

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

60/24 Administration: Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no requests to record the meeting.

61/24 Present and Apologies

Present: Cllr. Robinson (Chairman), Cllrs: Mrs. Amsler (arrived: 7.08pm), Ms. Dawes, Mr. Drury, Mrs. Pickering and Mr. Sargent

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

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

62/24 Declarations of Interest:

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

63/24 Minutes of the meeting of the 24 June 2024:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 24 June 2024 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

64/24 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only):

The AT141 which was blocked with vegetation has been cleared.

The Clerk advised Members of her appointment as the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Rolvenden Parish Council and resignation from parishes in Tonbridge and Malling.

65/24 Open Session:

A member of the public spoke against planning application PA/2024/1125 and raised concerns about the fact the site is sitting on and is adjacent to ancient woodland and also mentioned the lack of a Biodiversity Plan. Concerns were also expressed about the proposed materials to be used and the possible detrimental effect of the construction works on the natural environment.

7.18pm a fifth member of the public joined the meeting

66/24 Highways Improvement Plan

The Clerk reported that the gateways at Hopes Grove have now been removed along with some of the 30mph signage at the entrance to Hopes Grove. It was agreed that the area looks less cluttered. The Community Engagement Officer has advised that the previous decision regarding the extension of the 30mph limit on the A28 has been reviewed by KCC. KCC has advised that the environment has not changed since that review and that there is no further evidence of a safety issue with crash data to change that decision and KCC will therefore not be extending the 30mph zone. KCC is going to be liaising with Stagecoach to establish what length they require to access the bus stop and will then decide what is feasible there. The current school warning signs and wigwags (flashing lights) on the A28 need to remain as they were installed due to the amount of children using the crossing to access the school. However, the Community Engagement Officer has advised that a proposal for an advisory 20mph limit with all of the relevant signage and wigwags outside the school is feasible. As there are no options with power on Church Hill the wigwags would need to be solar panel. KCC has advised that the scheme would cost in the region of £7-8,000 and if the Parish Council would like to go ahead they would need to fund the scheme. Members discussed the cost of this scheme and asked the Clerk to suggest that the Parish Council could be willing to match fund if KCC could cover half the cost. The Clerk was also asked to find out when a scheme to make the 'keep clear markings' outside the school enforceable would be in place.

67/24 Allotments

The Clerk advised that the landowner would be happy for a trough to be placed on his land. Cllr. Drury agreed to provide a plan showing the possible position of the trough and to obtain a quote.

Initials:

68/24 Community Orchard

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's application for trees for a community orchard has been successful. ABC will be providing 30 fruit trees in December 2024. Cllr. Wheeler has kindly offered to assist the Clerk with the risk assessments and planting programme. Cllr. Drury agreed that the allotment holders would probably be willing to assist with the planting. In the meantime, the Clerk will let residents know about the project and develop a list of people wanting to 'adopt' a tree.

69/24 Anti-social behaviour:

To discuss recent vandalism in the playground

Cllr. Robinson advised Members that the maintenance of the whole site has been transferred to Sage Homes. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk should request a meeting with Sage, preferably in person, to discuss the ongoing issues.

70/24 Tree Survey

The Clerk advised that it is good practice to carry out a bi-annual survey of all the trees on Parish Council owned land. Aspire carried out the last survey and it was agreed that it would probably be more cost effective for them to carry out the survey again.

Resolved: To request a quote from Aspire for a survey of all the trees on Parish Council owned land.

71/24 Brewmasters Football Club

It was noted that Brewmasters Football Club has had quadruple success this season. The Club won the DFDS Kent Sunday Junior Trophy for the first time. This was in addition to the Club winning the Peter Pain Trophy, the Division Two Trophy and the Sheber Challenge Trophy.

Resolved: In recognition of their success to not charge Brewmasters Football Club any rental fees this financial year and to send them a letter of congratulation.

72/24 Jubilee Park

It was noted that the Clerk has asked Aspire for a quote to repair and/or replace a number of broken bollards around the playground and to replace a missing handrail on one of the bridges. Cllr. Amsler advised Members that motorbikes/bikes have been accessing the recreation ground to the side of the main gate. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk asks Aspire to suggest what can be done to reduce the width of the gap.

73/24 Projects

To receive an update on a proposal to install a footpath on the lower recreation ground field

The Clerk advised that the contractor, Lamb-Latore Ltd., hope to commence works to install a multi-user stone path on the lower recreation ground from the bridge near to the children's play area to the road at the end of the week.

To receive an update on the S106 allocation for a MUGA

ABC has advised the Clerk that not all of the S106 allocation for outdoor sports from both the Ransley Field and Sickfield developments can be used to fund the installation of a MUGA. The Clerk has asked ABC to advise exactly what funds could be made available for a MUGA and a response is awaited.

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

74/24 Planning

To discuss any planning applications received:

PA/2024/1125: Springbourne Farm, Harris Lane, High Halden

Erection of replacement barn.

Resolved: Support. The barn is agricultural and will be built on the same footprint as the old one but it will be smaller continuing to be used for agricultural uses on the farm. We ask the Planning Officer to be mindful of how sewage is to be disposed of in line with environmental concerns of the present time. On the application form the applicant has ticked the question with 'Unknown'. We would ask that the Officer is mindful of the Biodiversity criteria and the fact the site is sitting on and adjacent to ancient woodland. We are also concerned about the footings of the proposed barn which could have an impact on the area. Local knowledge informs us that the current barn has bats and we would expect to have seen a bat survey undertaken.

Initials:

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.

Resolved: No comment

Approvals:

PA/2024/0838: Old Place Farm, Woodchurch Road, High Halden

Relocation of existing greenhouse and reinstatement of garden fence.

Refusals: None to consider.

Withdrawn: None to consider.

Other Planning Matters

1] Procedure for considering future planning proposals:

It was agreed to use the projector in meetings to present planning proposals and agree a response. **Resolved:**

The Clerk to purchase a mobile screen at an approximate cost of £70.00.

2] PA/2024/0472: Moat Farm House, Oak Grove Lane, High Halden: Erection of 1no. dwelling following demolition of existing garage. Decision to be made by Planning Committee.

3] ABC Planning Training for Parish Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs. Mrs Pickering and Dawes have a place on the planning training event organised by the KALC Ashford Area Committee due to be held at 7pm on Monday 22 July in the Council Chamber at ABC. Simon Cole, Assistant Director Planning and Development at ABC, has agreed to run a course to give Members an insight into how to respond to planning proposals.

4] Local Plan Consultation Update

The Clerk advised that ABC is holding a series of 'Our Local Plan Explained' events throughout July and August 2024 and would like to hear the views of residents on Ashford's future and any particular issues residents are facing in their local area. Events are being held across the borough in Ashford Town Centre, South Ashford, North Ashford, Tenterden, Wye, Charing, Hamstreet and Chilham and there will be two 'virtual' events. The 'drop in' sessions will be open to all members of the community and there will be extensive communication to advertise the events to generate interest. In addition, a 'Frequently Asked Questions' and electronic 'information pack' will be produced prior to the events and published on the website.

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

75/24 Financial Report:

/24-1 Revised Model Financial Regulations: To receive and approve the revised regulations

Resolved: To adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

/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. Drury and Dawes to authorise the payments online.

Receipts:

Details	£
Unity (Interest)	376.17

Initials:

Payments :

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Clerks Expenses)	100.25
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Clerks Salary)	807.32
Transfer	HMRC	202.00
Transfer	Barrie Croucher (Caretaker Services)	57.20
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus Stop Cleaning)	51.48
Transfer	High Halden Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)	115.50
Transfer	Satswana (DPO Services)	180.00
DD	Google Cloud	96.00
DD	Unity Trust (Quarterly Charge)	18.00
DD	Hugo Fox (Website)	2.99

Balances as at 8 July 2024

Unity Trust Current Account: £8,354.72

Unity Trust Savings Account: £58,165.79

Total: £66,520.51

76/24 Reports:

/24-1 Ward member:

Ward Member Alan Pickering advised Members that he has sent a personal letter to Damien Green thanking him for all his help and support as an MP. Ward Members Alan Pickering has asked ABC when a decision about the S106 allocation for planning proposal PA/2022/3071 Linden Business Centre will be released.

/24-2 Highways:

The Clerk was asked to report that a 40mph sign on the A28 has been knocked over.

24-3 Marketing/projects: Nothing to report.

/24-4 KALC: The Clerk advised that the next meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

77/24 Information items:

/24-1 HHVEC Update:

Cllr. Sargent advised that the D-Day 80th Anniversary celebration held on the 6 June 2024 was well attended. The High Halden Hoe-Down event will be held on the village green on Saturday 20 July 2024 and is currently being publicised.

78/24 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:

Nothing additional.

79/24 Date of the next meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12 August 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

With no further business to transact the meeting closed at 8.18pm

Signed:

Date:

Initials: