

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 10 July 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

65/23 Present and Apologies

Present: Cllr. Robinson (Chairman), Cllrs: Mrs. Amsler, Ms. Dawes, Mr. Drury, Mrs. Pickering, Mr. Sargent and Mrs. Wheeler

In Attendance: Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk),
Ward Member Alan Pickering, 9 members of the public.

Apologies: None received.

66/23 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Pickering: Voluntary Declaration as the spouse of the ward member.

67/23 Minutes of the meeting of the 12 June 2023

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12 June 2023 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

68/23 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only)

The willow tree, considered to be at danger, in the wetlands area of the recreation ground has been removed. A football post has been ordered for the recreation ground and will be delivered and installed this month. The memorial bench for Robert Taylor will be delivered this week and will then be installed on the village green.

The damage to the BT telephone box on the village green has been reported.

69/23 Open Session:

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to raise items with the Council.

A member of the public spoke in support of planning proposal PA/2023/1058 .

70/23 Highways

a) Highways Improvement Plan

KCC has advised that none of the 12 sites identified by the Parish Council meet the criteria for the SID scheme. KCC has now conducted an extensive review the length of the A28 30mph zone, and also Church Hill and concluded that there is not enough scope for three distinct SID sites offering coverage on different approaches to deliver a safe scheme. However, they have suggested that the section of A28 carriageway between the barbers and Tilden Close could be explored for suitability for VAS signage. The area roughly opposite the barbers could potentially be utilised for a fixed VAS for westbound vehicles, and though not perfect, there is possible scope at the corner of A28/Tilden Close for a fixed VAS for eastbound vehicles. Members expressed their frustration with the feedback from KCC regarding the SID scheme but agreed that the ethos for VAS signage is similar in terms of raising speed awareness in the vicinity and encouraging road safety. KCC has advised that the process for acquiring fixed signage is slightly more complicated and requires survey data close to the locations to confirm any speeding issue.

Resolved: To instruct KCC to carry out speed surveys on the A28 between the barbers and Tilden Close to assess the suitability of installing VAS signage in both directions.

b) Parking restrictions in bus layby on the A28

Cllr. Robinson advised that the Parish Council will continue to lobby KCC regarding a request for part of the layby to be removed from the parking restrictions so that it can be used for short term parking. Ward Member Alan Pickering, on behalf of the Parish Council, is also in negotiations with ABC about derestricting a section of the layby.

71/23 Proposal to improve the drainage at Jubilee Park

Members considered three quotes obtained by the Clerk for ditch clearance works around the recreation ground.

Resolved: To accept a quote of £14,990 (excluding VAT) from Countrywide.

Initials:

72/23 Allotments

The Clerk advised Members that the planning application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a parking area for the allotments has not yet been determined by ABC (planning reference PA/2023/0357). Quotes to hardcore and surface the parking spaces are being sought. The Clerk has advised the landowner that his solicitor has not responded to queries on the lease raised by the solicitor acting for the Parish Council.

73/23 Proposal from ABC to remove unnecessary street lighting

It was noted that the Clerk hand delivered letters to the residents that would be affected by a proposal from ABC to remove 8 streetlights in The Chennells, 1 in Tilden Close, 1 in Greenside and 1 in the bus shelter near to the village green asking for their views. The majority of the residents who responded to the consultation were against the removal of the streetlights stating they are essential for safety.

Resolved: The Clerk to advise ABC that the Parish Council would like the streetlights to remain and where necessary be repaired.

74/23 Section 106: Renewal of playground equipment and installation of a MUGA

Following a recent site meeting a draft design and ballpark quote to enable Members to consider how much funding is required is awaited. The draft design will be shared in the next edition of the newsletter and residents will be consulted for their views before the Parish Council goes out for formal tender.

75/23 Ransley Field

a) To discuss the recent issues

Cllr. Robinson advised that the concerns of the Parish Council have been reported to the Community Resilience Team at ABC that deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour. Ward Member Alan Pickering has also been involved with reporting concerns to ABC and is in contact with the CEO and Area Manager at Southern Housing to ensure that action continues to be taken to resolve this situation.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Southern Housing for an update on what action has been taken to prevent any more incidents of anti-social behaviour.

7.39pm 1 member of the public left the meeting

76/23] To a purchase a defibrillator for the Memorial Hall

Members disagreed with a suggestion that the defibrillator should be installed inside the village hall and asked the Clerk to obtain quotes and consider the availability of funding for a defibrillator to be installed outside the village hall.

77/23] To discuss the withdrawal of the No. 2 bus service

It was noted that the public meeting held on the 7 July 2023 in Bethersden village hall to discuss the withdrawal of the No. 2 bus service was well attended. Prior to the meeting Stagecoach had advised the Clerk that they will reinstate 3 off peak journeys on service 2 on a commercial basis ensuring that Bethersden and High Halden have a limited service. Current peak school movements on service 2 from Ashford into Homewood School will be largely covered by a combination of service 962 and service HS1, which have spare capacity. School movements from Tenterden towards Ashford Schools can be accommodated on Scotland and Bates School services AS1/2/3/4. Members agreed that this outcome was much better than originally expected. Following feedback from the meeting Stagecoach have agreed to reconsider the suggested times of the proposed new off peak service. It was noted that the service will be introduced on a trial basis and that user numbers will be monitored.

