of a hardstanding and vehicular crossover to front.

No objections.

MC/20/3329 4 Elm Tree Cottages, Chattenden Lane, Chattenden, Rochester
Construction of a 3 bedroomed detached dwelling with associated off-street parking to front.

No objections.

MC/20/2584 Hillcrest, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway
Details pursuant to conditions 20 (boundary treatment) and 21 (access within southern boundary) of planning permission MC/19/3328 - Construction of 21 dwellings including affordable housing, together with access, parking, landscaping, and infrastructure works.

This planning application was discussed for the proposed access onto the Parish Councils Recreation Ground.

Cllr Sands referred to meetings that are taken place between the Parish Council, the Developer and Medway Council, and he suggested that the Parish Council should not consider this matter any further until a clear plan and access gate design had been submitted to the Parish Council for formal consideration.

This was discussed and agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to respond to Planning Officer and Bellway as agreed.

MC/21/0658 Amazon, Unit 1A , London Medway Commercial Park
Retrospective application for temporary installation of three marquees until 31 December 2021.

No objections.

MC/21/0206 25 Church Street, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Medway, ME3 9AH
Construction of a detached single storey building for use as B8 rented storage to rear - demolition of existing outbuildings.

No objections.

MC/21/0084 Old NatWest Building, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester
Two illuminated signs.

Cllr Sands stated that this new application of been submitted for two illuminated signs on the front and side of the building. This was discussed by members and it was agreed that this would be a distraction to motorists, and it was close to the crossing point of the road.

It was therefore agreed that an objection would be submitted from the Parish Council due to road safety concerns.

Objections.

Deangate Sports Ground

Cllr Sands referred to the following report from the Planning Committee:

The Planning Committee discussed the sports and youth facilities in the parish and how these could be improved.

Deangate Sports Ground was discussed, and it was agreed that this could be better managed to meet the needs of Hoo and Peninsula residents. The possibility of the Parish Council taking over the lease for this was discussed by the Committee.

It was noted that this was a matter that was also being considered by the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Group.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should explore options regarding the future management of the Deangate Sports Ground and that this should be put to the Parish Council for consideration.

Since the Planning Committee met it has now been established that the Deangate Community Partnership are currently looking into this matter, and the Parish Council has been advised to wait the outcome of their negotiations with Medway Council before considering this any further.

The above report was noted, and Cllr Sands stated that the meeting with Medway Council was due to take place on 22nd April 2021.

Joint Working with High Halstow PC

Cllr Sands referred to a Planning Report circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting, and a recommendation to work jointly with High Halstow Parish Council as follows:

The Parish Councils Planning Committee also considered the potential and proposed development in the area and the impact this would have on the Hoo Peninsula and the Parish. It was noted that the Parish Council had already considered looking at these matters jointly with other local parish councils, however to date this had not been progressed.

This was discussed further by the Planning Committee and it was agreed that a joint approach when dealing with substantial planning matters would be stronger than parish councils submitting individual comments. It was therefore agreed that collaboration and working jointly with neighbouring parish councils would be beneficial to residents of the parish.

Councillor Sands has since discussed this with High Halstow Parish Council, and we have received an email and confirmation that they are willing to work jointly with the Parish Council and meet with two representatives to take this forward.

Recommendation to the Full Council - That this matter be progressed and two representatives from the Parish Council meet with High Halstow Parish Council to discuss joint working.

The recommendation was considered and agreed by the PC. (Sands/Williams)

It was agreed that Cllrs Sands, Freshwater and Williams would meet with High Halstow Parish Council representatives when they had been appointed by High Halstow PC.

15. Ward Councillors report.

Cllr Sands gave his report to members, he reported on the following:

- Deangate Sports Ground.
- Traffic Assessment for the HIF Bid.

16. Date of next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 6th May 2021.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting to the press. and public at 20.55pm.