

HALSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 19.45 IN THE PAVILION, STATION ROAD, HALSTEAD.

PRESENT: Cllr. David Taylor, Chairman of Council
Cllr. Terry Brooker, Vice Chairman
Cllr. Barrie Blundell
Cllr. Jeff Baldwin
Cllr. Karen Grosvenor
Cllr. Christine Halliday

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, 10 parishioners.

The meeting convened at 19.56

1 APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllr. Bent who was on holiday, and District Councillors Grint and Williamson. Members present signed the attendance register.

2.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

Nil.

2.2 DISPENSATIONS

Nil.

3 **RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12 January 2015 were Approved and Signed as a True Record with one amendment, the meeting had started at 19.45**

4 FINANCE

4.1 **RESOLVED: That the Accounts as itemised be paid.**

Proposed by **Cllr Blundell** seconded by **Cllr Grosvenor**; carried unanimously.

Payments include VAT where relevant

CQ714	Cllr. Brooker, repair to shutter at Pavilion		£ 50.00
CQ715	R Nunn plumbing, repair showers		£1100.00
CQ716	Liberty Washrooms, Parish Room	£ 84.00	
CQ716	Liberty Washrooms, Pavilion	<u>£ 84.00</u>	£ 168.00
CQ717	Homemaids cleaners, December Pavilion	£225.50	
CQ717	Homemaids cleaners, December P. Room	£110.00	
CQ717	Homemaids cleaners, January Pavilion	£154.00	
CQ717	Homemaids cleaners, January P.Room	£ 88.00	£ 577,50
CQ718	Allister Tulett, boiler service/gas check Parish Room and Pavilion		£216.00
CQ719	Viridor refuse collection		£ 66.90

CQ920 Clerk's expenses incurred while carrying out her duties:

Internet allowance	£ 16.66	
Postage	£ 6.36	
1&1 domain	£ 8.38	
Mileage: 4 x Bank @ 11; 1 x police @3 = 47 miles	£ 21.15	
		£ 52.55

DD	EDF Parish Room	£ 11.00.	
	EDF Pavilion	<u>£ 17.00</u>	<u>£ 28.00</u>

TOTAL PAYMENTS AS AT 9 February 2015 **£2258.85**

CQ721 Salary payment Mrs King Scott, Clerk

Cheques were signed at the close of business by Cllr. Blundell and Cllr. Baldwin

4.2	RECEIPTS AS AT 9 February 2015	
V1251	Mrs Keeper, Parish Room (Inv59/60)	£ 210.00
V1252	Pratts Bottom AD, Pavilion (Inv67)	£ 28.00
BACS	Ms James, Pavilion (Inv41)	£ 140.00
BACS	Ms Jones, Parish Room (Inv63)	£ 28.00
BACS	EDF	£ 3.48
V1253	Mrs Parker, Parish Room (Inv32)	£ 112.00
V1254	Halstead Cricket Club	£ 25.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS AS AT 9 February 2015	£ 546.48 – noted

Cllr. Brooker requested that the hire of Council premises should be an agenda item at the next meeting.
Agreed.

4.3 Community Tax Support Grant

Documents had been received from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Kent Association (KALC). These related to the CTSG - **noted**

A letter had been prepared by Cllr. Taylor which was approved by the Council and signed by all councillors. A discussion took place as to what Council expected to achieve by sending this letter to the Sevenoaks Chronicle. It was agreed that the letter would be sent to the Editor and he be informed by a covering letter that he should make the decision as to what he wanted to do with it., proposed by Cllr. Blundell, seconded by Cllr. Grosvenor and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: that the letter concerning the Community Tax Support Grant should be sent to the Editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle

4.4 137 Request Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group.

Council discussed the request for funding and after discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Blundell, seconded by Cllr. Baldwin that £50 be given; carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: that a 137 payment of £50 should be sent to the Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr. Williamson had advised that the company wishing to operate a crematorium at Watercrofts Wood had requested a Judicial Review on the granted planning consent for the crematorium at Oak Tree Farm.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

6.1 Policing

Two incidents for January. 1 break-in to the Cricket Club storeroom at the Pavilion; the second the theft of the road signs for Halstead plus 30mph speed signs in Knockholt Road and Station Road junction with Watercroft Road.