78/23] Community Ownership Fund

The Clerk explained that the village hall committee is seeking the support of the Parish Council to apply for the next round of the UK Gov Community Ownership Fund. The fund is targeted at helping secure community services and associated assets that require substantial financial capital support to survive. An initial "Expression of Interest" is required to apply for funds which would be for the treatment of the village hall roof and building fabric repairs. Cllr. Sargent explained that quotes are being sought for the works.

Initials:

Resolved: The Parish Council supports an initial 'Expression of Interest' application for the next round of Community Ownership Funding,

The Chair invited Cllr. Mrs. Pickering to lead on the planning proposals.

79/23 Planning

Planning applications:

NOT/2023/1157 – Pond Wood Farm, Harbourne Lane, High Halden

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed track/road linking the yard to the field.

Resolved: No comment.

PA/2023/0946 – Greenluck Farm, Harris Lane, High Halden

Proposed development of 4No2 bedroom log cabin style buildings with associated parking and garden areas and proposed solar panels in agricultural field.

Resolved: Object strongly. We believe this an unnecessary development on an agricultural field in an ancient woodland outside the village confines. We would like to draw your attention to the conditions set when the previous application 21/00973/AS for this site was approved as we believe these will be compromised.

PA/2023/0929 – Wrens Nest, Wrens Nest Lane, High Halden

Proposed two storey rear extension.

Resolved: No comment.

PA/2023/0567 – Dalegarth, Redbrook Street, High Halden

Retrospective change of use from a barn to a holiday let.

Resolved: Subject to confirmation that it has been used as holiday let for the period specified we have no objections.

PA/2023/1058 – Little Hookstead Farm, Little Hookstead Oast, Wrens Nest Lane, High Halden

Installation of roof mounted solar panels to house and garage.

Resolved: Strongly support. We support the plans for the solar panels in the original application.

7.53pm 2 members of the public left the meeting

PA/2023/1014 – Coombewood Barn, Redbrook Street, High Halden

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans and documents) of planning permission PA/2023/0221 (Proposed single-storey extension) to allow changes to roof design.

Resolved: No comment.

Planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda: None received.

Approvals:

PA/2023/0871 – Coach House, Hookstead, High Halden

Proposed side extension with addition of 1no dormers rear elevation (amended proposals to consented scheme, application number 22/01097/AS.

PA/2023/0478 – The Gables, Biddenden Road, Tenterden

Retrospective application for the permanent retention of 2no. modular classrooms.

Refusal: None to consider.

Withdrawn: None to consider.

Appeal:

22/00085/AS – 1 Durrants Green, Ashford Road, High Halden

New detached dwelling and detached garage

Other Planning Matters

None to consider.

80/23 Financial Report

/23-1 Signatories on the account: The Clerk has completed an online application to remove Karen Harris from the Unity Trust Bank account and to add Cllr. Drury.

Resolved: To sign the new mandate in accordance with the authorisation policy.

Initials:

/23-2 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget: Cllr. Dawes checked the invoices against the payment schedule and it was **resolved** for Cllr. Robinson and Dawes to authorise the payments online.

Payments

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Expenses)	75.22
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Salary)	547.20
Transfer	HMRC (L Goldsmith)	136.80
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus stop cleaning)	51.48
Transfer	South East Water (Water pavilion)	104.17
Transfer	Barrie Croucher (Caretaker services)	41.68
Transfer	Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)	105.00
Transfer	Mark Harrod Ltd (Goalpost)	551.53
Transfer	Parochial Church Council (Helping Hands Grant)	1000.00
DD	Google Cloud	73.60
DD	Unity Bank (Quarterly Charge)	18.00

Receipts:

Details	£
Helping Hands Grant	1000.00

Balances as at 10 July 2023

Unity Trust Account: £57,115.83

81/23 Reports

/23-1 Ward member: Ward Member Alan Pickering expressed his gratitude for the support of the Operations Director and Managing Director from Stagecoach who both attended the public meeting about the No. 2 bus service last week. Ward Members Alan Pickering attended the 100th Anniversary of the WI in Bethersden and advised that residents in High Halden were welcome to attend their meetings.

/23-2 Highways:

Water leak on Church Hill: The Clerk will continue to chase the waste water company to carry out the necessary works to the drain.

/23-3 Marketing/projects: The Clerk will finalise the next newsletter in conjunction with Cllr. Dawes.

/23-4 KALC: The Clerk has circulated the current edition of the Parish News which contains details of a number of training courses. Cllr. Robinson and Amsler have been booked onto some of the courses.

82/23 Information items:

/23-1 HHVEC Update: Cllr. Sargent advised that the committee is meeting next week to discuss the proposed 'welcome event' due to take place on Saturday 2 September 2023 on the village green.

/23-2 High Halden Helping Hand Group: It was noted that the fortnightly lunch club has now stopped until the Autumn. Instead, the group will be serving a hot meal once a week for three weeks over the school summer holidays to families in need.

/23/3 Consultations: None to consider.

83/23 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:

To consider the purchase of a mobile phone for the Clerk.

84/23 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14 August 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm

Signed:

Date:

Initials: