

**HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 9 October 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall**

**123/23] Administration:** Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no requests to record the meeting.

**124/23 Present and Apologies:**

**Present:** Cllr. Robinson (Chairman), Cllrs: Mrs. Amsler, Ms. Dawes (arrived: 7.10pm) Mr. Drury, Mrs. Pickering, Mr. Sargent and Mrs. Wheeler.

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Ward Member Alan Pickering, 4 members of the public.

**Apologies:** None

**125/23 Declarations of Interest:**

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

Cllr. Mr. Robinson declared an interest in planning proposal NOT/2023/1864.

**126/23 Minutes of the meeting of the 11 September 2023:**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11 September 2023 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

**127/23 Report from the Clerk (information purposes only):**

Ditches: The debris removed from the ditches on the recreation ground has now dried out and has been removed. The contractor will seed the area.

Bollards on the green: A further two removable posts have been installed on the village green which will help with getting vehicles on and off the green for events.

Salt Bag: One tonne of salt has been delivered to the Jubilee Park car park. This will be used to fill up salt bins around the village which are owned and maintained by the Parish Council. KCC have inspected and filled up salt bins that they maintain.

Wheelie bin stickers: The Clerk has hand delivered a letter and 30mph speed limit wheelie bin stickers to all properties in the 30mph zone on the A28.

Speedwatch: As a result of speedwatch PC Jason Wright attended last week to inspect the speed of traffic. PC Jason Wright pulled a few vehicles over for speeding and just gave a verbal warning but ending up prosecuting one motorist who did not have a valid MOT certificate.

Benches: Expecting a delivery soon of two benches for the village green. One is a replacement bench in memory of Jack Hukins and the second is a memorial bench for Peter Maughan.

KALC Area Committee: It was noted that the Clerk has been appointed as Secretary to the KALC Area Committee Ashford and will be taking over the role in December 2023.

**128/23 Open Session:**

*The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to raise items with the Council.*

A member of the public spoke in support of planning proposal PA/2023/1406 and asked if the Parish Council would make a representation and request that the Ward Member calls in any future application so that it is considered by a planning committee.

**129/23 Highways**

**a) Highways Improvement Plan:**

KCC has advised that the area roughly opposite the barbers on the A28 could potentially be utilised for a fixed Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for westbound vehicles and at the corner of A28/Tilden Close for a fixed VAS for eastbound vehicles. The speed surveys took place at this location the w/c 18 September 2023. KCC have not received the results yet to analyse.

**b) Bus layby by the green:**

The Clerk has written to the Managing Director at Stagecoach asking for them to lobby KCC/ABC for part of the parking restrictions on the layby opposite the shop on the A28 to be removed.

**130/23 Allotments**

**a) To receive an update on the planning application and lease documents:**

The Clerk advised Members that the planning application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a parking

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area for the allotments (planning reference PA/2023/0357) has been approved. The solicitor has provided a revised draft lease and the Clerk has provided a plan showing the land to be demised. These have been forwarded to the landowners solicitor and comments are awaited. The solicitor has also asked for an update on the title as the landowner was previously waiting for the Land Registry application transferring ownership to the current owners to be processed. The Clerk is hopeful that the lease will be completed and signed by the end of November 2023 and then the Parish Council can look to let the allotments.

**b) To agree the size of the allotments and rent:**

Cllr. Sargent, Robinson Drury and the Clerk met on site to measure and decide the size of the allotments. An area has been agreed which would allow for 8 plots of 8x8 metres and 2 plots of 6x10 metres and it is proposed to run a footpath of 1.2m at the rear for access. The landowner has suggested that he is happy with this draft layout which has been conveyed to the solicitor. The Clerk reported that there are currently 10 people on the waiting list. Members discussed the average fees paid for allotments in the area and the supply of water. The landowner has advised that a tap will be made available. The Clerk will also investigate the purchase of rainwater storage containers. It was suggested and agreed that a few of the plots could be halved subject to demand.

**Resolved: The Clerk to contact all the people on the waiting list to check they are still interested and advise them of the size and rent and to consider halving some of the plots. To set the annual fee for a full plot at £40.00. The Parish Council to pay any water bill due for the first year and then review.**

**c) To receive an update on a grant funding application for a Coronation Community Orchard adjacent to the allotments:**

It was noted that ABC has submitted an application on behalf of the Parish Council for funding from the Coronation Living Heritage Fund to plant a community orchard at the allotment site. A decision is expected in November 2023.

**131/23 Section 106: Proposal to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)**

**a) Results of the consultation:**

The Clerk reported that 83 responses had been received to the recent questionnaire consulting parishioners about their views on the design and use of the proposed MUGA. 74% of respondents said they would support a proposal to install a MUGA at Jubilee Park. Netball, football, basketball and tennis were the preferred sports.

**b) Specification for the MUGA:**

It was noted that netball, football, basketball and tennis were the preferred sports. Respondents would like to see the MUGA fenced with 2m fencing on the sides and 3m on the ends and either a polymeric or tarmac surface. It was agreed that the Clerk should register the Parish Council with Contracts Finder and prepare the tender documents to hopefully go out to tender next month. It was also suggested and agreed that the Clerk investigates the cost and possible surface for a proposed footpath from the Hookstead end of the recreation ground to the playground.

**132/23 Anti-social behaviour:**

Members noted an article that had appeared on Kent Online reporting on the recent antisocial problems in High Halden. Cllr. Robinson advised that the Parish Council is due to attend a follow up meeting with Sharon Williams, Assistant Director of Housing at ABC, and representatives from Southern Housing and the Community Safety Unit on the 10 November 2023 for an update on what has been done to tackle the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village. Ward Members Alan Pickering advised Members that a donation has been made to the boxing club in Tenterden who will hopefully engage with the young people in the area and encourage them to join. Meanwhile Cllr. Robinson advised that parishioners should continue to report any incidents to Kent Police with photographic evidence where possible.

