

**HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.00pm on Zoom Pro**

**270/20 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). Cllr Pickering (ward member) and 2 members of the public participated.

**Apologies:** None

**271/20 Declarations of Interest**

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

Cllr. Mrs Harris: Declared an interest in agenda item 282/20.

**272/20 Minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2021**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4 February 2021 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

**273/20 Matters Arising**

**Matters arising**

**273/20-1 – Update on the benches for Jubilee Park:** Cllr. Sargent reported that the benches have been delivered and with the help of Mr. David Ball the benches will shortly be installed on concrete bases at Jubilee Park. Three locations have been identified. It was agreed to post an article on the website and Facebook when the benches are installed and it is hoped that when restrictions ease an unveiling ceremony can be arranged with the families involved. It was suggested that MP Damian Green might be willing to attend.

**273/20-2 – Response to the Parish Council Newsletter:** Members discussed the response to the newsletter and the feedback has been positive. It was agreed to continue publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis.

**273/20-3 – Update on the replacement of a noticeboard:** The Clerk has placed a post on the Facebook page asking if a local person would be interested in making a replacement noticeboard. To date there has been no response. Cllr. Harris has now approached a local contact. It was agreed that if a quote has not been provided by a local supplier by the next meeting that a noticeboard would be sourced online.

**273/20-4 – Update on resurfacing the bridges at Jubilee Park -** Cllr. Harris advised that the resurfacing of the remaining bridges with Suds Bond, a mix of rubber crumb and aggregate will be taking place on Wednesday 10 March 2021. Cllr. Harris has erected a sign near to the bridges explaining they will be out of use from 7am on Wednesday 10 March to 10am on Thursday 11 March and has also posted this information on Facebook.

**273/20-5 – Update on installing additional bollards around the village green –** Members noted that Aspire have completed the works. Cllr. Sargent noticed that less than 66 additional bollards have been installed and Aspire have agreed to reduce their original quote by £220.00. The Clerk will arrange to meet with Aspire to obtain a key for the locking bollard.

**274/20 Open session**

The following topics were raised and discussed:

1] A member of the public mentioned the Parish Council's response to the planning proposal 20/01682 and that it had taken several days for both their own response and the Parish Council response to be uploaded. The member of the public asked if this could be raised with the Planning Officers at ABC as it often seems to take a few weeks before responses are uploaded to the portal. Cllr. Pickering advised that ABC has experienced a few technical glitches and is working on resolving this as part of a complete digital make over. Cllr. Pickering advised Members that he has mentioned to ABC that it is possible to clearly see the barns at New Barn Farm from across the valley and that the new houses will be a further eyesore on the landscape to the detriment of High Halden. Cllr. Pickering also advised Members that a second entrance to Elm Tree Cottage on to the A28 has already been made prior to any approval. The matter is now with Enforcement.

**275/20/1 PCSO's report**

Members noted that PCSO Kyle Farnfield has been off sick and has only just returned to work. A report has not been provided for the meeting nor an apology given for not attending. Members hope that PCSO Kyle Farnfield will be able to attend future meetings and give a verbal report as Kent Police are now allowing Officers to use Zoom. The Clerk was also asked to find out why PCSO Kyle Farnfield has been off for so long and when a newsletter is going to be issued.

**275/20/2 Community Warden report** - There was no report.

**276/2 Update on a twinning opportunity with Gruson France**

Cllr. Robinson reported that a virtual meeting is to be held on Thursday 11 March 2021 with the Chairman and Clerk of Bethersden. Cllr. Sargent, Robinson and the Clerk will attend the meeting to discuss the way forward. 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 when restrictions are eased.

**277/20 Update on the blocked ditch behind Jubilee Park**

Cllr. Robinson reported that Aspire own the tree, which appears to be blocking the ditch, as it is on land belonging to ABC and as this stage they do not want it removed. Aspire has now installed a pipe around the tree root and will attend regularly to ensure that this does not get blocked. Members discussed the situation and concluded that it does not make economic sense for Aspire to regularly visit the site and in addition do not believe that the oak tree in question is a particularly good specimen. The Clerk was asked to request permission to remove the tree and advise Aspire that the Parish Council is prepared to pay all costs and plant a replacement tree in an alternative location. Members discussed the condition of the ditches around Jubilee Park and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from Aspire to clear the other side of the ditch to the road and to do a general litter/rubbish pick in the other ditches.

