

**Minute Ref HPC 13/23**  
**Hothfield Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**held on Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 7.00pm at The Bluebells Children's Centre.**

**Also**

- 1. Those Present: Cllr Lloyd (Chairman), Cllr Sutcliffe, Cllr Pollock, Cllr Brock, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Cox**

**Three members of the public present.**

- 2. Apologies for absence** Due to ongoing work commitments, Cllr Bowker was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Bell was also unable to attend due to attendance at ABC Planning Committee.

- 3. Co-option of Mr Simon Jepheart**

Mr Simon Jepheart applied for the vacant position of Parish Councillor, he was qualified to stand on the grounds that he lives within the Parish and is on the electoral register. Mr Jepheart completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and had completed DPI for submission to ABC, with a copy for the clerk.

Cllr Fletcher proposed Mr Jepheart for the vacant post seconded by Cllr Pollock.

- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

Cllr Lloyd declared an interest in the Ram Lane pre planning discussion as he is a near neighbour. This was recorded in the book.

**Declaration of Significant Interest**

There were no Declaration of Significant Interest recorded this period.

- i) To note the granting of any Requests for Dispensation and the decision**

No requests received.

- ii) Updating of Declarations of Interest for the Code of Conduct**

There were no declarations of interest. Councillors were reminded that they should update their Declaration of Interest with the Monitoring Officer if necessary.

- 5. Public Interval**

Two members of the public were present and spoke regarding item 6 of the agenda.

- 6. Presentation from Urban Curve Architecture – Ram Lane (Information only)**

The Architect and client discussed their proposals for the site on Ram Lane and were seeking the PC thoughts on the plans prior to applying for planning. The PC raised points for the architect and his client to consider.

- 7. The Minutes** of the meeting held on 14 January 2024. It was RESOLVED that the minutes were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

- 8. Update on progress of resolutions from the last meeting (information only)**

- The drainage issue on the Street had been reported to KCC Highways and they agreed to clear the chamber within 7 days, this should ensure the rain water runs away and does not pool into one area.
- ABC had agreed to install a knee-high rail fence in Sackville Close to stop people parking on the green area and churning up the mud. Works to be completed by end of February.
- The clerk provided the PC with photographs of the signs on the MUGA. These signs are out of date and Cllr Sutcliffe and Cllr Brock will provide a draft for new wording before replacing with new signage.  
Action Cllr Sutcliffe/ Cllr Brock

## 9. Planning

APPLICATION REF: PA/2023/2211 Site Address Sandbar Business Park, Maidstone Road, Hothfield, TN26 1AR Proposal Change of use from Oakover Nurseries to storage and distribution including erection of warehouse, workshop, office and ancillary buildings, car parking, HGV Parking, hardstanding, landscaping, and lighting with access from Ashford Road. It was RESOLVED to offer a comment of **NOT SUPPORT due to light and air pollution, noise pollution, increased pressure on the A20 and operating hours.**

## 10. Borough Councillors Report Although unable to attend in person Cllr Bell provided the following report:-

Household waste recycling - The new service begins Sunday 24th March . We will retain a weekly food waste collection, a fortnightly recycling collection, a fortnightly general waste collection and an optional paid-for fortnightly garden recycling collection.

Although the frequency of collections will be staying the same, it is likely that after Sunday 24 March 2024, the collection day will change. Residents will be notified of any changes well in advance of the new contract start date.

HWRC charges Owing to a change in legislation, from 1<sup>st</sup> January residents have been able to take some DIY waste to the KCC Household Waste Recycling Centre free of charge. There are some restrictions on frequency of visit and volume/type of waste. Charges would apply if these limits were exceeded. **Cllr Lloyd resolved to publicise the HWRC changes in the Hothfield Newsletter.**

## 11. Finance

**It was agreed that the following payments were paid:-**

Parish Clerk	Chq No:	Salary Expenses- Stamps	388.48 5.00
K Marden		Salary	334.06
G Fletcher		Expenses – Ink	36.79
SLCC Subs via M Norris		SLCC	105.00
EDF	D/D	Electricity	18.00
S Flynn		Expenses Bin Liners	<u>15.98</u>
			<b>903.31</b>

The bank reconciliation was presented and agreed upon. The closing balance as per the bank statements as of 12 January was £66,290.56

Unity trust update – The bank has requested further documents that the clerk will send.

## **12 General Council Business**

- a) **Correspondence** – Items received via email had been sent to Cllrs
- b) **Village Hall** – Cllr Sutcliffe had attended the last meeting. It was reported ABC have received the surveyors report but this has not yet been promulgated to the village hall committee. In the interim, the committee have sought the services of an electrician to do some jobs around the hall. Bookings for Jan and February are down but are looking up for spring. Discussions surrounding the implementation of a fixed deposit for all were ongoing.
- c) PCSO report – Nothing to report.
- d) KALC report – Not attended. Cllr Cox agreed to attend the next scheduled meeting.
- e) MUGA – Cllr Fletcher agreed to use a brush cutter to cut down the overgrown area behind the MUGA. Action - **Cllr Fletcher.**
- f) Hothfield Newsletter- A distributor was required for Thanet Terrace and The Street. The Chairman suggested that the we examine options for getting the newsletter printed via an external printing company. It was resolved that the newsletter would be issued bi monthly from April 2024.

## **13. Solar Funding Projects Update**

- a) Speed Restrictions – The works is due to commence Spring 2024 but we have not yet received a date Action- Cllr Sutcliffe will contact KCC Highways for an update.
- b) Triangle of Land- It was agreed that the clerk would contact a local gardener to take forward.
- c) Post Office Sign – Now resolved and to be removed from future agendas.
- d) CCTV – The clerk of Charing has been invited to discuss their experiences with purchasing and installing CCTV, Cllr Cox will make further enquiries about a camera in the centre of the village that can view down West Street, The Street, School Road and provide a written report with his findings.

## **14. Matters for information, urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting only or any items for further discussion at the next available meeting.**

Cllr Pollock – Notice had been given that Nine Oaks Vineyard have applied to ABC for a PREMISES Licence for On and Off sales of alcohol – Monday – Sunday 10-00 – 22-00. Details can be viewed in the Kentish Express Paper or via ABC Licensing Section.

PROW -

The Vineyard along with KCC are looking to reinforce where the public rights of way for the AW167 & AW166 and helpful strategies to ensure walkers stay on the paths. This will include fencing of the AW167, and displaying prominent signage.

Cllr Sutcliffe Fencing around the green looking unsightly. The clerk will raise further with both KCC and ABC.

Cllr Brock – Digital Skills Champion, Cllr Brock unable to commit to days annotated on the form but will take further advice from ABC.

Parish Clerk asked the Chairman to raise with Mrs Cook the presence of a plaque to commemorate the late Cllr Malcolm Cook.

**15. Items for the Next Agenda**

- History Society Email

The chairman reminded members that agenda items should be raised with the clerk before the next meeting. The Chairman thanked all members for attending and called the meeting to close at 9:09pm.

**16. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next parish meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **13** March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8:56 pm.

**Chairmans Signature:**

**Date:**