

**HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 12 February 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall**

**193/23] Administration:** Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no requests to record the meeting.

**194/23 Present and Apologies:**

**Present:** Cllr. Robinson (Chairman), Cllrs: Ms. Dawes, Mr. Drury, Mrs. Pickering, Mr. Sargent and Mrs. Wheeler.

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Ward Member Alan Pickering, 1 member of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr. Mrs. Amsler.

**195/23 Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Mrs Pickering: Voluntary Declaration as the spouse of the ward member.

**196/23 Minutes of the meeting of the 8 January 2024:**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8 January 2024 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

**197/23 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only):**

The new waste contract commences on the 24 March 2024. Further information from ABC is expected shortly as to whether there will be any changes to collection days.

The Clerk is attending a First Aid Course for the workplace on the 14 March 2024.

**198/23 Open Session:**

No comments made.

**199/23 Highways**

**a) Highways Improvement Plan:**

The Clerk has arranged a site meeting with the Community Engagement Officer at KCC to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan objectives for this year. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 10am. Cllrs. Sargent, Robinson, Pickering and the Clerk will attend.

**200/23 Allotments**

**a) To receive an update on the the allotments**

In between meetings an additional set of temporary rules for the allotments regarding entry and movements were agreed. While the new homes are under construction entry to the allotments is restricted to the hours of 8am to 8pm during the summer and 8am to 5pm during the winter months and no dogs are allowed. Subject to signing the conditions each allotment holder will be issued with a key for the padlock on the gate which will be locked when the builders are not on site. The Clerk reported that one of the allotment holders had decided not to proceed having seen the temporary additional rules for the allotments regarding entry and movements. The Clerk has since offered the plot to a local person on the waiting list. Following a site visit this person has now completed and signed the tenancy agreement and has paid the annual fee. Eight allotment holders have signed and returned the temporary additional rules and have been personally given a key for the padlock to the entrance gate. It was noted that several of the allotment holders have commenced works to their plots. The Clerk is arranging for the soil left in plots 9 and 10 to be removed.

**b) To consider the quotes for installing sheds at the allotments**

The Clerk reported that most of the applicants so far had expressed an interest in having a shed. Members considered three quotes for sheds obtained by the Clerk. A quote of £8,090 (excluding VAT) from Skinners Sheds for ten 4 x 4 foot pent style sheds was agreed as preferable. The quote includes providing a platform for the sheds and the installation. The Clerk and Cllr. Drury will meet with the contractor to agree the exact location of each shed and will then share this information with the allotment holders. It was noted that the Clerk has submitted a claim of £19,732.38, the sum spent so far on the project to install allotments, but that only £15,917.63 of S106 funding is currently available. ABC is expecting to receive further S106 funding for allotments of £11,412.63 from the Sickfield development in a couple of months and will then refund the outstanding sum of £3814.85. This will leave £7,597.88 for funding the sheds. However, further S106 funding for the allotments is expected from the Hope House development which will make up any shortfall.

Initials: .....

**Resolved: To place an order for sheds for the allotments with Skinners Sheds subject to a satisfactory site visit.**

**c) Delivery of horse manure**

It was noted that a local resident has kindly offered to deliver some free horse manure to the allotments. Most of the allotments have said they would welcome this.

**201/23 Section 106: Proposal for the lower recreation ground area.**

**a) To receive feedback from the meeting held with the Outdoor Projects Team from Leisure Services at ABC.**

Cllrs. Sargent and the Clerk met with the Officers from the Outdoor Projects Team from Leisure Services at ABC at the recreation ground on the 22 January 2024 to share the Parish Council's thoughts for the recreation ground. The Officers have confirmed that some form of a MUGA needs to be installed for the S106 funding to apply but that it does not need to be a traditional form of MUGA. ABC has offered to help the Parish Council with the design of the area. A member of the public has expressed some concern about the processes been following. The Clerk has advised the member of the public that Proludic offered to help, free of charge, with the second round of consultation on equipment for all generations and that they are fully aware that the Parish Council, in order to comply with the Financial Regulations, will need to go out to tender for any contract. Advice has been sought from ABC and the current round of consultation is designed to consider equipment preferences, to include a MUGA, for all ages. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk invites the member of public to be part of the working group.

