

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on the 9 January 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

137/22 Present and Apologies

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

In Attendance: Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Ward Members Alan Pickering, 11 members of the public

Apologies:

None received.

138/22 Declarations of Interest

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

139/22 Minutes of the meeting of the 12 December 2022

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12 December 2022 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

140/22 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only)

The Clerk advised that the Speedwatch team will be back out this week now that the roadworks on the A28 have been completed.

The electrician will be completing the remedial works to the electric system at the pavilion this week.

141/22 Open Session:

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to raise items with the Council.

A representative from the High Halden Helping Hand Working Group asked if the Parish Council could consider a request for match funding of £250.00 to purchase food items for the lunch club. Representatives from the Church are organising the lunches and the PCC is contributing £250.00.

A member of the public expressed their disappointment with the low attendance of members of the public at the recent appeals for Herwish, Martens Lane.

A member of the public raised their concerns about planning proposal PA/2022/3073. The local resident is concerned about the proposed new road, surface water flooding and drainage.

A member of the public spoke in support of planning proposal PA/2022/3131 and explained the content of some additional drawings that are to be submitted to ABC.

142/22 PCSO/Community Warden Report:

It was reported that the Community Warden has been patrolling the village. It was noted that Kent Police is reducing the number of PCSO from 200 to 105. More Police Officers are expected to be recruited.

143/22 Highways Improvement Plan

a) The Clerk has arranged a virtual meeting with the Community Engagement Officer for the 23 January 2023 to discuss and review the Highways Improvement Plan. Members remain keen to repeat the ATC surveys carried out earlier in the year to establish whether the resurfacing and improvements to the A28 has changed the speed of traffic.

b) Proposal for a new salt bin on Church Hill

The Highways Steward has advised that the Parish Council will need to purchase and install the new salt bin on Church Hill as KCC no longer provide this service. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

144/22 Section 106 Contribution Update

Cllr. Robinson explained that ABC has advised that the Section 106 funds from the development at Ransley Oast have now been paid and can be spent as per the restriction. Part of the S106 funds from the High Halden Depot (Foxhills) development have also been received by ABC and a payment plan has been agreed for the outstanding monies. The Clerk explained that S106 funds have been allocated to providing a MUGA on the recreation ground, improving the drainage on the football pitches, additional play equipment at the recreation

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ground, an outside gym at Hookstead and the purchase of land for a wildflower meadow. All of these projects will need to be researched and costed. The Clerk explained that a detailed specification for each project will be drawn up and that the Parish Council is keen to consult residents. Given the sums involved a formal tendering process will need to be adopted for some of the larger schemes. Further S106 funds are due from the development east of Hope House.

145/22 Allotments

The Clerk has received a draft lease from Whitehead Monckton which was circulated to Members and comments have been sent to the solicitor. A further draft is expected soon and once approved will be sent to the landowner for comment. It was noted that the S106 funds can now be used to progress this initiative. The next step will be to discuss the car parking arrangements and plot sizes.

146/22 Community Resilience Plans

ABC is keen for each parish to have a Community Resilience Plan in place. ABC has advised that the Kent Resilience Team will be offering training/guidance later this year to parishes to develop a Community Resilience Plan. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for High Halden Parish Council to have a Community Resilience Plan and undertake the training.

147/22 KALC Community Awards 2023

Members discussed the scheme and agreed to suggest a nomination.

Resolved: To adopt the KALC Community Award Scheme for 2023. The Clerk to be advised of the nominated person.

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

131/22 Planning

Planning applications

PA/2022/3073 – 1 Linden Business Centre, Ashford Road, High Halden

Redevelopment of existing workshop and former garage buildings to create a mixed use scheme comprising of a new purpose designed sustainable workshop for the Stevenson Brothers (incorporating museum and public café/farmshop) to be delivered by the erection of 22 no. detached exemplar homes alongside associated landscaping, biodiversity gains, improvements to the existing footpath network together with access and associated parking/delivery areas.

Resolved: Support. We feel that the proposal will gentrify the area and will highlight High Halden as an area. We feel the proposal will provide job opportunities and ensure that the village continues to flourish. We are pleased to see that affordable homes will be provided on the old site in Bethersden.

PA/2022/3131 – Land adjacent Moat Farm House, Oak Grove Lane, High Halden

Demolition of existing domestic garage and erection of single dwelling, garden along with landscape and associated biodiversity enhancements (along with part change of use of land from agricultural to residential).

Resolved: Support. We do have concerns about over development of this area but we would like to support the applicant who wishes to remain in the village having lived here all her life. We therefore support the application subject to KCC being happy with the access.

