

**HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.27pm on Zoom Pro**  
**(the meeting commenced after the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm)**

**01/21 Present and Apologies**

**Present:** Cllr Robinson (Chairman), Cllr Sargent (Vice-chairman),  
Cllr Ms. Dawes, Mrs Harris, Mrs Pickering and Mrs Wheeler  
Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk) and 1 member of the public participated.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Pickering (Ward Member)

**02/21 Declarations of Interest**

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

**03/21 Minutes of the meeting of 8 March 2021**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8 March 2021 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

**04/20 Matters Arising**

**04/21-1 – Update on Twinning Opportunity with Gruson, France:** A virtual meeting was held on Thursday 11 March 2021 attended by Cllrs. Robinson, Sargent and the Clerk and the Chairman and Clerk of Bethersden. A contract will need to be drawn up and agreed between the villages and it is hoped to hold welcoming events in both Kent and Gruson possibly as early as September 2021. Cllr. Robinson has discussed the opportunity with a couple of village organisations including the school who all seem keen to be involved. Members were in agreement that in principle they would support a joint twinning with Bethersden. The Clerk and Chair of Bethersden will discuss the next steps with Gruson and will report back.

**04/21-2 – Update on the blocked ditch behind Jubilee Park:** Cllr. Robinson reported that Aspire do not agree that the oak tree needs to be removed and feel that they have taken appropriate steps to prevent further flooding. The temporary pipe has been removed and Aspire has advised that there is a clear tunnel now going under the main tree root. Members remain sceptical that this is a long term solution to the problem and agreed to monitor the situation. The Clerk has arranged for Aspire to clean up the pond and to remove the pile of debris by the unblocked ditch.

**04/21-3 – Update on the replacement of a noticeboard:** Cllr. Harris is waiting for a quote from a local person who is interested in making a replacement oak noticeboard.

**05/21 Open session**

No topics were raised or discussed.

**06/21/1 PCSO's report**

PCSO Kyle Farnfield attended the Annual Parish Meeting and gave a report. A newsletter has also been recently circulated. Off road bikes continue to be a nuisance in the Gadsby Lane/Green Lane area on the byway. Members are aware that KCC is looking to block this byway and install a sign. There has been a few reported Covid-19 breaches and thefts from outbuildings continue to be an issue. There has also been a few instances of anti-social behaviour on the green opposite The Chequers Inn. Members advised PCSO Kyle Farnfield that the recently installed CCTV at the pub may assist with any future occurrences.

**06/21/2 Community Warden report** – Members were delighted to hear that Community Warden Kathy Carter has returned on a part time basis having been off for over a year with an injury. Kathy Carter hopes to attend future meetings.

**07/21 To review the Highways Improvement Plan**

Due to resourcing and the volume of parish councils, KCC is only able to offer assistance in delivering approximately one feasible highway scheme, per parish, per year. Members updated the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) for High Halden last June with a request for village gateways and a speed reduction on the A28 outside the school. Members were in agreement that a reduction in the speed limit at the school was a priority and **resolved** that a request for traffic speed surveys with the aim of getting the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph on the A28 in the vicinity of the school should be the priority this

year. Cllr. Mrs Pickering suggested that a 20mph speed restriction during school collection and drop off times should be the minimum. The Clerk is hoping to start Speedwatch in the village soon which might help with gathering data on speed and also in alleviating the problem with speeding traffic.

#### **08/21 To receive an update on remote Parish Council Meetings**

Members noted that the Government currently do not intend to extend the legislation in place to hold virtual meetings beyond the 6 May 2021. NALC, KALC and SLCC are all lobbying for this to be extended as remain concerned that social distancing cannot be adopted at meetings. KCC and ABC are also lobbying for an extension.

#### **09/21 Planning**

Cllr Mrs Pickering assumed the Chair as Planning Portfolio holder.

##### **Planning applications**

##### **To discuss any planning applications received:**

##### **21/00433/AS – Lotland Farm, Biddenden Road, Tenterden**

Erection of new livestock building for turkeys. **Resolved: No comment**

##### **21/00480/AS – Wrens Nest, Nest Lane, High Halden**

Provision of a sand school for domestic use at existing paddock. **Resolved: No comment**

##### **21/00508/AS – Land rear of Stephendale, Ashford Road, St Michaels**

Proposed revisions to approved parking planning application 18/01141/AS relating to layout, appearance and scale of the new dwelling Goodwin House. **Resolved: No comment**

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

##### **Approvals:**

##### **21/00002/AS – Moat Barn, Oak Grove Lane, St Michaels, Tenterden**

Outline permission with all matters reserved for the erection of a detached dwelling

##### **20/01382/AS – Church Farm Oast, Church Hill, High Halden**

General details 4 (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f); Condition 5 Cast iron rain water goods.

##### **21/00177/AS – 4 Maynard Villas, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Single storey rear extension

##### **21/00217/AS – Part of garden at Four Acres, Shawlands Lane, High Halden**

Reserved matters application to consider access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission 19/0125/AS (Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of a detached four bedroom dwelling with curtilage and access within existing residential amenity land.)

