



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hernhill Village Hall on Wednesday 31st January 2024 from 7:30pm to 8:50pm.

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 10 members of the public

157. APOLOGIES

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

158. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

159. MINUTES

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 29th November 2023 (130-152) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.
- B. The S101 delegation for the December 2023 Bank reconciliation Payments was ratified (153).

160. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. A number of the members of the public had attended the meeting to advise the council of the removal of trees and hedgerows at Waterham Farm. The Clerk confirmed that the land concerned is not in a Conservation Area and there are no TPOs on any trees in that area. As the work is undertaken on private land and to allow access for ditch clearance there was little by way that the council could do. A member of the public had reported the situation to the Forestry Commission who were due to attend. The Council requested that they be updated following the visit.
- B. A member of the public commented that the eastern side of the road at the southern end of Church Hill had overhanging vegetation making it difficult for vehicles to pull in pass. **Action:** The Clerk is to report to KCC.
- C. A member of the public mentioned in regards to Cleve Hill Solar Farm that they had been advised that Monkshill Road would be used for carrying 6 large transformer load in February and March in what would effectively block the road as it travels for 45 minutes. The Clerk confirmed that she had only just received email notice of the events. The Council were dismayed that they had not been consulted. The email from Cleve Hill referred to fortnightly meetings held with key stakeholders of which the Council were not aware of. **Action:** The Clerk is to respond asking why the Council had not been consulted on the agreement to use Monkshill Road or notified

of these meetings and to request for details of the timings of the movements in order that residents can be informed.

161. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- A. General update - Cllr Wakes provided an update that 66 responses had been received and a summary would be provided in the hernhill News. There will be an open meeting at the village hall on the 14th March at 6pm - 6:45pm to provide feedback of the results to the public.
- B. Next meeting details - Next NP meeting is for the 21st February 2024 at the Red Lion at 7.15pm.
- C. Cllr Wakes also advised that the prize draw had taken place and that the winner would be advised.

162. KCC HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- A. The Clerk reminded all that the installation of the signage was due at the end of March. The Toolkit would be provided in the next month or so. Once it is known what is included then the Council can decide if to purchase additional wheelie bin stickers

163. PLANNING

Planning Applications-

- 1) 1) 23/505382/SUB | Submission of details to discharge condition 14 - Surface Water Drainage Scheme, Subject to 22/501787/FULL | Land Off Staple Street Hernhill Kent ME13 9HY

The Council discussed the application noting the additional information that had been provided. The council voted unanimously to continue to object to the application with the following comments:

Hernhill Parish Council have reviewed the additional information submitted for this application at the council meeting on the 31st January. The Council continues to object to the application. The Council do not believe that sufficient information has been provided in this instance and do not have any confidence in the proposed scheme that flooding will not reoccur. Their concerns remain around uncertainty around onward connectivity in drainage northwards from the Site as well as the unknown condition of the pipe. The Council consider the scheme not being fit for purpose in relation to the high discharge rate expected from the crematorium site of circa 5000l per day of treated effluent and the associated potential flood risk downstream.

B. Planning Decisions -

- 1) 23/505510/TCA Conservation area notification to reduce two Maple (T1 and T2) to a height of 7 metres and 3 metre crown radius and reduce one Beech (T3) to a height of 8 metres and 2.5 metre crown radius. All works reduced back to previous pruning points 2 Church Farm Cottages Kays Lane Hernhill Kent ME13 9JW Approved
- 2) 23/505065/TCA Conservation Area Notification : T1 - To sectionally fell to ground level self sown Sycamore tree in right rear corner of rear garden due to potential future damage that could be caused as the tree is up

against the wall and self sown- Oakwell House Church Hill Hernhill Kent ME13 9JX -Approved

3) 23/504441/FULL -Section 73 - Application for variation of condition 29 (constructed to BREEAM 'Very Good' Standard or an equivalent standard) pursuant to 22/501787/FULL - Variation sought: Extension of the building to the south to increase the size of the crematory, Extension to the yard, Alterations to the toilet block to reduce size and to change its location on site, Introduction of electrical substation and associated access, as well as the introduction of an electrical switch cabinet structure.Land Adjoining Faversham Showground Staple Street Hernhill Kent ME13 9HY - Application Refused

4) 22/504165/FULL -Conversion of agricultural building into a single dwellinghouse, including insertion of rear dormer, alterations to fenestration, and raising and altering the roof height to allow for a second storey (change of use previously approved under 20/504753/PNQCLA). Forge Farm Hernhill Kent ME13 9FW - Approved.