**b) To agree the consultation documents and timing of the consultation events on the possible design and layout of the lower recreation ground**

The working group met virtually on the 24 January 2024 to review the questions and materials for both the online survey and boards. The online survey is now live and a face to face consultation will be taking place in the village hall on Sunday 18 February from 10am to 2pm and also at the school on Tuesday 20 February from 2.30pm to 4pm. Details about the consultation dates and the link to the online survey have been placed in the newsletter, website, Facebook and on noticeboards.

**202/23 Anti-social behaviour:**

There has been no meeting with the agencies. The Clerk was asked to find out when the next meeting will take place. Cllrs. Sargent and Robinson met with the landlady of The Chequers on the Green who has recently experienced a number of anti-social behaviour incidents. Information about these incidents will be shared with Southern Housing.

**203/23 Proposal for a footpath on the recreation ground**

Cllrs. Sargent, Drury, Amsler and the Clerk met with the contractor that has recently installed a footpath around the recreation ground in Biddenden. A number of residents have suggested that it would be helpful to install a similar footpath around one side of the lower recreation ground as it gets very muddy. The contractor has since provided a quote for a footpath on the lower recreation ground and the top recreation ground. Members considered the total quote and agreed that the works will need to be done in different stages.

**Resolved: The Clerk to obtain some alternative quotes for a footpath on the lower recreation ground.**

**204/23 KALC Community Awards Scheme 2024**

Members discussed the scheme and agreed to not make a nomination this year.

**205/23 Benches**

The Clerk has received two requests from local residents for benches to be installed on the village green. The Clerk was asked to advise one applicant that the Parish Council only purchases memorial benches for residents that made a significant contribution to the village and have passed away but can accept benches as a gift. It was agreed to accept the gift of a bench from another resident. The Clerk will contact the resident concerned and will arrange a site visit to decide a location and to discuss the specification.

Initials: .....

### **206/23 Ransley Field**

Members were pleased to see that some landscaping works have now taken place at Ransley Fields. The Clerk reported that Sage Homes want to take back the management of the site from Southern Housing. Sage Homes will be consulting the residents about this initiative and if the feedback is positive they will take over the management of the site on the 6 April 2024. Sage Homes has confirmed there is a landscaping plan but have advised that a large area of the site is a wildflower meadow so will not get mowed and could therefore look a bit unkempt out of season. However, Sage Homes has agreed that the site requires further landscaping works and would welcome any suggestions for improving the area. It was agreed to possibly carry out a site visit and to also forward any suggestions to the Clerk.

*The Chair invited Cllr. Pickering to lead on the planning proposals.*

### **207/23 Planning**

**To discuss any planning applications received:**

**PA/2024/0147: 3 Durrant Green, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Proposed singly storey flat roof rear extension.

**Resolved: Support.**

**PA/2024/0037: Church View, Church Hill, High Halden**

Construction of detached studio.

**Resolved: Support.**

**PA/2024/0217: Land known as Oakleigh Field west of Oakleigh Farm, High Halden**

Change of use from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture and the keeping of horses and the erection of an animal shelter.

**Resolved: Leave to Planning Office to determine given the history of the site.**

**Planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda:** None received.

**Approvals:**

**PA/2023/0574: Hopes Grove Cottage, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Listed Building Consent for a single storey rear extension to existing porch/utility. Removal of 1980's wall to create open plan kitchen with improved insulation to floors, walls and roof.

**PA/2023/0537: Hopes Grove Cottage, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Single storey rear extension to existing porch.

**PA/2023/2104: Dragon House, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Construction of a new wooden garden shed.

