

HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of A Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council.
Held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 by Zoom Pro

1. Present

Mr I Lloyd (Chair), Mrs M Merrion (Vice Chair), Mrs P Sutcliffe, Mr R Vernon, Mr P Theedom, Mr G Cox, Mrs M Norris (Clerk)

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bell had sent apologies due to attendance at another council meeting. Cllr Cook was unable to attend due to personal reasons.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Public Interval

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meetings of Hothfield Parish Council held on February 3rd 2021 were approved and confirmed as true records.

Nominated – Cllr Merrion, Seconded Cllr Theedom

6. Matters Arising

Cllr Cox reported that KCC have responded to his email regarding a permissive path alongside the church yard of Hothfield Church and suggested that the landowners have an agreement with Hothfield Parish Council rather than the County Council.

7. Planning

No applications for planning had been submitted.

8. Borough Councillors Report

No report was submitted.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Expenditure The following payments were agreed in accordance with the budget:

Payments	£
EDF Energy	£9.00
Salaries	434.35
Total	443.35
Receipts	£0.00

9.2 Bank Reconciliation as of 13 February 2021, £47,852.99 (including £1,544.33 of uncleared cheques)

In agreement with the recipient, The Clerk will look to cancel cheque number 00621 and issue a replacement.

10. Parish Council Meetings – The Way Forward

Current legislation that allows the parish council to hold remote meetings is due to expire in May. Councillors discussed how and where the PC could hold future meetings. Cllr Theedom agreed to speak to the village hall committee about the possibility of using the hall as this would provide a much larger space to allow safe social distancing.

Action : Cllr Theedom

11. General Council Business

11.1 Correspondence

Hothfield Historical Society email dated 09/02/21 – The Clerk will write to the Historical society and explain that a decision surrounding the solar funding money had not yet been reached and highlight the possibility of using our website as a platform for them or enquiring with our host provider for a cost comparison should they wish to proceed independently of the PC.

Action: Clerk

11.2 PCSO Report Issued to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

11.3 GDPR No issues had been raised.

11.4 Parish Council Website Nothing to report.

11.5 Muga. Reports of cars driving on the village green had been received. Community Support Policing have been made aware of the issues.

Previously the PC had discussed the prospect of fencing around the green and the clerk agreed to make further approaches to building companies to provide a quote for the works

Action: Clerk

11.6 Village Hall. Response to the recent survey of future services at the village hall had received a low number of returns. The PC and the village hall committee will organise a meeting together to discuss the ideas that had been put forward. Cllr's suggested the possibility of a village hall social event after lockdown measures are lifted. It was agreed this should be discussed as an agenda item at the April meeting.

Cllr Theedom advised that there was nothing to report on the village hall accounts.

11.7 Hothfield Newsletter – Following an ongoing advertisement, The Chairman reported that an application from Lyne Mattheson and Helen Mattheson who have previous publishing experience had been received. The PC was grateful for the interest and agreed to a 3 month transition from May. A discussion as to whether there could be a conflict of interest given the applicants commercial interests within the parish was held however the meeting was assured that prior to publishing, the newsletter is always checked by the PC and the Chairman would be consulted if appropriate before printing. The PC will also seek an agreement with the new editor that anything to do with their business that features within the Newsletter is referred to the PC in the first instance. Currently anyone wishing to advertise should still contact Hedley whilst the transition period is ongoing. The adverts should be reviewed at point of handover as adverts from outside of the village should be paid for.

11.8 Secretary's Report

- Parish Council Elections – Cllr confirmed that elections were held every 4 years. The last election was held in 2019.
- AGM- How and when the AGM will be held was discussed. The clerk will seek clarification concerning the AGM being held remotely.
- Locksmith – It was agreed that the clerk could get the noticeboard repaired and invoice the parish council.
- Training Opportunities – The clerk highlighted that a training course for councillors covering planning was being held remotely via the KALC and councillors could book the course directly. The Secretary also requested funding for the SLCC training webinar £12.00. Councillors agreed to fund the training.

12. Items for the Next Agenda - Village Hall Social Event

13. Forum for exchange of Information

The Chairman reported that a resident has raised concerns that number of anti-establishment stickers have been fly posted around the village on noticeboards letterboxes etc. This is vandalism and the chairman agreed to highlight this in the newsletter.

Action Chairman

Cllr Merrion reported that online banking is now available to the PC. although this will only be used as a method of payments when there are no other alternatives. All payments made online will be minuted

Kent Highways are yet to reply Cllr Sutcliffe to arrange a virtual meeting to discuss the speeding problems within the village following the Highways Improvement Plan that was completed by the PC. (*Secretary's Note- Prior to distributing the minutes of the meeting, Councillors have now met with a representative from Kent Highways and will update at the next meeting*)

Cllr Sutcliffe has spoken with Mr Howard and the garden competition will go ahead this year.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 7th April 2021

The being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:20hours.
