

Minute Ref HPC 03/22
Hothfield Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.00pm at The Bluebells Children's Centre.

1. Present

Mr I Lloyd (Chair), Mrs M Merrion, Mrs P Sutcliffe, Mr M Pollock,
Mrs M Norris (Clerk) Mrs C Bell (Borough Councillor)

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Mr M Cook, Mr Vernon, Mr G Cox. The chairman approved the reasons for absence.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Significant Interests

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Significant Interest recorded this period.

4. Planning

No applications received.

5. Public Interval

Mr Ian Rickards from attended the meeting as previously arranged (Further details at item 6).

6. Hothfield Heathlands

Mr Rickards from Kent Wildlife Trust attended the meeting to discuss the plans for works at Hothfield Heathlands which will take place over the next 2 years. The works include the following:-

- Improving Access
- Restoring Peat Bogs & Scrub Removal
- Realign Fences

Mr Rickards provided the PC with a hand out a copy of which can be found attached , and will be made available to residents to view via the Hothfield Newsletter. It is thought that the works will take in the region of 2 years to complete and Mr Rickards would welcome comments from the community about the plans.

7. Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes 02/22 of the meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were accepted and it was agreed that Mr I Lloyd should sign them.

Nominated: Mr M Pollard

Seconded: Mrs P Sutcliffe

8. Matters for Report Arising from Previous Meeting.

The clerk reported that after contacting ABC concerning the private hire of a refuse freighter by Hothfield PC for use by all village residents. It was confirmed that this was not something that ABC would be able to provide at this time. ABC explained that a bulky item waste collection service is currently available to all residents and can be booked and paid for online via ABC's website. After

further discussion it was agreed by the PC that a private hire of a freighter service should not be pursued further at this time.

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Diane Wakeling KCC warden who was still working within the village on Mondays & Tuesdays each week and is still very much contactable by anyone in the village who wishes to speak with her.

9. Borough Councillors Report.

Cllr Bell reported that Ashford Borough Council have approved the Council tax budget which resulted in an increase of £5.00 for the average Band D property. This remains the lowest council tax increase in Kent. Rebates are being made available and where council tax is paid via direct debit these are being applied immediately.

The council has a medium term financial plan which demonstrates a balance position over the next 5 years. Albeit that there are key risks associated with this the plan does rely on some reserve funding in the earlier years . ABC is very proactive in terms of income generation through investment including the Council's property company and also in terms of smarter working through digital transformation. Cllr Bell confirmed that the future of New Homes Bonus was uncertain and as yet no replacement scheme has been identified. There is also significant capital expenditure on several regeneration projects within the area including that to regenerate the High Street.

Concerning Stodmarsh the Ashford cabinet have approved the next stage of the process which is to respond to issues arising . A number of planning application for new housing have been impacted and as a result have been on hold for 12 months including some sites identified in the local plan. The council is continuing to pursue the creation of wetlands as a means of mitigation working alongside the Environment Agency.

Cllr Bell confirmed that all local authorities including ABC are supporting the Ukranian refugee situation. A dedicated page can be found on the ABC website which provides updated information for those seeking further information.

10. Financial Report

10.1 Earmarked Funds

10.2 Hothfield Parish Council Bank Reconciliation

(As 11 March Bank Statements)

£56760.28 Business Reserve Account

£

10.3 Accounts to be paid in Accordance with Budget

Payments	£
M Norris (salary)	327.70
K Marden (salary)	285.54
KALC subscription	341.74
LCN	105.54

Jubilee * via online bank transfer	990.00
Hothfield Village Hall Hire Cost	1500.00
EDF d/d	9.00
Receipts	
None received in the period	0.00

Councillors unanimously agreed to pay the above accounts and noted the Direct debit payment to EDF for the electricity supplied to the MUGA taken on the 1st of each month.

10.3 Any Other Financial Matters

Mr Lloyd reported that there is an outstanding invoice for hire of the village hall for £40.00 this was raised at the village hall meeting the clerk agreed to process this.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk reported that the AGAR forms had been issued via PFK Littlejohn, and that she would prepare the end of year accounts in consultation with Mrs Merrion.

NALC have agreed the retrospective pay award for clerks for Mrs Norris the increase is 24 pence per hour. The PC agreed that this should be implemented with immediate effect.

Following Mr Lloyd's attendance at the village hall committee meeting, where the requirement for new main access double gates and a pedestrian gate to be purchased by the PC and repair of the side gate. for the hall had been discussed and a quotation supplied. Mr Lloyd then submitted the quotation to the PC for consideration. Only one quote had been received from the three companies that were originally contacted. The village hall committee were requesting that the PC pay for the works in its entirety. The PC discussed the matter in detail and it was agreed that following the £1500 grant funding that had been made to the village hall committee via the Parish Council in the last weeks. It was not in the interest of the PC to further fund the repair and installation of new gates.

The clerk provided Mr Lloyd with a copy of the village hall insurance quote to be passed to the village hall committee at the next meeting attended by Mr Lloyd.

Action: Mr Lloyd

11. General Council Business

Correspondence All general items of correspondence for the PC had been circulated to members via email during the month.

Regarding the Bus Survey It was agreed that the clerk would submit the comments previously circulated by Cllr Cox to *** in response to the survey. Cllr Cox's draft letter to Stagecoach was also agreed and the clerk will now issue. The Clerk confirmed that she had also sought the opinion of Pluckley and Egerton Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

Queens Jubilee Celebration Update - The clerk confirmed that Jubilee commemorative cups had been ordered and the invoice paid by bank transfer. Although the village hall committee had met no definite decisions had been made concerning entertainment, decoration or food. The clerk agreed to look at availability for a bouncy castle for the event. Mrs Sutcliffe agreed to ask the post office if they would be happy to sell tickets for the event and report back. The clerk agreed to produce

tickets and posters to advertise the event on Thursday 2 June. Cllr Bell confirmed that some funding may be available to assist Hothfield Parish Council if required.

Action: Clerk

Village Hall

Mr Pollock suggested that we ask a member of the village hall to attend the regular PC meetings. This has been raised before with the Village Hall committee and no one was available to attend. Mr Lloyd agreed to ask the village hall once again.

PCSO Report

A PCSO report is no longer produced for the area and has been replaced by Community Voice which is **** Hothfield Parish Council have signed up to this resource however no notifications of items of interest concerning Hothfield Village have been received this month.

Data Protection

Nothing to report.

Anti Social Behaviour Concerns

Although no specific concerns had been raised with the Parish Council this month. Mr Pollard raised the question of Youth club /holiday club facilities in the village. Historically Hothfield had a youth club which meet within the village hall. However at present there was no such club albeit Sk8side were meeting on the Muga. The PC discussed the possibility of a youth club for village children and it was agreed that the PC needed further information on what options were currently available. The clerk agreed to make enquiries with Skateside and Sports Giants to find out further information about there facilities at this point and to invite Sk8side to attend a PC meeting. Furthermore Mrs Merrion and Mrs Sutcliffe suggested that data concerning the number of children in the village and their age range may be accessible via the Hothfield Education Foundation. Mrs Merrion agreed to look into this further.

Action: Mrs Merrion/Clerk

MUGA

Nothing to report.

Hothfield Newsletter

Mr Lloyd will collect the printer from Mrs Sutcliffe this week. It is hoped that the printer will work however alternative printers have been identified by Hedley if this is not the case. A scope of works for the Editor role has also been produced by Hedley and Mr Lloyd, and further to the clerks contact with the Kent Voluntary Centre the role will be advertised on line via KVC.

Action: Clerk

KALC

Nothing to report.

12. Forum for Exchange of Information

Mr Lloyd reported that a due to funeral arrangements for a local resident of School Road there may be a number of vehicles in the village over the next 2 weeks. Any temporary disruption will be kept to a minimum where possible and our thoughts at this time are with the family.

Mrs Sutcliffe requested an update on the recommendations from the Highways Improvement Plan and subsequent speed survey that took place in the village Mr Cox who had been in contact with Kelly Garret at the Highways Agency to ascertain cost breakdowns of those suggested

recommendations was not at the meeting to provide an update but should be able to update at next months meeting. The clerk agreed to send Mrs Sutcliffe a copy of the email correspondence between Mr Cox and Mrs Garrett.

Mr Cook although not present at the meeting had raised the issue of the broken fencing along School Road. The PC confirmed that the fencing is owned by KCC and agreed that we should raise this with them.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk advised that she will be meeting with Capita Technical department concerning the possibility of CCTV within the village and invited Cllrs too attend, unfortunately none were available on this date. The clerk agreed to attend the meeting and report back at the next meeting.

13. Items for next Agenda

- Queens Jubilee Preparations

14. Date of next meetings

The next meeting of HPC is the Annual Meeting arranged for 4 May at 6.30pm

The being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

Chairman's Signature.....