

HARTLIP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held at Hartlip Village Hall on Wednesday 9 September 2020 from 8.00pm until 9.50pm.

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

20/61 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mike Whiting.

20/62 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Councillors of their duty to declare any interests.

Cllr Lander declared an interest in item 13.i on the Agenda.

20/63 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 8 July 2020 were proposed by Cllr Paul White and seconded by Cllr John Davies.

All councillors in attendance at the July 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.

20/64 Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 20/18

The Clerk had written to the land owner on 10 July 2020 regarding the work required to be carried out on the poplar trees overhanging the allotments.

No reply had been received.

As the matter has Health and Safety implications it may have to be put into the hands of a solicitor if not resolved in a timely manner.

Action: Chair/Clerk

20/65 Public Questions

No members of the public attended.

20/66 Parish Highways Improvement Plan

The Chairman had contacted Cllr Whiting on 5 July 2020 and requested a site meeting as soon as Covid-19 restrictions made possible.

No date had been proposed by KCC and will be chased.

Action: Chair

20/67 Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters

Nothing to report.

20/68 HPC Amenities: Councillor Reports

i. Recreation Ground

During lockdown and since re-opening, the Recreation Ground had been subjected to a considerable amount of litter including a large number of glass bottles, broken glass, empty cans, food waste and full dog mess bags had been thrown into the area

An arson attempt on the entrance gate to the Recreation Ground during lockdown had been foiled by Cllr White who had reported it to the police with a crime number received.

The situation will be closely monitored and discussed more fully at the next meeting.

The Recreation Ground had recently been used for football team training. Team unknown. This has resulted in a number of vehicles being parked in Munns Lane obstructing private driveways.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will erect signage requesting that visitors to the Recreation Ground refrain from obstructing driveways.

Action: Cllr White

ii. The Parkland

The Chairman and Councillor Wright reported on a complaint which had been received from a dog walker about an incident which occurred on footpath ZR79 which crosses The Parkland.

The complaint was submitted to the Parish Council and Kent Footpaths Officer by a member of the public using the public footpath on August 28 2020.

He was accompanied by a dog which was off the lead but exactly where his dog was is unknown.

The member of the public was engaged in an altercation with a grazier who, according to the complainant, insisted that dogs must be kept on a lead.

Some time ago, the Parish Council installed signage on the footpath which reads:

**PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON LEADS
DO NOT FEED THE HORSES
Hartlip Parish Council**

The wording was very specifically chosen to be in line with the law.

The law expects that a dog is kept 'under your close control'.

For many people this would be on a lead but obediently at heel is accepted to be close control.

The signs do not use the word 'must' quite deliberately as this would not be supported in law.

Visiting dog walkers are, however, expected to keep the dog on the footpath and straying off the footpath is an act of trespass in law.

This complaint was taken up by the Chairman with the Public Rights of Way Officer who confirmed that he had received a formal complaint.

The Officer confirmed that the Parish Council signs were within the law but indicated that is inappropriate for Graziers to erect their own signs.

After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council signs should be retained, that unauthorised signs should be removed and Graziers informed that they must not put up their own signage. The Grazing Agreement would be amended to indicate that.

Graziers will be advised of the law regarding dogs.

Complaints from residents have also been received regarding inaccessibility of The Parkland to them due to supplementary/temporary fences and a padlock installed by graziers on the central gate.

Graziers will be reminded of clause 16 in their agreement which does not permit the free erection of supplementary/temporary fences and asked to remove the padlock.

Action Chairman/Clerk

iii. The Allotments

The Chair reported that he had spoken with the solicitor representing the Parish Council in this matter. He had advised that there was nothing to report at the present stage.

One Allotment Holder had given notice on their allotment and so the Chair will contact the next person on the waiting list regarding this new availability.

After receiving complaints, the Clerk had contacted one Allotment Holder on 24 August 2020 to request that they tidy their allotment immediately.

20/69 Other HPC Responsibilities: Councillor Reports

i. KALC

The Chair had attended a virtual meeting at which a motion was considered which had been put forward by Borden Parish Council requesting the Government to introduce legislation requiring all drive-through food outlets to print the registration number of the vehicle on packaging of sold items.

The motion was carried.

The Chair had attended a virtual inaugural meeting for the newly formed SBC Western Area Committee.

The main item for discussion was review of Conservation Areas.

- ii. Hartlip Village Hall
Following Covid-19 closure of HVH a three-phase re-opening programme was established.
Phase 1 of the re-opening of Hartlip Village Hall to non-vulnerable Regular Hirers had taken place on 1 August 2020.
Phase 2 of the re-opening to all other Regular Hirers took place on 7 September 2020.
Phase 3 will be re-opening for Occasional Hirers when considered safe so to do.
During the period of closure a great deal of renovation work had been carried out including refitting of the Gents and Ladies toilets, re-floored entrance hall, a re-fitted kitchen, decorated Boiler Room and re-modelling of the School Room storage cupboard.
- iii. Highways
Meresborough Lane had been resurfaced.
Matts Hill Road, Cowstead Lane and Place Lane all require resurfacing.
- iv. Footpaths
Nothing to report.

20/70 Borough and County Councillor's Reports

Cllr Mike Whiting had provided a written report.
He had asked Cllr Mike Baldock, Cabinet Member for Planning Enforcement at Swale Council, to look at outstanding planning enforcements and was awaiting a reply.
He expressed that it is vital that people report local crime directly to the police via 101 or using their online reporting page (<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>).
Cllr Whiting reported that the changes that have been made at Key Street were Phase 1 works paid for by existing developer contributions from developments that had planning permission and were already built out. They were designed to meet Highways England's requirement for preventing traffic from queuing back onto the A249 carriageway and so traffic lights were installed at the top of the slip road. Phase 2 works will see more radical changes to the roundabout, including a new slip road to the A249 southbound and improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. The initial design had been shared previously, but final plans will be consulted on before works or procured. Cllr Whiting will advise the Parish Council when any further information is received. The Phase 2 works are funded through the Government's £38m HIF bid. Cllr Whiting commented that it is important that this junction meets current needs and is future proofed for any further requirement of the new local plan being developed by the new administration at Swale.
Cllr Whiting indicated that concern had been expressed regarding Boot Fairs being held on land at South Bush Lane.

While the fairs are on land within Medway, South Bush Lane is a KCC responsibility. The law does not permit either Swale as the Planning Authority or KCC as the Highways Authority to stop the fairs. Nor does it have any control of the use of South Bush Lane to access the fairs. The only powers appear to lie with the police insofar as the organisers cannot legally direct traffic on the public highway.

There were reports of the organisers creating a one-way system along Spade Lane and Cllr Whiting raised this issue with the police. Cllr Whiting asked the Parish Council to advise if there were ongoing concerns.

As part of its environment strategy, KCC has published the Kent and Medway Climate Change Impact Assessment. Details are at https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf with further appendices at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-andplanning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-changing-climate>.

Cllr Whiting had previously proposed a Pollinator Strategy during his time as KCC's Environment Cabinet Member, known as 'Plan Bee'. To help Parishes and other groups get involved Cllr Whiting has grants available of up to £200 to organisations to plant more wild flowers, for example, or create bee hotels and bee highways. Details are available at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/en-vironmentwaste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-action-plan>. Any groups interested in the scheme should email Cllr Whiting or fill out a grant application form which can be downloaded at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/combined-members-grant>.

KCC had given Government notice that it cannot safely care for any more unaccompanied children who arrive on boats into Kent from France. It is currently looking after three times as many children as is considered by the Government to be a suitable number, and it is calling on Government to make the voluntary dispersal scheme a mandatory one. This scheme aims to disperse unaccompanied children through the UK so as not to put all the financial and resource pressures on Kent.

The government has committed £6 billion to get gigabit connectivity to all premises and KCC has worked with them to widen the scope of the Kent Voucher Scheme, a national pilot that is assisting rural communities across Kent in getting improved broadband. COVID-19 has shown that good internet connections are vital to all working from home, including school children and university students. Details about the Kent Gigabit Voucher Scheme are at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/broadband/broadband-voucher-schemes/kent-broad-bandtop-up-voucher>.

Cllr Alan Horton reported on the Western Area Committee. He advised that the 10 local Cllrs involved would be able to contribute to which Conservation Areas should be reviewed.

Cllr Horton advised the Parish Council that the Planning Application for the Tuck Inn, London Road had been refused.

Cllr Richard Palmer reported that there was an unsatisfactory delay in planning enforcement issues being resolved and this is being pursued with Swale Borough Council Senior Planning Officer.

20/71 Website

The new website has been set up and is operational and so the Parish Council is now GDPR compliant.

The website is in the early stages of development and now includes information regarding listed buildings, footpaths and conservation.

20/72 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.

Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance	£1,016.98
Playsafety Limited	Recreation Ground Annual Inspection	£ 94.80
T Still	Clerk Salary & Expenses July/Aug 2020	£ 438.25
Total		<hr/> £1,550.03

The Chair advised the Parish Council that the Clerk had not received a pay increase in April 2019 and again in April 2020 in accordance with the NALC National Salary Scale. The Clerk will provide the Parish Council with an invoice in respect of any backdated salary owing.

20/73 Planning Matters

Application 19/503694/FULL. Change of use of land to an 8 gypsy traveller site with associated day rooms, new access, drive way, hard standing, package treatment plants, boundary fencing and landscaping (part retrospective at Spade Lane).

The above application was refused by SBC on 21.05.20 and is being appealed by the applicant.

No date has been fixed for this appeal.

The matter of Hartlip Parish Council providing financial assistance to help fund a barrister to represent an informal group of residents in the above appeal was reconsidered, by necessity and on legal advice, in light of that informal group having transitioned into a different, formal entity (HRAG) of which little was known.

HRAG had indicated that they felt there had been no need to discuss their formation with HPC and they considered there to be no requirement to disclose any information to Hartlip Parish Council.

Hartlip Parish Council pursued this matter requesting specific information. Not all had been provided and Hartlip Parish Council was therefore unable to conclude their deliberations given the paucity of information about HRAG and so will communicate with them once more. Subject to the outcome of that communication the matter will be considered further.

Decision received since the July meeting.

Application Ref: 20/502607

Erection of a single storey side extension to create a new takeaway (Class 5) London Road Café, 1 Hartlip Hill, Hartlip.

(Refused)

Application received since the July meeting.

Application Ref: 20/503637

Proposed Banqueting Hall, London Road, Upchurch.

(Under consideration).

Call for Sites as proposed LOCAL GREEN SPACES in connection with the Local Plan Review.

The Parish Council has put forward four proposals in connection with the Local Plan Review namely:

1. The War Memorial.
2. The Village Pond/The Old Wheel Wash.
3. The field known as Underlynch north of The Parkland.
4. The field east of Popes Hall between The Street and Lower Hartlip Road crossed by footpaths ZR77 and ZR78 used by those attending the Church and the School for centuries.

20/74 Correspondence

The Chair had ordered 250 hedge and tree saplings to be delivered between 2-20 November 2020.

A provisional date of 21 November 2020 has been set for their planting in The Parkland, Recreation Ground and around the boundary of the Village Hall Car Park.

The safety of the existing trees in The Parkland was discussed. In his capacity as HPC Tree Warden Peter Blandon had recently assessed the area and reported that no immediate work was required.

He will inspect the area again in January 2021.

An email had been circulated to all Councillors regarding the Mid Kent Environmental Health Service's proposed plan to declare an Air Quality Management Area at Keycol Hill and St Pauls Street.

20/75 Information Items

Cllr Wright reported that he had contacted Martin Rose of Wienerberger Ltd regarding the time extension of the phased extraction of brickearth in Iwade.

The preparations for the access track in Hartlip indicated an alteration to the access track plans originally submitted.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 8.00pm at Hartlip Village Hall.

Signed

Date