

Minute Ref HPC 2/24
Hothfield Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.00pm at The Bluebells Children's Centre.

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1. NOTE OF PERSONS PRESENT

Cllr Lloyd, (Chairman), Cllr Sutcliffe, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Brock, Cllr Bowker, Cllr Pollock, Cllr Cox
 Borough Cllr Clair Bell, Mrs Marie Norris (Clerk)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Lloyd declared an interest in the Ram Lane pre planning discussion as he is a near neighbour.

Declaration of Significant Interest

There were no Declaration of Significant Interest recorded this period.

i) To note the granting of any Requests for Dispensation and the decision

No requests received.

ii) Updating of Declarations of Interest for the Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest. Councillors were reminded that they should update their Declaration of Interest with the Monitoring Officer if necessary.

4. PUBLIC INTERVAL

There were 6 members of the public in attendance. Some questions were raised about the licensing application for the Vineyard. The chairman advised that this was not on the agenda for discussion as the licensing was not a PC matter and was decided by the Licensing Office at Ashford Borough Council however Cllr Pollock tried to answer those questions as best as he could to try to alleviate any residents' concerns.

A resident also in attendance advised HPC that she had responded to the Local plan – Call for sites and had put forward her land for consideration under the scheme.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Cox had been omitted from February minutes. This was amended to reflect his attendance and the minutes of the February meeting were accepted.

The chairman reminded all members that changes to the draft minutes should be brought to the attention of the clerk as soon as practical.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters for report not covered on the agenda.

7. ITEMS FOR PLANNING

Case Reference:	PA/2024/0162
Location:	3 Rippers Cross Cottage, Bethersden Road, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent TN26 1AP
Proposal:	Conversion of existing loft to habitable room. The raising of a section of flat roof and insertion of velux windows in existing section of pitched roof.
View Files:	Click Here
Comments deadline:	before 14/03/2024

The council voted in support of the application

Action: Clerk

Case Reference:	PA/2023/0277
Location:	Hothfield Service Station, Maidstone Road, Hothfield, TN26 1AP
Proposal:	Single-storey side extension to accommodate 'food to go' (Sui Generis)
Reasons:	Amended Plan - Amended plans received in light of a revised scheme
Comments deadline:	before 15/03/2024
View Files:	Click Here

The PC voted to object to the application as the objections that had been raised previously when considering application PA/2023/0277 were still very much valid and our objections which detailed areas including the layout of the site, the access onto Ram Lane and the A20 and light and noise pollution in the area and other concerns were not addressed in this application. Also the fact that the application did not include any details of types of food to be provided or indeed hours that the food would be available remained of concern to our residents.

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Bell reported that Ashford Borough Council's Local plan, Call for Sites, will be published on the 18th April. Residents should be aware that this is only stage 1 and no assessments or decisions have been made at this stage.

The new Waste Contract will commence on 24th March. Ashford Borough Council website has put a page on their website which will show what day of the week your collection will take place dependant on your postcode. Residential Waste & Recycling dates will change and it may mean that some residents in the borough will have 2 weeks of the same collection. A letter to residents providing further details on this has been issued and should be arriving with households in the next few days.

Planning Alerts, a subscription service which provides a weekly email, has now been provided by ABC and has gone live today. Anyone wishing to, could now sign up for the service.

Ashford Picturehouse Cinema. The Borough Council have proposed that ABC take this over. A decision will be made shortly.

Sackville Close. It was agreed that the Clerk, Cllr Bell and the ABC would liaise further on this matter. It was clear that the issue had not taken into account the views of all the local residents that would be affected by any proposed changes and it was agreed that they would be sought by ABC to establish the full requirement before undertaking any work in Sackville Close.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Bank Reconciliation

As of 13th February 2024 statement, there was a total of £66954.68 This was split between £65,803.87 in the Business Reserve Account, £100.00 in the Current Account and £1050.81 in the Reserve Account

b) Accounts for Payments March payments totalled £1041.43 this is made up off the following:

Salary 388.48
 Salary £334.06
 HMRC £83.60
 Flossy Bakes £92.00
 PublicStar £190.29
 PublicStar £45.00

11. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence received by the clerk for the PC is passed via email to the PC upon receipt. Parish councillors did not bring any items of correspondence to the meeting.

12. MUGA

Cllr Sutcliffe and Cllr Brock brought a draft copy of the proposed new Muga sign for consideration by the PC. The wording was agreed and it was decided that the sign should be printed in A1 size. Cllr Pollard agreed to look into this.

Action: Cllr Pollard

13. HOTHFIELD NEWSLETTER

The chairman confirmed that the last edition of the newsletter had been printed externally. This proved to be a cheaper option than printing in house. An account has been set up by the chairman so future invoices can be sent to the PC direct for payment. This company is called Print Junction. It was agreed that the newsletter will continue to be published monthly. Cllr Fletcher suggested that we include a Childrens page within the newsletter this was agreed and Cllr Lloyd, in his role as Editor, would look to do include this idea.

14. REPORT FROM ANY EXTERNAL MEETINGS

KALC – Cllr Cox had attended the meeting which had included a special item on Coronation orchards. As part of the coronation of King Charles, there has been money, via ABC, for parish councils to spend on community orchards (9 trees min). The orchard needs to be in a public accessible place and trees have to be planted and looked after by the parish. The deadline for applications is April 2025. The PC suggested that we look into this further and an action was placed to raise at the next village hall meeting. Cllr Cox suggested that the clerk also contact Kennington Community Parish Clerk as an orchard there has proven successful.

Action: Cllr Sutcliffe/Clerk

The minutes of the KALC meeting have been issued to all PC. The Chairman asked Cllr Cox at the next meeting to enquire as to when the vehicle recognition cameras will be introduced between South Stour Avenue and Beaver Road.

Action Cllr Cox

b) Village Hall – Cllr Sutcliffe was unable to attend the last village hall meeting and had sent her apologies.

15. SOLAR FUNDING PROJECTS

Cllr Sutcliffe reported that the quote for the works identified from the speed survey had been received from Kent Highways for £14,176.78. This is double the previous estimate. The clerk agreed to reissue the original report so that councillors could consider the quote further to next month's meeting.

Action: Clerk

The clerk confirmed that she had not received any feedback from the gardener re the triangle of land in Hothfield. The clerk will contact him again and report back.

Action Clerk

CCTV - Cllr Cox reported that he had met with the Parish Clerk at Charing to discuss their recent experience of installation of CCTV. Charing have 9 cameras in operation. Charing also have a 360 degree camera which rotates. The cameras feed into the monitoring office at Ashford. The clerk at Charing will send further detailed information. Cllr Cox will look further into the issue of CCTV for Hothfield PC and report back.

Sackville Close - As discussed at item 8 the clerk will liaise with Cllr Bell and ABC as to how best to seek residents' views.

16. HOTHFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY

Chris Rogers, the Chairman of the History Society attended the meeting to discuss the email he sent to the PC requesting financial support for the History Society (via the solar funding money) as the History Society need to update the online storage capacity of the archive for the public website at a cost of around £3000. Without updating, the public would no longer be able to access the archive. The PC asked questions regarding the site and no decision was made at this point by the PC.

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

The PC did not formalise a date this will be raised again at the April Meeting.

18. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION BETWEEN COUNCILLORS

- Hoades Wood Rescue Meeting – Cllr Lloyd to attend on behalf of HPC

19. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Confirmation of APM date
- Decision on solar funding for the History Society

20. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20pm. The next parish meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10th April 2024. Cllr Lloyd & Cllr Bowker passed on their apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting of the 8th due to work commitments.

Chairmans Signature:

Date: