

HARTLIP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held at Hartlip Village Hall on Wednesday 14 October 2020 from 8.00pm until 9.35pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr Graham Addicott OBE

Cllr Paul White

Cllr Klaire Lander

Cllr Peter Boundy

Cllr Paul Williams

Cllr John Davies

Cllr John Wright

Parish Clerk: Tracy Still

Also Present: Cllr Alan Horton, Cllr Richard Palmer, Cllr Mike Whiting

20/76 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were given.

20/77 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Councillors of their duty to declare any interests.
Councillor Lander declared an interest in item 12.i on the Agenda.

20/78 Confirmation of the Minutes

All councillors in attendance at the September meeting were in agreement that the minutes were a true and accurate record with the following amendment:

Page 1: Councillor Boundy arrived at 8.55 pm.

The minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 9 September 2020 were proposed by Councillor Paul White and seconded by Councillor John Davies.

Under the Local Government Act 1972 (sch.12) the Chairman signed the minutes.

20/79 Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 20/18

The Landowner had not replied to the Clerk's letter regarding this matter. Councillor Lander had spoken to the land owner regarding the work required to be carried out on the poplar trees overhanging the allotments and had received verbal confirmation that the work would be carried out shortly.

Item 20/66

The Chairman had contacted Councillor Mike Whiting requesting a site meeting and arrangements were being made to organise a suitable date.

Item 20/68 i

Signage had been erected requesting that visitors to the Recreation Ground refrain from obstructing driveways.

20/80 Public Questions

No members of the public attended.

20/81 Parish Highways Improvement Plan

A date for a site meeting involving Councillor Whiting, Councillor Addicott, Councillor White, Councillor Davies, Councillor Wright and Kent Highways was in the process of being arranged by the Chair.

Action: Chair

20/82 Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters

Councillor Lander reported on a vehicle crime incident on The Street. No further information had been received.

20/83 HPC Amenities: Councillor Reports

i. Recreation Ground

The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that the Recreation Ground had been gifted to the residents of Hartlip for their use and was maintained by Hartlip Parish Council for this purpose.

The Chairman suggested a more in-depth discussion be held at a later date regarding the usage and preservation of the Recreation Ground according to the use it was provided for.

This was particularly important in the light of recent anti-social behaviour and unauthorised use.

The recent use, without permission, by a football club had led to complaints from Munns Lane residents had been investigated and stopped.

ii. The Parkland

With reference to Minute 20/68 of the Meeting held on 9 September 2020 the Chairman informed Members that the action agreed by councillors at that meeting had been carried out promptly.

The action had been prompted by complaints linked to the footpath and accessibility of The Parkland for residents.

Graziers had been reminded of clause 16 in their agreement which does not permit the free erection of supplementary/temporary fences unless with specific permission from Hartlip Parish Council and had been asked to remove a padlock on the gate between the two halves of The Parkland so that Hartlip residents could exercise their right to walk over the whole Parkland without hindrance.

Unauthorised signage had been removed and graziers had been reminded that they must not install any signage.

Signage installation was restricted to Hartlip Parish Council and those Parish Council installed signs in situ relating to dogs on leads complied with the law.

Councillor Wright indicated that he had met with the horse owners and had agreed for the padlock not be removed at this stage to allow HPC to consider alternative solutions e.g. a stile.

Councillor Wright indicated that the temporary electric fencing was to prevent the horses from eating too much grass and possibly contracting laminitis.

The Chairman expressed his concerns about the use of electric fencing with Hartlip residents and particularly young children sometimes in The Parkland. The Chairman also expressed concern that the permission for one grazier to erect such fencing had been given two years previously and the fencing was still being used with no renewal of permission.

Councillors agreed that the padlock could remain whilst thought be given to find an alternative solution.

iii. The Allotments

The Chairman advised Members that he had been in touch with the Solicitor acting for the Parish Council in the possible purchase of the allotment land the previous week but there was nothing to report.

The Chairman indicated that he had been making enquiries about loans and grants and had received confirmation that an interest free loan could be made available to the Parish Council repayable over a ten year period which was an unexpectedly good outcome.

He was continuing to search for possible grant funding.

Action: Chair

20/84 Other HPC Responsibilities: Councillor Reports

i. KALC

The Chair had attended a virtual meeting of KALC on 14 September 2020 at which Chief Inspector Rogers had indicated that domestic abuse remained a challenge with reporting up 19% during 2020.

Burglary and robbery reports remained low.

ii. Hartlip Village Hall

Councillor Williams reported that following Covid-19 closure of HVH, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the re-opening programme had been successfully implemented.

Phase 3 of the re-opening of HVH for Occasional Hirers will remain under review and not be implemented until considered safe to do.

Quotations for the full re-roofing of the Main Hall and for the full refurbishment of the disabled toilets had been obtained.

Together, these projects are financially very demanding for a small hall especially given the reduced income due to Covid-19.

HVHMC Chair had worked extremely hard over a period of several months to source funding and had finally achieved full funding for both projects to be carried out. This funding far exceed that which would normally be possible.

iii. Highways

Councillor Davies reported that a number of pot holes had appeared around the village and had been reported online.

Repairs are required to the 30mph signage in Munns Lane.

Action: Councillor Davies

iv. Footpaths

Councillor Boundy reported that he had purchased a strimmer and was ready to clear back some of the footpaths.

The Chairman advised Councillor Boundy that although it was one of Councillor Boundy's responsibilities to inspect the footpaths, it was certainly not expected that he would be carrying out any work in maintaining them.

The Chairman indicated that Kent County Council had a very efficient footpaths section with a speedy response rate and Councillor Boundy was only required to report faults to that department.

The Chairman stated that Parish Council insurance would not cover Councillor Boundy if he had an accident or caused damage to someone's property. He was therefore advised not to undertake the work.

If he did undertake the work he would be doing so as a private resident and not as a Parish Councillor and any liability would be his own.

A waiver to that effect will be prepared.

Action: Councillor Williams

The Clerk was asked to contact the Parish Council's insurance company to confirm cover regarding the Environmental Warden.

Action: Clerk

20/85 Borough and County Councillor's Reports

Councillor Richard Palmer reported that the planning application relating to Kaynes Farm, Breach Lane had been delayed due to Covid-19. The Environment Agency had recently cleared the site of waste materials.

Councillor Alan Horton advised the Parish Council that Upchurch and Newington Parish Councils had expressed and submitted similar responses to Hartlip Parish Council regarding the planning application 20/503637 proposed Banqueting Hall, London Road, Upchurch.

Councillor Mike Whiting assured the Parish Council that he would be attending to the matter of the large amounts of water collecting on roads around Hartlip

Councillor Whiting reminded the Parish Council of the Pollinator Strategy, known as 'Plan Bee', for which he has grants available of up to £200 to organisations to plant more wild flowers or create bee hotels and bee highways.

Councillor Whiting advised that the M2 Junction 5 Public Enquiry written submission would close at 4pm Friday 16 October 2020.

A letter to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government had been signed by Councillor Whiting regarding The Government's Consultation on Changes to the current Planning System and he encouraged all to express their opinions. Councillor Whiting would provide the Clerk with a copy of the letter to circulate amongst HPC Councillors.

Action: Chair to draft a response

20/86 Clerk and Finance Report

The Bank Reconciliation and Finance Report were presented to the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

Cheques were presented for signing.

Savills UK Ltd	Allotment Rent 2020-2021	£ 65.00
Savills UK Ltd	Access Rights 2020-2021	£ 0.50
T Still	Clerk Salary & Expenses Sept 2020	£356.97
P Blandon	Environmental Maintenance Feb-June 2020	<u>£ 97.33</u>
		Total: £ 519.80

20/87 Planning Matters

Application considered since the September Meeting.

20/501475

Erection of 35 dwellings including affordable housing at rear of Eden Meadow, Newington.

(Objection)

Update on outstanding enforcement matters

Alpaca site, Yaugher Lane.

There are multiple breaches involving the change of use and residential occupation which will be pursued by SBC.

Paradise Barn Nursery, Lower Hartlip Road.

The gates which have been erected are permitted development as are not adjacent to the highway.

The use of the site for five caravans is permitted development under the Caravan Act and the pitches may be used for 28 days of the year (56 days a year during the Covid-19 pandemic).

Rose Cottage, The Street.

The trees which have been removed from the front of the house are still to be reinstated and SBC tree expert will be advising on species and required planting date.

Warren Lane – Removal of Caravan.
Inspections to date have suggested that the caravan is not fit for human habitation. Local knowledge indicates that it is being lived in. SBC to investigate.
HPC have been assured in writing that the caravan will be removed.

- i. **Application 19/503694 Spade Lane Appeal.**
Further consideration was given to providing financial assistance to help fund a barrister to act for HRAG in the above appeal.
After full discussion and with some necessary information from HRAG still outstanding it was agreed unanimously to defer a decision on the matter until after the hearing of the appeal.

20/88 Correspondence

An email had been received from a dog walker who had found what seemed to be human waste in the orchard behind the church.

The hedge and tree saplings ordered by The Chair are to be delivered between 2-20 November 2020. Councillors were asked to consider appropriate areas for planting and diarise 21 November 2020 for planting.

20/89 Information Items

None

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 11 November 2020 at 8.00pm at Hartlip Village Hall.

Signed

Date