

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on the 10 January 2022 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall

147/21 Present and Apologies

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

In Attendance: Mrs L Goldsmith (Clerk), Cllr. Pickering (Ward Member),
PCSO Laura Langridge, and 6 members of the public

Apologies:

An apology was received from Cllr. Wheeler and Cllr. Drury and their reasons for absence were accepted.

148/21 Declarations of Interest:

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

149/21 Minutes of the meeting of the 13 December 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13 December 2021 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

150/21 Matters Arising

150/21-1 – Update on progress with finding land for allotments in the village

The Reverend has advised the Clerk that the Diocese has requested that any work on a feasibility study is put on hold until they have had a chance to check any issues relating to the title of the land. The Clerk has also been advised that the church may want to reclaim use of the land in the future if needed. The Clerk has postponed the feasibility study which was due to be carried out by a representative from the National Allotments Association.

151/21 Open Session

A member of the public had contacted the Clerk about the planning application, 21/02160, Harbourne House expressing concern that the proposal has been decided by officers within 12 days and with no consultees. Members agreed that this application was submitted to just satisfy building regulations, hence there was no need for any consultees. Local knowledge informs us that the owners were not able to re-thatch the roof as the correct rushes cannot be found. Apparently, there are currently rodents etc. living in the roof structure. The property is not of historic interest so there is no requirement for a thatched roof.

A member of the public had contacted the Clerk asking for the Parish Council to reconsider a previous planning proposal for Church Hill in which the developer had offered to provide parking for the school. Members agreed that they do not see any merit in revisiting the planning application for Church Hill that could have provided parking for the school. The majority of villagers who commented were against the proposal and the Parish Council still feel that the downsides of the scheme outweigh any benefits. The preference is to wait and see if the improvements to Church Hill now agreed with Highways have an effect. Hopefully the KCC initiative, Vision Zero, will bring about 20mph restrictions on the vicinity of schools. Vehicle movements and issues with parking have also reduced since the sad demise of Little Acorns Nursery.

A member of the public reported that the Hedgerow on Martens Lane needs cutting back.

A member of the public reported that the contractors working on Precinct 13 are pumping water into the drains and causing them to be blocked.

A member of the public spoke in support of planning application 21/02185/AS, Pond Wood Farm, Harbourne Lane.

A member of the public spoke in support of planning application 21/02236/AS, New Barn Farm, Ashford Road and gave Members some further information.

152/21/1 PCSO's report

The Clerk has circulated the PCSO's monthly newsletter. There was a theft of power tools in the village in December 2021 and a nuisance resident was advised to not work on vehicles late at night. PCSO Laura Langridge will continue to observe the parking in Tilden Close. PCSO Laura Langridge suggested that the Parish Council publicises information about the new initiative Community Voice. My Community Voice is a messaging

service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves. The Clerk will place details about the service in the next edition of the newsletter and on Facebook.

7.30pm PCSO Laura Langridge left the meeting

152/21/2 Community Warden report: There was no report.

153/21 – To discuss the resurfacing of the A28, speed of traffic and other safety issues

KCC has advised the Clerk that they are planning to resurface the A28 between Little Robhurst and the Halden Heights Nursing Home at some point in the forthcoming financial year, although no dates have been set yet. KCC is still awaiting confirmation of funding from Central Government for the forthcoming year, which means that unfortunately, until they are sure of funding there are no absolute guarantees. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council is allowed one meeting and one highway improvement scheme each year. The Parish Council has devised a Highways Improvement Plan which addresses other safety issues in the village. This plan will be discussed again at the next review meeting with KCC due in the Spring.

154/21 To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan

KCC has confirmed that the cost of the highways improvement for this financial year will be £3,500.00. Members **resolved** to accept this quote. The works will include the following improvements:

- A28 - Village gateway sign with white timber effect gate
- Church Hill, Village gateway – Remove old village gateway sign and post. Replace with new village gateway sign on a new white timber effect gateway post at the site of the existing 30mph speed limit terminal (southwestern side only). White 30mph speed limit roundel to be marked on the carriageway at the new gateway.
- Church Hill – White ‘SLOW’ road markings x2 (adjacent the two existing school warning signs on Church Hill)

155/21 To discuss and approve a draft Deed of Dedication for Jubilee Park as part of the Fields in Trust application

Members discussed the draft deed and agreed to send any further comments to the Clerk by Monday 17 January 2022. Members remain committed to protecting Jubilee Park in perpetuity.

156/21 – To receive an update on renewable energy provision for the sports pavilion

The Clerk and Cllr. Sargent are meeting with Ecolution, a renewable energy provider on Tuesday 18 January 2022 to consider alternative power and heat sources for the sports pavilion. The Clerk is also investigating what grants might be available.

