

Minute Ref HPC 03/23
Hothfield Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 7.00pm at The Bluebells Children's Centre.

1. Present

Mr I Lloyd (Chair), Mrs M Merrion, Mr M Pollock, Mr Simon Brock
 Mrs M Norris (Clerk)

2. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Mr G Cox, Mrs P Sutcliffe and Cllr C Bell (Ashford Borough Councillor)

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Significant Interests

No matters were declared.

4. Public Interval

Nine members of the public were in attendance many of whom were there to comment on the planning application PA/2023/0277 Hothfield Service Station. Comments from local residents who were opposed to the application for a number of reasons including the layout, light & noise pollution, proximity of listed properties, safety concerns at exit points, wildlife and the requirement for a food outlet. The chairman and the Parish council listened to all the comments made prior to making a decision (See item 7)

A resident from West Street brought to the attention of the PC that a drain was collapsing outside of their property causing a large pot hole. Not only was the pot hole considered to be dangerous to road users, particularly in poor lighting, but was also causing water to pool outside their property. Also work vans believed to be from Tarmac who driving along the road early in the morning appeared to be driving across the drain cover at speed which meant that the noise was unbearable for the residents. The residents confirmed that the drain/pot hole had been reported to the council. The Chairman agreed that the PC would write to Tarmac about the alleged speeding vehicles and the clerk would also report the pot hole to Kent Highways. **Action Clerk**

A resident of Coach Drive raised concerns about the parking in Coach Drive. Vehicles were being parked in such a way that it was making visibility difficult for road users when they wanted to exit from Beech Drive.

The Chairman advised that parking surveys that had been conducted within the village when parking had been raised previously had meant that ABC had conducted a survey which found there was sufficient parking in the village, however, the increase in the number of cars per household and residents wanting to park directly outside their homes, combined with inconsiderate parking, does cause problems for other road users. The Chairman agreed that the PC would write to ABC to bring the matter again to their attention. The clerk would also raise this with the PCSO. It was also suggested that the matter be raised at the local police roadshow that takes place on the village green every few months. **Action Clerk**

The Chairman then closed the public interval. Reminding resident that they were very welcome to stay for the duration of the meeting but would no longer be able to comment.

5. **Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the March meeting were agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Brock

Seconded: Cllr Merrion.

6. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted Ian Rickards at Kent Wildlife Trust re the possibility of publishing a map in the newsletter to show pathways through the common however it was decided that this was not the best way to make the route known and it would be better if residents could follow a path that they were walking and could see with posts etc. rather than a route on a map.

Cllr Bell had resolved the issue of the waste bin on the green and can confirm the keys are held by the refuse collecting crew.

7. **Planning**

PA/2023/0260 Hall Farm, Annexe at Little Chart Road TN26 1EX

Erection of a single storey front/side extension and part garage conversion.

Parish Council Decision – Approve

PA/2023/0190 Outer Gate Lodge, Park Drive, Hothfield TN26 1DR

Proposed detached two storey outbuilding to replace existing garage,

Parish Council Decision – Approve

PA2023/0277 Hothfield Service Station, Maidstone Road, Hothfield, TN26 1AP

Single-storey side extension

The parish council considered the view of local residents and comments were submitted to the planning department.

Parish Council Decision – Object. Reasons included the lay out, access onto Ram Lane and the A20, light and noise pollution, proximity of listed properties, requirement for a food outlet, safety concerns at exit points and wildlife.

Relocation of Bus Stop along the A20

The chairman updated members of the PC that he had, along with the clerk and members of Westwell PC, met with Kent Highways to discuss a proposal that the bus stop along the A20 be relocated further up the road (from opposite Chapel Road towards the fish & chip shop) for safety reasons. These discussions were very much in their infancy and no decisions had been made by either parish councils or Kent Highways. The Chairman will update further when Kent Highways discuss further.

8. **Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Bell was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior work commitment. No report was submitted.

