



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Parish Church on Wednesday 24th May 2023 from 7:30pm to 9:05pm.

Present:

Cllr. B. Heller (Chair) Cllr B. Chipperton Cllr D. Figgis
Cllr K. Wakes Cllr D. Waters Cllr A. Gould (SBC),

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk), and 2 members of the public

1. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY COUNCILLORS

Following the uncontested election on the 4th May 2023, Cllrs Heller, Wakes, Waters, Figgis and Chipperton signed the acceptance of office.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Chipperton proposed for Cllr Heller to be Chair which was seconded by Cllr Wakes and all voted unanimously in support. Cllr Heller accepted the position and then signed the acceptance of office for Chair.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Heller proposed for Cllr Waters to be Vice Chair, which was seconded by Cllr Wakes. and all voted unanimously in support. Cllr Waters accepted the position.

4. CO-OPTION OF 2 CANDIDATES

The Clerk had received two expressions of interest following the advertisement for two new councillors after the uncontested election left 2 vacancies. Edwin Bannock and Paul Smith both reside in the parish and had supplied a brief resume which had been circulated to the councillors head of the meeting. Cllr Figgis declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is Mr. Smith's landlord. Cllr Heller proposed to co-opt both applicants and the remaining three councillors all voted in favour of co-option. Cllrs Bannock and Smith, then took up their position and signed the acceptance of office.

5. APOLOGIES

Cllr R. Lehmann (SBC & KCC)

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None in relation to the main agenda.

7. MINUTES

A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 25th April 2023 (648-666)

having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. No comments

9. YELLOW LINES WEY STREET/JTB

Cllr Gould provided an update regarding the possibility of yellow lines on the southern side of the Wey Street slip road. KCC confirmed that there was no evidence of crash history in the past 3 years and could not prioritise the location. SBC will act based on a TRO. The council discussed and decided to ensure that the site would be included in the new HIP. In addition, it may be possible to tack this site onto a new TRO, although none are known locally at present.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Wakes provided an update confirming that a meeting was due on the 7th June 2023 at 7.15pm to discuss next steps, including ToR for the working group, logos and flyers. Cllr Waters would prepare an agenda.

11. KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Following the end of the informal consultation of which there were no objections, following negotiations between the Clerk and KCC, KCC agreed to cover the cost of the TRO. Now KCC will move the project towards the formal consultation stage.

12. CONSIDER NEW EMAIL PROVIDER

Ahead of the meeting the Clerk had provided a report (Appendix 1) confirming the case to move email providers to one that includes gov.uk and allows the Clerk administrative control in line with national guidelines. The council were unanimous in agreeing with the Clerks recommendation to move to Cloud Next.

13. ALLOTMENT FENCING GRANT

Cllr Wakes had obtained three quotes. One which was dismissed due to being vague and not being up to standard. The remaining quotes both agreed the wire was still fit for purpose. There were options surrounding the life span of various types of posts from 10 year to 40 years. It was agreed to approach the grant application Amity Allotment Fund.using the 40 year post option quote at a cost of £2532 (including VAT) with East Kent Paddock Maintenance. Depending on the outcome of the grant, the council will revisit options.

14. KENT TREE PLAN - CALL FOR SITES

No expressions of interest had been received to the Clerk

15. SBC HERITAGE - LOCAL LIST

The council has received from SBC a consultation for Local Listing as part of SBC's Heritage Strategy. Responses were required by the 26th June, which does not allow sufficient time to respond for such a large project. The Clerk is to provide councillors details of the existing nationally listed heritage assets in the parish. The council agreed that it was more appropriate for the Neighbourhood Plan project to consider any Local Listing, which will be added to their agenda for their June 7th meeting to discuss.

16. RENEWAL OF INSURANCE

The Clerk ahead of the meeting advised that the renewal of insurance with Zurich was due, which was at the start of the second year of a 3 year contract resulting in a small price increase. The Clerk had reviewed the terms which remained suitable for our needs. The renewal payment would be presented for approval for payment in section ?

17. PLANNING

A. Planning Applications-

22/505990/FULL Location: Land Between The A299 Staple Street Road And Whitstable Road Graveney Kent ME13 9HT Proposal: Temporary change of use of land for the provision of a marshalling compound for commercial vehicles, including a welfare cabin and creation of vehicular accesses and 40 staff car parking spaces, for use in conjunction with the regulation of construction traffic accessing Cleve Hill Solar Park. We have received revised details concerning this application. Change of description amended to include reference to 40 staff parking spaces.

