

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 8 April 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

01/24 Administration: Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no requests to record the meeting.

02/24 Present and Apologies:

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

In Attendance: Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Ward Member Alan Pickering, 20 members of the public

Apologies: An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Drury and the reason for absence was accepted.

03/24 Declarations of Interest:

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

04/24 Minutes of the meeting of the 8 April 2024:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11 March 2024 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

05/24 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only):

The Clerk will be attending a virtual seminar to be organised by ABC to assist with the application process for grant funding for trees for a community orchard. The process closes on the 24 May 2024.

KCC is consulting on revisions to its guidance and validation requirements for planning applications determined by the County Council. The consultation closes on the 3 May 2024.

The Clerk advised that the site meeting with the Community Engagement Officer at KCC to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan objectives is taking place at 10am on Wednesday 24 April 2024.

The Clerk reported that a shed was installed at each allotment last week.

The internal auditor will carry out the annual audit on the 12 April 2024.

The working group will be meeting on Tuesday 16 April 2024 to review the feedback from the face to face and online consultation regarding improvements to the recreation ground.

06/24 Open Session:

A member of the public explained that the owner of the land at Church Hill Farm, which was submitted in the 'Call for Sites' exercise (reference HELAA/LP41/054), has withdrawn the site from the process but that a smaller area of land off Church Hill remains on the list (site reference HELAA/LP41/042).

A member of the public spoke in support of planning proposal PA/2024/0472 and asked if the Parish Council could state that they strongly support the proposal and request that the Ward Member calls in the application if the planning officer is minded to refuse the proposal.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could investigate whether all the planning conditions have been adhered to at Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden.

A member of the public spoke against planning proposal PA/2024/0613 which has just been validated.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

07/24 Anti-social behaviour:

Cllr. Sargent and the Clerk attended a virtual meeting with the agencies on Friday 22 March 2024. Both Southern Housing and Kent Police advised that no further incidents of anti-social behaviour have been reported. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to encourage residents to report any incidents and advise that this can be done anonymously. The Parish Council will also stress the importance of the reports which are used to inform Police intelligence.

08/24 Footpaths:

Proposal for a footpath on the recreation ground

Cllrs. Sargent, Drury, Robinson and the Clerk met with another contractor to discuss alternative surfaces for a footpath around the lower recreation ground and the top recreation ground. A further quote has been received and the Clerk is meeting another contractor this week to obtain a further quote and some advice.

Initials:

Footpath from Ransley Field to the churchyard.

It was noted that the Clerk has walked the footpath from Ransley Field to the school and has sent photographs of the areas requiring remedial works to Public Rights of Way at KCC.

09/24 Capital Grants Application

Members considered quotes obtained by the Clerk for installing solar panels on the sports pavilion following some site visits with providers of renewable energy. JPS Renewable Energy has quoted £15,811.00 for 10 panels and £18,136.00 for 16 panels both with a Tesla Powerwall storage. Tesla Powerwall has been suggested given that the pavilion is not in regular use. A Powerwall will enable the capture of as much of the generation as possible so that it can be used when needed. The Clerk advised that a system of 10 panels would save just £692.00 a year. However, if the Parish Council were successful in getting match funding and awarded a capital grant from ABC the system would pay for itself in about 11-12 years. With increased usage of the pavilion or any bigger changes in inflation this could easily reduce. The Clerk suggested that the Parish Council applies for a capital grant from ABC for match funding for a solar panel system for the sports pavilion. The closing date for applications is the 31 May 2024.

Resolved: The Clerk to apply for a capital grant from ABC for a solar panel system for the sports pavilion.

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

10/24 Planning

To discuss any planning applications received:

PA/2024/0472: Moat Farm House, Oak Grove Lane, High Halden

Erection of 1no. dwelling following demolition of existing garage.

Resolved: Support as long as KCC Highways does not object. If the Officer is minded to refuse the application we request that the Ward Member calls in the application.

PA/2024/0462: 44 Hopes Grove, High Halden

First floor side infill extension.

Resolved: Support.