**278/20 To ratify a decision to install a litter bin in the village hall car park**

At the last meeting the Clerk was asked to request a dual-purpose dog waste and litter bin outside the village hall. The Street Scene and Open Spaces Officer at ABC has agreed a position with the Clerk which has been approved by the Village Hall Committee. Members **resolved** to ratify a decision between meetings to agree to the installation of this bin and for the dog waste bins on the recreation ground to be replaced with dual purpose dog waste and litter bins. ABC has advised that the bins will be installed either at the end of March or the beginning of April 2021. The Clerk will post a message on Facebook when the bins are installed advising residents to use the new bin for dog waste and litter and not the bins belonging to the village hall.

**279/20 To agree a date and format for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting**

Members noted that legally the Annual Parish Meeting has to be held between the 1 March and 1 June 2021 and the Annual Parish Council Meeting has to be held in May 2021. The 4 April 2020 Regulations permitting virtual meetings cease on the 6 May 2021. KALC, NALC and SLCC continue to lobby Government to extend the option to hold remote meetings beyond the 6 May 2021. Members **resolved** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting virtually on Monday 12 April 2021 and the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 4 May 2021. It was agreed that it would not be practical for all the local organisations to present reports at a virtual Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk will discuss the arrangement for the APM with Cllr. Sargent. The expected format will be all the organisations to provide a brief report to be tabled with the key organisations possibly giving brief verbal reports as well.

**280/20 To review the Parish Council's Risk Register, Financial Regulations and Asset Register**

Members **resolved** to adopt the revised Risk Register, Financial Regulations and Asset Register circulated by the Clerk. The Financial Regulations have been amended to include guidance for online banking. An annual review of these documents is required for the AGAR.

**281/20 To review the KCC consultation on Vision Zero – The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2020-2026**

Members noted the strategy and consultation which has been circulated by the Clerk. Cllr. Robinson offered to review the documents again and possibly send a response.

## **282/20 Review of hire of football pitches for Brewmasters and Hornets 2021-22**

Both football clubs hope, subject to the restrictions lifting, to resume play at the end of March and will extend the playing season to June. Both clubs paid the fees for using the pitches in full last year but were unable to play the whole season. The season this year has also been affected by the pandemic. Members therefore **resolved** to not charge the football clubs for the use of the pitches this year. The clubs can either have a refund for last year or not pay for this year, whichever works best for their financial reporting. Members discussed a request from a local resident, who is setting up an adult football team, to use the full-size pitch at Jubilee Park. Member were in agreement that the Parish Council would not be able to assist with this request as the main pitch is used by the Hornets Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoon and Brewmasters play on Sunday morning. The Clerk will find out if Chelsea FC intend to use the pitches this summer for weekday evening sessions and their summer holiday day clubs.

## **283/20 Planning**

Cllr Mrs Pickering assumed the Chair as Planning Portfolio holder.

### **Planning applications**

#### **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)

**No comment was made as we were unable to discuss the proposal at the previous meeting and we were not able to obtain an extension from ABC planning to discuss at this meeting.**

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

Double garage **Resolved: To make no comment**

#### **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.)

**Resolved: To make no comment**

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

Single storey rear extension. **Resolved: To make no comment**

#### **21/00183/AS – Lotland Farm, Biddenden Road, Tenterden**

General purpose agricultural storage building **Noted: Proposal has already been approved**

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

#### **21/00363/AS – Hales Place, Woodchurch Road, High Halden**

Change of use of land to residential and relocation of garage as approved under 20/00342/AS

**Resolved: To make no comment**

#### **21/00388/AS & 21/00389/AS – Little Bedgebury Farm, High Halden**

New side porch and alteration of external steps. Window & door alterations; new dormer window and revision to door openings; master bedroom hipped roof extension including French doors and Juliet balcony and pitched roof over existing dormer window.

**Resolved: To make no comment**

### **Approvals:**

#### **20/01761/AS – 2 Little Robhurst, High Halden**

Lawful Development Certificate: Proposed vehicle access including dropped kerb

#### **19/00905/CONB/AS – Little Bedgebury Farm, High Halden**

Discharge of conditions 2 & 3 (Schedule of external materials. Window & Door joinery details

#### **16/01536/CONC/AS – Church Farm Oast, Church Hill, High Halden**

Discharge of condition 6.

