



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Parish Church on Wednesday 30th November 2022 from 7:30pm to 9:25pm.

Present:

Cllr. B. Heller (Chair) Cllr A. Rumble Cllr B. Chipperton Cllr D. Figgis
Cllr C. Page, Cllr D. Waters & Cllr K. Wakes.

Also Present: Mrs R. Parr (Clerk), Cllr A. Gould (SBC) and 6 members of the public

578 APOLOGIES

Cllr. T Valentine Cllr R. Lehmann (KCC)

579 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

580 MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 26th October 2022 (556-575) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.
- B. The Chairman to move that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 7th November 2022 (576-579) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

581 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Mr Fitchett who was part of the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan and Ms Hiester attended and spoke about their support for putting together a neighbourhood plan. As there was no other public participation this led to the next item.

582 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chair spoke to say that there was a need for an informal get together of people interested in order to decide next steps. Mr Fitchett confirmed that this is a community led project and not by the Parish Council although they could play a part in an advisory capacity. Cllr Gould confirmed the additional planning weight gained by having a NP. Cllrs Waters, Wakes and Chipperton were interested as well as Cllr Heller. Action: Cllr Heller to include in the newsletter again for interested volunteers. The Clerk is to arrange a meeting of interested people for January.

583 NEWSLETTER PRINTING

The Clerk had received expressions of interest from the school for use of their photocopier and the PC covering costs of printing and paper if no one else comes forward.. Martin Wood who has offices at Mount Farm Oast at Staple Street also

offered to arrange printing covering costs. No volunteers had been forthcoming to undertake the distribution side of the newsletter where the newsletter once printed is passed in batches onto 20 distributors who then post them in letterboxes in designated areas. A discussion was held whether the distributors could pick up from Mount Farm Oast. Action: The Clerk is to liaise with Mr Chapman to obtain the distributor's details and discuss what changes could be made. There may be times when Mr Wood is not available to undertake the printing but the PC would still have the photocopier available which is on a lease contract. The council discussed and decided to try the arrangement with Mr Wood. Action: The Clerk is to liaise with Mr Wood accordingly regarding the process for January and also to the school offering an update with thanks and the possibility of keeping them in reserve.

584 GRANTS

The council discussed having a Councillor responsible for reviewing and sourcing grant opportunities. Cllr Wakes volunteered for the position.

585 CHURCHYARD NO MOW MAY

The church had liaised with the contractor for the church grass cutting. Whilst he was happy to undertake no mow May, he felt that it did little to assist the biodiversity. The church reviewed online information that mentioned it was a program that was especially important for urban areas where flower resources are limited. Cllr Heller had reviewed the recent slide pack associated with the kcc Kent Plan Bee. This confirmed that rural areas were still in need to increase biodiversity due to the cutting of hedges, loss of field margins and increased spraying. The council agreed that there was still value in No Mow May and to also encourage people in the parish to do it. It was made clear that continued payment to the contractor for May is not an issue.

586 SOUTH EAST WATER DONATION

The Clerk advised the council that she had received a call from South East Water (SEW) offering a donation of £7,500 for the use of village facilities during the summer water shortages by Dunkirk. SEW decided to pass the donation to the Parish Council as they were best placed to democratically decide how to utilise and distribute the funds. The Chair asked the Councillors to consider options and at the next meeting, once the cheque had been confirmed and received, a decision can then be made by the council what to do with the funds.

587 PLANNING

A. Planning Applications-

- 1) 22/504863/FULL PROPOSAL: Proposed development of 4043 m2 of commercial floorspace accessed from Highstreet Road (Resubmission of 22/502565/FULL). ADDRESS: Land At Plumpudding And Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EL

The Councillors discussed the application noting that the applicant had advised at a previous meeting why they had withdrawn their previous application due to the opposition of the drive-thru and that a new one would be resubmitted without it. The council also discussed that following the earlier application, additional information was available on traffic and other consultee responses as well as the number of objections by parishioners. The council voted 2 in favour, 1 No Adverse Comments and 4 objections. Therefore, the council agreed for the following

comments to be added:

“Hernhill Parish council voted to object to the application. Since the time of the vote at the original submission (22/502565), the council have now seen more consultee responses as well as feedback from parishioners. The key concern of the Council is the access point to the development being close to the exit off the Thanet Way with the potential for exits off the Thanet Way at high speed and vehicular movements due to the nearby service station leading to a high volume of car movements within a short area with the increased potential for accidents. Consequently, we do not believe that the slip road is suitable for extra traffic. The Council also have concerns that the development is not supported by public transport and modes of travel will predominantly be by private car, this not supporting the Brough's objectives for sustainable travel and reducing the impact of poor air quality especially being adjacent to a major thoroughfare. It is also noted that the application does not show a net biodiversity gain and the development will cause a loss of biodiversity as well as an increase in flood and ground water contamination risk and lack of drainage strategy”

B. Planning Decisions -

- 1) 22/502910/FULL | Section 73 - Application for removal of conditions 10 (removal of storage containers), 11 (willow trellis fencing) and 13 (external storage) pursuant to 17/504077/FULL for - Construction of building housing 5 x 75m² industrial units type B1/B8 complete with parking spaces and indigenous hedge landscaping to site, as amended by drawings referenced SMT-0317-01 Revision H Sheets 1, 2 and 3 received 28th June 2018. | Unit 1A Smiths Transport Yard Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EP - Refused

588 **MATTERS ARISING**

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report.
- B. Village Speed Limits - Cllr Page provided an update following the KCC site visit in early November. KCC have now responded with their plans where no speed limits were recommended. Following an escalation by Cllr Page to KCC, it was then offered for speed limits in Stapleshreet of 30mph between Bull Lane and Mount Ephraim and the end of Forge Farmhouse on Church Hill. In the centre of the village from The Old Vicarage to the end of Swale View and to the end of Manor Cottages on Crockham Lane and Jack Bailey Row in Kays Lane. Queries were made why this would not be extended to cover the school and KCC responded that given the footpath through the playing fields and that the speed survey did not show excessive speed in that area, they would not consider extending it. KCC did not offer any reduction for Kemsdale Road, Butler's Hill or Plum Pudding Lane as the surveys did not suggest it was warranted. Cllr Page, had also spoken to the Chair at Dunkirk where the eastern end of Staple Street was discussed and it was agreed to consider a joint HIP with Boughton for that area next year. Cllr Page recommended that we take what KCC were offering now and produce a new HIP next year. The financial implications of accepting the speed limit reductions are not yet clear. The council agreed to bank what was offered. In light of the lack of limits by the school, it was discussed and agreed for Cllr Page to write to the headteacher at the school explaining the situation and asking for support.
- C. Allotment Gate - It was confirmed that Cllr Heller would meet the contractors, Quinneys when they arrive on the 30th January to replace the allotment gate.
- D. Dale Farm Oast - No further updates. Alastair Gould is to try and chase.
- E. Monkshill Lorries - Cllr Waters gave a report on recent developments at Monkshill Farm which appear to have generated additional traffic on Monkshill Road, a narrow road which is in a poor state. The council noted that they have not been made aware

of any changes of use through planning since 2016/17. Action: The clerk agreed to speak to Swale’s planning team.

589 COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

- A. Cllr Waters reported significant rubbish by the side of the road by the new units at Highstreet. It was also mentioned that the new bin at Wey Street fills up quickly and is not a large enough capacity for the rubbish despotis and it regularly overflowing. The Clerk mentioned that she was still chasing to get the bin replaced by the village hall and the dog bin on the playing field. The Clerk requested assistance from Cllr Gould with SBC and she was not getting any reply. Action: The Clerk is to forward to Cllr Gould the correspondence and also request more or larger bins for Wey Street.
- B. Cllr Figgis raised concerns regarding parking at Wey Street on the southern side of the slip road which reduced sightlines from the junction when turning left. The possibility of yellow lines was discussed and it was agreed to add to the agenda for January’s meeting. Cllr Gould mentioned if we wished to go ahead then it should then be added to the Joint Transportation Board agenda.
- C. The council also discussed the possibility of a litter pick in February and agreed to finalise details at the January meeting.

590 FINANCE

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

Chq-1652 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing November)	£144.02
Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Salary & Expenses assuming s/o amended by NW)	£322.25
Chq-1653 R Parr (Backdated Pay)	£151.69
Chq-1654 Hughes and Son (November Church Mowing)	£130.00
Chq-1655 Hughes and Son (October Church Mowing)	£130.00
Chq-1656 Village Hall (October hire)	£17.00
Chq-1657 Church (November hire)	£15.00
Chq-1658 KALC Webinar (Intro to Planning)	£16.80
Chq-1659 A Chapman (Mileage and Paper)	£32.84
	£959.60

- C. The Clerk had provided calculations seen by the Chair regarding backdated pay following the national pay rise awarded to Clerks. As a result of the increase in pay for the Clerk, the Clerk had updated the year end position and budget for 2023-2024.
- D. The proposed budget of 2023/2024 was discussed. Consequently the proposed budget previously agreed for £14,771 would now need to increase by circa £500 to cover the increased salary cost. Therefore the proposed spend of £15,212 should be the request for the Precept in January 2023 and agreed by all Councillors. Budget details attached to the minutes.
- E. The Clerk discussed updates to the bank mandate with Nat West now that we had previously signed minutes for the removal of Steve Castle, Simon Edgington and Paul Couzens from the mandate following their resignations. It was also discussed and agreed for the three new Councillors, Cllr Wakes, Cllr Waters and Cllr Figgis would be added to the bank mandated as authorised signatories. Action: The Clerk is to inform Nat West of the Removals and arrange with the new Councillors the

process for adding new signatories. This would need to wait until these November minutes were formally signed and adopted as they would need to accompany the mandate request. The Clerk also discussed moving to online banking for 2023, which was agreed for the Clerk to investigate.

591 CORRESPONDANCE

- A. The Clerk had received a request form the church regarding a reader for the lesson at the carol service in december. Cllr Heller volunteered.
- B. Cllr Heller confirmed that the trees for the jubilee would be available in January and once received a date for planting can be made with the church and the school.
- C. The Clerk provided an update following her attendance at the Local Council Liaison Forum attended by senior figures in SBC. Items covered included inquorate councils, emergency planning and possible future training for Councillors in relation to the upcoming elections and also to encourage new councillors.
- D. Cllr Wakes raised the correspondence concerning SBC's Household Support fund. IT was agreed to add this to the agenda for the meeting in January.

592 CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

- A. None.

593 CLOSED MEETING

The council were updated on a possible planning enforcement case.

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

- A. Neighbourhood Watch
- B. Village Speed Limits.
- C. Allotments
- D. Dale Farm Oast
- E. Monkshill Lorries
- F. Newsletter Printing
- G. Neighbourhood Plans
- H. Litter bins
- I. Litter Pick
- J. Wey Street Yellow Lines/ JTB
- K. South East Water Donation
- L. SBC Household Support Fund.

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

CHAIRMAN