

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.00pm on Zoom Pro

155/20 Present and Apologies

Cllr Robinson (Chairman), Cllr Sargent (Vice-chairman), Cllr Mrs Harris and Cllr Mrs Pickering, Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk). Cllr Pickering (ward member) and 3 members of the public participated.

156/20 Declarations of Interest

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

157/20 Minutes of the meeting of 10 August 2020

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10 August 2020 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

158/20 Matters Arising: Nothing to discuss.

159/20 Open session

Little Tiffenden Barn – A member of the public mentioned that there is a possible breach of planning at this address. A Lawful Development Certificate exists for a mobile home but the site can only be accessed by foot and there are various vehicles and trailers parked on the site along with lots of rubbish.

160/20/1 PCSO's report

Cllrs. Robinson, Sargent and the Clerk met with PCSO Kyle Farnfield on the 19 August 2020 and discussed some of the recent local issues. PCSO Farnfield has agreed to hold a Surgery for local residents on Saturday 19 September 2020 in the village hall car park from 2-4pm.

160/20/2 Community Warden report

There was no report

161/20 Speedwatch – To receive an update on the feasibility of setting up a scheme in High Halden

Cllrs. Robinson, Sargent and the Clerk met with Alan Watson, the Speedwatch Co-ordinator for Kent Police, on the 26 August 2020. At this stage it was agreed to keep the sites already identified and assessed as suitable for Speedwatch and to possibly add to these in the future. Notices asking for volunteers to help with the scheme have been placed on the noticeboards, website and facebook page. Volunteers will be trained online and will then need to be supervised by the Clerk, who is a trained facilitator and runs the scheme in another parish, on their first session. Alan Watson has advised that during the pandemic all volunteers must be under 70 years of age.

162/20 – To ratify a decision between meetings to accept a quote to repair the bridge joining the football pitches to Jubilee Park

Members **resolved** to ratify a decision between meetings to accept a quote from Aspire for £168.00 to repair the damaged handrail, cross-rails and post on the bridge joining the football pitches at Jubilee Park. The works are now complete.

163/20 – Update on placing benches around the playground and sports pitches at Jubilee Park

Members noted that the Clerk has now received suggestions from three members of the public for memorial benches. The nominations are Martin Woodcock, former Parish Councillor and active member of the village and Horticultural Society; Robert Dawes who used to own the village shop and Ronald Bourne who lived in the village for over 40 years and played for the football team. The Clerk will investigate the costs of different types of benches and report back at the next meeting with some suggestions. The families will be asked to make a donation to the cost of each bench.

164/20 – To review the car parking arrangements for the football clubs

The football clubs have suggested that it would be helpful, in terms of social distancing, if the Parish Council could agree for the bottom of the sports field being used for parking and dropping children off. Members **resolved** that this would be acceptable subject to weather and ground conditions which will be determined by the Park Keeper. Cllr. Sargent has located the keys to the padlock to the gate. The Clerk will arrange for keys to be given to the Park Keeper, the Caretaker and Hornets Football Club.

165/20 - To agree to purchase a replacement line marker for the sport pitches

The Clerk reported that the Park Keeper has requested a new line marker for the sport pitches and has suggested a Grassline Challenger 20L Transfer Wheel Line Marker retailing at £329.00 (excluding VAT). Members **resolved** for the Clerk to order this replacement line marker noting that income received from Chelsea FC would more than cover the expenditure.

166/20 To consider a request from KCC for parishes to provide Electric Vehicle Charging points

Members noted that KCC is inviting Parish Councils to take part in a project to increase the number of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in Kent to help more people make the switch to these cleaner and quieter vehicles. This is a scheme that has been designed by KCC together with KALC to install EV chargers on Parish/Town Council owned land such as village halls and community hubs. Members discussed possible locations for a EV charging point but agreed that the Parish Council does not own any suitable land or building where installing a charging point would be beneficial.

167/20 – To consider appointing a Date Protection Officer

Members discussed the need and benefits of appointing a Date Protection Officer and agreed for the Clerk to obtain some quotes for a company to provide this service. It was noted that KALC recommend a company called Satswana.

168/20 – To discuss the issue of cars speeding out of the Jubilee Car Park

Members discussed the issue of cars speeding out of the Jubilee car park and agreed that this is just a minority and that it would be best to approach these individuals first before considering taking any further action.

169/20 Planning

Cllr Mrs Pickering assumed the Chair as Planning Portfolio holder.

Planning applications

19/00987/COND/AS – Land to the south west of Elm Tree Grange, High Halden

Discharge condition 4, Transport Construction Management Plan. Discharge condition 9, Ecological Enhancement and Management Plan. **Noted**

20/01119/AS – 6 Halden Close, High Halden

Single storey rear extension. **No comment**

19/01525/CONA/AS – Hallmark Farm, Ashford Road

Discharge of condition 3, Sustainable Surface Water Drainage Scheme. **Noted**

20/01172/AS – Oak Tree Farm, Woodchurch Road, High Halden

The erection of 2no. holiday lets with associated parking.

Resolved: Object. A full response to be provided by the Parish Council following clarification of the planning history of the site.

20/01173/AS – Cherry Tree Farm Equine and Pet Crematorium, Cherry Tree Farm, High Halden

A new bespoke building to provide an end of life veterinary surgery run in association with the established pet crematorium.

Resolved: No Objection

Planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda: None to consider

Approvals:

20/00702/AS – 10 Halden Close, High Halden

Erection of games room outbuilding (retrospective).

20/00585/AS – Oakwood, Biddenden Road, Tenterden

Change of use from C3 (residential) to C2 (residential childrens care home).

18/00262/CONB/AS - Land between Ransley Oast and Greenside, Ashford Road, High Halden

Discharge of conditions 2, 4 and 6

15/01239/CONA/AS – The Coach House, Oak Grove Lane, High Halden

Discharge of conditions 2 and 4

20/00641/AS – Pantiles, Woodchurch Road, High Halden

Alteration to existing bungalow to create an annexe with additional 1.5 storey attached dwelling, extension to existing residential curtilage, additional 3 bay garage/storage building and relocation of existing stables

Refusals: None to consider

Prior approval refused: None to consider

Withdrawn: None to consider

Other Planning Matters:

Appeal received - 19/01781/AS - Hallmark Farm, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden

Proposed Farm Shop on the land adjacent to Hallmark Farm and change of land use from agricultural land to A1 (retail) and A3 (restaurant/cafe)

Hatchentan - under permanent enforcement following a High Court injunction. No update.

Cllr Robinson resumed the Chair.

170/20-1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget and note receipts

Resolved: That the following payments be made in accordance with the Budget and receipts noted:

Cheque	Details	£
Direct Debit	Public Works Loans	1138.05
001575	L Goldsmith (August Expenses)	86.02
001576	L Goldsmith (August Salary)	449.60
001577	HMRC (August L Goldsmith)	112.40
001578	Mr B R Croucher (July & August Salary)	165.68
001579	Medash Signs Ltd (Signs for Jubilee Park	544.80
001580	Mint Fresh (Bus stop cleaning)	40.25
001581	Ashford Borough Council (Repairs to footbridge at Jubilee Park)	201.60
001582	Ashford Borough Council (Remove storm damaged tree from ditch)	636.00
001583	KALC (1/3 of the cost of training seminar for the Clerk)	20.00
001584	Glasdon UK Ltd.	496.02
001585	Mr M Digby (August Salary)	139.52

Receipts: To be confirmed

Balance as at 16 September 2020 – Clerk to confirm at the next meeting as unable to access bank statements

170/20-2 To receive an update on electronic banking

Cllr. Harris reported that the Clerk is now a signatory to the account however it would appear that NatWest has failed to change the address for correspondence. The Clerk’s recent application for online banking has been declined as details provided do not match those held by NatWest. Cllr. Harris offered to call NatWest tomorrow to determine a way forward.

170/20-3 - NALC National Salary Scale 2020/21

Members noted that the Clerk is entitled to a national pay rise and the hourly rate has increased from £14.03 to £14.42. Members noted that the Clerk will not back date this pay rise to the 1 April 2020 as suggested by NALC.

171/20 Reports

171/20-1 Ward member

Cllr Pickering reported that Ashford Borough Council were delighted to be runners up in the ratings for the best Council in England last year and was also the 15th best at building new homes. Ashford Borough Council has also been proactive in encouraging local businesses to apply for grants and have already supported 2500 establishments. Ashford Borough Council is in discussions with Eurostar who has taken the decision not to stop at Ebbsfleet or Ashford since March when the pandemic began. Bookings have been affected and Eurostar do not envisage stopping at stations until 2022. Ashford Borough Council has reminded Eurostar that the Borough spent at huge amount of money on ensuring the station was equipped to take these trains. The MOJO site is not a lorry park, just been used for parking for the HMRC checks. With Netflix coming to Ashford, the Ashford College instead of building an extension to the main building will be building the extension at the

old railway works in order to start courses in film studies which would be complementary to Netflix presence. The internationally famous dance company Jasmin Vardimon which has been based in Ashford for some years has acquired new studios. It is hoped that this new venture will create 311 jobs. Cllr Pickering explained that recent anti-social behaviour displayed in Hopes Grove will not be tolerated and that he will do everything he can to ensure this is not repeated.

171/20-2 Highways

Cllr. Robinson reported that the water leaks in Church Hill have now been rectified. A local resident has asked if the Clerk could report that the drains need clearing in this area, the hedges also need to be cut and the road needs repairing and cleaning following all the leaks. On the suggestion of the Speedwatch Co-ordinator the Clerk will report that some of the speed road markings have eroded including the speed tables and need to be reinstated. The Clerk was also asked to find out when KCC will be reinstating the village sign for entry from the south which went missing when the new development Foxhill was in construction.

171/20-3 Marketing/projects

Nothing to report.

171/20-4 Finance Committee

Nothing to report.

171/20-5 KALC

Cllr. Robinson attended the virtual meeting held on the 9 September 2020. Most of the discussion centred around travellers and parishes were encouraged to report any issues to their local PCSO. A sub-committee is to be formed to discuss this issue.

172/20 HHVEC update

There was no update.

173/20 Any other Business

The plaque on Carters Oak Tree has been removed and needs to be replaced.
The corner sign for Jubilee Park is to be installed

174/20 Items for the next Parish Council meeting

Nothing additional.

175/20 Date of next meeting

Monday 12 October 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom Pro.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm