



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Village Hall on Wednesday 30th August 2023 from 7:30pm to 9:05pm.

Present:

Cllr. B. Heller (Chair), Cllr D. Figgis, Cllr. E Bannock, Cllr K. Wakes,
Cllr D. Waters Cllr P. Smith Cllr. B. Chipperton.
Cllr R. Lehmann (SBC & KCC), Cllr A. Gould (SBC),

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk), and 4 members of the public

68. APOLOGIES

None

69. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

70. MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 26th July 2023 (43-64) 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 8th August 2023 (65-67) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

71. PLANNING

Planning Applications-

- 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

There was public participation where concerns had been raised with regards to the drainage condition that had been submitted. The Council had previously raised concerns regarding the pond that had been utilised by the crematorium prior to the drainage plans having been approved. Following a discussion, the Council voted unanimously to object to the submitted drainage plans with the following comment:

“Hernhill Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the details concerning condition 14 (Surface water drainage scheme). Given the condition 14 under the permitted application (20/503666) clearly states that

"Development shall not begin in any phase until a detailed sustainable surface water drainage scheme for the site has been submitted to (and approved in writing by) the Local Planning Authority". The reason being "To ensure the development is served by satisfactory arrangements for the disposal of surface water and to ensure that the development does not exacerbate the risk of on/off site flooding. These details and accompanying calculations are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.". Therefore, before this condition is reviewed and opined by SBC Planning, the Council finds it extraordinary that the crematorium as of the week commencing 21st August is now open and operational, thus contravening the pre-commencement wording to condition 14. This also contravenes that of Condition 17 for which "No drainage systems for the infiltration of surface water or treated foul sewage to the ground are permitted other than with the written consent of the Local Planning Authority", for which an application for this condition has yet to even be submitted. The Council considers it unacceptable that the work has been undertaken by the client prior to any such planning approval and this had previously been reported to SBC Planning in June 2023 with no action taken by SBC as the application was 'still pending'. The Council comment that surely any development carried out without having complied with a pre-commencement condition would be considered unlawful and may be the subject of enforcement action? The pond concerned in which the crematorium has used is for discharging surface water from the development, including road and car park run-off, along with treated effluent. The Council was dismayed at the environmental destruction to the pond during the then unauthorised works undertaken which is home to newts and nesting birds such as moorhens and as such the biological impact to wildlife in a pond which will now receive treated effluent. The Council considers the drainage proposals cause a net loss of biodiversity. The pond was also considered a potential breeding site for Great Crested Newt (GCN), the whole area being within an amber GCN risk zone. Though the test came back negative according to the Natural England guidance, it is an offence to 'damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places - even if GCN are not present.' The pond concerned lays outside of the red line area associated with the original planning application. At no stage of the process had it been made clear by the developers that the pond, which is actually outside the site boundary, was to be co-opted for this purpose. The pond is one that had regularly flooded in the past, with water overspilling and laying across the road in Staple Street, sometimes deep enough to render it impassable. Therefore, the Council do not consider that the pond is able to cope with any additional volume of water without further impact from flooding. The Council would like to request that the developer be required to restore the pond to protect its wildlife and mitigate against the flooding of the road"

The Council also agreed for a letter to be sent to the CEO of SBC concerning the no action by Planning Enforcement and copied to Helen Whately MP.

B. Planning Decisions -
None

72. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. A parishioner mentioned that the war memorial would need tidying ahead of the Remembrance Day service. **Action:** Cllr Heller volunteered to undertake.

- B. A parishioner asked the status of the litter bin replacement on Staple Street. The Clerk confirmed that this was on the waiting list with SBC.
- C. A parishioner mentioned that the bench in Staplestreet had overgrown vegetation. It was discussed and was not clear if this bench was a Parish Council asset or not. **Action:** The Clerk is to investigate.

73. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

Following information received from PC Gary Morris regarding the difference between the NW Community Safety Charter and My Community Voice, it was discussed and unanimously agreed by the council not to sign up to the NW Charter.

74. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- A. Cllr Wakes provided an update on the meeting that occurred on the 16th August 2023. The A5 flyer was being printed and would be ready for inclusion in this month's Hernhill News having been approved under the delegated authority. The group are continuing to arrange for a presentation to be held at the village hall on the 13 October 2023 with a presentation and Q&A for parishioners. Next NP meeting is on the 4th October. The NP team is looking for more participation and a broad range of skills. Cllr Wakes also advised that there is government financial support still but any requests for funding from the Council is still too early.

75. KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- A. Update - The Clerk confirmed that we were still waiting to hear from KCC for the civil engineering stage and quote.
- B. The Clerk advised that any HIPs would feed into the Local Cycling and Walking Plans.
- C. The Clerk advised that a parishioner had contacted Cllr Lehmann regarding concerns of speeding in Staplestreet and that this would form part of the consideration for any new HIP.
- D. The Council discussed creating a new HIP, as well as extending Staplestreet, other areas for future consideration include Monkshill, Bul Lane and the central portion of Church Hill. The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Dunkirk Parish Council in order to consider a joint meeting also including Boughton Parish as there were some joint areas. In addition, potential future TRO costs could be saved. The council discussed and agreed to a joint meeting. **Action:** The Clerk is to respond to Dunkirk Parish Council for a joint meeting. The council also discussed and agreed that Cllrs Waters and Bannock would act as focal points for the new HIP and that they would begin considering a new HIP.

76. OAKWELL DRAINAGE ISSUES - Update

The Clerk advised that following the previous meeting that a complaint had been sent to the CEO of Southern Water (SW). Since then the case had been picked up by the Senior Executive complaints team who had contacted the Clerk and provided a dedicated name and contact number. They admitted that the issue had been occurring over a number of years. SW are now undertaking a full investigation of the domestic drainage system and also the pumping station where the outcome is awaited.

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77. KENT PLAN TREE - Site Request

The Clerk had previously received interest of a site. However, the landowner had since altered their mind regarding the scheme. No other sites have been put forward.

78. CORONATION LIVING HERITAGE FUND - tree planting

The Clerk had received correspondence concerning the new scheme by Charles III. Applications are open until the 11th September 2023, although following a discussion, it was agreed that there are no suitable sites in such a short timescale.

79. CLOSURE OF KCC PROPOSAL FOR FAVERSHAM'S WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE

Cllr Lehman provided an update in that the consultation was currently on hold. A number of Freedom of Information requests had been made by FTC in order to understand evidence for a business case which had yet to be received. The council continues to wait for the official consultation and whether it is accompanied by detailed information. Despite the delay, FTC are continuing with their demonstration at County Hall in Maidstone on the 21st September and a bus will be leaving Faversham at 7am.

80. 80TH DD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - update

The Clerk had obtained permission from the landowners for the use of the beacon. In addition, Mr Castle has agreed to maintain the beacon and arrange for the preparation and monitoring of the beacon.

81. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WREATH

The Clerk reminded the Council that a £50 donation is in the budget for the wreath and to ratify an order made with the local Royal British Legion (RBL) representative for a new wreath. The Clerk had discussed with the RBL about recyclable wreaths but this was not yet possible. It was discussed by the council and agreed to adopt to recycle and reuse the new wreath laid this year but still maintain the £50 donation. It was agreed that a 1 month delay to collect the wreath was deemed appropriate. **Action:** The Clerk is to arrange and store the wreath after the service.

82. MATTERS ARISING

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - The Clerk had advised that there had been a burglary at Stapelsteet communication via MyCommunityVoice along with security tips. The Clerk had added it to the website and Facebook.
- B. Dale Farm Oast - Cllr Gould had received an update from the SBC Conservation Office and advised that a s215 Untidiness notice had been sent to the landowner.
- C. Email provider update - The Clerk confirmed that all councillor's had now received their new email addresses and that they were being used. Cllr Bannock pointed out that the gmail accounts are likely to be closed due to non use after 2 years.
- D. Allotment -
 - (i) Fencing Grant Update - The Clerk confirmed that due to the delay in installation of the fencing until circa March 2024, agreement for an extension by Kent Community Foundation had been made.
 - (ii) A number of allotment holders had recently mentioned the need for water supply at the allotments and felt this was more of a priority than fencing. This

was something previously discussed and negotiated in great detail with the landowner when the allotments were created and it was not possible to arrange for a water supply. Many allotment holders have since become creative in capturing water and this is something to be encouraged. It was discussed that the allotment holders are welcome to attend and speak at Parish Meetings where the allotments are discussed and also the annual AGM. Action: The Clerk is to contact all allotment holders inviting them to the meetings to have their say.