**133/23] Affordable Homes on Murston Home Sites:**

It was noted that the Clerk has received assurances from ABC about the allocation of the affordable housing on the Murston Homes site. ABC has advised that In the interest of creating a sustainable community, priority may not be given to those in the highest need. Instead, ABC will apply additional criteria specified within the Local Lettings Plan. Such criteria would be to give priority to those that are local to the village, in employment  
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and where a clear tenancy history can be evidenced. The team at ABC is fully aware of the current anti-social behaviour issues in the village and will use the Local Lettings Plan to their maximum advantage and to rule out those who could present any obvious problem.

**134/23 RoSPA reports and required repairs:**

Members considered two quotes obtained by the Clerk for the remedial works required to both playgrounds.

**Resolved: To accept a quote of £2436.45 (excluding VAT) for the remedial works to the playgrounds.**

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

**135/23 Planning**

**To discuss any planning applications received:**

**PA/2023/1669: Oakleigh Farm, High Halden Road, High Halden**

Extensions to property to create a two storey dwelling.

**Resolved: Support**

**Planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda:**

*Cllr. Robinson declared an interest in this proposal and did not participate in the discussion.*

**NOT/2023/1864: Hathewolden Grange, Ashford Road, High Halden**

T9 Oak. Lift where overhangs Woodgates Close to 5m. Excessive shading. T10 Oak. Lift where overhangs Woodgates Close to 5m. Excessive shading. Lift over paddock area to 3m - Access for grass mowers. G1 Maples. Lift where overhangs Woodgates Close to 5m. Excessive shading. Lift over paddock area to 3m - Access for grass mowers.

**Resolved: Support**

**Approvals:**

**PA/2023/0471: Land known as Oakleigh Field, west of Oakleigh Farm, High Halden**

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

**PA/2023/1470: Beale Lands Farm House, Shawlands Lane, High Halden**

Proposed conversion of garden studio into holiday let with the addition of annex use and garden shed.

**Refusal:**

**PA/2023/1406: Moat Farm House, Oak Grove Lane, High Halden**

Lawful Development Certificate - Existing use of land for domestic purposes

**Withdrawn: None to consider.**

**Appeals: 22/00085/AS – 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 have undertaken a site visit and will share their findings and recommendation in due course.

WK202206704: A report of construction noise outside of permitted hours at Hopes Grove has been investigated by Enforcement and the developer has been contacted.

**136/23 Financial Report**

**/23-1 To receive a report and review the banking arrangements**

Members discussed a report prepared and circulated by the Clerk giving suggestions for some medium and long term investments for the reserves. The Clerk has also suggested opening a savings account with Unity Trust given the interest rates are now higher. It was noted that funds can be easily transferred from the savings account to the current account when required.

**Resolved: The Clerk to open a Unity Trust Savings account with the current signatories and for Members to explore an investment with the CCLA or taking out a bond.**

**/23-4 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget:** Cllr. Dawes checked the invoices against the payment schedule and it was **resolved** for Cllr. Drury and Dawes to authorise the payments online.

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**Payments:**

<b>Cheque/Transfer</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Reimbursement between meetings)	24.99
Transfer	Defib Store (Defibrillator purchased between meetings)	1722.00
Transfer	Kevin Isaaks (Wheelie bin purchased between meetings)	102.00
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Expenses)	75.22
Transfer	L Goldsmith (Salary)	765.40
Transfer	HMRC (L Goldsmith)	191.40
Transfer	Viking (Ink and paper)	37.08
Transfer	SLCC (Local Council Admin Manual)	141.80
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus stop cleaning)	51.48
Transfer	Npower (Electricity pavilion)	86.48
Transfer	Memorial Hall (Hall Hire July-Sept)	105.00
Transfer	Mazars (Limited Assurance Review)	252.00
Transfer	B Croucher (Caretaking Services)	52.10
Transfer	Hugofox Limited (Annual Subscription)	122.28
DD	Unity Trust (Quarterly Charge)	18.00
DD	Google Cloud	73.60

**Receipts:**

<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Ashford Borough Council (Second half of precept)	16,527.00

**Balances as at 9 October 2023**

**Unity Trust Account: £62,363.89**

**137/23 Reports**

**/23-1 Ward member:** Ward Member Alan Pickering advised that a new management structure has been approved by Cabinet and that the cost of the proposed move to International House is being reviewed.

**/23-2 Highways:** The Clerk has contacted KCC about improving the footpath from Ransley Oast to the school to make it complete and put in a request for a safety mirror for traffic exiting Halden Close. The Clerk to report that the sign at the junction of London Beach Cottage and the A28 still need to be placed upright.

**/23-3 Marketing/projects:** The Clerk will start drafting articles for the next edition of the newsletter.

**/23-4 KALC:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 September 2023 have been circulated and it was noted that the AGM will be held on Saturday 18 November 2023.

**138/23 Information items:**

**/23-1 HHVEC Update:** Cllr. Sargent reported that the Christmas tree for the village green has been ordered and that the Committee is researching new lights and decorations. A lighting ceremony is due to be held at 6pm on Saturday 2 December 2023. Preparations have begun for the next annual event. A country and western themed event, The High Halden Ho Down, is due to be held on the village green on Saturday 20 July 2023.

**/23-2 High Halden Helping Hand Group:** There was no update.

**139/23 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:**

Water leak at The Martins.

**140/23 Date of the next meeting**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13 November 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.**

With no further business to transact the meeting closed at 7.58pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

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