

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 14 October 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

119/24 Administration: Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no requests to record the meeting.

120/24 Present and Apologies

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

In Attendance: Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Ward Member Alan Pickering, 5 members of the public.

Apologies: An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. Amsler, Sargent and Wheeler and the reasons for absence were accepted.

121/24 Declarations of Interest:

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

122/24 Minutes of the meeting of the 9 September 2024:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9 September 2024 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

123/24 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only):

Community Orchard: The Clerk is attending Keepers Nursery tomorrow for a guided tour of the fruit trees that ABC has requested and for advice on how to plant and maintain the orchard.

124/24 Open Session:

Two members of the public expressed their concern about the potential volume of traffic on the trackway if the proposal PA/2024/1584 is approved.

125/24 Highways Improvement Plan

The Community Engagement Officer has advised a scheme to make school keep clear markings enforceable is still progressing and will hopefully move towards the Traffic Regulation Order stage soon.

Bus Stop update:

The Community Engagement Officer has advised that the cost of the scheme to create one or two parking spaces and an area for the buses will be covered by KCC and that an order for the works has been handed over to the contractor. Hopefully works will commence shortly.

126/24 .gov.uk website domain and email addresses

The Clerk was pleased to report that HugoFox, the current website provider, is now Nominet .gov.uk certified which allows them to provide .gov.uk domains and emails. The Cabinet Office has secured funding to help Parish Councils set up a .gov.uk domain. This discount of £100.00 is applied at the point of purchase by those Approved Registrars participating in the Parish Council Domains Helper Service. It was noted that the Clerk applied for the grant in between meetings which has since been granted. The Clerk advised that HugoFox is now in the process of setting up a .gov.uk domain and email addresses for the Parish Council.

127/24 Ransley Field/Sage Homes

Sage Homes has advised that Southern Housing were, up until now, responsible for the landscaping and that Sage Homes will not take responsibility for it until it is of a standard acceptable to them for handover. Sage Homes has advised that an initial meeting has been held with Southern Housing to discuss the concerns raised and a further meeting is to be held where a maintenance strategy will be formulated to deal with reinstating the landscaping. The Community Safety Officer at Sage Homes conducted a door knock on the estate on the 2 September 2024 with the local Beat Officer and spoke to residents regarding any issues they might have been experiencing and how best to report them. The Clerk was asked to find out who is responsible for maintaining the ponds on the site.

Initials:

Anti-Social Behaviour in the parish

Cllrs. Sargent, Robinson and the Clerk met with the landlady of The Chequers to discuss the ongoing issues they are experiencing at the pub with anti-social behaviour. The Community Support Officer had visited the pub and came up with some suggestions to maintain a stance of not giving in to anti-social behaviour. These included holding a public meeting to discuss incidents and putting up posters on social media and around the parish to encourage residents to report all incidents. It was also suggested that the community warden service might be able to help. The Clerk advised that KCC is withdrawing the funding for the community warden service but that it might be possible for parishes to fund their own warden. It was noted that the Team Leader for the Ashford Community Wardens, Adam McKinley, has agreed to attend the village coffee morning on Friday 18 October 2024 to discuss this further. The Clerk and Cllrs. Robinson and Sargent will attend the coffee morning. It was agreed that a public meeting could be beneficial but that it would be better to have an action plan in place first. It was agreed to post notices on social media reminding residents to report all incidents.

128/24 S106 Funding

a) Update on the S106 application for the allotments

The Clerk had submitted a S106 claim to ABC for the recent drainage works and the installation of an additional tap at the allotments. ABC has advised that the available S106 maintenance fund from the Sickfield development can only be used towards the maintenance of what is already there and not for capital expenditure. However, ABC has advised that further S106 funds for capital expenditure for the allotments are expected from the Land East of Hope House development. ABC has suggested that this project seems to meet the restriction of spend from the S106 at Land East of Hope House and will hopefully therefore be granted. The Clerk will submit another application when ABC advises that they have received the funds.

b) Update on funds available for a wildflower meadow

ABC has advised that the S106 funding available for planting a wildflower meadow is restricted and can only be used for the provision of 1.8 acres of land off Church Hill as a wildflower meadow and for the provision of 6 picnic benches within the flower meadow. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Tenterden Wildlife Trust and to get in touch with landowners on Church Hill to explore whether any land could be available for this project.

129/24 Tree Surveys

Members received and discussed the results of the tree survey which had been circulated by the Clerk. It was noted that numerous trees need remedial works. Members considered the quotes obtained by the Clerk.

Resolved: To accept a quote of £4,910.00 (excluding VAT) from Aspire for the remedial works.

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

130/24 Planning

PA/2024/1584: New Barn Farm, Ashford Road, High Halden

Change of use and conversion of agricultural barn with associated parking area to provide a mixed use facility including agricultural storage, community function room, retail, office space.