**PA/2023/1923: Homestall Farm, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Lawful Development Certificate: Existing use of land for open storage of vehicles and materials for commercial use.

**PA/2023/2058: Oakleigh Farm, High Halden Road, High Halden**

Proposed two storey dwelling with detached garage and change of use of land from paddock to residential following demolition of existing dwelling, garage/stable, hay store and removal of sand school.

**Refusal:** None to consider.

**Withdrawn:** None to consider.

**Appeal Dismissed:**

**22/00085/AS:APP/E2205/W/22/3312940: 1 Durrants Green, Ashford Road, High Halden**

New detached dwelling and detached garage.

### **Other Planning Matters**

ENF/2023/0258: Gateway feature at the development at Hopes Grove has not been sited in accordance with the agreed plans under 17/00952/CONB/AS. Enforcement and Simon Cole, Assistant Director of Planning and Development at ABC, has formally concluded that the gates do not cause any significant detrimental harm to the visual amenity and do not think it would be expedient to pursue them being moved. Ward Member Alan Pickering agreed to meet with Simon Cole to discuss getting the gates moved to the location that was approved as part of the planning process.

Initials: .....

## 208/23 Financial Report

### /23-1 Pension Scheme for the Clerk

It was noted that the Clerk has been made aware that the Parish Council has a duty to offer a pension scheme. It was noted that at the moment the Clerk does not wish to take up the offer of a personal pension scheme.

### /23-2 To consider a donation to support a local teenager represent Great Britain at the 2024 World Barefoot Water Skiing Championship in Florida

**Resolved: It was agreed in principle to make a donation. The amount to be decided once the total cost of the trip and other funding raised is known.**

### /23-3 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget:

Cllr. Dawes checked the invoices against the payment schedule and it was and it was **resolved** for Cllr. Dawes and Drury to authorise the payments online.

## Payments

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Expenses)	122.62
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Salary)	807.52
Transfer	HMRC (L Goldsmith)	201.80
Transfer	N Power (Pavilion electricity)	229.76
Transfer	Ashford Borough Council (Goal mouths and posts)	1301.52
Transfer	Mastercutters (printing)	150.00
Transfer	S Hope (Refund of allotment fee)	40.00
DD	Google Cloud	73.60
DD	ICO (Renewal)	35.00

## Receipts: None

### Balances as at 12 February 2024

Unity Trust Current Account: **£3,304.58**

Unity Trust Savings Account: **£40,562.38**

**Total: £43,866.96**

## 209/23 Reports

### /23-1 Ward member:

Ward Member Alan Pickering advised Members that Customer Services at ABC is getting more efficient and that staff recruitment has improved. ABC is also still campaigning to bring Eurostar services back to Ashford International Station.

### /23-2 Highways:

The Clerk has reported the blocked gullies on the A28 in the vicinity of Hopes Grove and Hookstead and advised that these are cleared on a cyclical basis. The Clerk will try and find out when the next cleansing round is due to take place. The Managing Director of Stagecoach has been in touch and the Clerk has requested again that the bus company requests that part of the layby opposite the shop is de-regulated as a bus stopping point and made into parking spaces.

**23-3 Marketing/projects:** It was noted that the current edition of the newsletter has been circulated electronically, placed on Facebook and the website and that hard copies have been printed and hand delivered to some areas of the village. Members thanked the Clerk and Cllr. Dawes for producing the newsletter.

**/23-4 KALC:** There has been no meeting. The next meeting is due to take place on the 7 March 2024.

## 210/23 Information items:

### /23-1 HHVEC Update:

It was noted that HHVEC will be meeting on Tuesday 20 February 2024 to discuss the preparations for marking the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 6 June 2024 and for a summer event due to be held on Saturday 20 July 2024.

Initials: .....

**211/23 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:**

Representatives from Fare Share are due to attend the meeting.

**212/23 Date of the next meeting**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11 March 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.**

With no further business to transact the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Initials: .....