



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Village Hall on Wednesday 28th February 2024 from 7:30pm to 9:05pm.

Present:

Cllr. B. Heller (Chair), Cllr K. Wakes Cllr P. Smith, Cllr B. Chipperton.
Cllr D. Figgis Cllr. E Bannock MBE Cllr D. Waters

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk), and 3 members of the public

180. APOLOGIES

Cllr R. Lehmann (SBC & KCC), Cllr A. Gould (SBC)

181. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Chipperton stated a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the item concerning the Playing Fields as she is on the DCA committee.

182. MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd December 2023 (154-156) 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 31st January 2024 (157-178) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.
- C. The S101 delegation for the 1st February Payment was ratified (179).

183. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. The owner of Waterham Farm had attended the meeting to update the council on the works being undertaken following the concerns raised by members of the public at the January Full Council meeting. The work is undertaken on private land and to allow access for ditch clearance with the works on the trees undertaken prior to the nesting season. The Council thanked the owner for the update

184. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- A. General update - Cllr Wakes provided an update that there is to be a community update on the questionnaire results on the 14th March at 6pm at the village hall.
- B. Cllr Wakes also advised that the winner of the prize draw hamper was Juliet Wright.
- C. The Clerk had received an email from the interim head of planning at SBC enquiring about the NP progress. The Clerk provided an update and requested to take up the guidance offered by SBC.

185. KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- A. The Clerk provided an update that the installation of the signage was now due on the 22nd April 2024. The clerk presented the KCC toolkit. The council resolved to have a stall at the May fete to distribute the toolkit items. A volunteer at the April meeting will need to be decided. The council resolved to purchase £100 wheelie bin stickers. **Action:** The Clerk is to investigate. The council considered locations for the banner. It was proposed for 2 locations, the church wall and the village hall. **Action:** The Clerk is to request permission from the PCC.

186. PLANNING

Planning Applications-

- 1) 24/500517/FULL 2 Uplands Cottages Highstreet Road Hernhill Faversham Kent

The Council discussed the application and voted to support the application with the following comments:

“Following the Parish Council meeting on the 28th February 2024, the council resolved to support the above application given that it is a modest extension and is considered to be of a vernacular that is in keeping with the different styles across the parish.”

B. Planning Decisions -

- 1) 23/505591/SUB Submission of details to discharge conditions 3 - External Finishing Materials, and 6 - Cross Sectional Drawings, Subject to 23/501777/FULL Crockham Farmhouse Crockham Lane Hernhill Kent ME13 9LB - Application Permitted
- 2) 22/500436/SUB Submission of details pursuant to condition 15 (Drainage Verification) in relation to planning permission 19/501640/FULL. Land North Of Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EJ - Application Permitted
- 3) 23/505788/TCA Conservation Area Notification : Removal of silver birch tree which is within 10 metres from house. 2 Redbrick Cottages Plumpudding Lane Dargate Kent ME13 9EZ - No Objections

187. NEW HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cllr Bannock and Waters had continued to undertake their investigations to draft a new HIP. Finalising the HIP is dependent on joint meetings with Boughton and Dunkirk. **Action:** The Clerk is to arrange. Cllr Water is to provide some dates to the Clerk.

188. REQUEST FOR EASTER CROSS ON THE GREEN

The Clerk had received a request from the PCC for the Church to place a cross on the village green as there had been in previous years. The council resolved to support the request.

189. PLAYING FIELDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT - Discuss increase and next steps

The Clerk had received notification from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance of a large increase in April of an extra £65 a month. This has been received after the budget and precept request and is far higher than anticipated. The Council discussed and agreed for the Clerk and Cllr Bannock to arrange to meet with the DCA/Village Hall to understand the history surrounding the grass cutting and to discuss with them possible options going forward. **Action:** Cllr Banock to arrange.

190. LITTER PICK - Set next date

The Clerk and Cllr Wakes provided the council an update on the litter pick which was successful as 18 people attended. Wey Street was the worst area followed by the around the Dargate services. The Clerk has already contacted SBC to request an additional bin for that area. Cllr Wakes mentioned that additional litter picks and hoops were required. **Action:** Cllr Wakes to contact SBC to enquire about provision of equipment. **Action:** Cllr Wakes is to liaise with the Village Hall and DCA to suggest a new date for the summer litter pick. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to the services asking them to undertake litter picking.

191. CLEVE HILL SOLAR FARM - UPDATE

The clerk advised the battery storage application was due at SBC planning committee the evening of the 28th february. The next update committee was on the 29th February. It was resolved for the Clerk to attend. Large loads via Monkshill Road are continuing into April. There are also road closures due in Heads Hill and the impact on the Cleve Hill deliveries needs to be known. **Action:** The Clerk is to raise at the fortnightly stakeholder meeting.

192. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk advised that this was due to be held in April prior to the full council meeting, It was agreed to invite the DCA, Village Hall, Church, Herons, Gardening Club, School, Hernhill News, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and PC Gary Morris. The Clerk would also invite Peter Willcock in order to present to him the KALC award.

193. COMMUNITY ORCHARD - IDENTIFY POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

The item was added to the agenda following the meeting with Helen Whateley about other parishes opening community orchards which Cllr Bannock attended. The Council discussed and no suitable locations could be identified.

194. MATTERS ARISING

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report
- B. Defibrillator Application - The Clerk had liased with the landlord at the 3 Horseshoes and with Shepherd's Neame who were supportive and an application to the British Heart Foundation had been submitted. An update was awaited from the BHF.

195. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- A. Cllr Lehmann provided an email update in his absence. The Faversham waste tip closure had been removed from the 2024/2025 budget.
- B. KCC are running a consultation coming out soon on potential revisions to their

policies and fees relating to adult social care. The consultation opened on 6th February and can be accessed via the following link - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/adultsocialcarecharging>

- C. Swale Borough Council's new waste collection contract will be starting from Monday 25th March, when Suez will be the new provider (in place of Biffa, although the majority of the current staff will be retained). I am told that the routes have been heavily revised to optimise them and reduce unnecessary additional mileage. One of the downsides to this, however, is that around 40% of households will have a new day of the week for their collection. Letters about this will be going out to all households in the coming weeks.
- D. A councillor raised the issue of the impact on local roads in relation to forthcoming closure and lane restrictions on the Thanet Way. **Action:** The Clerk is to contact KCC to request signage saying local traffic only at key locations.

196. FINANCE

- A. The February bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
- B. February's 2024 payments were approved and signed.

For Payment February 2024		
-online Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing February)		£152.66
-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Home Expenses)		£20.00
-online R Parr (Gross Salary)		£453.48
-online HMRC (Tax)		<u>£12.20</u>
- R Parr (Net Salary)		£441.28
-online Hughes & Son (January Church Cutting)		£130.00
-online K Wakes (NP Prize - Cheesemakers of Canterbury)		£26.00
-online Hernhill Village Hall (Hall Hire January)		£17.00
		£799.14

- C. Lloyds Online Banking - Additional Signatories – Cllr Smith was in the process of being added to the Lloyds Bank mandate.
- D. The Clerk confirmed that the NatWest switcher process had been started with a potential closure date of the 2nd March.

197. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Neighbourhood Alert Kent Police Priority Survey - <https://survey.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Survey/HASH/BAE2E0653C948C5C3CDBD7009D82BDB1>
- B. Consultation on the Swale Borough Council draft Corporate Equality Scheme 2024-2028 - deadline 10th April
- C. DLUHC: Changes to various permitted development rights: consultation
- D. DLUHC: Strengthening planning policy for brownfield development - consultation
- E. Road Closure Crockham Road 2nd-3rd April Resurfacing has been cancelled.
- F. Road Closure Butlers Hill on the 2nd April 2024 for one day
- G. A2 Brenley to Bridge resurfacing - The A2 London-bound will then be closed between Bridge and Brenley Corner weeknights, 8pm to 6am, from Friday 23 February to Friday 1 March, and again from Monday 11 to Wednesday 27 March.
- H. Police Surgery 24th March 2-3pm Hernhill Village Hall.
- I. Thanet Way Temporary Road Closures, speed restrictions and contraflow from 5th April until July.

198. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Clerk confirmed that the pads at the defibrillator at The Dove had been replaced.

199. CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. Clerks appraisal due 5th March 2024
- B. Internal audit booked for the 24th April 2024.
- C. The Clerk advised that she would be undertaking the annual VAT reclaim.

200. ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON MARCH'S FULL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Neighbourhood Plan
- B. HIP (New and Old)
- C. Speedwatch - Police Representative talk

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

CHAIR