This was a revisit as asked for by SBC planning. The council noted that the actual plans had not changed, just the description of the application. The council previously commented to object to the application. Cllr Heller proposed that the council continue to object with its comments unchanged from previously which was seconded by Cllr Figgis and the council voted 6 in agreement with one abstention.

B. Planning Decisions -

1) None

18. MATTERS ARISING

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - The Clerk had received reports of a number plate theft in Boughton and notification of car thefts in the area generally. In addition the Rural Task Force stated that following reports of suspicious vehicle activity, burglars were caught in the act at a local building supplies depot in the area of Wey Street.
- B. Dale Farm Oast - The Clerk had chased the SBC Conservation officer for an update.
- C. Monkshill Lorries - The council discussed and agreed that the issue of traffic in Monkshill would need to be included in the new HIP.

19. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- A. A councillor raised the issue of dangerous parking on the slip road to join the London bound Thanet Way at Dargate, next to the construction site. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the Police asking for them to increase patrols in the area. In addition, the council would consider adding the site to the new HIP for consideration of yellow lines.

20. FINANCE

- A. The April Bank reconciliation was not presented as the bank statements had not arrived in time for the meeting. It was agreed for the Clerk to present these for approval under S101 delegated powers as soon as the statements arrive.
- B. May's 2023 cheques for payment were approved and signed.

Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Salary & Expenses)	£322.25
Chq-1691 Hughes & Son (April Church Cutting)	£130.00
Chq-1692 R Parr (10 hours overtime)	£139.50
Chq-1693 Zurich (Annual Insurance Renewal)	£362.75
Chq-1694 Village Hall (April Hall Hire)	£17.00
Chq-1695 Lionel Robbins (Internal Audit Fee)	£90.00
Chq-1696 Hernhill PCC (Church Hire)	£15.00
Chq-1697 Jill Geliot (Stamps Hernhill News)	£30.00
Chq-1698 S Osborne (Hernhill Newsletter Mileage (Jan/Feb/Mch 2023))	£17.55
	£1,276.71

- C. The Clerk had ahead of the meeting provided the 5 uncontested Councillors with copies of the accounts and AGAR return. Explanations were given in respect of any variances that the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the Accounts would be from the 29th June to the 9th August 2023
- D. The Clerk commented that the Internal Audit had been undertaken by Mr Robbins on the 12th May 2023 and no adverse comments had been made and the audit report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- E. A detailed breakdown of the responses to explain how the council had undertaken its governance in order to be able to answer the Governance Statement was provided and circulated ahead of the meeting.
- F. The annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 were approved, adopted and signed.
- G. The Annual Return (Governance section) was reviewed, adopted and signed.
- H. The Annual Return (Accounts section) was reviewed, adopted and signed.
- I. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return Certificate of Exception was approved and signed.
- J. The Clerk confirmed that the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the Accounts would be from the 21st June to the 1st August 2022.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The Clerk had been updated by A New Day Festival confirming arrangements for 2023. It will be held again this year at Mount Ephraim from 18-20th August. Work on the set up will start on 13th and will be cleared by 23rd. The usual ticket concessions for local residents apply.
- B. KCC had confirmed that the Boughton Hill Closure would be extended to at least 2nd June, where it was then due to one to single lane traffic lights.
- C. The Clerk had received notification that the replacement of MUGA fencing on the playing field had been approved.
- D. Helen Whately MP was hosting a Swale area meeting inviting Parish Councils on Friday 30 June between 9am and 10 am in Faversham. Cllr Waters agreed to attend.
- E. Cllr Gould advised that there is a Faversham Town Council working group concerning the potential closure of the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre. They are discussing the strategy to oppose the closure of our local tip. Cllr Gould advised all residents who are concerned about this proposal and its likely effect on fly tipping are urged to sign any petitions and make their views known. The Parish Council will make a submission to the formal consultation when that occurs later this year.

22. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Declaration of Interest
- B. Election Expenses

The Clerk reminded that the uncontested councillors would need to complete both of

the above and for the new co-opted councillors, the Clerk would email the Declaration of Interest forms.

23 CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. None

24 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON JUNE'S FULL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Code of Conduct Changes
- B. Annual Review of COouncillor Policies
- C. Review of Banking Arrangements
- D. Appointment of auditor.
- E. HIP/TRO
- F. Emails
- G. SBC Local List
- H. Allotment Fencing Grant

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed.

CHAIR