

The minutes of the Meeting of Hoo Saint Werburgh Parish Council
Held in the Red Cross Hall, Stoke Road, Hoo on Thursday 3rd September 2015 at 7.30pm.

***Councillors present: Andrews
Chambers
Counsell
Gatfield
M Pearce
L Pearce
Perfect
Pratt
Rees
Sands
Shepperd
Singleton
Tildesley
Williams***

Also: Parish Clerk and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor L Pearce.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received Cllr Hipsey.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Singleton - Planning application MC15/2349 for 15 Rochester Crescent.

Cllr Gatfield - Planning application MC15/2349 for 15 Rochester Crescent.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

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

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Hole in footpath on Main Road - The Chairman informed the meeting that this is now been reinstated.

Hole in footpath on Rochester Crescent – The Chairman stated that this had been repaired but unfortunately this was still leaking.

5. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

6. **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

7. **Clerks Report.**

The Clerks Report was noted and accepted by members.

A general discussion took place regarding a past application for quarrying in the parish.

8. **Police Report.**

Cllr Gatfield gave a report to members.

She reported that the gates at Abbots Court had been left open and the problem with bikes on the Seawall had not been solved.

The Chairman informed members that he had sent an email to Medway Council regarding this matter and stated that he would liaise with MC (Adam Taylor) with regard to locking the gates.

It was reported that the next police meeting was due to be held on 15 September 2015.

Cllr Perfect raised concerns about possible drug use on land at the rear of the Hoo Institute. This was discussed and the Chairman asked Cllr Perfect to forward further details regarding times and dates to the Clerk this matter would then be raised with the police.

9. **Public Question Time.**

A resident attended the meeting to speak with regard to the traffic calming ramps on Main Road. He stated that these ramps still had a sharp incline and he felt that Medway Council could have done a better job.

He raised concerns regarding speeding around the village especially along Main Road and stated that he has spoken to the PCSOs regarding this problem, but no action had been taken.

The Chairman stated that speeding along this road was a problem and he would raise this matter in a letter to the police.

Cllr Gatfield stated that she would also raise this at the next police meeting.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the use of unlicensed motorcycles on Angel Farm. He stated that trials bikes were also speeding along Stoke Road.

He also raised concerns that the bridle path was blocked at the entrance to Street Farm in Stoke Road.

The Chairman confirmed that the issues with the bikes would be raised in the letter to the police and he would raise the problem with the blocked bridle path with Adam Taylor from Medway Council.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to progress.

The Resident spoke regarding Kings Hill Recreation Ground and asked whether the play equipment could be updated. He stated that there were issues with the security of the field going from east to west and stated that there appeared to be a problem with drug use in this area.

The Chairman stated that Kingshill Recreation Ground would be placed as a future agenda item to discuss the upgrade of play equipment and stated that the drug use problem would also be raised in the letter to be sent to the police.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to progress.

10. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members.

Cllr Tildesley questioned a payment to Safeplay and the work undertaken by them. This was discussed and it was agreed to hold payment until this matter had been clarified.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Safeplay.

Subject to the payment to Safeplay being queried, it was proposed by Cllr Counsell to accept the financial statement and authorise the cheques, this was seconded by Cllr Shepperd and agreed by all present.

The approved cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

11. Grant Applications.

No applications were received or considered.

12. Land for use as a Burial-Ground.

Cllr Rees stated that this matter was being progressed.

She informed members that the planning consultant was now considering alternative options for access to the site for funeral vehicles.

13. Churchyard Pathway.

Cllr Rees reported that the pathway had been delayed as the Church Warden now needed to apply for planning permission for the work. She confirmed that funding was in place for this project.

The Chairman informed members that a letter had been received from Reverend John Smith giving an update on the progress of the church renovations. He read this to members and reported that the church had raised £25,000 from fund raising events and £9,000 from local businesses towards the renovations.

14. Planning Matters.

MC/15/2442 4A ELM AVENUE, CHATTENDEN, ROCHESTER, ME3 8LY

Raising of roof height to facilitate conversion of existing bungalow to chalet bungalow with habitable living accommodation in the roof space together with roof lights to sides; construction of single storey side extension to both sides and porch to front (demolition of existing garage/resubmission of MC/15/0571).

