

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo on Thursday 5th April 2018 at 7.30pm.

***Councillors present: Andrews
Chambers
Counsell
Fray
Hipsey
Pearce
Perfect
Rees
Sands
Savage
Shepperd
Williams***

Also: Parish Clerk, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Williams.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tildesley, Gatfield and Ward Councillor Roy Freshwater.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Sands declared an interest the item for Deangate Ridge Golf Course.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. It was proposed by Cllr Rees to accept these as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Shepperd and agreed by all present.

The approved Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Urgent Matters.

No urgent matters were raised.

6. Chairman's Report.

Cllr Williams gave a report on behalf of himself and Cllr Tildesley.

He reported that there had been a delay with the construction of the footpath at the allotments due to poor weather.

He stated that there had been a problem with an allotment flooding and a new drain had been installed to solve this problem, he stated that topsoil would be delivered to the site and a quotation for £250 had been received for this.

This was discussed and agreed by members.

He reported that the Rural Liaison meeting for members had been postponed until 21st April 2018.

Cllr Williams reported that Cllr Tildesley had attended the demolition of the Chimney at Kingsnorth Power Station on behalf of the Parish Council.

He reported that a number of members had attended the meeting at Medway Council regarding the Local Plan and Councillors had put their views forward. He said that the consultation document would be circulated in due course.

He stated that he was due to meet with Kelly Tolhurst MP and representatives from other Parish Councils in the next week to discuss the Local Plan.

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerks Report was noted and accepted by members.

8. Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Williams informed members that a Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting had been held to discuss the quotations received for the new Infants Play Area and the Clerk was currently in the process of seeking references for the two selected contractors.

9. Ward Councillors Report.

Ward Councillor Roy Freshwater gave his apologies to the meeting.

Cllr Williams reported that Cllr Freshwater had been looking into the closure of Bells Lane.

10. Police Matters.

No matters were raised.

11. Public Question time.

A resident spoke regarding the proposed development of the Arethusa Playing Field, he stated that flats were proposed for the site and these would tower over the properties on Elm Avenue. He raised concerns regarding the parking in the area and stated that this would increase with the development. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would raise concerns regarding the infrastructure. He confirmed that Cllr Jarrett from Medway Council had been invited to attend a PC meeting to speak on this matter.

A resident spoke regarding the trees to the rear of her property and stated that the line of large oak trees were covered by a TPO, however these were causing problems to her property and she asked if the PC could assist with this matter. The Chairman asked her to forward details by email to the Parish Clerk.

A resident reported that a young child had fallen in the Infants Play Area and she asked when the new play area was being installed.

Cllr Williams stated that the Parish Council was in the process of seeking quotations for the work and it was anticipated that this would be progressed by the summer.

A resident asked if she could have a copy of the confidential minutes that had been approved by the Parish Council.

The Clerk stated that she would forward these to her by email.

The resident asked about the publication of Parish Council items in the Village Voices.

The Chairman stated that this publication was an independent organisation and they determined what items they published.

The resident also asked about Village Hall matters and the Chairman stated that the Village Hall was an independent organisation and nothing to do with the Parish Council.

12. Deangate Ridge Golf Course.

Cllr Sands reported that the Deangate Community Partnership had been set up to deal with Deangate and an application to have this made an Asset of Community Value had been submitted to Medway Council.

He stated that Deangate was due to close on 14th April 2018, however the group had submitted a bid to keep this open beyond this date.

Cllr Sands reported that a Court Injunction had been served to try to prevent the closure of Deangate and a Barrister had been appointed to act on behalf of the Deangate Community Partnership.

He stated that a Crowd Funding Page had been set up to raise funds to finance the court action and to date approximately £6000 had been raised, but £10000 was needed.

He stated that a grant application had therefore been submitted to the PC for consideration seeking a donation of £2000 towards the Fund and this would be discussed under financial matters.

13. Recreation Grounds.

It was reported that a new litter bin and the new dog bins had also been installed at Hoo Common.

Cllr Pearce reported on the proposed new signage for the Recreation Grounds and he circulated this to all members.

This was discussed and approved, and it was agreed that a furthermore positive sign would also be considered. (Pearce/Savage) Vote cast in favour with one abstention.

Cllr Pearce proposed to have 'Keep Access Clear' signs at the entrance to Kingshill Recreation round and this was approved by members. (Pearce/Williams) Vote cast in favour.

Cllr Pearce reported that the trees from the Woodland Trust had been potted and were now being stored in the Hoo Library Courtyard until they had grown sturdier.

Cllr Savage reported that the dog bin at Pottery Road Recreation Ground had rusted and needed to be replaced.

Action: Clerk to report to Medway Council.

14. Burial Ground.

Cllr Rees circulated a report on the progress of the burial Ground and the seed planting.

This was accepted by members. (Rees/Sands) Vote cast in favour of the report.

She reported on the Section 106 funding from Medway Council and stated that some of this would be ring-fenced for the gates, posts and fitting.

She stated that Building Regulations approval was needed for the installation of the ramp.

15. Planning Matters.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

MC/18/0740 1 RIVENHALL COURT, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9FL
Construction of a detached single storey annexe to side ancillary to the enjoyment of the existing dwelling house.

Cllr Sands stated that he would establish an opinion on this application for the neighbouring properties.

MC/18/0620 LAND WEST OF ELM AVENUE AND SOUTH OF BROADWOOD ROAD, CHATTENDEN
Outline application with all matters reserved for construction of up to 63 dwellings alongside associated parking, access, infrastructure, engineering, and landscaping works as well as the retention of an existing building for community purposes and creation of publicly accessible open space.

Cllr Sands spoke regarding this planning application. He stated that the old building on the site was to be retained as a community building.

He proposed that objections were raised regarding the access to the site and newts on site.

This was agreed by members.

Action: Cllr Sands to raise objections.

A discussion took place regarding the proposals.

Cllr Sands spoke regarding the Medway Local Plan Consultation and urged all to respond to this and submit their views to Medway Council. He stated that the consultation documents were available in Hoo Library.

16. Allotments.

Cllr Perfect reported that an allotment inspection had been undertaken with no major issues.

She stated that the flooded allotment had now been dealt with by Unique Landscapes.

She reported that the allotment footpath was progressing and would be completed when the weather was better.

17. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

The financial statement was proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Sands, and agreed by all present.

The approved cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

18. Grant Application for Deangate Ridge Golf Club.

Cllr Sands declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the discussions and vote.

A grant application submitted by the Deangate Community Partnership seeking a grant for £2000 to assist with the legal action to prevent the closure of the golf course was considered by members.

This was discussed, and it was proposed by Cllr Perfect to award a grant of £2000 to the group, this was seconded by Cllr Chambers and agreed by all with one abstention.

It was agreed that the grant would be taken from the Parish Councils reserves, this was proposed by Cllr Rees, seconded by Cllr Fray, and agreed by all present.

It was further agreed that a cheque would be raised at this evening's meeting.

Action: Clerk to action.

19. PC Policies and General Data Protection Regulations.

The Clerk circulated documents regarding the new General Data Protection Regulations and the Parish Council Policies to all members for review.

It was agreed that these should be considered at the next PC meeting.

20. Beacons of Light.

Cllr Pearce spoke regarding the the Beacons of Light event taking place in November 2018, he stated that it was likely that Medway Council would be marking the event with a Bonfire and suggested that the PC may wish to mark the occasion by purchasing a beacon for the Parish. He stated that he would seek quotations for this.

It was agreed that Cllr Pearce would seek quotations and bring them back to a future meeting.

21. Hoo St Werburgh Library Listing.

Cllr Pearce proposed that the Parish Council seek to have Hoo Library Listed.

This was discussed and agreed by members.

Cllr Sands stated that he felt that the Parish Council should seek to have other buildings protected in the Parish and he asked the Clerk to place Asset of Community Value on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to action.

22. Hoo in Bloom Committee.

Cllr Pearce asked if the Parish Council could consider having a Hoo in Bloom Committee. The Chairman stated that the Committees would be considered at the Annual Statutory Meeting held in May.

23. Parish Council Logo.

Cllr Pearce circulated the finalised PC Logo for members approval. It was proposed by Cllr Savage to adopt this, this was seconded by Cllr Chambers and agreed by all present.

24. Parish Councillor Training.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide training for all Councillors following an election. The next elections would be held in May 2019.

25. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman reminded all Councillors that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held prior to the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2018, this would commence at 7pm.

26. Urgent Items.

The Chairman informed members that there had been some rumours in the village that the Doctors surgery would be closing, and he stated that this was not true. He stated that Councillor Tildesley had visited that surgery and they had confirmed that building work was due to take place at the site and this would mean that there would be reduced services at the Bells Lane Surgery, however it was not closing.

27. Date of next meeting.

3rd May 2018.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....