PA/2024/0492: 2 Maynard Villas, Ashford Road, High Halden

Replacement of timber shed with cabin.

Resolved: Support.

PA/2024/0451: Boniface House, Shawlands Lane, High Halden

Two-storey detached dwelling house and detached double garage.

Resolved: The Clerk to request an extension for the Parish Council to respond to allow for possible discrepancies in the application to be investigated.

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

Approvals:

PA/2024/0208: Duxbury, Church Hill, High Halden

Tiled sunroom in replacement of existing conservatory.

PA/2024/0244: Duxbury, Church Hill, High Halden

Internal alterations including removal of partition walls; two new first floor dormer windows; erection of rear porch canopy; amendments to doors and window openings; removal of chimney flue; and beam strengthening plus vaulting of (new) kitchen ceiling; and new tiled roof sunroom in replacement of existing conservatory.

PA/2024/0147: 3 Durrant Green, Ashford Road, High Halden

Proposed single storey flat roof rear extension and alterations.

Refusals:

PA/2024/0217: Land known as Oakleigh Field west of Oakleigh Farm, High Halden

Change of use from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture and the keeping of horses and the erection of an animal shelter.

Withdrawn:

PA/2024/0299: The Stables, Redbrook Street, High Halden

Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed agricultural building.

Initials:

Other Planning Matters

Local Plan Update: Call for Sites Consultation:

Cllr. Pickering explained that ABC has published a list of sites that landowners have put forward for possible inclusion in the next Local Plan. The planning team at ABC will now undertake a detailed assessment of all the sites submitted to determine their potential suitability for inclusion in the next Local Plan. A consultation exercise will then take place later in the year on all of the potential sites.

ENF/2023/0258: It was agreed to discuss the reluctance of ABC to request that the gateway feature at the development at Hopes Grove is moved to the position agreed in planning proposal 17/00952/CONB/AS with KCC at the Highways Improvement Plan meeting due to take place on the 24 April 2024.

11/24 Financial Report:

/24-1 Request for funding approval:

Resolved: To donate £200.00 to support the attendance of Matilda Mulcahy at the 2024 World Barefoot Championship due to be held in Florida in October 2024 and who will be representing Great Britain.

/24-2 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget:

Cllr. Dawes checked the invoices against the payment schedule and it was and it was **resolved** for Cllr. Dawes and Robinson to authorise the payments online.

Payments :

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	Skinnners Sheds (Allotment Sheds)	6090.00
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Expenses)	94.85
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Salary)	807.52
Transfer	HMRC (L Goldsmith)	201.80
Transfer	High Halden School (Playground contribution)	1952.00
Transfer	Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)	154.00
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus Stop Cleaning)	51.48
Transfer	N Power (Pavilion Electricity)	81.47
Transfer	KALC (Annual Subscription)	749.40
DD	Google Cloud	96.00

Receipts:

Details	£
Ashford Borough Council (S106 payment for allotments)	2750.00
Interest Unity Bank Savings Account	317.24

Balances as at 31 March 2024

Unity Trust Current Account: £1,401.69

Unity Trust Savings Account: £55,879.62

Total: £57,281.31

11/24 Reports:

/24-1 Ward member:

Ward Member Alan Pickering explained that the move to International House is imminent and that officers are being encouraged to work more in the office.

/24-2 Highways:

ABC has advised that they would consider placing a general waste bin on the footpath at the back of Woodgates Close to replace the dog waste bin waste that was recently removed. The Clerk will liaise with ABC regarding an exact location for this new bin.

24-3 Marketing/projects: Nothing to report.

Initials:

/24-4 KALC: The Clerk advised that the next meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 29 May 2024 and that a new Chairman is being sought.

13/24 Information items:

/24-1 HHVEC Update:

Cllr. Sargent advised that preparations are underway for marking the D-Day 80th Anniversary on the 6 June 2024 and for a summer event due to be held on Saturday 20 July 2024. Sponsorship and raffle prizes are being sought to assist with fund raising for these self-financing events.

14/24 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-2024.

15/24 Date of the next meeting.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

With no further business to transact the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Date:

Initials: