

HARTLIP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 13 January 2021 from 8.00pm until 9.51pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr Graham Addicott OBE

Cllr Paul White

Cllr Paul Williams

Cllr John Davies

Cllr John Wright

Cllr Klaire Lander

Parish Clerk: Tracy Still

Also Present: Cllr Alan Horton, Cllr Richard Palmer and Cllr Mike Whiting

AMENDMENT RAISED AND ACCEPTED AT 10 FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING:

Item 21/10 iii: Due to insufficient drainage, heavy rain results in flooding on the road in Old House Lane and excess mud is resulting from the Paradise Farm Site.

21/1 Apologies for Absence

None.

Absent without Apology

Cllr Boundy.

21/2 Declarations of Interest

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

21/3 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 11 November 2020 were proposed by Cllr Paul White and seconded by Cllr Paul Williams.

All councillors in attendance at the November meeting were in agreement that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

Due to the meeting being held remotely the Clerk had provided the Chairman with a hard copy of the minutes for signing as required under the Local Government Act 1972 (sch.12).

21/4 Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 20/98

The Clerk had contacted the Environmental Warden requesting a copy of the personal insurance cover document and completed Risk Assessment. Neither document had been received by HPC.

The Clerk was asked to again contact the Environmental Warden to request a copy of both documents.

Action: Clerk

Item 20/99 ii

The Clerk had contacted Peter Rayfield regarding the larch tree, adjacent to the road, which appeared to be dead and was leaning at a precarious angle. Due to the proximity of the tree to the power lines and the road Mr Rayfield advised that work would have to be carried out by a contractor with the correct equipment.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman had researched the price of gates for The Parkland centre fence with £500 (excluding installation cost) being a ball-park figure.

Item 20/99 iii

Barbara Addicott (BA) submitted a grant application, on behalf of the Hartlip Community Hub, for £900 on 17.11.20 to support the installation of fence and replacement hedge between HVH car park and south side of allotments.

The normal response window would provide an answer in March/April 2021 but BA had persuaded the grant giver to respond earlier if possible.

The form was especially detailed and complicated taking a significant amount of time to complete.

BA received an offer of the full amount applied for on 12.01.21 and has responded to accept the offer.

The funds will be paid into HPC Bank Account but must be held under the Hartlip Community Hub heading and the use and monitoring will be by Hub. BA will complete and submit the required impact evidence and grant feedback in due course when the work has been completed and invoice/s settled.

Cllr Paul Williams expressed the thanks of HPC to BA for working tirelessly towards obtaining the grant.

Item 20/100 iii

Cllr Davis had not received any further information regarding the flooding on Lower Hartlip Road or Old House Lane.

Item 20/103

HPC's proposals for four Local Green Spaces had been supported by both Borough Councillors.

The Local Plan Panel Meeting will be held on 19 January 2021 with the final proposals being presented to Swale Borough Council for consultation on 3 February 2021.

Item 20/103

Paradise Farm Nursery, Lower Hartlip Road

On the request of HPC, Swale Borough Council had provided clarification on the definition of hardstanding.

21/5 Public Questions

No members of the public attended.

21/6 Parish Highways Improvement Plan

The Chairman advised members that there had been no further developments on this matter save for KCC seeking clarification on some minor matters.

21/7 A249 Key Street and Grovehurst Road Junction Improvement – Public Consultation.

It was agreed that HPC should respond to this consultation indicating support.

Action: Chair

21/8 Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters

PCSO John Cork had provided an update for the period December 2020/January 2021.

HPC discussed the matter of PCSO's attending Parish Council meetings. The Chairman stated that HPC would expect to see the PCSO attend at least 3 or 4 meetings per year.

Cllr Palmer had spoken with the Police and Crime Commissioner who had confirmed that time was allocated for PCSO's to attend parish meetings, but if they were unable to attend an update should be provided to the Parish Council each month and the AGM should be attended.

HPC NHW Coordinator reported that there had been an increase in scams regarding the Covid-19 vaccine and HMRC.