9. Financial report

9.1 **Bank Reconciliation as at last Bank Statement** (As of 13 February 2023)

£1037.63 Business Account
 £100.00 Current Account
 £59,587.67 Business Reserve Account
£60725.30 Total

9.2 **Payments in accordance with the budget**

Payments	£
M Norris (salary)	357.97
K Marden (salary)	304.79
HMRC	76.00
	£762.76
Receipts	£
None received in the period	0.00

Councillors unanimously agreed to pay the above accounts and noted the Direct debit payment to EDF for the electricity supplied to the MUGA taken on the 1st of each month FOR £24.00

9.3 **Any Other Financial Matters** – Nothing to report

10 Solar Proposals

Nothing to report. The clerk confirmed that we are waiting on the site survey to be conducted by KCC regarding speed restrictions and the highways design scheme throughout the village.

11 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Saturday 13th May at 10.30am. The clerk confirmed that she had invited some guest speakers to attend.

12. Coronation Preparations

Hothfield Parish Council will hold a Coronation event on the 8th May at Hothfield Village Hall. The event will be similar to the event held for the late Queens Platinum Jubilee. The clerk proposed that that we issue children with medals to commemorate the event. The PC agreed to this and the clerk will arrange for us to purchase 150. Activities for the event will include a bouncy castle, and prizes for best dressed king/queen. The clerk will arrange prizes. The clerk will produce a poster to advertise the event and tickets should be purchased in advance. It was agreed that tickets will not be made available on the day as this interferes with the catering arrangements. Cllr Brock will ask the post office if they would be happy to sell tickets for the event. Tickets will be £2.00 per person.

13. Parish Elections

The clerk had issued the election paperwork to all councillors prior to the meeting via email. Councillors were now required to print out the forms complete them and return them to the Retuning Office at the Civic Centre by hand by the closing date the 4th April 2023. The clerk asked members to confirm to her once they had submitted their paperwork. Hothfield PC have 9 seats available for election. Due to the election timescale of the results, the earliest the May meeting can take place is the 17th May 2023. Parish Councillors noted this change of date.

Action All Members

14. General Council Business

14.1 Correspondence: All correspondence was circulated to members as received via email.

14.2 Hothfield Village Hall. The chairman of the village hall advised the PC that a new bookings clerk had been recruited. Also, another issue with the doors had been identified and was communicated to the PC. A member of the PC will attend the hall to take a look.

14.3 Items brought to the attention of the PC by the PCSO / KCC Warden- Nothing to report.

14.4 MUGA – Nothing to report.

14.5 Hothfield Newsletter. The Chairman was looking for an Editor for the Hothfield News, although he confirmed that he was happy to continue with the printing of the document. Cllr Pollock agreed to ask someone that he knew on behalf of the PC. **Action: Cllr Pollock**

15. Forum for Exchange of Information

Cllr Brock raised concerns about the litter in the village. The clerk advised that Shelia is looking to recruit new members to the team of litter pickers who currently work hard in and around the village and it is hoped that placing an article in the newsletter and possibly talking at the Annual meeting may generate some new members.

Cllr Merrion had received an enquiry from a local resident about the cutting of the bushes in Combe Grove which has now been raised with ABC. Cllr Merrion agreed to update members when a response is received from ABC.

Cllr Merrion also advised that she would not be submitting paperwork to stand for re-election in the May elections due to other family commitments. The chairman and other members of the PC were sad to hear this news.

Cllr Pollock reported that the village hall had been booked for the Hothfield Fruit & Flower show on the 5th August. The PC will fund the hall hire for the event as agreed previously. Cllr Pollock will forward the invoice for payment.

An open air theatre event will be taking place at the vineyard on June 24th & 25th. The event will run for two consecutive evenings showing Mc Hamlear (a combination of Macbeth, Hamlet and King Lear) and on Sunday 20th August, there will be a matinee of Peter Rabbit and in the evening of a Midsummer Night's Dream. Tickets will be available from the production company directly. Parking will be on the field. Tickets will be on sale in April and further details will be publicised in the newsletter.

The clerk agreed to write to the Esso garage following a report from a resident regarding their light which is on and shining into nearby homes throughout the night. **Action: Clerk**

16. Items for next Agenda

The chairman requested that any items for the agenda be sent to the clerk in good time.

17. Date of next meetings

The next meeting of HPC is arranged for 12th April 2023

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Chairman's Signature.....