

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 12 October 2020 at 7.00pm on Zoom Pro

176/20 Present and Apologies

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

177/20 Declarations of Interest

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

178/20-1 Co-option of a new Parish Councillor

The Chairman proposed that Jo Dawes be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy.

Resolved: That Jo Dawes be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy.

178/20-2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read out and signed by Cllr Jo Dawes and will be forwarded to the Proper Officer of the Council.

179/20 Minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2020

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 September 2020 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

180/20 Matters Arising

The Clerk has reported to KCC that some of the speed road markings and speed tables have eroded in the village and need to be reinstated. The Clerk has also asked to KCC to reinstate the village sign for entry from the south which went missing when the new development Foxhill was in construction.

181/20 Open session

A member of the public expressed their desire for sporting activities other than football to be considered for the village. Cllr. Robinson explained that an allocation has been made for a multi-purpose pitch in the S106 monies to be received from the new development in the village and that the Parish Council would actively encourage and support other sporting activities.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could consider issuing a regular newsletter.

A member of the public urged the Parish Council to object to planning proposal 20/01229/AS, Pillreed Cottage. Cllr. Pickering has asked to call in the application to the Planning Committee if the Planning Officer is minded to approve it.

182/20/1 PCSO's report

The PCSO surgery due to held on the 19 September 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Members noted that the PCSO has sent the Clerk a link to some basic statistics on crime but nothing specific for High Halden which is a bit disappointing. The Clerk has asked the PCSO for future reports to include some general information on his activities in the parish each month.

182/20/2 Community Warden report There was no report

183/20 Speedwatch – To receive an update on the feasibility of setting up a scheme in High Halden

Notices asking for volunteers to help with the scheme have been placed on the noticeboards, website and facebook page. Members noted that a resident has volunteered to take part. At least two or three more are needed to make the scheme viable. It was noted that it will be harder to find volunteers during the pandemic as Kent Police had advised that all volunteers must be under 70 years of age.

184/20 – Update on placing benches around the playground and sports pitches at Jubilee Park

The Clerk has circulated some ideas on styles and costs of different benches. It was suggested and agreed that Cllrs. Robinson and Sargent should decide on 3 locations for each bench to be located. The Clerk will then look to discuss the location and style of bench with each family/organisation and establish what sort of contribution each could make to the cost of the bench and the plaque. Cllr. Dawes suggested that her family would be willing to fund the bench in memory of her father, Robert Dawes. The Clerk has been advised that the Horticultural Society would be prepared to make a donation of £200 to the plaque for the bench in memory of

Martin Woodcock but would like to decide the wording used. Cllr. Harris offered to find out if she could get a trade discount with one of the suppliers of benches.

185/20 – RoSPA playground inspections 2020

The Clerk met with Everything Outside on 29 September 2020 to run through the recommendations in the latest RoSPA report. The contractor will also look to repair the rubber matting on the bridge.

Resolved: To accept a quote for £1,500.00 (excluding VAT) from Everything Outside for repairs to the playground areas.

186/20 - To note the installation of the bench outside Halden Heights

Members were pleased to note that the new bench outside Halden Heights has been installed. The Clerk has added the bench to the insurance schedule. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Sargent and asked the Clerk to thank David Ball for installing the bench.

187/20 – To receive an update on High Halden Green Spaces for Good

Cllr. Robinson reported that Terry Housden, Development Manger for the Fields in Trust, conducted the site visit at Jubilee Park last week and will be now compiling a report for their legal officer. The draft Deed of Dedication will then be prepared and forwarded to the Parish Council.

188/20 – To consider appointing a Data Protection Officer

Members discussed a quote of £75.00 from Satswana for providing the services of a Data Protection Officer. It was noted that this is a special rate given that the Clerk already uses this company for her two other parishes.

Resolved: To appoint Satswana as the Data Protection Officer for High Halden Parish Council for one year at a cost of £75.00

189/20 Planning

Cllr Mrs Pickering assumed the Chair as Planning Portfolio holder.

Planning applications

20/01196/AS – Meadow View, Ashford Road, High Halden

Revision to the site layout for the erection of 4-day rooms, 3 of which to replace existing mobiles and provision of additional touring caravan.

Resolved: Object. We object on the grounds that High Halden has already nearly 25% of static mobile homes in the Borough of Ashford, which has a significant effect on the settled community and any further applications to increase pitches in High Halden should be refused by ABC.

Cllr John Sargent declared a pecuniary interest and did not participate in the discussion on the next item

20/01263/AS – Appletree Cottage, Biddenden Road, High Halden

Demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of two storey rear extension to include balcony.

Resolved: We support this application as the intended plans will tidy up the site.

20/01147/AS – New Barn Farm, Ashford Road, High Halden

Demolition of existing small building and erection of single dwelling with integral garaging and significant landscape and biodiversity arrangements.

Resolved: Object. We object on the grounds that the small building is a ‘tiny shed’ at present which should not qualify for a new build. In addition, the back agricultural part of the small bungalow facing the main road has already got prior approval for development of 5 agricultural buildings into dwellings. We could potentially have 7 properties built or converted including the old bungalow, in effect a small estate.