##### **21/00312/AS – Springbourne Barn, Springbourne Farm, Harris Lane, High Halden**

Double garage

##### **Refusal:**

##### **21/00158/AS – Durrants Court Barn, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Proposed access and driveway.

##### **20/01635/AS – Land rear of 4, Little Robhurst, High Halden**

Erection of four detached dwellings with associated access and parking areas

##### **20/01682 – Stables at Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden**

Prior approval for change of use from one agricultural barn and land within its curtilage to one dwelling house and associated operational development)

##### **Prior approval refused:**

##### **Withdrawn:**

**Other Planning Matters:** Cllr. Robinson advised Members that there is a planning policy at ABC which states that Planning Officers should contact the Parish Clerk and explain in detail why ABC is consenting to a planning proposal that the Parish Council has objected to. This is not currently happening because of time constraints and the suggestion is that when objecting the Parish Council should write detailed comments and if concerned ask the Ward Member to call in the application to the Planning Committee. Generally, this is the approach this Parish Council adopts and Members were in agreement to continue doing this.

Cllr Robinson resumed the Chair

**10/21-1 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:**

**Payments**

<b>Cheque/Transfer</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Transfer	L Goldsmith (March Expenses)	94.93
Transfer	L Goldsmith (March Salary)	449.60
Transfer	HMRC (March L Goldsmith)	112.40
Transfer	KALC (Annual Subscription)	720.31
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus Stop Cleaning)	40.25
Transfer	Npower (electricity sports pavilion)	186.58
Transfer	Red Alert (CCTV)	444.00
Transfer	Zurich Town & Parish (Annual Insurance Parish Council)	757.07
Transfer	Zurich Town & Parish (High Halden Litter Pickers Insurance)	99.31
Transfer	CPRE (Annual Membership)	36.00
	Service Charge (Paid 31 March)	18.00

**Receipts**

<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
The Dawes Family (Payment for memorial bench) (Received March)	731.89

**Balances as at 12 April 2021**

**Unity Trust Account: £29,297.88**

**Nat West Business Reserve Account: £30,127.00**

**10/21-2 To receive an update on electronic banking**

At the suggestion of Cllr. Harris it was agreed that it would be beneficial to add another Member to the signatories on the account. Cllr. Dawes offered and it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange this. Cllr. Robinson offered to set up a virtual meeting with CCLA to see if they can offer a better interest for the monies remaining in the NatWest Savings Account. The Clerk was asked to provide the bank details for the Unity Trust account to the Horticultural Society so that they could donate the agreed £200.00 for the memorial bench for the late Martin Woodcock.

**11/21 Reports**

**11/21-1 Ward member**

A report for 2020 was tabled at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**11/21-2Highways**

KCC is investing £11million in repairing potholes which will hopefully include a number in High Halden. The Highways Steward has advised the Clerk that the Drainage Team at KCC is investigating an ongoing problem with water on the roads coming off the adjacent fields near to The Pig & Sty Public House where there were recently two road accidents. Following reports of blocked drains from a local resident the Clerk has asked the Highways Steward when the drains were last cleared through the village and when they are due to be cleared again. The A28 through High Halden is due to be resurfaced in 2022. Members were delighted to see that KCC responded quickly to a request for the white lines on the Zebra Crossing in High Halden to be repainted. The Clerk has thanked KCC. The Clerk was asked to remind Highways that they agreed to reinstate the missing village sign when the new financial year started. The Clerk will also find out when the new litter bin is to be installed near to the village hall.

**11/21-3Marketing/projects**

Nothing additional to report

**11/21-4 Finance Committee**

Cllr. Harris reported that the finances of the Parish Council remain healthy despite a slight overspend in 2020/21 as a result of paying off the Public Works Loan. Cllr. Robinson reminded Members that Section 106 funds from the new development in the village could start filtering through. The provision of allotments in the village is considered to be a top priority. Cllr. Robinson advised Members that the Parish Council needs to find land locally to either lease or purchase and to start thinking about what land might be available.

**11/21-5 KALC** – Cllr. Robinson mentioned a Government consultation on Permitted Development Rights. KALC are collating responses from Parish Councils and have requested examples of development granted with PD rights within our communities. Parish Councils have also been invited to virtually attend the next Joint Parishes Planning Group on the 16 April 2021.

**12/21 Information item:**

**12/21 – 1 HHVEC update**

A meeting is due to be held this week. One of the topics to be discussed is the possibility of being able to hold a party in the summer once restrictions are eased particularly as the VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations had to be cancelled last year. A celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 will also be discussed.

**12/21-2 COVID-19 Group**

Cllr. Robinson report that the High Halden Covid Group continues to support residents in the community but is now meeting monthly rather than fortnightly.

**13/21 Any other Business**

None

**14/21 Items for the next Parish Council meeting**

Speedwatch

Allotment provision for the village

**15/21 Date of next meeting**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday, 4 May 2021 7.00pm to be held virtually**

The meeting closed at 8.19pm