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

Approvals:

PA/2022/2421 – St Michaels Court, High Halden Lane, High Halden

Single-storey rear extension and loft conversion with proposed roof lights.

PA/2022/2856 Broombourne Farm, High Halden Road, High Halden

Demolish and replace existing garage/store.

Refusal: None to consider.

Withdrawn: None to consider.

Appeal Dismissed:

APP/E2205/C/19/3223506/EN/16/00219 – Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden

Enforcement Notice upheld subject to conditions.

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APP/E2205/X/20/3249023 – Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden

19/00228/AS: Certificate of lawful use or development for the use of a wooden shed as a dwelling.

Appeal Allowed:

APP/E2205/W/21/3285132 - Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden

21/00811/AS: Application for 2x mobile homes, 2x utility blocks, 2x caravans and parking for 4 cars.

Other Planning Matters:

Consultation Portal and online viewing

The Clerk has contacted KALC for some legal advice to ascertain whether ABC is legally able to act in what appears to be an undemocratic way and is waiting for a response from their planning advisor.

149/22 Financial Report

/22-1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget

Resolved: That the payments listed below for January 2023 are authorised online by Cllrs. Harris and Dawes.

Payments

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Expenses)	115.47
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Salary and backdated pay award)	554.00
Transfer	HMRC (L Goldsmith)	130.00
Transfer	HMRC (Backdated)	270.92
Transfer	High Halden Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)	135.00
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus stop cleaning)	47.88
Transfer	Npower (Electricity pavilion)	130.62
Transfer	High Halden School (Payment)	340.00
Transfer	Seton (Salt)	97.10
Transfer	Ashford Borough Council (Tree work)	2769.00
Transfer	Ashford Borough Council (Tree inspection report)	800.88
Transfer	South East Water (Pavilion water supply)	113.08
Standing Order	Kent County Association	20.00
DD	Unity Trust (Quarterly Charge)	18.00
DD	Google Cloud	73.60

Receipts: None

Balances as at 9 January 2023

Unity Trust Account: £77,216.15

/22-2 Grounds Maintenance Contract

Members considered two quotes for the Grounds Maintenance Contract for the period 2023-2025.

Resolved: That the Parish Council accepts the three-year quote from Aspire for grounds maintenance.

150/22 Reports

/22-1 Ward member: Ward Members Alan Pickering advised Members that the refuse collection in Ashford will not be affected by staff strikes which are expected to be taking place in other areas. Ward Member Alan Pickering advised that residents should keep reporting potholes on the portal and that he is liaising directly with KCC about a number of potholes. An Officer with the necessary IT experience has been drafted in to try and resolve the issues with the new planning portal.

/22-2 Highways: See section 143/22.

/22-3 Marketing/projects: It was agreed that the Clerk should draft the next edition of the newsletter and that this should be dedicated to giving information to residents on the projects in the village that are to be funded by S106 contributions.

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/22-4 KALC: Cllr. Robinson attended the meeting held on the 4 January 2023. The Clerk will circulate the draft minutes of the meeting

151/22 Information items:

/22-1 HHVEC Update/Hardship: Cllr. Sargent reported that with thanks to a group of volunteers the Christmas Tree has been removed from the village green. The HHVEC will meet soon to discuss how the village could celebrate King Charles III Coronation on the 6 May 2023. The Pageantmaster has advised all Parish Councils that beacons are not to be lit for the Coronation. The next lighting of Beacons is to be the 6 June 2024 as the principal leading event to celebrate D-Day 80, the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

/22/2 High Halden Helping Hand Group: In addition to organising the foodbank representatives from the Church will be holding a lunch club in the memorial hall every other Wednesday from 12.15pm to 2.15pm commencing on the 11 January 2023. A local resident has kindly paid the hall hire charge and funds are being raised to supply soup and a roll free of charge. The event is covered by the Church’s insurance policy and the Clerk has registered it on the Warm Spaces Register. It is hoped that local residents will come along and take advantage of being in warm space, a free lunch and an opportunity to meet new and old friends.

/22/3 Consultation: It was noted that the Governors of High Halden CE Primary School has decided unanimously to enter into a Federation with Woodchurch CE Primary School.

152/22 Items for the next Parish Council meeting

Proposal to donate £250.00 to the High Halden Helping Hands lunch club.
To initiate an Informal discussion with ABC and Betersden about S106 funds if planning proposal 2022/3073 is approved.

153/22 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13 February 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

Signed:

Date:

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