

Minute Ref HPC11/22

**HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held**

**on the 14th December 2022 at 7.00pm in Bluebells Centre Hothfield**

**1.Note of Persons Present:** Cllr Lloyd, (Chairman) Cllr Merrion (Vice Chairman), Cllr Cox, Mrs M Norris, Clerk to the Council.

No members of the public were in attendance.

**2.Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sutcliffe, Cllr Cook, Cllr Brock & Cllr Pollock prior to the meeting, and agreed by the Chairman. ABC Cllr Bell was unable to attend due to illness.

**3. Declarations of Cllrs Interest in items on the Agenda:**

There were no items of interest declared.

**4. Public discussion and Parishioners questions.**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**5. Acceptance of Last Meeting & Matters arising.**

The minutes were agreed. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Cox

Seconded: Cllr Merrion

Matters Arising: The clerk advised that she had heard from the council regarding the matter of replacing fencing at a residential property. The council had confirmed that unless the fencing is on a boundary with a public highway the fence is the responsibility of each individual tenant and this is stated in the Tenancy agreement that is received by the individual on occupation.

**7. Planning & Enforcement**

**PA/2022/2685            4 Beech Drive, Hothfield, TN26 1EA**  
**Proposed two storey side extension.**

Following discussion between HPC members and given that no comments had been submitted either to the PC directly or to the planning department via the online portal by local residents it was agreed that HPC would support the application.

## **8. Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Bell was unable to attend the meeting in person and no report had been submitted

## **9. Financial Reports**

The bank reconciliation as of 13th November 2022 was £ 64,872.36

The following accounts were approved for payment

01731	M Norris	£357.97
01730	K Marden	304.59
01732	KCC Design Fee Quote	1006.00
01733	Moorcroft HMRC	154.06
01736	HMRC	76.20
01737	Publicstar	59.94
01738	M Norris (Misc)	24.53
		£2007.29

A monthly payment via direct debit of £24.00 to EDF was noted.

## **Gilts & Investment Opportunities 23/24**

The PC discussed some of the investment and savings opportunities currently available to them to that could be used to increase the return on the solar money where in year funds had been earmarked to a particular project but yet to be allocated. Cllr Cox & Cllr Merrion had both looked at options in some detail and Cllr Cox presented to the PC his findings on for gilts. The PC were not in a position at this particular meeting to make a decision as to whether this type of investment was right for Hothfield PC but the chairman thanked Cllr Cox for his work so far on this and raised some questions that Cllr Cox agreed to further investigate.

**Action: Cllr Cox**

## **10. Solar Proposals**

### **10.1 Speed Restrictions in Village**

An invoice received from KCC for the design fee quote had been agreed by all members and payment was to be made following the meeting. The new Highways Officer had been in touch with Hothfield suggested that our HIP plan should be updated where necessary for the coming year. Cllr Cox suggested that it would be beneficial if the new officer was to visit Hothfield and see the areas impacted and that members from the PC could meet with the officer and walk around the village prior to an online meeting with Councillors to discuss the HIP plan further . The clerk will contact KCC to arrange to request a visit. **Action Clerk**

## **2 Solar CCTV within village**

The clerk advised that she had received and completed the forms that would allow Electranet to now arrange a site visit to Hothfield. The clerk agreed to update further once she had heard from the Account Manager with potential dates.

## **10.3 Solar Village Greenery**

A quote for clearing and landscaping the triangle of land had been received and was put to the PC for discussion. The PC agreed that they were happy to proceed with Stage 1 which included the clean up and removal of waste from the land. Stages 2 and 3 the landscaping and the ongoing maintenance would need to be discussed further and approvals sought from the ABC. The Clerk agreed to contact all parties so that stage 1 clean up could commence.

**Action Clerk**

## **10.4 Solar Path Connecting East and West Hothfield**

Cllr Cox requested that a copy of the map that was previously issued by Kent Wildlife Trust and printed in the newsletter should be issued to all Councillors. The map could then be annotated to clearly show the accessible pathways open to residents and visitors of the village.

**Action Clerk**

## **11. General Council Business**

**10.1** No items of correspondence were brought to the meeting by PC members.

**10.1.1.** A local resident had contacted the PC to request an update on the public footpath by the Vineyard. Cllr Cox confirmed that the rights of way operate as they do at present. The owner of the Vineyard can and will apply for the right of way to be transferred from where it currently is to the edge of the wood, however this is a lengthy process and an application has not been submitted at this point in time. Cllr Cox suggested that this be publicised in the next newsletter and agreed to prepare an article.

**Action: Cllr Cox**

**10.2** Village Hall- Cllr Merrion had followed up with the security company regarding fixing the village hall fire doors. A date is yet to be confirmed for the works to be completed. Cllr Merrion will update the PC when the work has been done.

**Action: Cllr Merrion**

**10.3** PCSO – No items had been brought to the attention of the PC.

**10. 4** MUGA – Nothing to update.

**10.5** Hothfield Newsletter –The Chairman confirmed that a newsletter will not be produced for the month of January.

### **11. Forum for Exchange of Information between Councillors**

Cllr Cox explained that he had attended the online meeting with the Police however he felt that it was aimed those areas with a Neighbourhood Watch group and as such was of minimal use for HPC at this stage

The Clerk wished to publicly thank the Bluebells Childrens' Centre for allowing us to use the facilities on 16 December to host a local Christmas carol service and Hothfield Christmas lights competition. The PC looked forward to the event and hoped that many residents would join us.

Cllr Cox requested permission from the chairman to write to Southern Water on behalf of the PC concerning an ongoing problem. The chairman agreed and recommended that the draft be issued to all members prior to sending. Action: Cllr Cox

### **12. Items for The Next Agenda**

- HPC Annual Meeting

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all attendees and called the meeting to close at 20:20 hours

### **13. Date of the Next Meeting**

There being no meeting scheduled for January the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.