- E. KCC Cutting of verges complaint the Clerk had received a response to the complaint and that any work not done to a sufficient standard would be redone at the contractors expense. The main cutting period by KCC takes place in June.

83. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- A. Cllr Waters advised that concerning the new building in Waterham, that a retrospective application would be forthcoming
- B. Cllr Figgis mentioned the overgrown hedges in Kemsdale Road which was narrowing the single width road considerably. **Action:** The Clerk is to report to KCC Highways.
- C. A couple of possible sites in the parish were discussed concerning cases that may require investigating 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.

84. FINANCE

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

Chq-1717 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing July)	£152.66
Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Salary & Expenses)	£322.25
Chq-1718 Hughes & Son (July Church Cutting)	£130.00
Chq-1721 R Parr (10 hours overtime net of tax - 7hrs Clerk/ 3hrs NP)	£132.30
Chq-1720 HMRC (R Parr - Tax)	£7.20
Chq-1719 Village Hall (July Hall Hire)	£17.00
Chq-1722 Church (August hire)	£15.00
Chq-1723 KCS (Photocopier - copy charge Nov 22 - Feb 23)	£13.32
Chq-1724 KCS (Photocopier - copy charge May 23 - Aug 23)	£8.20
Chq-1725 Sue Osborne (Hernhill Newsletter Mileage -Apr/May/June/July 2023)	£23.40
	£821.33

- C. The Clerk advised that she was waiting on all Councillor details before commencing the new account process with Lloyds Bank.
- D. The Clerk mentioned that it was appropriate for the Clerk's hours to be reviewed for an increase given the increase in administration and that it is best practice for the Clerks to have a dedicated laptop. **Action:** The Clerk would put together a paper covering these aspects for consideration especially in view of cost implications that

may need considering for the 2024/2025 budget planning.

85. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The Kent Resilience Forum has launched an online public survey to explore how aware, and prepared, people consider themselves in relation to a range of risks and emergencies that could impact residents of Kent and Medway. This is to help benchmark and inform the work of the newly formed KRF Community Resilience Working Group. Click on the link here to go to the survey: Community Resilience Survey. The consultation closes in September. **Action:** The Clerk is to add to the website and Facebook
- B. The KCC Budget Consultation is now live: Budget Consultation 2024-25 | Let's talk Kent. The deadline for responses is 6th September. **Action:** The Clerk is to add to the website and Facebook
- C. KCC launched the Kent Family Services consultation on 19th July: www.kent.gov.uk/familyhubservice. The deadline for responses is 13th September. **Action:** The Clerk is to add to the website and Facebook
- D. KCC launched their emerging Local Transport Plan on 27th June Emerging Local Transport Plan | Let's talk Kent. The deadline for responses is 18th September. **Action:** The Clerk is to add to the website and Facebook
- E. KCC launched the Kent Community Warden Service Review | Let's talk Kent on 12th July as there is a £1 million reduction in budget to the service. The deadline for responses is 3rd October 2023. **Action:** The Clerk is to add to the website and Facebook
- F. National Highways and Transport Survey 2023-24 | Let's talk Kent. There are 6 surveys covering: accessibility, highways maintenance, public transport, road safety, tackling congestion and walking and cycling. The deadline for responses is 29th February 2024. **Action:** The Clerk is to add to the website and Facebook

The council discussed and agreed to respond to all of these if appropriate as individuals.

86. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Clerk and Cllr Chipprton confirmed that the defibrillators for the Village Hall and The Dove were in good order respectively. **Action:** The Clerk is to update The Circuit with the latest checks.
- B. The Clerk advised of a temporary workplace change for the week commencing 4th September.

87. CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. The Chair commented that the advertisement in the Hernhill News by a parishioner was not able to be in a prominent place in the previous edition. As the parishioner had not received any responses to their advert, it was agreed to place again in the September edition but in a more prominent place in the newsletter.
- B. The Chair advised of her forthcoming absence at the next full council meeting and that also the Vice Chair would also be providing their apologies. Therefore a remaining Councillor will be to become temporary Chair at the next meeting. **Action:** The Clerk is to ensure that this is the first item on the September full council meeting agenda.

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

- A. Neighbourhood Plan
- B. HIP
- C. Oakwell Drains
- D. Wreath

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

CHAIR