6.1.1 **PCSO Lizanne Fry has left** and Amy Hardy is taking her place. A letter had been received from Tim Cook Sevenoaks District Commander explaining that there will be charges to some wards.

It was agreed that PCSO Hardy would be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting and will also be asked to send a monthly report.

A letter will be written to Commander Cook to request that information is made available to parish on a regular basis.

6.2 St Margaret's Church and CAB thank Council for the **Section 137 payments.**

6.3 **Safety/Speed cameras:** contact must be made through the Parish Portal, as do queries relating to yellow lineage.

6.4 Watercroft Road will be closed from 2 March possibly for 14 days, at the junction with Old London Road and 36 Watercroft Road. This is for drainage works; diversions will be in place.

6.5 **Planning Conference** at Lenham on Saturday 27 March. It was noted that Cllrs Brooker and Grosvenor will attend.

6.6 **The Youth Zone:** it was agreed to invite them to visit in the summer.

6.7 **Love where you live/Love Kent Hate Litter Campaign.** Visits will be made throughout the district by SDC Animal Welfare Officer, Street Cleansing Team and Community Safety Team dealing with dog fouling etc. The grass areas at Parkside have been put forward as offending areas as they are often covered in dog faeces

6.8 **Affordable Rural Housing** – new practical Guide for Parish Councils available - circulated.

- 6.9 **Paramount London** is holding workshops if anyone is interested, nearest is Swanscombe – no response.
- 6.10 Council has been given a **Dedicated Chief Officer by SDC**. This person will be contacted if queries etc. had not be dealt with to Council's satisfaction. Halstead's DCO is Adrian Rowbotham. He has already been contacted in relation to the withdrawal of SDC from the yellow line project: see 8.5.1
- 6.11 **Donation of £450 to Badgers Mount fighting fund** (unused). A letter has been sent asking for the return of this money.
It has been advised they will be discussed at the next meeting of the Badgers Mount Residents Association. It was noted that this money is Council's money and should be returned.
- 6.12 **Boiler Parish Room.** The boiler has been serviced and certificate provided. It was noted that the glass in front of the flame is cracked. It is not broken so the boiler is still safe. It is recommended to Council to consider replacing the current boiler which is obsolete; parts are now not available. *Agenda item May 2015*
- 6.13 **Biggin Hill Airport:** the owners are requesting alterations to the operating conditions at Biggin Hill. It was agreed that Council will respond as previously.

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 7.1. **RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2015 were Approved and Signed as a True Record**

7.2 Applications Received

SE/14/04054/HOUSE HAZELCROFT, STONEHOUSE ROAD, TN14 7HN

Alterations and extension to existing single storey flank extension – **No objection**

SE/15/00240/FUL LAND NORTH OF IVY COTTAGE, STONEHOUSE ROAD, TN14 7HN

Demolition of the existing garage and erection of a new detached chalet bungalow on the land adjacent to Ivy Cottage – **to be discussed**

SE/15/00036/HOUSE AVEBURY, CHURCH ROAD, TN14 7HG

The erection of two ground floor single storey rear extensions existing, patio doors removed and replaced with sliding/folding doors. Conversion of existing garage and a proposed timber framed car porch. – **to be discussed**
It was believed that this property is in the Conservation Area; will be verified.

7.3 Application Decisions

Granted

SE/14/02892/HOUSE 56 Station Road, TN14 7DJ

Erection of new boundary fence (retrospective) - **noted**

SE/14/03618/FUL WOODSIDE, OTFORD LANE, TN14 7EQ

Demolition of existing dwelling and a glasshouse and erection of a single storey replacement dwelling – **noted**

SE/14 5 PARKSIDE TN14 7HA - **noted**

Dropped kerb/crossover

Refused

SE/14/03367/OLD LONDON ROAD, TN14 7HN

Demolition of garage/utility, erection of a two storey side extension and erection of single storey front and rear extension, with the addition of front porch with roof canopy. - **noted**

SE/14/02003/FUL WATERCROFTS WOOD. OLD LONDON ROAD

Erection of chapel/crematorium, provision for ancillary car park and erection of woodman's shed. - **noted**

7.4 Gypsy and Traveller sites

A letter has been received from Mr Dyer, explaining the consultation process for the allocation of Gypsy and Travellers sites. Council is aware of the procedure.

Council unanimously agreed that the land at Knockholt Station Court should not be used as a permanent site and that SDC should not have accepted the offer of the site and accompanying land from the owner.

It is noted that with each planning application consent was given for a specific traveller family to use the site and it was always on a temporary basis and for a given period but never permanent.

It was **Resolved** that the Clerk would write with Council's opinion.

It is hoped that District Councillors Grint and Williamson will support Council's stance on this.

7.5 Fort Halstead

Discussion took place on a number of issues all linked with the two meetings held during January, one meeting being the Working Group; the second for Halstead Councillors.

The Chairman suggested that a list be compiled of focal points which need looking into and prioritising.

7.6 Community Led Plan

Awaiting documents from Mr Ford. Clerk will make contact again.

8 AMENITIES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

8.1 Pine tree on island at Parkside

SDC had arranged for a climber to look at the top of the pine tree. It appears the top is dangerous and needs removing. Council has been asked to decide whether to keep the tree without the top or whether to fell the tree.

After discussion it was agreed that the tree should be removed proposed by Cllr. Baldwin, seconded by Cllr. Halliday and carried unanimously. Cllr. Baldwin advised that a parishioner has grown a tree from one of the pine-cone and it is a good height. It was agreed that consent to plant this tree will be requested from SDC.

RESOLVED: that the pine tree at Parkside shall be felled and another tree planted in its place.

8.2. Football pitch

The Clerk had provided Mr Black Chairman of Chipstead Football Club with dates when the pitch is available. There has been no response. Contact will be made again.

8.3 Defibrillator training

The dates proposed for this training are Friday 20 or 27 February, 7.30pm in the Parish Room, Church Road.

Date to be agreed with the tutor.

8.4 Resurfacing Stonehouse Road

A letter had been received from Mr Newland on behalf of residents of Stonehouse Road concerning the resurfacing of the roadway. Council commended Mr Newland on the work he had undertaken setting the wheels in motion towards these works. Council was also impressed that almost all of the residents have pledged funds towards the work. Mr Newland intended to contact Sevenoaks District Council for a grant of £20,000

Cllr. Halliday stated that she had spoken to people in Badgers Mount and she had been advised that Shoreham Parish Council had never made any payments towards the resurfacing or repair work on the unmade up roads in the village.

Mr Newland asked Council to consider making a donation of £1,000 towards the legal costs of the work.

Council had contacted Clive Powell, legal adviser Kent Association of Local Councils for advice.

Mr Powell informed Council that highways matters are not under the remit of Parish Councils therefore there is no specific section within the LG1972 Act which permits expenditure on highways. The only section available is S137 and any funding provided must be commensurate with the number of people who benefit from the expense.

Council would have to undertake a consultation with parishioners throughout the parish to get their opinions.

Mr Powell also advised that making a donation would set a precedent.

Council will consider writing a letter to Sevenoaks District Council in support of the Stonehouse Road residents.

Council will also look over the letter that the residents intend to send to Sevenoaks District Council requesting this funding prior to its dispatch.

It was noted that the London Borough of Bromley had agreed to provide £14,000 for its section of the road.

8.5.1 Yellow lines at cross roads with Knockholt Road, Station Road, Otford Lane and Church Road

Mr Andy Bracey, highways officer at SDC had advised that Sevenoaks District Council had decided not to support the proposal to install further yellow lines in Halstead. He advised that Council will need to make a new approach to Kent Highways for supports. It was noted that Kent Highways had already refused due to lack of funding.

A letter has been sent to Mr Adrian Rowbotham, Chief Officer for Halstead PC and asked if he can look into the matter. Contact will also be made with County Councillor Richard Parry who chaired the JTB meeting that supported the installation of the yellow lines.

8.5.2 Yellow lines already in place: clerical changes provided for information- **noted**

8.6 Council Website

An approach had been made to Council by the organisers of the Village Community website asking if the two websites could amalgamate, as there is no call for two websites in the village. The Parish Council website will be the dominate site. After discussion the Chairman proposed that this should be actioned and the websites merged; carried unanimously.

There will be some money available from the Community website to aid the amalgamation.

9 **INFORMATION – Nil**

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 9 MARCH 2015 ON THE PAVILION, STATION ROAD AT 19.45**

The meeting closed at 22.07