20/01229/AS – Pillreed Cottage, Plurenden Road, High Halden

Revised layout of existing 10 Pitch Gypsy/Traveller site and the proposed siting of an additional 2 mobile homes

Resolved: Strongly Object. We strongly object to enlarging the already large existing pitch site for several reasons:

1) The site has a past history of planning inspectors’ refusals

2) High Halden has already nearly 25% of static mobile homes in ABC which has a significant effect on the settled community.

3) Any further applications to increase pitches in High Halden should be refused by ABC.

16/01536/CONA/AS – Church Farm Oast, Church Hill, High Halden

Discharge of Condition 4 – Ecological Mitigation Measures, 6 – Landscaping Scheme, 7- Vehicle Parking Spaces, 10 – Details of Drainage Works, 11 – Disposal of Sewage **Noted**

20/01160/AS – Rosslyn, Ashford Road, High Halden

Car port at front of property.

Resolved: No comment

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

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

Resolved: Object. We note that comments were due on 2 October 2002 but are being sent today as Cllr Pickering is still waiting for detailed clarification from the Planning Dept. We object to this application.

Normally the Parish Council would support this type of application, but in this case the two approved conversions were controversial. Two approved garages were built and now planned for conversion into two holiday lets which we feel is inappropriate in such a small site. We noted the objections of the neighbours which we strongly support.

20/01322/AS – 1 Durrant Green, Ashford Road, High Halden

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

Resolved: Support. We support this application subject to KCC approving access to the main road.

20/01326/AS – Outbuilding at Durrants Court, Ashford Road, High Halden

Conversion and change of use of outbuilding into a single dwelling house to include extension works and associated parking and landscaping

Resolved: Support. We support this application subject to KCC approving access to the main road.

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

Approvals:

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

Discharge condition 9.

20/00095/AMND/AS – Kenfield, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch

Non material minor amendment on planning permission 20/0095/AS

Refusal: None to consider

Prior approval refused:

20/01020/AS – Agricultural Barn at Spring Bourne Farm, Harris Lane, High Halden

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

Withdrawn: None to consider

Other Planning Matters: Cllr. Robinson thanked Cllr. Pickering for all the time and effort she puts into researching planning proposals each month on behalf of the Parish Council

190/20-1 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	£
001586	L Goldsmith (August Expenses)	95.14
001587	L Goldsmith (August Salary)	449.60
001588	HMRC (August L Goldsmith)	112.40
001589	Replacement Line Marker	394.80
001590	Data Protection Officer	75.00
001591	Mint Fresh (Bus stop cleaning)	60.37

Receipts: £17,391 (second half of Precept and grants from ABC)

Balance as at 12 October 2020: £88,747.38 (Current and Reserve Accounts)

190/20-2 To receive an update on electronic banking

Following a visit to the bank and the re-submission of a change of address form the Clerk was pleased to report that she is now receiving bank statements and has been able to reconcile the accounts. The Clerk has now resubmitted an application for online banking.

190/20-3 To approve a quote to replace the Carter's Oak Plaque

Members considered three quotes to replace the plaque in oak.

Resolved: To accept the cheapest quote from Sign Maker for £126.40 to include postage and VAT.

191/20 Reports

191/20-1 Ward member

Cllr Pickering advised Members that Ashford is being designated as an inland port to act as an office for handling transit movements of goods to and from the UK. It is expected to create 120 jobs. Home working for officers is going well. Kent Music School is moving from its current offices in Maidstone to Ashford which will bring more visitors to the area. Applications for the Self-Isolation Support Grant have opened. ABC will be processing applications from residents who have been asked by Test and Protect to isolate. A £500 grant is available for residents who would otherwise face financial hardship by being asked to self-isolate.

191/20-2 Highways

191/20-3 Marketing/projects

Nothing to report.

191/20-4 Finance Committee

Cllr. Harris advised Members that the Parish Council is operating within the budget set for the financial year 2020-21. There has been a slight overspend on the Clerk's salary which was due to there being an agreed overlap between the previous and new Clerk.

191/20-5 KALC – Members noted that the minutes of the last meeting have been circulated.

192/20 HHVEC update

Cllr. Sargent reported that a meeting was held on the 8 October 2020. All major events including the school fair have been cancelled and the group is considering whether to erect the Christmas tree this year. HHVEC is looking to start up a table tennis club as a new activity and is actively looking for a new Chairperson. HHVEC provided finance for the community support group during lockdown and is conscious that they may need to step in to help again to help financially if the infection rates continue to rise.

193/20 Any other Business

Noticeboard by The Chennells needs to be replaced. Options such as going digital need to be considered.

Recent activity in the field behind Little Robhurst has caused some concern. It was noted that this field is outside the village confines.

Cllr. Sargent advised that the AGM for the Village Hall Committee is due to be held virtually on the 26 October 2020 at 7pm

194/20 Items for the next Parish Council meeting

Nothing additional.

195/20 Date of next meeting

Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom Pro.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm