



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Parish Church on Wednesday 28th September 2022 from 7:30pm to 8:55pm.

Present:

Cllr A. Rumble Cllr B. Chipperton (Chair) Cllr D. Figgis Cllr A. Gould (SBC)

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk), and 10 members of the public

537 APOLOGIES

Cllr. T Valentine Cllr R. Lehmann (KCC) Cllr S. Edgington
Cllr. B Heller Cllr C. Page

538 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

The Clerk advised that the Chair, Cllr Heller had received the resignation from Cllr Couzens ahead of the meeting. Cllr Couzens was thanked for his work and the Clerk will arrange to advertise for the vacancy.

539 APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

Given the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair a temporary chair for the meeting was proposed by Cllr Rumble and seconded by Cllr Figgis for Cllr Chipperton to take the role with all voting in favour.

540 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

541 MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 31st August 2022 (515-532) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.
- B. The minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 8th September 2022 (533-536) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

542 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Ex- Chair Mrs Geliot made a statement to the meeting as follows:

“At the last Parish Council meeting I made a statement addressing any misunderstanding that may have arisen regarding my position on the Parish Council and my son being offered a house in Forge Farm Row. A few days later your Clerk forwarded to me an official complaint the Parish Council had received, redacted to conceal the identity of the complainant. This complaint was a serious, vicious and personal attack on me, accusing me of corruption. “I would request that this matter be formally discussed by the Parish Council in order to refer this for investigation by an appropriate outside body regarding potential corruption” were the words used.

No evidence was presented. No evidence exists. This is a step too far. Such a public, serious and totally unfounded accusation requires a formal public apology.”

The Clerk then explained to the meeting that this statement was in relation to a later item on the agenda concerning a complaint received by the Parish Council whereby a complaint of corruption had been received from a parishioner in relation to Mrs Geliot's son moving into a bungalow at the Local Housing Needs development on Farm Farm Row. The complainant had also requested for an independent and that the case was formally discussed by the Parish Council in order to refer this for investigation by an appropriate outside body regarding potential corruption. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Clerk immediately forwarded it to the Monitoring Officer at Swale Borough Council. The Monitoring Officer opined that the complaint was unfounded and that there was no disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest on behalf of Mrs Geliot at the time on the scheme and that in absence of any specific evidence suggesting some impropriety, as to what the Parish Council could reasonably investigate. For transparency, the Clerk also forwarded the redacted complaint to Mrs Geliot and also the Monitoring Officer's response to both parties when received. As requested the case was to be formally discussed at this meeting. The Parish Council discussed that in light of the Monitoring Officers response and the statement made by Mrs Geliot at the previous full council meeting clearly providing the timeline of events, which confirmed the application to English Rural and the housing register had occurred four month after her resignation from the council that there was nothing further to investigate and considered the matter closed. The Clerk would pass on the above statement made by Mrs Geliot to the complainant.

- B. Mrs Geliot mentioned that she normally tidies up the war memorial ahead of Remembrance day and that unfortunately she would be unable to do so this year. Cllr Rumble offered to undertake the task.

543 UPDATE BY DEVELOPER & ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL

22/502565/FULL PROPOSAL: Proposed development consisting of a drive through restaurant and 3no. commercial buildings with a total floorspace of 4043 sq.m with associated parking and accessed from Highstreet Road. ADDRESS: Land At Plumpudding Lane And Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EN

Josh Wilson of George Wilson Ltd, the developer provided an update on the above application which had been withdrawn by themselves. As well as the McDonalds drive-thru, the above application included proposals for three commercial units. The units had already been potentially pre-let should the application be approved. However, due to the high level of opposition concerning the drive-thru element of the proposal, the applicant did not want the drive-thru element to delay the remaining aspects of the application. Hence it was withdrawn. A new application would be submitted in due course with the drive-thru element removed. A future submission concerning the remaining area now not included would be subject to a separate application, details to be decided. The council noted Mr Wilson's comments and stated that they would not be discussing and passing any comment until any application had been received. Members of the public asked questions concerning future plans and submissions and possible traffic issues.

Mr Wilson then provided details concerning a nearby second site, which already had approved planning permission for an extension for a commercial units to the Waterham Business Park (20/505778/FULL). A new application would be submitted

in due course in order to change the configuration of buildings within the plot to incorporate smaller units. Again the council clearly stated that they would not be commenting at this time until a formal application had been submitted.

544. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS (NP)

A talk was given by Cllr Tutt of Dunkirk Parish Council and on the committee for the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood plan (BDNP) provided information about the process and how long it takes as well as the benefits of producing a NP. The benefits allows for greater control over development and where they occur within the parish as well as identifying open spaces that wish to be preserved and areas suitable for commercial use. Having an approved NP means that SBC have to add weight to the plan taking that into account with planning applications. The NP would also link into the Borough's Local Plan. Whilst the Parish Council support the NP, it is not led by the PC but by the community. Cllr Tutt mentioned that the BDNP was currently with the planning Inspectorate for examination having take circa 8 years to get to that point. Initially their plan had 20 volunteers which had since been reduced down to a core 6 volunteers. Initially there was a questionnaire to the parishes about what they did or didn't like in the parishes. There would be a call for sites, open spaces etc and road, access and infrastructure would be considered with sites reduced down to where development would be considered acceptable.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had obtained approval for the designated area for a NP pre covid and was in the process of arranging a public village event to garner interest in the NP with a view to obtaining interest. However, due to covid this was postponed. One parishioner at the meeting already expressed an interest in volunteering and the Clerk would arrange for reference material to be sent to that individual. It was agreed to bring the item back to the next meeting when there would hopefully be more Councillors to discuss next steps and a possible consultation event. The Chair thanks Cllr Tutt for this talk stating it was extremely informative.

545. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Following the previous meeting when it had been agreed to create a Parish Council Facebook page, the Clerk had prepared a Social Media policy. This had been circulated by the Clerk ahead of the meeting for review. The council unanimously agreed to adopt the policy which will be placed onto the Parish Council's website by the Clerk, and the Clerk as administrator would now create the Facebook page.

546. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Given the low numbers of Councillors attending the meeting it was agreed to adjourn to the next meeting.

547. DOMESTIC BONFIRES

The Clerk had received notification of a complaint by a parishioner concerning continual domestic bonfires by a neighbour being a nuisance. The Clerk highlighted a leaflet by Swale Borough Council concerning bonfires and how to avoid causing a nuisance to neighbours mentioning the following points which would also be posted into the Hernhill News. The council is asking people who are lighting bonfires to be considerate of their neighbours and surroundings keeping the number of bonfires to a minimum. Garden waste can be added to Brown bins rather than burnt. Do not burn synthetic items that create black smoke. Avoid lighting up in strong winds that blow directly towards houses. Never leave a fire unattended or smouldering for hours. Complaints about bonfires that become a regular problem can be reported to the

548. MONKSHILL LORRIES

Given the low numbers of councillors attending the meeting it was agreed to adjourn to the next meeting.

549 PLANNING

A. Planning Applications:

- 1) None received.

B. Planning Decisions:

- 1) 22/503431/LDCEX PROPOSAL: Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of the erection of a single storey flat roof rear extension, replacement of the rear outbuilding of the original dwellinghouse.
ADDRESS: 12 Swale View Church Hill Hernhill Faversham Kent ME13 9JS
- PERMITTED
- 2) 22/500287/NMAMD | Non-material amendment application: Location of proposed 13 units to be altered, and unit numbering to be changed to correspond & improve site coordination with current 35 unit scheme application 21/502972/FULL. Proposed units 42-48 floor area to be increased. All 13 units, fenestration to be altered to correspond and coordinate with application 21/505030/NMAMD. Providing a consistent materiality between both parts of the site in relation to planning permission 20/502407/FULL. | Land Adjacent Thanet Way Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EN - PERMITTED

550 MATTERS ARISING

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report. .
- B. Village Speed Limits - Nothing to report
- C. Allotment Gate- The Clerk had now received three quotes which had been circulated to the councillor ahead of the meeting. There were differences in the material used for the gates, a wooden plisaded one, a metal mesh gate and a galvanized 5 bar field gate or 5 bar timber framed gate. Costs ranging pre VAT of £422.50, £600 and £650. The Clerk confirmed that funding would come from the ringfenced maintenance fees. The council discussed that this was considered expensive. Cllr Figgis had previously offered to take a look but had not been able to do so ahead of the council meeting. Cllr Rumble mentioned that she thought that she had seen a possible grant opportunity and would forward details to the Clerk. It was agreed to continue to investigate and adjourn until the next council meeting.
The Clerk also mentioned that there was a half plot available on the allotment and would advertise accordingly.
- D. Defibrillator Training - The Clerk confirmed that following the previous meeting, that Dunkirk Village Hall had already arranged defibrillator training and that parishioners from Hernhill were welcome to join that training. It is free and will be at 2pm on the 3rd October at Dunkirk Village Hall. .
- E. Use of the Village Green by the Red Lion -Cllr Heller and Cllr Rumble had spoken to the Red Lion and explained the ownership of the village green and the PC's insurance.. The pub agreed not to place any of their furniture on The Green. The Cllrs clearly stated that parishioners were welcomed to bring their own chairs and use the village green.
- F. Dale Farm Oast - No further updates with Cllr Gould to chase SBC.

- G. Fostall Sign - The Clerk confirmed she had been informed that there was now an additional signposting for the school, village hall and playing field at Godfreys Grave similar to the one added at the Fostall/Kemsdale Road junction.

551 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- A. None

552 FINANCE

- A. The September Bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
B. September's 2022 cheques for payment were approved and signed.

The Clerk confirmed that notification of the second half of the precept had been received.

For Payment September 2022		
Chq-1638 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing September)		£144.02
Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Salary & Expenses)		£250.32
Chq-1639 Hughes and Son (August Church Mowing)		£130.00
Chq-1640 Village Hall (August Church hire)		£15.00
Chq-1641 KCS (Photocopier - February to May)		£73.79
Chq-1642 KCS (Photocopier - May to August)		£73.78
		£686.91

553 CORRESPONDANCE

- A. The Clerk had received a late notification of forthcoming closure of the London bound M2 between junction 7 and 5 from 8pm on Friday the 30th September until 6am on the 1st October.

554 CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. None

555 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON SEPTEMBER'S FULL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Neighbourhood Watch
B. Village Speed Limits.
C. Allotments
D. Neighbourhood Plans
E. DaleFarm Oast
F. Civility and Respect Pledge
G. Monkshill Lorries
H. Budget

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

CHAIRMAN