Residents are reminded to remain vigilant.

21/9 HPC Amenities: Councillor Reports

i. Recreation Ground

The planting of trees at Hartlip Recreation Ground had been postponed twice due to Government lockdown restrictions.

The Chairman confirmed that the trees would require planting within the next 2 weeks to ensure they did not die.

The Chairman, Cllrs White, Davies and Williams confirmed that they would be willing to attend the Recreation Ground on separate occasions to plant the trees.

Action: Chair

ii. The Parkland

A leak on the stop cock under the water meter needed attention.

Action: Chair/Clerk

iii. The Allotments.

The poplar trees in the orchard remain a cause for H & S concern.

The orchard landowner, whose responsibility these trees are, has been contacted regularly since 2014 regarding this matter to no avail. An undertaking that the work would be attended to after harvest 2020 has not been fulfilled.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the land owner by letter, requesting acknowledgement of the correspondence and confirmation of when the work would be carried out.

Action: Clerk

Negotiations for the purchase of the allotments are proceeding.

21/10 Other HPC Responsibilities: Councillor Reports

i. KALC

The Chairman was unable to attend the KALC meeting held on 30 November 2020.

Kent Police reported that crime rates had reduced by 11.8%, but domestic abuse rates had increased by 18.4%

The Chairman attended the Western Area Committee Meeting.

It was reported that the waste removal contract was due to expire in October 2023.

HPC agreed to request resumption of the regular street cleansing which has been neglected of late.

The Chairman confirmed that he would attend the next committee meeting being held on 2 March 2021.

Consideration will be given to an application for funding.

Action: Chair

ii. Hartlip Village Hall

Hartlip Village Hall Representative reported that HVH remains closed in line with the Government Covid-19 Strategy.

HVH Chair, Barbara Addicott continues to work to enable reopening as soon as permitted.

HVH Chair is being assisted by HVH Technical Advisor and by Graham Addicott to carry out regular hall and car park checks against the requirements she has laid down to meet the need for responsible management and the requirements of the Insurance Company.

Cllr White, in his capacity as Maintenance Manager, reported that HVH Chair was dealing with the mopping up required after any rain due to a leak in the Main Hall roof which is due for replacement.

iii. Highways

Cllr Davies reported that the pond on The Street had flooded recently and had subsequently left an excessive amount of mud on the road. Photo evidence had not been obtained. Cllr Davies had reported the mud to Kent Highways.

The Chairman reminded that it was not flooding which had been reported to HPC but a considerable amount of mud which had amassed on the road

opposite the Methodist Church and possibly blocked the drainage hole to the pond.

Scaffolding had been erected at a property in the village and was totally blocking the narrow pavement. No licence was displayed on the scaffolding. Complaints had been received on H&S grounds. Cllr Davies had contacted KCC to ascertain whether all necessary licences were in place. KCC had acknowledged receipt of the query but Cllr Davies had received no confirmation that the correct licence was in place and so would check this.

Action: Cllr Davies

There had been an incident of a blocked household drain in the village caused by wet wipes. Southern Water had attended and cleared the blockage. A reminder will be put in the Forum asking residents to ensure that wet wipes are not put down toilets.

Due to insufficient drainage, heavy rain results in excess mud on the road in Old House Lane.

Cllr Davies will report the issue to Kent Highways.

Action: Councillor Davies

- iv. Footpaths
No report provided.

21/11 Borough and County Councillor's Reports

Cllr Mike Whiting reported that household recycling centres were aiming to remove the restriction of 4 visits per month to an unlimited number. The requirement of pre-booking a slot would remain in force.

Lorries had been seen parking overnight in Spade Lane. The Government has granted local authorities enforcement powers to clamp and fine any HGV parking in country lanes. An extra function for reporting illegally parked HGV's has been added to the SBC Fly Tipping Reporting App.

It was observed to be disappointing that there was no Covid-19 Vaccination Hub in Sittingbourne but that mass testing was now available to all residents in Swale.

Police Sergeant Jason Hedges has recently retired and thanks were expressed on of behalf of the local communities for his service.

Cllr Whiting had been contacted by HPC over continued development at Spade Lane. He had asked the planning department at SBC to investigate and take action to stop any unauthorised development.

Residents were urged to continue to report any potholes or damage to vehicles on the KCC Report a Fault webpage. See HPC Website for contact details.

Before Christmas HPC had raised concerns about the open air cinemas in Spade Lane. The company concerned had been contacted and had cancelled all future showings.

A meeting with a member of the Wildlife Group and Kent Highways had been arranged to discuss making it easier for badgers and other animals to cross the lanes more safely.

Flooding continues to be a problem in Old House Lane and Lower Hartlip Road and has been reported to Kent Highways.

Borough Councillors reminded Councillors that funding had closed for the current year but would reopen in May.

The Chairman thanked County and Borough Councillors for their support and assistance with these matters.

21/12 Clerk and Finance Report

The Bank Reconciliation and Finance Report were presented to the Parish Council.

The Clerk had presented the documents to the Chairman prior to the meeting for checking and correction as per normal practice.

These were signed and dated by the Chairman.

Cheques had been prepared for signature prior to the meeting. These were signed by the Chairman.

T Still	Clerk Salary & Expenses November 2020	£ 212.54
Business Stream	Water services 20.10.20 - 06.12.20 & 06.12.20 - 05.01.21	£ 79.53
Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance/Recreation Ground/ Quarter	£ 123.62
Total:		£ 551.45

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the budget for 2021/2022. It was agreed that no increase to the Precept should be sought for the year 2021/2022.

21/13 Planning Matters

Spade Lane

The Chairman had contacted SBC Planning Enforcement Office and Head of Planning but had not received any further information.

Other Enforcement Matters

The Chairman reported that Swale Borough Council had made no progress on any other on-going enforcement matter and that he would be pursuing further as a matter of urgency.

Action: Chair

Notice of Appeals lodged with the Planning Inspectorate since the November meeting.

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side and rear extension with roof alterations to Nos 1 and 2 Oak Barn Cottages, Yaughar Lane. (Resubmission of application 19/504199).

An appeal had been lodged in relation to the above as Swale Borough Council had refused permission for this application.

(The Parish Council's current comments to hold but will not be submitting additional comments in this matter).

Proposal: Change of use of auto showroom and workshop (Sui Generis) to a banqueting hall, including food processing and distribution (Class D and B2), including the creation of a mezzanine floor and alterations to fenestration. (Re-submission of 19/503293/FULL) at Car Showroom, London Road

(Strong Objection)

Applications received since the November Meeting.

Application Ref: 20/505647

Proposed removal of pine tree in Hartlip Conservation Area at Copper Beeches, The Street, Hartlip.

(Advice of Tree Officer sought)

Application Ref: 20/505376

Erection of new garage, erection of single storey rear extension and raising roof height to accommodate a first floor at Tamarix, Munns Lane, Hartlip.

(No objection in principle)

Application Ref: 20/505771 *Councillor Wright declared an interest in this Application.*

Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural buildings to 3 dwellings and associated operational development for prior approval at Paradise Farm, Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip.

(Application for prior notification not commented on.

Observations made should there be a future planning application.

These would be reviewed in the event of an actual planning application).

Application Ref: 20/506021

Erection of a single storey front extension and part single storey/part two storey rear extension at Copper Beeches, The Street, Hartlip.

(No objection in principle)

21/14 Correspondence

A resident had reported the collapse of a flint wall between their property and the orchard behind.

All Councillors agreed that this was purely a civil matter.

The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident regarding misuse of their brown bin by dog owners. Concern was expressed and monitoring suggested.

21/15 Information Items

The Chair reminded all Councillors of the importance of dealing with planning consultations promptly particularly in light of the consultation regarding the fast tracking of planning applications.

The Clerk would contact KALC to request a copy of the full consultation document.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.51pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held virtually on Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 8.00pm.

Signed

Date