#### **20/01792/AS – Durrants Close, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden**

Rear extension, re-cladding the exterior and an addition of a fourth bay window on the front elevation; re-cladding of existing garage and addition of rooflights

**20/00800/AS – New Barn Farm, Ashford Road, High Halden**

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of five dwellings and garaging with landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, (Alternative to 19/01646 and 19/01653)

**Refusal:**

**20/01781/AS - Little Bedgebury Farm, High Halden**

Alterations to stair hall layout and landing including new door openings. New side porch to kitchen and alterations of external steps. Window and door alterations. Reconfigure bedroom 3 and ensuite layout including new link corridor to master bedroom, new dormer window and revision to door openings. Master bedroom gable and extension including balcony and pitched roof over existing dormer window.

**Prior approval refused:**

**Withdrawn:**

**Other Planning Matters:**

**Government Consultation on the Model Design Code:** Noted that KALC has responded to the consultation

Cllr Robinson resumed the Chair

**284/20-1 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:**

**Payments**

<b>Cheque/Transfer</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Transfer	PWLB	9579.27
Transfer	Ashford Borough Council – grounds maintenance (cheque)	6508.33
Transfer	L Goldsmith (February Expenses)	94.93
Transfer	L Goldsmith (February Salary)	449.60
Transfer	HMRC (February L Goldsmith)	112.40
Transfer	Barrie Croucher – (Caretaking Services)	43.60
Transfer	Mint Fresh (Bus Stop Cleaning)	40.25
Transfer	Npower (electricity sports pavilion)	98.30
Transfer	Glasdon (3 x benches)	2634.78
Transfer	Abacus Playgrounds (to be paid following the works)	1,770

**Receipts: None**

**Balances as at 2 March 2021**

**Less Cheques**

**1580 - £40.25**

**1617 - £40.25**

**1620 - £20.00**

**Unity Trust Account: £33,928.35**

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

**284/20-2 To receive an update on electronic banking**

Members noted that the Clerk is now able to make payments electronically from the current account with Unity Trust Banking. Funds remain in the deposit account at NatWest and a decision on how to better invest these will be made at a future meeting.

**285/20 Reports**

**285/20-1 Ward member**

Cllr Pickering advised Members that 33 new officers started their new Border Control roles today at ABC. ABC is instigating shift working on a 24/7 basis. 40 applicants have now accepted positions and ABC has suspended further recruitment but will review in July 2021 when the situation with border control at Dover is known. In response to feedback from a local resident Cllr. Pickering has complained about the number of potholes on the roads in the village. County Councillor Mike Hill has advised that resurfacing work is programmed for 2022/2023. Cllr. Pickering advised Members that this situation is not acceptable and he will continue to raise

the issue with the condition of the roads with KCC. Cllr. Pickering advised Members that Council Tax is set to rise by £5.00 per annum for a Band D property, there has been some negative feedback to this decision. Cllr. Pickering highlighted that Council Taxes in Ashford are the lowest in Kent and one of the lowest in the UK. Cllr, Pickering added that services have not been affected by the pandemic which is an incredible achievement. Cllr. Pickering suggested that the Clerk should contact Cllr. Peter Feacey whose responsibilities include Community Safety about the Parish Council's experience with the PCSO.

**285/20-2 Highways**

The Clerk will contact the Highways Steward about what action is going to be taken about the number of potholes on the roads in the village. It was noted that there had been two accidents on the A28 just outside the village boundary and near The Pig & Sty public house that morning. An ongoing problem with water on the roads coming off the adjacent fields may have been the cause. The Clerk will raise this issue with the Highways Steward.

**285/20-3 Marketing/projects**

Nothing to report

**285/20-4 Finance Committee**

Nothing additional to report.

**285/20-5 KALC** – Cllr. Robinson attended the virtual meeting held on the 3 March 2021. The Clerk will circulate the minutes of the meeting.

**286/20 Information item:**

**286/20 – 1 HHVEC update**

A meeting is due to be held early April 2021. One of topics to be discussed is the possibility of being able to hold 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.

**286/20-2 COVID-19 Group**

The High Halden Covid Group continues to support residents in the community.

**287/20 Any other Business**

None

**288/20 Items for the next Parish Council meeting**

Nothing additional

**289/20 Date of next meeting**

**Annual Parish Meeting: Monday, 12 April 2021 7.00pm to be held virtually**

**Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 12 April 2021 to be held after the Annual Parish Meeting**

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

The meeting closed at 8.12pm