

**HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 12 August 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall**

**80/24 Administration:** Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no requests to record the meeting.

**81/24 Present and Apologies**

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Ward Member Alan Pickering, 3 members of the public.

**Apologies:** None.

**82/24 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**83/24 Minutes of the meeting of the 8 July 2024:**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8 July 2024 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

**84/24 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only):**

Footpath at Jubilee Park: Works are now completed to the footpath on lower field.

Brewmasters Football Club: The football club has passed on their gratitude regarding the Parish Council's decision to not charge the annual hire fee this year in recognition of their successful season.

High Halden Church of England Primary School: The school has sent a thank you card for the donation from the Parish Council towards the playground.

**85/24 Open Session:**

A member of the public asked if Members attending a Planning Seminar on 'planning and its implications under the new Government' could find out if neighbourhood consultation will still take place and whether the need to demonstrate a Biodiversity Net Gain will still apply.

**86/24 Highways Improvement Plan**

The Community Engagement Officer had previously advised that a proposal for an advisory 20mph limit with all of the relevant signage and wigwags outside the school would cost in the region of £7-8,000 and need to be funded by the Parish Council. The Clerk had asked if KCC would be willing to match fund. The Community Engagement Officer has advised that KCC would not be able to contribute to this scheme as it would be a significant portion of the overall budget for Ashford. The Clerk was asked to find out what other more cost effective improvements KCC would consider acceptable outside the school such as banners. 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:** Members were delighted to hear that a KCC engineer has determined that if the bus stop was shortened they could create one parking space. This would still give the bus the minimum 31 metre requirement to approach, straighten up in line with the kerb, and exit the bus stop safely. The Community Engagement Officer is going to request a design and cost for the scheme. Cllr. Sargent suggested that the bus stop could be shortened to 30 metres, which would still provide a safe access and entry for the bus, and that this would provide two parking spaces. The Clerk will forward this suggestion to KCC.

**Parish Seminar Dates:** The seminar dates of Wednesday 2 October 2024 and Wednesday 20 November were noted.

**Speedwatch:** Cllr. Drury and the Clerk carried out a speedwatch session from 6.30am to 7.30am one morning last week and noted down the details of 30 motorists travelling over the speed limit which is the highest number recorded on a speedwatch session in High Halden. Of concern is the fact that the majority were travelling at speeds over 40mph in a 30mph zone and three vehicles were travelling over 50mph. Cllr. Drury and the Clerk agreed to carry out another early morning session and the Clerk will find out if the police could attend at a similar time at some point. The Clerk will also review the location of the speedwatch sites.

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### **87/24 Allotments**

The Clerk advised that the landowner would be happy for a trough to be placed on his land. Cllr. Drury has provided a plan showing the possible position of the trough and suggested that it would be a better long-term solution to put in another underground water pipe. The Clerk was asked to discuss this with the landowner and obtain a quote for the works.

### **88/24 Community Orchard**

The Clerk is developing a list of people wanting to 'adopt' a tree. The Clerk advised that the KALC Area Committee, at the request of another parish, has set up an e-group to share ideas and best practice.

### **89/24 Anti-social behaviour:**

A number of Councillors and the Clerk are due to meet with representatives from Sage this week to include their Community Safety Officer at Ransley Fields to have a walkabout to discuss the issues and the landscaping.

### **90/24 Capital Grant Application for funding for solar panels on the pavilion**

The Clerk had applied for a capital grant from ABC for match funding for a solar panel system for the sports pavilion. The preferred supplier JPS Renewable Energy had quoted £ £18,136.00 for 16 panels with a Tesla Powerwall storage. The Clerk applied for a grant of £9,000.00 but the Capital Grants Panel have approved a grant of only £4,500 towards the project because they received a high number of applications. This means that the Parish Council will need to find £13,500 for the project to go ahead.

**Resolved:** To reject the grant from ABC and postpone the project and try and seek some more professional advice.

### **91/24 RoSPA Inspection**

Members considered the reports from the recent RoSPA inspection of the playground at Jubilee Park and Hookstead. Given that a project to replace some of the playground equipment at Jubilee Park will need to wait until further S106 funds become available it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for the suggested remedial works.

### **92/24 Jubilee Park**

#### **Broken fence posts around the playground.**

Members **resolved** to accept a quote of £438.80 (excluding VAT) from Aspire to replace a number of broken palisades around the playground and to supply and install approximately 6m of knee rail to close off the gap between the existing kissing gate on Jubilee Field and the property fences. Hopefully, installing a knee rail will prevent motorbikes accessing the recreation ground to the side of the main gate.

**Handrail:** The Clerk reported that one of the handrails on one of the bridges at Jubilee Park is missing.

**Resolved:** To accept a quote from Aspire of £80.00 to replace the missing handrail on one of the bridges.

**Manhole cover:** Members noted that Aspire have had to replace the manhole again on the lower field which had been stolen.

**Sports Pavilion:** Members considered three quotes obtained by the Clerk to repaint the outside of the sports pavilion.

**Resolved:** To accept a quote of £610.00, excluding the cost of the paint, from a local painter.

**Tree Survey:** The Clerk had previously advised that it is good practice to carry out a bi-annual survey of all the trees on Parish Council owned land.

**Resolved:** To accept a quote from Aspire of £667.40 (excluding VAT) to carry out a tree survey to include an inspection of Carters Oak.

### **93/24 Projects**

#### **To receive an update on the S106 allocation for a MUGA**

ABC has advised the Clerk that just £49,000 of the total allocation of £98,035.35 for Outdoor Sports Capital is available from the Ransley Field development for a MUGA. A total of £70,289.40 Outdoor Sports Capital is available towards the provision of a tennis court/outdoor gym/cricket from the Sickfield Development and ABC has now confirmed that the whole sum can be used towards the MUGA. When the Developer reaches 75% occupation at Hopes Grove ABC will receive a further £44,492.00 (increasing to approximately £67,000.00 with indexation) for Outdoor sports Capital towards the provision of a MUGA. ABC has therefore advised that

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the Parish Council should delay the MUGA project until this funding has come forward. The developer is currently at 25% occupancy. Members agreed to wait for confirmation from ABC that these S106 monies have been received recognising that the additional funding would result in a higher specification for the MUGA. The Clerk was asked to commence a project to investigate the replacement of some of the playground equipment and establish the amount of S106 funding available.

**Proposal for a wildflower meadow/strip**

Members noted that there is a S106 allocation of approximately £46,000 toward the capital purchase and provision of 1.8 acres of land off Church Hill as a wildflower meadow and provision of 6 picnic benches within the flower meadow. The Clerk was asked to find out if this allocation could be used in an alternative location such as to provide a wildflower strip by the new footpath on Jubilee Park or towards another area of land.

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

**94/24 Planning**

**To discuss any planning applications received:**

**PA/2024/1255: The White Cottage, Ashford Road, St Michaels**

Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed - steel frame shed on concrete hardstanding.

**Resolved: Support.**

**Planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda:**

**Approvals:**

**NOT/2024/1105: The Chequers Inn, Ashford Road, High Halden**

T1 - To crown reduce Damson tree by pond by 2 metres in both height and lateral spread (20%) and shape ensuring the overhang from tree is cut away from neighbours boundary

T2 - To crown reduce Field Maple tree by 2 - 3 metres in both height and lateral spread (25%) and shape on rear side boundary ensuring the overhang from tree is cut away from neighbours boundary

T3 - To crown reduce Willow tree by 3 metres in both height and lateral spread (25%) and shape adjacent to pond

G1 - To cut back overhanging vegetation in car park from neighbours property back to boundary  
G2 - To cut back group of trees forming a mixed hedge overhanging neighbours property on rear side boundary back to boundary.

**Refusals:**

**PA/2024/0647: Greenluck Farm, Harris Lane, High Halden**

3no 2 bedroom log cabin style dwellings with associated parking and garden areas, moveable ground mounted solar panels to be installed in agricultural field following removal of caravans. It was noted that some of the comments made by the Parish Council were included in the Officer's report.

**PA/2024/0799: Homestall Farm, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Change of use of land to a commercial vehicle depot and open storage yard (Retrospective). Proposed new vehicular access and 1.8m high gate.

**Withdrawn:** None to consider.

**Other Planning Matters**

**1] PA/2024/0472: Moat Farm House, Oak Grove Lane, High Halden: Erection of 1no. dwelling following demolition of existing garage.** Ward Member Alan Pickering advised that the application is now likely to be determined at Officer level.

**2] ABC Planning Training for Parish Councillors**

Cllrs. Mrs Pickering and Dawes attended a planning training event organised by the KALC Ashford Area Committee held on Monday 22 July 2024 in the Council Chamber at ABC. Simon Cole, Assistant Director Planning and Development at ABC, gave a presentation on how to respond to planning proposals. Cllr. Mrs. Pickering reported that it was suggested that it is advisable to give detailed reasons in terms of the level of 'harm' when objecting to a planning proposal and that is recommended to consult neighbouring parishes and agree a response when a proposal could affect both areas. Cllr. Mrs. Pickering reported that Simon Cole has advised that in terms of the planning process it does not matter how long a resident has lived in an area.

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### 3] Local Plan Consultation Update

ABC is holding a series in person events throughout the summer to provide communities with the opportunity to find out more about how the new Ashford Local Plan will be prepared, what it will cover, what stage ABC are at, and when ABC will go out to formal public consultation. There will be eight in person events across the borough and a further two virtual sessions in late August and early September. The nearest event was held in Tenterden on the 6 August 2024. The session was well attended and feedback suggests residents welcome being consulted at such an early stage.

### 4] Appeals:

**AP-90678: Appeal submitted for Boniface House, Shawlands Lane PA/2024/0451:** Noted.

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

**5] 'Planning and its implications for us under the new Government' Seminar':** Noted that Cllrs. Robinson and Mrs Pickering and the Clerk will attend the virtual seminar due to be held on the 13 August 2024.

### 95/24 Financial Report:

#### /24-1 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. Drury and Dawes to authorise the payments online. Cllr. Robinson, as the Chair, initialled the payment list and Cllr. Sargent signed and dated the bank reconciliation as at the 12 August 2024 in accordance with the adopted Financial Regulations.

**Receipts:** None received.

#### Payments :

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Clerks Expenses, reimburse Jotform, screen)	360.56
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Clerks Salary)	807.52
Transfer	HMRC	497.39
Transfer	Lamb-Latore Ltd (New multi-user stone path)	12,121.11
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus Stop Cleaning)	77.22
Transfer	Bourne Sport (works to the pitches)	10,740.00
Transfer	Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA inspection)	187.20
Transfer	Npower	63.09
DD	Google Cloud	96.00
DD	Hugo Fox (Website)	2.99

### Balances as at 12 August 2024

**Unity Trust Current Account: £6,741.98**

**Unity Trust Savings Account: £58,165.79**

**Total: £64,907.77**

### 96/24 Reports:

#### /24-1 Ward member:

Ward Member Alan Pickering advised Members that ABC welcomed 50 Syrian families into the borough last year and that Government funding was promised to assist with the financial cost. ABC has still not received any funding and is in negotiations with the Government. Ward Member Alan Pickering advised Members that the process of removing the illegal waste at Hoads Wood, Bethersden is ongoing.

**/24-2 Highways:** Nothing to report.

**/24-3 Marketing/projects:** The Clerk to prepare the next edition of the newsletter.

**/24-4 KALC:** The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31 July 2024 have been circulated.

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**97/24 Information items:**

**/24-1 HHVEC Update:**

Cllr. Sargent advised the High Halden Hoe-Down event held on the village green on Saturday 20 July 2024 was very well attended and that the feedback has been very positive.

**/24-2 National Highways and Transport Survey:** Noted.

**/24-3 Kent County Council Local Transport Plan consultation:** Noted.

**98/24 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:**

Footpath AT165: Shire horses appear to be intimidating people.

Cllr. Robinson gave his apologies for the next meeting.

**99/24 Date of the next meeting.**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 9 September 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.**

With no further business to transact the meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

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