

Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council  
Held at Chattenden Community Centre on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 8.30pm.

Councillors present: Barton  
Chester  
Francis  
Fray  
Gissing  
Hopson  
Koroma  
Mitchell  
Pearce  
Sands  
Sparkes  
Styles  
Tildesley  
Williams  
Wood

Also: Sherrie Babington - Parish Clerk, PC Dave Brett, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Sands.

1. Apologies.

*Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.*

Apologies were received, and reasons for absence accepted from Cllrs Cutting (holiday), Dunkley (holiday).

2. Declaration of Interest.

*To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.*

No declarations of interest were received.

*To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.*

No dispensations were considered.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.**

*To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.*

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present.

It was proposed by Cllr Styles to accept these as a true record, seconded by Cllr Gissing and agreed by all present.

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

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

a. **Chattenden Consultation.**

Consultation – Consultation forms distributed - Return date is 19th July.

5. **Public Participation.**

*To discuss any questions received by members of the public.*

A resident raised concerns regarding Medway Council's reluctance to adopt the roads at Four Elms Place, stating that although residents were paying council tax, the estate remained private. Cllr Pearce responded, stating that this issue was common across many new estates. He stated that he had set up a Facebook group to connect residents in similar situations to challenge this, and while roads were usually adopted eventually, green spaces typically were not.

Cllr Sands confirmed that Cllr Crozier had met with their Management Company, residents, and Medway Council, to try to seek action, but this had not progressed to date.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Medway Council Highways to seek an update on the adoption of the estate.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

The resident expressed his views on the proposed development for the area, highlighting the lack of supporting infrastructure. He also emphasised the importance of considering youth facilities in the planning process.

The Chairman stated that then Local Plan Consultation was due to take place in the near future and suggested that the resident should put forward his views to Medway Council.

A resident of Herdsdown Close attended the meeting to raise concerns about road safety outside the Hundred of Hoo Academy. He stated that the Academy was growing, and this was causing parking issues during school drop-off and pick-up times. He confirmed that he had discussed these concerns with the police, and the school's Principal had also considered possible improvements to address the problems.

He asked the Parish Council assist residents and the school in trying to reduce the dangers outside the Academy.

PC Dave Brett, who was present at the meeting, acknowledged the issues, he stated that there were currently no parking restrictions in the area. He cautioned that introducing such restrictions could lead to parking problems elsewhere in the parish.

The resident emphasised that the issue was primarily about child safety, both inside and outside the school, rather than just parking. He stated that an in-and-out drop-off and pick-up area had been considered but that no successful action had been taken to mitigate the issues to date.

This was discussed and it was agreed that a joint meeting with the Parish Council, parents, school representatives, Medway Council, and the police should be organised to address the concerns.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

**6. Urgent Matters (if any with the Chairman's consent).**

*To consider any urgent matters raised by members.*

No matters were raised.

**7. Financial Matters.**

*a. To consider the monthly financial statement.*

*Financial Statement will be circulated in paperwork at PC meeting.*

The bank balances and payments were considered by members, these were approved, proposed by Cllr Gissing, seconded by Cllr Fray, and agreed by all present.

*b. Grant Applications.*

Grant application received from PTA Hundred of Hoo School

Members considered the additional information for a grant application from the PTA of the Hundred of Hoo Secondary School Academy requesting £765 to hire two inflatable assault courses.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC could not give a grant application for the hire of the equipment as this was not considered good value for money. The grant application was therefore not approved.

**Action: Clerk to respond to applicants.**

**8. Clerks Report.**

*To receive the Clerks Report.*

Hoo Community Infrastructure Framework

Following our last meeting on in early May we are inviting you to a Hoo Community Infrastructure Framework meeting at 11am on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at Hoo Sports Centre.

We have taken away the feedback from the previous session and have been working with the community through both the community panel and a programme of wider engagement that has included drop-in sessions, working with schools and conversations with community groups.

The community panel asked for more time to work with us on their recommendations, and this combined with entering a pre-election period, which places limitations on community engagement, has resulted in the need to amend our programme.

### Gas Network Upgrade – Main Road, Hoo, Rochester

We're preparing to carry out essential gas network upgrades in the Main Road area of Hoo, Rochester. This work will ensure a continued safe and reliable supply of gas is delivered to nearby homes and businesses. This is part of our 30-year programme of work to replace our old mains, reaching the end of their useful lives, with new, reliable plastic pipe.

Our contractor, WCB Utilities, who are completing this project on our behalf, will be starting work in the week beginning 22 July. We expect this project to last for approximately six weeks. To ensure everyone's safety, we need to close the following roads around our work site while we have excavations open.

Main Road – From 22 July with an estimated end date of 1 September. We'll start working from the junction with Herdsdown to the junction with Coombe Road. During this time as we move along, we'll need to close the following roads in turn at their junctions with Main Road: - Herdsdown, St Werburgh Crescent, Pottery Road, Killick Road and Coombe Road.

Signed diversions will be in place for affected motorists where roads are closed. Access will be kept for residents and businesses.

We're writing to residents and other local stakeholders to explain the details of this work. This letter can be shared with anyone you feel may have an interest in our work.

We understand roadworks can be frustrating. However, the new plastic pipe has a lifespan of 80 years. This means that once our work is done, Hoo residents and businesses will be able to enjoy the benefits of a safe and reliable supply of gas for many years to come.

Have a question, or something you'd like to let us know about? We're here to help. Please visit our website for details on ways to contact us: <https://www.sgn.co.uk/Contact-SGN>

## 9. Chairman's Report.

*To receive the Chairman's Report.*

The Chairman gave an update on the recent Rural Liaison Committee meeting, and a presentation was given on planning consultations and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

He spoke regarding the Local Access Forum, and public rights of way that were maintained by volunteers. He stated that Medway Council had a budget of £10,000 for the maintenance of public rights of way across Medway.

He reported on Section 106 funds amounting to £9,917 for heritage projects and suggested the Hoo Stop Line as a potential project for these funds.

## 10. Planning Matters.

### a. Planning Applications Received.

MC/24/1165 - 5 Guelder Rose Drive, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester.

Construction of a loft conversion with dormer to rear and roof lights to front.

MC/24/1158 - 55 Thomas Aveling Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester.  
Loft conversion into habitable room with roof lights to front and rear slope new window installation to flank wall.

MC/24/1266 - 20 Gamelan Crescent, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester.  
Construction of a single storey detached outbuilding to side of garden.

b. Planning Applications Decisions by Medway Council.

MC/24/1180

Holly Lodge & Tudor Lodge Chattenden Lane Chattenden Rochester ME3 8NL

Details pursuant to condition 8 (Materials) on planning permission MC/20/1471 for demolition of existing outbuildings and stables and construction of a terrace of three houses including two 2-bedroom and one 3-bedroom; one 4-bedroom and one 5-bedroom detached house and two pairs of 3-bedroom semidetached houses with associated access, parking and amenity areas and demolition of the existing garage to Holly Lodge with construction of a new replacement detached garage

Discharge of Conditions

c. Appeals.

No matters to consider.

d. Other Planning Matters.

No other planning matters were raised.

*Cllr Gissing gave her apologies and left the meeting at 8.50pm.*

11. New Community Centre.

*To consider an update and recommendation for the new Community Centre.*

Cllr Williams gave an update on the progress of the new Community Centre.

He stated that the Parish Council would need to look at other funding methods in order to finance the demolition of the old hall and landscaping.

He confirmed that he had submitted an application to the Prosperity Fund for Capital Projects to Medway Council.

With regards to the new Community Centre, the Architects were now looking at the design of the new hall and would give an update to the Parish Council in August/September time.

12. Date of the next meeting – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Pottery Road Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting to the press and public at 9.35pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_