



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Village Hall on Wednesday 27th September 2023 from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

Present:

Cllr D. Figgis (Chair), Cllr K. Wakes Cllr P. Smith Cllr. B. Chipperton.
Cllr A. Gould (SBC),

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

92. APOLOGIES

Cllr. B. Heller Cllr. E Bannock Cllr R. Lehmann (SBC & KCC)

93. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

94. MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 30th August 2023 (68-88) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.
- B. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th September 2023 (89-91) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

95. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parishioner raised a road safety issue in light of the recent accident at the crossroad at Staplestreet with Bull Lane/Kemsdale Road. Two signs appeared missing (Give Way and crossroad) and another 2 covered in vegetation. **Action:** The Clerk mentioned one missing sign had previously been reported and the Clerk would chase that and report the others.

96. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Wakes provided an update to say the flyer for the public consultation event on the 13th October 2023 at the village hall had been included in the last Hernhill News. Next meeting to finalise the presentation and questionnaire for the public consultation event is on the 4th October at 7:15pm at the Red Lion

97. KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A. The Clerk had received notification that the signs would cost circa £7k. £7k had been budgeted from the last 2 years precept to cover the project. KCC says costs have increased significantly over the initial £2/3k cost. The Clerk stated that following a chat with KCC Councillor Rich Lehmann who previously put £1500 aside for the design cost, it transpires that only £1,068 was used for the design fee which left £432 towards the signage. Consequently the amount required is now slightly lower at £6929.67. Councillor Lehmann as a SBC ward Councillor has also offered an additional £250 grant reducing costs to £6,679.67. Cllr Gould also offered a £200 grant towards the project reducing costs to £6,479.67. Both parties were thanked for their support. KCC Highways had commented that they may be able to support towards the costs

The Council discussed and agreed to challenge KCC Highways to reduce costs due to the delay to the project caused by KCC due to their own internal restructures. In addition, additional costs are involved as the 30mph speed limit does not apply all the way from Staplestreet to the church with national speed limit in between. This has necessitated the requirement for additional signs thus increasing costs. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to KCC Highways.

The Council also discussed the suggestion by KCC Highways to move the village sign at Fostall southwards to allow for the new 30mph sign. A member of the public highlighted that there was a flower trough in front of the sign that was extremely well concreted in which would need to be taken into consideration. The Council would prefer for the 30mph to be located closer towards Godfreys Grave. **Action:** The Clerk is to respond to KCC with concerns and suggestions.

The other extents of the sign are approved subject to a corrected map by KCC Highways showing the previously agreed revised location for the sign on Kays Lane.

98. KENT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INVITE

Following the recent grant received, the Council had been invited to an event to celebrate and discuss possible future funding opportunities. The Council discussed and agreed for the Clerk and Cllr Wakes to attend since they dealt with KCF previously for the allotment. **Action:** The Clerk is to RSVP.

99. FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY BUS SCHEME

Cllr Lehmann provided an update ahead of the meeting stating that since there had only been a lukewarm response from parishes east of Faversham, the project was now only concentrating on Newnham, Doddington and Lystead in the first instance.

100. EDITOR REQUIRED FOR THE HERNHILL NEWS

Alan Taylor is stepping down as editor after many years and the Council thanks him for his long service. The last issue for My Talyor is the 1st December. New editor is required for the 1st February edition. **Action:** The Clerk is to advertise in the Hernhill News for a replacement.

101. PLANNING

Planning Applications-

- 1) 1) 22/505852/SUB | Submission of Details Pursuant to condition 14 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme) of Application 20/503666/FULL. | Land Off Staple Street Hernhill Kent ME13 9HY –

Left on the agenda in error from the previous month. However update received in response to last month's comments is below

- 2) 23/503812/SUB | Submission of Details to Discharge condition 3 - Battery Safety, Phase 2 | Land At Cleve Hill Graveney Kent ME13 9EE

The council discussed and agreed to object and submit the following comment:

“The council voted to object to the submitted application on the basis that it was considered that there was not sufficiently robust information provided and planning details in relation to an emergency response strategy, which was a concern given the size and scale of the battery needed for such a large solar farm and could have serious implications if anything should go wrong in and around the battery storage site.”

B. Planning Decisions -

- 1) 23/501777/FULL Crockham Farmhouse Crockham Lane Hernhill Faversham Kent ME13 9LB Erection of annexe ancillary to main dwelling, incorporating log store and garage. - Application Permitted. Condition added to ensure it is ancillary to the main house.
- 2) 23/503330/FULL Mount Ephraim Bungalow Staple Street Hernhill Faversham Kent ME13 9TX Creation of new vehicular access. Application Refused.

C. Planning Updates

- 1) Evaluna, Dargate -
SBC Planning Enforcement advised that another site visit was carried out on 17/08/23 with the Planning Enforcement team leader, and again no evidence of any waste being transported onto site was found.

Action: Cllr Gould was requested to chase regarding the separate case that remains open regarding the residential use of the site.

- 2) 3 acre paddock, Kemsdale Road
SBC Planning Enforcement confirm that they have previously investigated the site being used for residency which has been used as such for seasonal works for more than 10 years and a mobile home has been lived in and pays council tax for over 20 years and is now exempt from planning enforcement action.

- 3) Crockham Oast, Crockham Lane
SBC Planning informs us that they are investigating the recent activity at the site.

102. MATTERS ARISING

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - The Clerk had advised that the fridge fly tipped at Wey Street slip road had been reported to SBC.
- B. Oakwell Drainage - Still ongoing, we are awaiting final response. Some surveys and cleaning appear to have been done.
- C. Crematorium SBC Planning complaint – The following response has been received from SBC following our complaint:

“Due to the lack of progress in relation to the discharge of condition 14, in particular the lack of positive action by the developer, an enforcement case was opened on 13 September, and we wrote to the agent to remind them to supply the information required by KCC Flood and Water Management. As you are aware, the drainage strategy relies on foul water being treated in an on site system, the treated water then needs to be disposed of and the applicant is proposing to use nearby ponds and drains for this. This approach is currently being considered by KCC Flood and Water Management; however, they have various concerns and have asked the applicant to address these.

If we do not receive a satisfactory response a decision will be taken on enforcement action and will include any off site works that meet the definition of development. I have also asked the investigating officer to look at conditions 15, 16, 17 and 29 as they do not appear to have been discharged.”

103. COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

- A.B. Cllr Figgis mentioned the overgrown trees at Fostal with the A299 junction that had only been cut back at car height and not any higher, preventing visibility for higher vehicles. **Action:** The Clerk is to investigate.
- C. A couple of possible sites in the parish were discussed concerning cases that may require investigation by SBC Planning Enforcement.
- D. Cllr Lehmann mentioned the Community Bus being set up by Faversham Town Council and did the Council want to consider contributing. This was primarily to replace the bus services withdrawn to villages south of the A2 in Swale being Lynstead, Newnham, Doddington etc. **Action:** It was agreed to add the agenda for the next full council meeting.

104. FINANCE

- A. The September Bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
- B. September’s 2023 cheques for payment were approved and signed.

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| Chq-1726 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing September) | £152.66 |
| Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Salary & Expenses) | £322.25 |
| Chq-1727 Hughes & Son (July Church Cutting) | £130.00 |
| Chq-1728 R Parr (4 hours overtime net of tax - 4hrs Clerk) | £49.40 |
| Chq-1729 HMRC (R Parr - Tax) | £6.40 |
| Chq-1730 Village Hall (August Hall Hire) | £17.00 |
| Chq-1731 Church (September hire) | £15.00 |
| Chq-1732 Kim Wakes (Expenses Abbey Print NP Flyers) | £62.00 |
| Chq-1733 CAB (Donation) | £50.00 |
| | £804.71 |

- C. Online Banking - The Clerk advised that the account had been accepted and that the paper mandate had been received and needed signing by the four councillors (Cllr Heller, Wakes, Chipperton & Waters) and the Clerk, which would be completed outside of the meeting. Cllr Figgis had been accepted by Lloyds Bank but due to logistical reasons is not to be added to the Lloyds Account at this moment in time.

105. CORRESPONDENCE

A. A2 Brenley to Bridge resurfacing

The A2 eastbound will be closed between Brenley Corner and Bridge weeknights, 8pm to 6am, from Monday 18 to Friday 29 September, and on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 November.

The A2 westbound will then be closed between Bridge and Brenley Corner weeknights, 8pm to 6am, from Monday 2 October to Wednesday 1 November.

M2 junction 5 improvement scheme – A249 northbound full closure

There will be a full closure of the A249 northbound (towards Sheppey) between M20 junction 7 and Stockbury roundabout from 9pm Friday 22 September to 5am Monday 25 September.

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- B. Swale Economic Development Update - Small and medium businesses invited to a SBC workshop on Tuesday 10th October on how to bid for contracts with SBC.

C. Police and Crime Commissioner - Annual policing survey

Making Kent Safer is Matthew Scott's Police and Crime Plan, which sets the priorities he expects the Chief Constable to deliver. The priorities are shaped by what the residents and businesses of Kent tell him what matters most to them. This is why this survey is so important.

Residents are encourage to complete the survey to make your views heard:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KentPolicingSurvey2023/>

- D. Rural Swale Small Business Grants - SBC have launched a grant scheme to support small rural businesses to make capital investments to support growth and carbon reduction methods. There is a deadline of the 13th October.

106. ADMINISTRATION

None

107. CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

None

88. ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON OCTOBER'S FULL MEETING AGENDA

A. Neighbourhood Plan

- B. HIP
- C. Oakwell Drains
- D. Remembrance Service
- E. Budgeting
- F. Hernhill News Editor
- G. PC Gary Morris Quarterly update

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

CHAIR