



HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr B. Heller (Chair), Cllr. D. Waters Cllr K. Wakes, Cllr P. Smith
Cllr D. Figgis

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

302. APOLOGIES

Cllr. E Bannock MBE, Cllr B. Chipperton, Cllr R. Lehmann (SBC & KCC)

303. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

304. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 26th June 2024 (279-301) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

305. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public highlighted their concerns regarding the fly tipping of asbestos that had occurred at Wey Street. The Clerk confirmed that this had already been reported to SBC some 10 days previously and that she would chase SBC accordingly.

306. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Wakes provided an update where the Cllrs Wakes and Waters along with the Clerk had met with Alston Eardley, a consultant to ensure that the NP process was on track and to discuss next steps. The meeting was worthwhile and confirmed that the NP team are on the right path. Possible grants through Locality were discussed and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to request technical support from Locality, which is free to progress to a Housing Needs Survey. It was considered that the current working group have sufficient skills in order to commence some of the chapters on heritage and consider a village design guide. The next public meeting to provide updates would be in October. Cllr Wakes also confirmed that she would be attending training on the future of Neighbourhood Planning arranged by NALC.

307. NEW HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cllr Waters provided an update in which they were still waiting on Dunkirk to arrange the next joint meeting but appreciated that due to recent major housing development planning applications that focus has been elsewhere. It was discussed and agreed to continue finalising our HIP in the meantime with a view to presenting a draft to the Council at the August meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that A0 mapping was now available. The Clerk also confirmed that we could arrange a meeting with our contact at KCC wherever we were ready.

308. ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL COUNCIL POLICIES - Part 2

The following policies were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting for review:

- A. Standing Orders - These had been reviewed by the Clerk with minor amendments and circulated ahead of the meeting to all Councillors and approved unanimously to adopt for a further year.
- B. Financial Regulations - The financial regulations were changed in line with the new model regulations produced by NALC, which required a detailed review by the Clerk and circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting. The Council discussed and approved unanimously to adopt.
- C. Risk Assessment - The current Risk Assessment was circulated for review to all councillors ahead of the meeting. A councillor raised a potential issue not currently on the risk assessment in relation to the potential risk of fly tipping on Council land. This was discussed by those present and agreed to investigate further. **Action:** The Clerk is to enquire with the insurance com[any as to whether coverage is in place concerning the cost of clearance potential involved with fly tipping on private land and to update at the next meeting. Once the investigation is completed then the Risk Assessment could be updated and re-presented to the Council.

309. NOISE AND PARKING IN THE VILLAGE GREEN AREA – Update and consider replacement of posts on village green

- A. A Councillor advised that following the previous Council meeting a conversation had been held with the landlord who confirmed that he would be looking to hold more music events in the pub garden rather than towards the village green. To assist with the parking issues, staff cars were now using the village hall car park and that the village hall had provided permission that it could be used as an overflow car park.
- B. A parishioner had informed the council of a number of cars parking on the village green underneath the oak tree on the 21st July. This had occurred due to a number of the wooden posts around the green are deteriorating faster than anticipated. The Clerk had previously highlighted the need for their replacement which was potentially due for next year but would now have to be brought forward in order to protect the tree with the funds coming from general reserves. The Council discussed and agreed that these would require replacing ASAP. The Clerk confirmed that she was in the process of obtaining a number of quotes for their replacement.

310. PLANNING

A. Planning Applications-

- 1) 24/502123/EIOUT - Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed use phased development comprising up to 1,815 dwellings (Use Class C2 and C3); an Employment park (Use Class E(g) and B8); local centre accommodating a mix of units to provide a Health and Wellbeing Centre (Use Class E(e)), all purpose store (Use Class E(a)), shops/ancillary retail units (Use Class E(a)), community/general use units (Use Class F2) and food and beverage units (Use Class E(b)); public open space and recreation including community park, recreation trail and improved pedestrian/cycle links across the A2; sports and education facilities comprising 2 From Entry (2FE) primary school (Use Class F1(a)), early years centre (Use Class E), leisure facility (Use Class E(d)) and sports pavilion (Use Class E(d)); provision of a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain; transport and access infrastructure including an integrated bus link to the surrounding area, upgrades to the Dunkirk A2 junction through a new trunk road slips and an electric vehicle charging hub (c.0.2 ha) within the village centre for approximately 36 vehicles as

a mix of medium, rapid, ultra rapid and Tesla chargers, alongside associated facilities including toilets and potential for cafe facility; and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure. *Land North And South Of The A2 Boughton Bypass Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LG*

Following the previous meeting draft comments had been prepared and circulated to all councils. Following a discussion it was agreed that further amendments and additional comments would be required especially to refers to the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan and the CPRE comments. Action: It was agreed to amend the comments for circulation and approval to submit to the planning portal ASAP.

- 2) *24/ 502904/SUB Forge Farm Hernhill Kent ME13 9FW Proposal: Submission of details to discharge conditions 3 - Tile Details, 4, - Brochure of Window Products and 5 - Construction Details, Subject to 2/504165/FUL24/502904/SUB*

The Council discussed and resolved to unanimously support the submission noting that the materials presented were in keeping with the neighbouring Conservation Area.

- 3) *24/502719/FULL PROPOSAL: The erection of 4 industrial units and 2 storage units. ADDRESS: Waterham Business Park Highstreet Road Hernhill Kent ME13 9EJ*

The Council discussed, highlighting a number of concerns over perceived demand, road safety, lack of additional parking and employment opportunities and lack of information on sewage disposal. The Council voted unanimously to object to the application with the following comment:

“At the Council Meeting on the 31st July 2024, Hernhill Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the application. There are a number of other industrial units in the area not filled and therefore the council do not believe that the applicant has demonstrated that there is demand. The council are concerned that the application does not include any parking spaces and that only 6 cycle spaces are included. The council is also not supportive as the application states that there will be no increase in jobs. The application also has insufficient details with regards to the treatment of any wastewater. The council also raised concerns regarding additional vehicular movements and impact on road safety considering it is a dangerous exit.”

B. Planning Decisions:-

- 1) 24/502215/TCA Conservation area notification to crown reduce one Eucalyptus to height of 6m and radial spread of 8m. Twin Mays Plumpudding Lane Dargate Faversham Kent ME13 9EX - No objections.
- 2) 24/502431/TCA Conservation Area Notification to fell one holly tree (T1) to ground level, to fell one 2nd cherry stem tree (T3) to ground level and reduce one damson tree (T4) to the height of the fence (1.2 metres) on side boundary. Orchard House Plumpudding Lane Dargate Kent ME13 9EX – No Objections
- 3) 24/501209/FULL Erection of double garage with cycle parking and gym amenities and new access. Church Farm House Church Hill Hernhill Kent ME13 9JW – Application Withdrawn

311. ALLOTMENTS

- 1) Allotment fencing - update on installation – A councillor confirmed that the new fencing had now been installed and that the payment was in the July’s approval list. Action: Once

paid the Clerk is to inform the grant provider, Kent Community Foundation. Feedback from the installer noted that the surrounding wire had required patching in places and that should additional patches need repairing, the fencer would be able to assist.

- 2) Non-Payment, notice to vacate & overgrown – Following no response from the plot holder and after advice from the National Allotment Society, the Clerk had provided a 1 month eviction from 11th July, provided by recorded delivery. No response had occurred since. The Clerk is waiting on a quote to clear the plot to a satisfactory condition Under the terms of the contract the Clerk can seek to recover the cost from the plot holder. Other potential options were discussed, such as whether to try ‘sold as seen’ or new tenants give them 1st year let for £1 to bring back to standard. The Council discussed and resolved for the Clerk to gain further advice from the NAS, receive a quote for clearance and bring the item back to the next meeting for further discussion.

312. LITTER PICK

It had been noted that the date previously agreed for the next litter pick on the 17th August clashed with that of the A New Day Festival. The council discussed and agreed to bring forward a week to the 10th August in order that the parish looked tidy for the incomers the following weekend. The Council discussed and resolved to change the date to the 10th August between 1pm and 3pm at the village hall requesting a third pick up site for the rubbish at the western end of Staple Street. **Action:** The Clerk is to prepare and distribute the poster, inform SBC of the 3 collection sites.

313. WAR MEMORIAL CLEANING

It was noted that no volunteer had come forward to use the recently acquired pressure washer to clean the memorial. The Council discussed and resolved to approach the PCC for a volunteer. **Action:** The Clerk is to contact the PCC.

314. VE DAY 80 CELEBRATIONS 8th MAY 2025 – consider lighting of beacon

After consideration by those present, the council resolved to support the event and seek to light the beacon again as per the recent event. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Castle who was critical to the running of the previous event had provisionally agreed to help again. **Action:** The Clerk and a Councillor is to approach the landowner for permission.

315. SPEEDWATCH – UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

The Kent Speedwatch team had confirmed that following the end of the 3 month post installation period, a number of sites in the village had been identified in order to carry out surveys. In addition, an online portal had been created by the Kent Team for volunteers to register their interest to take part. The volunteers would then be provided training. The Council resolved to continue to support the initiative. **Action:** The Clerk is to advertise for volunteers to register on the website and Facebook, along with inclusion in the Hernhill News. In addition requests were made by some Councillors for wheelie bin stickers.

Action: The Clerk is to provide.

PC Gary Morris confirmed that he would be happy to assist with the scheme.

316. CLEVE HILL SOLAR FARM

Cllr Waters reported that the Parish Council had been offered the opportunity to visit the solar farm on the 13th August and for those interested to let her know. **Action:** Cllr Waters to arrange the visit. Cllr Waters advised that there was likely to be a public visit to the site sometime in September.

317. SAFETY OF LITHIUM ION BATTERIES AND E-BIKES AND SCOOTERS – Consider support for campaign for Bill by Lord Foster -

The Council had received correspondence concerning that Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting a Bill to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. support of many national organisations, including the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition, 2 coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety. The Council discussed and resolved to support this campaign. **Action:** The Clerk is to advise them of its support.

318. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PC Gary Morris confirmed that he will be holding a surgery at Hernhill Village Hall, Hernhill on Saturday 10th August 2024 between 15:00-16:30hrs. The Crime records recorded by Kent Police showed since the last Parish Council meeting, there has been one crime of note as follows- 28/07/25- Theft of push bikes from an address in the village which was still under investigation. A Councillor raised the issue of the fly tipping at Wey Street and the Council discussed with PC Morris whether cameras at the location would assist. **Action:** PC Morris agreed to contact SBC regarding the issue. Issues regarding poor parking in the village green area was raised and the concern regarding emergency vehicle access. **Action:** PC Morris agreed to patrol and take action where possible.

319. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- A. A Councillor raised the issue of vegetation on the path on Kays Lane that had been reported by a parishioner. **Action:** The Clerk is to investigate and contact KCC Highways.
- B. The Clerk read a report from Cllr Lehmann providing an update on the poor bin collection service by Suez at SBC.
- C. A Councillor advised that there was an ongoing issue with the EE phone mast at Wey Street which was likely affecting call quality in recent weeks.

320. FINANCE

- A. The July bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
- B. July 2024 payments were approved and signed.

For Payment July 2024		VAT (for info)	Expenditure Powers
-Advice only- DD ICO (Data Protection Fee Annual Subscription (Advice only))	£35.00		The Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2014
-Advice Only S/O R Parr (Home Expenses)	£20.00		Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2)
- R Parr (Gross Salary)	£453.48		Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2)
-26 - online HMRC (Tax)	£0.60		Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2)
-27 - online R Parr (Net Salary)	£452.88		Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2)
-28 - online Hernhill Village Hall (Hall Hire June)	£17.00		Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12
-29 - online East Kent Paddock (Allotment Fencing)	£2,532.00	422.00	Smallholdings & Allotments Act 1908 s.26
-30 - online R Parr (KALC NP Course)	£39.22	6.54	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
-31 - online S Essex (Poster boards materials)	£35.45		Local Government & Rating Act 1997 s.26
-32 - online Aubergine (new website)	£598.80	99.8	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
-33 - online KCC (Photocopier Rental)	£73.67	12.28	Local Government Act 1972 S 142
	£3,804.62		

- C. Consider Appointment of the internal auditor. - The Clerk discussed and verbally presented to the Council a number of internal auditor options including the existing internal auditor Lionel Robbins, Martin Thomas in Sittingbourne and April Skies, a remote auditor. Based on cost and service, the Council resolved to appoint Lionel Robbins for a further year. **Action:** The Clerk is to contact MR Robbins.

321. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Staple Street bin – The Clerk advised that a member of the public had chased when the recently broken bin at Staple Street would be replaced. The Clerk advised that she continues to chase SBC. SBC confirm the bin is on the list for replacement but have no idea when this will be. The Clerk advised that the Council had been waiting for the past 18 months waiting and it is the same for the village hall bin. The Council discussed and asked if Cllr Gould could add pressure. **Action:** The Clerk is to forward the correspondence to Cllr Gould.
- B. A New Day – The organiser had contacted the Clerk with the following details:

“The Festival will return to Mt Ephraim Gardens on 16th – 18th August. The organisers of the festival are again offering local residents a pair of complimentary weekend tickets with a 50% reduction on additional tickets for friends and family if required. Those eligible will receive a letter through their door. The organisers are also happy to extend the discounted ticket offer to those who live in the wider Parish of Hernhill. Those who would like to take advantage of this offer will have to show proof of residency, i.e. a utility bill, driving licence or bank statement giving proof that they live in the area. For further information or to obtain additional tickets please contact Frank directly on 07712 897919 or frank@anewdayfestival.com. They would also like to point out that the festival will not tolerate any rudeness or aggression to their team.”

322. ADMINISTRATION

None

323. CHAIRMAN & CLERK’S SUNDRY REPORTS

The Clerk advised that work on the new website was progressing, confirming the greeny brown colour had been chosen by Councillors.

324. ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON AUGUST’S FULL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Allotment Inspection eviction update
- B. Risk Assessment
- C. Speedwatch

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

CHAIR