157/21 - The Queen’s Green Canopy Project – to discuss planting trees in Jubilee Park and elsewhere in the parish

Aspire has advised the Clerk that details about the application process for obtaining trees from ABC as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy Project should be distributed this month. The Clerk reminded Members that 420 saplings have been ordered from Woodland Trust and are expected to be delivered in March 2022. Members discussed planting these saplings at Jubilee Park and on the village green

158/21 Planning

Cllr. Mrs Pickering assumed the Chair to discuss the planning proposals

Planning applications

To discuss any planning applications received:

21/02185/AS - Pond Wood Farm, Harbourne Lane, High Halden

Lawful Development Certificate - Existing - Change of Use of Agricultural Land to C3 Residential Dwelling through the stationing of a mobile home and associated operational development relating to the dwelling (veranda, compost toilet) and creation of 2 amenity garden areas associated with the residential dwelling.

Resolved: Support for the following reasons: The applicant has had outstanding testimonies on the management of the wooded land she lives on with its livestock and fauna over many years, The applicant needs to continue this wonderful support that is vital for our environment.

21/02171/AS - Land north of, Green Lane, Bethersden, Kent

Prior notification for the erection of an open sided pole barn for storage of hay.

Noted: A technical abnormality over the land requirements has led to the Prior Notification being refused.

21/02132/AS – Office building west of, Hales Place, Woodchurch Road, High Halden

Retrospective Change of use of existing building to B1 (a) - office use (other than A2).

Resolved: No comment.

Planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda:

21/02236/AS – New Barn Farm, Ashford Road, High Halden

Prior notification for a steel framed building with open front for storage purposes.

Resolved: Support. The new landowner wishes to continue the management of the agricultural land by the farmer who has kept his livestock on the land for many years. The relocation of the agricultural building and rebuilding it on the farmland rented by the farmer will tidy up the area.

Approvals:

21/00682/AS – Land to the South of Sicklefield House, Ashford Road, St Michaels

Reserved matters application to consider appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and associated works pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00759/AS.

21/02160/AS - Harbourne House, Harbourne Lane, High Halden

Lawful development certificate - proposed - Replacement of thatch roof covering with new slate roof covering.

Refusal: None to consider.

Withdrawn: None to consider.

Other Planning Matters:

21/00927/AS – Land between Bourne House and Summerhill Cottages, Ashford Road - It was noted that this proposal is likely to be considered by the Planning Committee. The officer report has not been published yet.

CO/21/00927/AS – The Stables, Redbrook Street – An enforcement officer has visited the site following reports that unauthorised building works are taking place.

19/00228/AS Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden

Lawful Development Certificate: use of wooden shed as dwelling – It was noted that a new date for the hearing has not yet been set.

21/00811/AS – Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden

Erection of 2 x mobile homes, 2 x utility blocks, 2 x caravans and parking for 4 cars (retrospective) – appeal received.

Cllr. Robinson resumed the Chair

159/21 Financial Report

159/21-1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget and note receipts

Resolved: That the following payments be made online by Cllrs. Harris and Dawes in accordance with the Budget and receipts.

Payments

Cheque/Transfer	Details	£
Transfer	L Goldsmith (December Expenses)	110.57
Transfer	L Goldsmith (December Salary)	461.40
Transfer	HMRC (December L Goldsmith)	115.40
Transfer	Marcus Digby (Park Keeper Services)	261.60
Transfer	Louise Goldsmith (Reimbursement Go Daddy Domain & ICO fee)	140.70
Transfer	South East Water (Water for pavilion)	126.42
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus stop cleaning)	60.37
Transfer	Ashford Borough Council (New gate at Hookstead)	997.38
Transfer	Ashford Borough Council (Fence and gate repairs)	282.00
Transfer	Barrie Croucher (Caretaking Services)	34.88
S/O	National Playing Fields Assoc.	20.00
	Unity Trust Quarterly Charge	18.00

Receipts: None

Balances as at 10 January 2022

Unity Trust Account: £77,379.65

159/21-2 Annual Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Resolved: To adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with no alterations.

160/21 Reports

160/21-1 Ward member

Cllr. Pickering advised Members that staff at ABC are still working from home except for staff working in customer services and CCTV monitoring. Cllr. Pickering advised Members that ABC is very proud of its bin collection service as there has been disruption to services which is not the case in most Boroughs. There are currently 90 staff in place at Border control and ABC is looking to increase this number to 129. Cllr. Pickering advised that the KCC Vision Zero strategy includes proposals to reduce speed including the introduction of 20mph to some approach roads to villages and to schools. ABC has enhanced their Land Management Plans across the Borough. ABC hope to increase biodiversity within council owned green spaces by introducing a variety of habitats and varying maintenance regimes. ABC has been successful in bidding for a share of the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund and has been allocated £14.7m. This fund will be used to support the Ashford International Studios / Newtown Works project.

160/21/-2 Highways

160/21-3 Marketing/projects

Cllr. Dawes in conjunction with the Clerk will start to prepare the next edition of the newsletter.

160/21-4 KALC

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 January 2022 have not been issued yet.

161/21 Information item:

161/21-1 HHVEC update

The working party is meeting on Wednesday 12 January 2022 to discuss how the village can celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

161/21-2 Consultations: None to consider.

162/21 Any other Business:

Ditches in Jubilee Park – dredging works may be required.

Land behind Little Robhurst is being advertised for sale.

163/21 Items for the next Parish Council meeting

Nothing additional.

164/21 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14 February 2022 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 8.02pm