- MC/15/2349** **15 ROCHESTER CRESCENT, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9JH**
Retrospective application for engineering works to provide vehicle parking area and dropped kerb with retaining walls and repositioned steps.
- MC/15/2598** **92 MAIN ROAD, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3**
Construction of a part two storey/part single storey extension to rear with terrace above the single storey part.
- MC/15/2981** **24 WYLIE ROAD, HOO ST WERBURGH, ROCHESTER, ME3 9EE**
Engineering works to facilitate the construction of a single storey side/rear and single storey side extension together with retaining wall and relocation of steps to rear (demolition of existing side projection).
- MC/15/3018** **YELSTEAD, MAIN ROAD, CHATTENDEN, ROCHESTER, ME3 8PP**
Construction of an extension to existing outbuilding to form a garden room with a new patio area.

There were no objections to any of the above applications.

The Chairman circulated plans from Medway Council for the proposed parking restrictions on Bells Lane to all Members.

These plans were discussed and concerns were raised about where the displaced vehicles would park. It was therefore agreed to invite the Highways Officer to attend the next Parish Council meeting to speak regarding these.

Action: Chairman/Clerk to progress.

15. Allotments.

Cllr Rees reported on the progress of the allotments and inform the clerk that she would forward a list of letters that needed to be written to allotment holders.

Cllr Tildesley spoke regarding the Brook and reported that a pile of items that had been cleared from the Brook had been left on the grass verge in Vicarage Lane.

The Chairman stated that Medway Council was going to remove these items ASAP.

16. Public Participation Agenda Item.

The Chairman stated that this item had been placed on the agenda following a request from a member of public to have public participation at the end of the agenda and at the request of members at the previous meeting.

Cllr Michael Pearce spoke regarding this and stated that he felt that the Public Participation item should be higher on the agenda to enable members of the public to ask questions on agenda items. He stated that he felt the public item should be kept at the beginning of the agenda.

A discussion took place regarding this and the way other parish councils dealt with this item.

Cllr Michael Pearce spoke again on this matter and proposed that the Parish Council have a 15 minute informal discussion before the start of the meeting.

This proposal was discussed and it was suggested that the public participation item on the agenda should remain the same.

The Chairman spoke regarding the proposal from Cllr Michael Pearce to have an informal discussion with members of the public before the meeting.

He asked members to vote on the proposal as to whether they wish to have an informal discussion at the start of the meeting or to leave the Public Participation agenda item as it was.

A vote was cast with 13 members in favour of leaving the Public Participation agenda item as it currently was.

Cllr Sands asked if the Parish Council would consider holding Parish Council Surgeries on a regular basis for members of the public. This was discussed and it was agreed to place this as an item on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

17. Village Signage.

The Clerk informed members that the Village Signage was a separate project to the Thomas Aveling Information Boards and therefore needed to be considered as a separate item.

It was agreed that an item should be placed on the next agenda for the Village Signage to be discussed in detail.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

18. Provision of Disabled and Adult Fitness Equipment.

Disabled Play Equipment – Cllr Sands reported that this matter was still being progressed and he would report back further at the next meeting.

Adult Fitness Equipment – Cllr Tildesley reported that the outstanding work on the fitness equipment had now been completed.

He spoke regarding the bench that was being held by Safeplay and it was agreed that this should be re-located near to the fitness equipment. It was noted that a quotation had been received for this work and Cllr Tildesley was asked to progress this.

Action: Bench to be actioned.

Cllr Tildesley stated Fresh Air Fitness was due to give a quotation for signage for the fitness equipment and he asked the Clerk to follow this matter up.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Perfect spoke regarding the proposed tarmacing of the area and pathway to the fitness equipment. Cllr Tildesley stated that this matter was currently under consideration as the quotations received for the work had been far too high.

This was discussed further and it was agreed to defer the tarmacing until other options had been considered.

19. Provision of Youth facilities in the Parish.

The Chairman informed members that after talks with London & Quadrant they had agreed to fund the hire fees for Chattenden Community Centre for the Youth Club for a period of 12 months.

20. Christmas Lights.

It was agreed to proceed with the Christmas Lighting in the Village again this year and the Clerk asked to confirm this and order the Christmas tree and Christmas lights.

Action: Clerk to progress.

21. Recreation Grounds.

Cllr Tildesley reported that the recreation grounds.

22. Ward Councillors Report.

No matters were reported.

23. Urgent Items.

No matters were raised.

24. Date of next meeting.

1st October 2015.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....