HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

www.hothfield.org.uk

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday October 8th 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chairman Ian Lloyd, Cllrs Penny Sutcliffe; Martyn Pollock, Georgie Fletcher, Graham Cox

In attendance: Clerk: Marie Norris

The Chairman opened meeting at 7.00 pm

26/10/1 Apologies for Absence
Cllrs; Gary Bowker, Rod Williams, Simon Jepheart & Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford Borough Councillor)

Approval of Absence
Councillors approved known absences
Declarations of Interest
The Chairman called for Declarations of Interest:-
a) No declarations of changes to the Register of Interests.
b) No Requests for Dispensation.
c) No Declarations of Lobbying

26/10/2. PUBLIC INTERVAL
There were no members of the public in attendance, therefore no matters were raised with the Parish Council.

26/10/3. KENT POLICE

PC Hobday, the local Beat Officer for Hothfield, attended the meeting and provided an update on local policing matters.
He explained that the Police work closely with the community and utilise My Community Voice to communicate with residents and identify local concerns. The current issues affecting Hothfield include catapults, road safety, nuisance motorbikes, speeding, and uninsured and untaxed vehicles. The Community Policing Team reviews these concerns, prioritises them and takes appropriate action to address the issues identified.
PC Hobday reported that, during the previous week, unmarked police officers had been operating in Pluckley and Hothfield, targeting nuisance motorbikes. As a result of this operation, an electric bike had been seized, an individual was being charged with driving whilst disqualified, and a number of other offences had been identified, including vehicles being used without road tax.
Further information and updates can be found via My Community Voice.
It was also confirmed by the Police to the Parish Council that riding electric bikes on the MUGA is illegal.

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26/10/4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in September 2026 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

26/10/5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS
Cllr Bell had sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting. A report was not provided.

26/10/6. PROGRESS AND UPDATE OF RESOLUTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING
The Clerk updated councillors on the following:

The clerk along with the Electricity supplier were unable to access the electric meter following a recent visit to the site. The clerk will reschedule the appointment with EDF and will provide them with Cllr Fletchers details for access purposes.

Muga lighting – The clerk has confirmed that she has replied to Ken Bonner asking him to go ahead with the installation of the floodlight replacement bulbs and, where possible, to advise the PC of the date in advance of the works.

26/10/7. PLANNING
There were no items of planning for consideration.

26/10/8. FINANCE
The Council considered the financial position for October 2026, including the accounts and receipts.

Bank Reconciliation

Balance at Bank 7 October 2026	
Natwest Liquid Gold	40,592.00
Business Reserve	1,083.60
Business Reserve	28,209.23
PC Current Youth Acc	1369.86
Total	

The pc agreed that the £7,750 precept recently paid should be transferred into the Liquid Gold account. **Action: Clerk**

b) Receipts Received

ABC Precept £7,750.00

Interest Payments Natwest Interest - £72.37

£0.83

£16.56

Total - £89.76

c) Payments Schedule

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Payee	Description	£
K Marden	Salary	417.85
M Norris	Salary	559.34
Publicstar	Newsletter Printing Inv 2715	175.56
M Norris	Backdated Pay Award (6 mths)	107.37
Village Hall	Contribution for Boiler Replacement	1470.00
	Total	**2170.78**

Direct debits to note include £ 47.00 Information Commissioner – Data Protection
£65.65 Edf Energy
Resolution The financial information presented was noted and the relevant payments were authorised.

26/10/9. EMERGENCY PLANNING

There was some discussion around emergency planning in the village, at present the Village Hall is designated as a communal area with Ashford Borough Council. The clerk would look into this further with KCC and ABC. **Action: Clerk**

26/10/10. LOCAL PLAN

Green Space Designation - Cllr Cox confirmed that KCC had not responded to an enquiry about the ownership and whether they would support the PC seeking Village Green status. As no response was given, the PC have decided to go ahead with the slightly less protection of Green Space Designation for the village Green via ABC.
Cllr Cox requested permissions from the PC to take this matter forward and prepare a submission for ABC under the local plan for the green space designation application for the village green. Although this will not give the same level of protection as the green being given Village Green Status, the Green space designation would offer some protections going forward. Ownership will remain the same split between KCC and ABC and we do not expect any other changes other than the level of protections that this type of designation would create.

26/10/11. YOUTH PROJECT

Following a meeting with Uprising, the community Youth group who meet regularly on the village Green, the PC have requested that they send us costings which the PC could consider to support with funding to enable Uprising to rent the village hall for the youth meetings during the winter months. **Action : Clerk to chase**

26/10/12 CORRESPONDENCE

All items of correspondence received by the clerk had been forwarded to the PC by email. Cllrs noted the concerns of Ms Hildens email regarding safety concerns and the PC reply.

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26/10/13 MUGA

No new items to report. The clerk confirmed that an email has been sent to Streetlighting requesting that they proceed with installation of the lights at the MUGA.

26/10/14 HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Sutcliffe attended the meeting on the 14th September and reported the following:

- The village hall committee had passed on their thanks for the solar grant money paid to them to assist with the purchase of the new boiler in the hall.
- Cllr Williams did not attend the meeting therefore there was no further progress on the village hall lease.
- It was hoped that following some assistance with the IT, the village hall website will be updated to reflect the correct hire rates shortly.

26/10/15. CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Cllr Fletcher reported that she had spoken with Goldwyn School at what was previously the Bluebells Centre and they would be happy to allow access to the Christmas tree for a joint carol service. It was agreed that the event would take place on Thursday 10th December at 6.00pm. The PC will meet at 5.30pm for any planning applications or finance for agreement. Cllr Fletcher will discuss arrangements further with the school. Cllr Pollock agreed to design a poster to advertise the Carol Concert for the website, Facebook page, newsletter etc Cllr Pollock will supply a speaker and music for the event. **Action: Cllr(s)Fletcher & Pollock.**

26/10/16. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- **Fete & Craft Fayre** – Cllr Fletcher raised the possibility of arranging a craft fayre for 2027. The PC were supportive and Cllr Fletcher will investigate further with the village hall. **Action Cllr Fletcher**
- Cllr Cox advised that as admin of the Hothfield Village Facebook page, posts for business advertising are not approved, albeit Cllr Cox will advise the author that business advertising can be included in the Hothfield newsletter.
- Cllr Pollock confirmed that the defibrillator is up and running but is yet to be registered on "the circuit". Cllr Pollock will follow this up. Along with the written agreement on behalf of the parish council. **Action: Cllr Pollock**
- The clerk advised that she does not have the facility to print in colour therefore any posters etc advertising events for the village e.g. Christmas Carols, Craft Fayre etc would need to be printed via the individual or through Cllr Lloyd.
- Cllr Lloyd is no longer able to print large copies of the newsletter.

26/10/17. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA / DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 12th November 2026.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

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