5) 23/503933/SUB.Submission of Details pursuant to condition 3 (External Finishes Materials) of Application 21/502972/FULL.Land South East Of A299 Slip Road Off Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EN - Approved

6) 23/503934/SUB.Submission of details in relation to the discharge of condition 4 of planning consent 20/502407 with regard to external materials..Land South East Of A299 Slip Road Off Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EN - Approved

7) 23/504009/SUB Submission of Details pursuant to condition 22 (External Lighting Details) of application 21/502972/FULL.Land South East Of A299 Slip Road Off Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EN - Approved

164. KALC AWARD SCHEME

The Clerk advised the Council that 3 nominations had been received. Based on the majority the Council unanimously agreed to nominate Peter Willcock due to the successful organising the Church in absence of a vicar over the past 2 years. **Action:** The Clerk is to inform KALC in order that the certificate can be prepared for the April AGM.

165. LITTER PICK - 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 - Update and decide final details

Cllr Wakes advised that the hall had been booked for the litter pick free of charge to provide refreshments. The event is to be held jointly with the DCA, PCC and the Village Hall. The Clerk advised that the Council held sufficient gloves and bags and that SBC had been informed and would collect the waste at the Village Hall car park on Monday 19th February. The Clerk had prepared some posters of the event to be added to the website, Facebook and noticeboards. The Clerk advised that some Hi-Viz vest would be useful to provide as well and had identified a supplier locally for £2.84 + VAT each. The Council discussed and unanimously agreed to purchase 10. **Action:** The Clerk is to arrange an invoice and payment for the goods.

166. BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION DEFIBRILLATOR AWARD SCHEME - discuss whether to apply and location

The BHF had a scheme whereby a grant for a defibrillator and box could be applied for. The Council discussed possible locations and whether to apply. A possible location was considered to be The 3 Horseshoes due to high footfall. **Action:** Cllr Chiperton agreed to approach The 3 Horseshoes to discuss.

167. APPROVE DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

The clerk had, prior to the meeting, created a draft document retention policy based on a NALC template and GDPR/ICO requirements, which was circulated to Councillors. The Council unanimously approved to adopt.

168. POTHOLE REPORTING

A Councillor had received correspondence for a parishioner with regards to the reporting of potholes in the village and whether the Council can provide details of how to do so. Following the correspondence, the Clerk had added a link to the KCC reporting site on the front page of the website. The Council agreed to add details in the Hernhill News.

169. RAISING HEDGEHOG AWARENESS - Update

Following the comments at the previous meeting, the Clerk had contacted the Kent Wildlife Trust who provided a link to details concerning hedgehogs. A poster include in the KWT pack had been placed on noticeboards. The Council agreed that there was little more that they could do. Cllr Heller agreed to produce an article for the Hernhill News in a personal capacity.

170. SPEEDWATCH

The Clerk had contacted the Kent Police Speedwatch coordinator who agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting on the 27th March. The Councillors noted that any such group is not able to commence until after 3 months of the installations of the signs. The Council also had some questions concerning the scheme and hopefully these can be answered in March.

171. HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The new HIP was in the process of being reviewed and all the necessary data is being collated by Cllr Bannock as part of the ongoing project. The Clerk based on prior discussion and correspondence had raised the following:

- Dawes Road 30mph
- Staplestreet. Aim for 30mph along its length.
- Staplestreet west of the Bull Lane crossroad. There is no triangular crossroad sign on this side of the Bull Lane/Kemsdale Road junction, whereas the other approaches do. - Bull Lane - extend to 30mph or 40mph along the length.
- Church Hill - Attempt to get 30mph included between Staplestreet and the church.
- Wey Street slip road - consider yellow lines

Cllr Figgis offered to assist Cllr Bannock with reviewing the village roads. The Clerk advised that she was still trying to arrange a joint meeting with Boughton and Dunkirk Parishes.

172. MATTERS ARISING

- A. Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report

- B. Oakwell Drainage - No further updates received.

173. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- A. A Councillor had raised that there was still fly tipping rubbish remaining at the corner of Butler's Hill that PC Morris had agreed to investigate. **Action:** The Clerk is to contact PC Morris for an update.
- B. A Councillor had raised the issue of fly tipping that had occurred at the Wey Street slip road on both sides. **Action:** The Clerk is to report to SBC.
- C. The Council was advised that the allotment fencing was currently due to be replaced on the 2nd April.

174. FINANCE

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

For Payment January 2024		
Chq-online Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mowing January)		£152.66
Chq-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Home Expenses)		£20.00
Chq-online R Parr (Gross Salary & Expenses)		£453.48
Chq-online HMRC (Tax)		<u>£12.20</u>
Net Pay due		£441.28
Chq-online Hughes & Son (December Church Cutting)		£130.00
Chq-online R Parr (Stationary Expenses via Viking)		£85.83
Chq-online SLCC (Annual Membership (50%))		£91.50
Chq-online National Allotment Society (Renewal)		£66.00
Chq-online The Defib Store (Pad renewal for The Dove)		£80.40
Chq-online R Parr (Hard Drive Back up via Amazon)		£50.99
Chq-00001 Air Ambulance (Donation)		£100.00
		<u>£1,230.86</u>

- C. Lloyds Online Banking - Additional Signatories – The Council unanimously approved to add Cllr Smith to the Lloyds Bank mandate.
- D. Recommendation to open Lloyds Deposit Account – The account would be interest bearing and with instant access. The Council unanimously approved to open a new account with as much funds as possible to be transferred across. **Action:** The Clerk is to action online with Lloyds.
- E. Precept into Lloyds Account? - The Council unanimously agreed that the precept should be provided to the Lloyds Account. **Action:** The Clerk is to arrange with SBC Finance.
- F. Decide whether to close NatWest Account and initiate switcher process – The Council discussed and unanimously agreed to close the Nat West account. **Action:** The Clerk is to liaise with Lloyds to initiate the switcher process.

175. CORRESPONDENCE

- G. PC Gary Morris – An update provided confirmed the theft of number plates locally. A PC Surgery is being held on Sunday 11th February 2024 between 13:00-14:00hrs at Hernhill Village Hall. No other crime or anti-social behaviour had been reported.
- H. The Clerk had received notice of the Government consultation on Street Development Orders via KALC SAC. There was not enough time to convene and extraordinary

meeting to discuss and respond. The Chair commented that people could respond as individuals.

- I. Helen Whately is to hold a meeting on the 2nd February for Parish Councils. Cllr Bannock is to attend.
- J. Winter Update: KCC have a Winter Support fund which is being administered in part by parish councils. The scheme runs until 1st March and details are available here - <https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/community-groups-could-benefit-from-the-winter-support-scheme>
- K. Consultation for Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 and the attached documents. The Consultation closes on 29th February 2024.
- L. Bensted Charity Meeting end of February to discuss applications Grants are awarded for (1) relief for the old, sick and infirm persons, (2) the provision of education or recreational facilities, and (3) educational bursaries, support and equipment. Further details and application forms may be obtained from our website: <https://www.benstedscharity.org.uk> or from The Clerk to the Trustees Tel: 01795 859704 Email: office@benstedscharity.org.uk Applications for grants to be received before Monday, 12th February 2024.
- M. Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting will be at 5.30 pm on Monday 4 March 2024.
- N. Road Closure 16th February 1 day from Chalkey Road in the west to the Orchards by Dawes Road.

176. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Due to overflowing bins at Wey Street, the Clerk had asked SBC for a larger bin. Nothing bigger is available, SBC have arranged to check more regularly.
- B. The Internal Audit has been booked for the 24th April
- C. The Clerk advised that 4 allotment holders now responded to Hernhill Gardening Club
- D. The Clerk had attended the SBC Local Council Liaison Forum. SBC are looking if appropriate for Parishes to consider any SBC assets we may wish to take on. The Council is not aware of any SBC asset in the parish. The Clerk mentioned that future topic to consider for the forum would be Neighbourhood Planning
- E. The Clerk had been advised of changes to the contractor for the SBC waste collection. This may result in a change to the bin collection day. All residents will receive a letter from SDBC about the changes.

177. CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S SUNDRY REPORTS

None.

178. ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON FEBRUARY'S FULL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Neighbourhood Plan
- B. HIP (New and Old)
- C. Waterham Farm
- D. Defibrillator Grant
- E. Neighbourhood Planning

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

CHAIR