Resolved: Support. The Parish Council has an interest in the site as it leases the land currently used for allotments. We are concerned about the capability of the existing access in terms of the potential volume of traffic.

NOT/2024/1654: Forge House, Ashford Road, High Halden

T1 semi mature Goat Willow. Tree has been badly pruned in the past on one side leaving one overextended limb over the boundary fence. Prune back overextended limb back to a previous pollard point.

Resolved: Support. The aerial view shows dense vegetation which needs to be curtailed.

PA/2024/1587: 1 Durrant Green, Ashford Road, High Halden

Proposed detached dwelling with detached garage.

Resolved: We object on the grounds that the egress is already dangerous and to accommodate even more vehicles and the house in its present plan is too big and does not fit in with the existing dwellings in the vicinity. Request that the Ward Member calls the application if the Officer is minded to approve it.

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

Approvals:

PA/2024/1594: 2 Maynard Villas, Ashford Road, High Halden

Replacement of 5 no.window and 2 no.doors.

Initials:

Refusals:

NOT/2024/1494: Marten Farm, Martens Lane, High Halden

Prior Notification for the conversion of 3 existing barns into 3 individual dwellings.

PA/2024/1446: Quince Tree Orchard, Ashford Road, High Halden

Proposed new crossover to create an entrance/exit driveway.

Withdrawn: None to consider.

Other Planning Matters

1] Appeals:

AP-90678: Appeal Boniface House, Shawlands Lane PA/2024/0451

AP-90668: Appeal Land known as Oakleigh Field west of Oakleigh Farm, PA/2024/0217

AP- 90688: Appeal Homestaff Farm, Ashford Road, PA2024/0799: It was agreed to submit some further observations to the Planning Inspectorate.

7.57pm: 3 members of the public left the meeting.

131/24 Financial Report:

/24-1 To receive a grant application form from Air Ambulance Charity

Members considered a grant application from the Air Ambulance Charity.

Resolved: To donate £500.00 to the Air Ambulance Charity.

/24-2 To approve the purchase of a strimmer for maintenance: Deferred to a future meeting.

/24-3 Request to metal detect on the village green

Members considered a formal request from group of local residents to metal detect on the village green.

Resolved: To grant a request for one metal detection. The Clerk to sign a National Council for Metal Detecting standard agreement that states that 50% of the value of any find over £100.00 is given to the Parish Council as landowner and that there is no harm caused to the green.

/24-4 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 Cllrs.

Robinson and Dawes to authorise the payments online. Cllr. Robinson, as the Chair, initialled the payment list and Cllr. Dawes signed and dated the bank reconciliation as at the 14 October 2024 in accordance with the adopted Financial Regulations.

Receipts:

Details	£
Ashford Borough Council (Second half of precept)	16,527.00
Unity Trust (Interest)	315.78

Payments :

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Clerks Expenses)	48.95
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Clerks Salary)	807.32
Transfer	HMRC	500.03
Transfer	Barrie Croucher (Caretaker Services)	57.20
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus Stop Cleaning)	77.22
Transfer	South East Water (water supply sports pavilion)	122.93
Transfer	High Halden Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)	115.50
Transfer	Npower (electricity supply sports pavilion)	152.01
Transfer	Mastercutters (Printing of newsletter)	100.00
Transfer	Aquavale Properties (Pipework and new tap for allotments)	1,104.00
Transfer	Aquavale Properties (Drainage works to the allotments)	1,836.00
DD	Google Cloud	96.00
DD	Hugo Fox (Website)	2.99

Initials:

Balances as at 14 October 2024

Unity Trust Current Account: £33,481.57

Unity Trust Savings Account: £21,125.57

Total: £54,607.14

132/24 Reports:

/24-1 Ward member:

Ward Member Alan Pickering advised that plans to move to International House are ongoing along with the disposal of the Civic Centre. Ward Member Alan advised that unfortunately Eurostar will not be stopping at Ashford next year.

/24-2 Highways: The Clerk has reported the manhole inspection covers, both in the road and on the pavement, at the end of Halden and that various edges along the A28 need cutting back from the footpath.

/24-3 Marketing/projects: The Clerk to assist Cllr. Dawes with delivering the newsletters.

/24-4 KALC: The minutes of the meeting held on the 25 September 2024 have been circulated.

133/24 Information items:

/24-1 HHVEC Update:

Cllr. Robinson reported that HHVEC is working towards holding a boot fair on the recreation ground after the football season and holding a karaoke evening in the village hall next year. HHVEC plan to put the Christmas Tree up on the village green at the end of November and are looking at ways to celebrate VE Day 80 on the 8 May 2025.

/24-2 National Planning Policy Framework Consultation: It was noted that KALC Ashford Area Committee has submitted a response.

134/24 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:

Community Warden Service.

135/24 Date of the next meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

With no further business to transact the meeting closed at 8.09pm

Signed:

Date:

Initials: