

HARTLIP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held in Hartlip Village Hall on Wednesday 12th February 2020 from 8.00pm until 9.25pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr Graham Addicott

Cllr Paul White
Cllr Peter Boundy
Cllr John Davies
Cllr Klaire Lander
Cllr Paul Williams
Cllr John Wright

Parish Clerk: Tracy Still

Also Present: Cllr Alan Horton

20/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mike Whiting.

20/16 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Councillors of their duty to declare any interests.
None were declared.

20/17 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 8th January 2020 were proposed by Cllr Paul White and seconded by Cllr Paul Williams.
All councillors in attendance at the January meeting were in agreement that the minutes were a true and accurate record.
Under the Local Government Act 1972 (sch.12) the Chairman signed the minutes.

20/18 Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 20/4

A response had been received from UK Power Networks regarding the work required to the poplar trees. A contact address had been provided and the Clerk will pass this address onto the land owner.

Action: Clerk

Item 20/4

Cllr John Davies had contacted Peter Blandon to discuss the Village Clean Up 2020. Unfortunately, due to other commitments Peter Blandon advised that he would be unable to assist.

The event had been provisionally scheduled for 28th March 2020 from 9.30am to 12pm. All Councillors agreed the date and time. Cllr John Davies will contact Swale Borough Council to confirm the date and arrange tools, safety equipment and waste collection.

Cllr Davies will register Hartlip Parish Council with 'The Great British Spring Clean Campaign for 2020' organised by Keep Britain Tidy.

The Chairman requested that all Parish Councillors be present at the Village Clean Up.

Cllr John Wright gave his apologies due to other commitments.

Action: Cllr Davies

Item 20/9 iv

Cllr Peter Boundy had reported footpath ZR77 to Kent County Council.

20/19 Public Questions

No members of the public attended.

20/20 Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Speed checks had taken place on the Lower Hartlip Road and in The Street at the end of January. The results of these checks were being analysed by KCC Highways Department after which the next steps will be considered by the Parish Council in conjunction with KCC.

The Parish Council had been advised that Kent County Council could only attend to the first two items on each individual improvement plan.

20/21 Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters

The Neighbourhood Watch meeting had taken place on 6th February 2020 and had been reasonably well attended by residents.

Speakers from Kent Police, Natwest Bank, Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council had given very informative presentations.

The Clerk had taken notes and Cllr Lander will circulate these notes to all Cllrs for comment.

A social network service for neighbourhoods, 'Nextdoor', had advertised via letters within the village seemingly sent from a neighbour.

The Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group continued to be beneficial to residents and members had increased since the Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

Another WhatsApp group had been set up by a local resident. Cllr Lander confirmed that this was quite separate from the Hartlip Parish Council WhatsApp group.

20/22 HPC Amenities: Councillor Reports

i. Recreation Ground

The recent bad weather had resulted in a fallen branch in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will contact Peter Rayfield to request the branch be removed.

Action: Clerk

ii. The Parkland

Two large branches had fallen in recent bad weather. Peter Rayfield had been contacted to assess the work required. He had advised that two limbs still attached were rotten and leaning towards the power cables and would need to be removed to avoid danger. He had provided a quotation for the works and the Parish Council agreed to accept the quotation. The Clerk will contact Mr Rayfield to request the work be carried out.

Action: Clerk.

A grazier had informed the Parish Council that they would be reducing their rental from 2 spaces to 1 space.

The Parkland would therefore have 3 grazing rental spaces available. The Chair will advertise this in the next edition of The Forum.

The grazier's horse will be vacating The Parkland for a short time during March and April.

The Parish Council will use the opportunity to arrange the spraying of the area.

The Clerk will contact the grazier and contact Shoun Bearup to arrange spraying.

Action: Chair/Clerk

iii. The Allotments

Possible purchase of allotment land.

The agents acting for the owners of the allotment land (Sheepwash Field) had indicated that the owners wished to dispose of the allotment land at the earliest possibility and the sale would be as allotment land. As the Parish Council had rented it from the family since 1896 the owners would like to sell it to the Parish Council if they were interested in buying it. The Chairman confirmed that he had contacted a solicitor specialising in allotment law who had given helpful advice which had been followed. As a result the allotments had been registered as an Asset of Community Value but there is a right of appeal against that decision.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should instruct a Solicitor to express an interest with the agents in purchasing the allotment land at a mutually agreed competitive price.

It was also agreed that a valuation of the site should be obtained to assist in the negotiations and as it had been suggested that the Parish Council should considering another plot of land in the village a valuation of that plot should be obtained at the same time.

20/23 Other HPC Responsibilities: Councillor Reports

i. KALC

The Chair had attended the latest KALC meeting.

- ii. Hartlip Village Hall
The Hartlip Village Hall Independent Audit had been successfully completed.
The Hartlip Village Hall Management Committee AGM will take place on Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall
- iii. Highways
Cllr Davies had continued to submit the findings of the Road Defect Survey Report to Kent Highways.
Cllr Davies will conduct another road survey of the village and report any further defects to Kent Highways.
Action: Cllr Davies
- iv. Footpaths
Nothing to report.

20/24 Borough and County Councillor's Reports

Cllr Alan Horton attended the meeting.

He updated the Parish Council on developments at Spade Lane reporting that an application was awaiting determination from the Cabinet Member of Planning.

An application for a Premises Licence at Alpaca Farm, Yaugher Lane had been submitted to the Licensing Department. The Parish Council will comment on this application.

Greens Garage on the A2 will be used as a construction yard for a Gas company.

The M2 J5 Improvements Appeal had been postponed until 28th April 2020.

20/25 Website

The Chair and the Clerk had investigated new website hosts.

Cantium offered the first year at a fee of £0, with subsequent years at a fee of £675 per annum.

Hugo Fox had no charge and setup appeared to be simple and straightforward. It had been recommended by a number of current users.

The Chair recommended that the Parish Council adopt Hugo Fox as its new website hosts. All Councillors were in agreement.

The Clerk will commence the setup of the new website.

Action: Clerk

20/26 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.

K Lander	NHW Meeting 06.02.20 Flyer Printing	£ 35.00
G Addicott	Allotment Holder Funds Distribution	£ 83.00
T Still	Clerk Wages & Expenses January 2020	£235.25
CR & SJ Bearup	Hedge Cutting – Parkland/Recreation Ground	£103.20
P Blandon	Environmental Maintenance January 2020	£ 31.67
K Lander	NHW Meeting 06.02.20 Printing	£ 40.00
Swale Borough Council	Recovery of Cost HPC Election 02.05.19	£ 95.53
Hartlip Village Hall	Meeting Room Hire – Audit 08.04.20	£ 30.00
Total		£ 653.65

The Clerk had informed the Parish Council that a cheque book had been misplaced.
The Clerk had informed the Bank and it had been recorded on the account.

The Financial Regulations will be displayed on the new website once it has been set up.

20/27 VE in Europe Day

The Chair informed the meeting that the bell ringers would be ringing at 7.30pm on 8th March to commemorate VE Day.

The Hub had organised a number of events in recent years including all events for the commemoration of WW1 in the village but were unable to organise an event on this occasion. The Chair will inform the Church Warden of the Parish Council's decision.

Action: Chair

20/28 Planning Matters

Application Ref: 20/5000039.

Erection of a single storey rear extension and detached garage to the rear at 10 Hartlip Hill, Hartlip.

(No objections in principle - condition suggested)

Application Refs: 19/506378/FULL and 19/506379/LBC

Removal of the existing carport, rear roof light, internal alterations and insertion of replacement windows. Erection of single storey rear infill extension, new side wall with gate, new rear fencing and double gate to front and listed building consent at Yew Tree Cottage, The Street, Hartlip.

(No objection in principle with consideration requested for some specific matters)

20/29 Correspondence

Land at Westmoor Farm (north), Moor Street, Rainham

Application Ref: MC/19/2530

Construction of a secondary school with formation of a new access from Otterham Quay Lane together with associated car-parking and drop-off area, pedestrian access, drainage, landscaping, sports pitches and areas for formal and informal outdoor play.

The Chairman reported that a decision for approval had now been made in this matter and may be found at:

<https://publicaccess1.medway.gov.uk/online-applications>

Spade Lane

The Parish Council had been approached by residents with a request for possible financial support for legal advice should an appeal be submitted relating to the Spade Lane application. It was agreed that consideration would be given to this in the event of an appeal.

Swale Heritage Plan

Swale Borough Council's 'Swale Heritage Plan' had been received but the Parish Council were unable to discuss and comment due to the tight deadline.

Swale Borough Council Independent Remuneration Panel Review

The Chairman reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel will be meeting in March 2020 to conduct a full review of the Current Members Allowance Scheme, under which the Chairman's Allowance is £521.70 and all other Parish Councillors allowance is £260.88 for the current financial year.

It was noted that no Hartlip Parish Councillors had ever claimed this allowance.

20/30 Information Items

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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

Signed

Date