

Minutes Ref HPC 07/24
Hothfield Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Thursday 11th July 2024 at 7.00pm at Hothfield Village Hall.

DRAFT COPY

1. NOTE OF PERSONS PRESENT

Cllrs Lloyd, Fletcher, Sutcliffe, Cox, Bowker
 Cllr C Bell (Ashford Borough Councillor), Mrs M Norris (Clerk)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from: Cllr Pollock, Cllr Jepheart, Cllr Brock

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

Declaration of Significant Interest

None declared.

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. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were amended to include the following.

- Include Cllr Brock in list of persons present.

The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record by the chairman.

5. PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were in attendance.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Clare Bell reported the following:

- Waste_- the issues surrounding waste collections with Suez the new contractor appear to have been rectified. No further reports of missed collections in Hothfield have been received by Cllr Bell.
- Local Plan_- A number of in-person events are being arranged. More details will be issued shortly.
- Civic Centre_- No dates have been finalised for Ashford Borough Council's move from Civic Centre to International House.

The PC asked for an update on the following:

- Parking issues at Sackville Close. Cllr Bell has spoken with the housing officer concerning the issues but a solution has not yet been reached and, at present, the situation remains that residents should not be parking or driving on the grass verge. A further conversation is

needed between Cllr Bell and the housing officer and Cllr Bell will update the PC when this has happened.

- Aspire concerning the fence around the village Green
- Planning application for the proposed bungalows.
- Future plans for Hothfield Children's Centre

Cllr Bell updated the PC on those items that she could and would report back on any matters that required further investigation.

Cllr Fletcher reported that an ABC housing officer will be visiting Hothfield shortly. Cllr Bell expressed an interest in attending the visit although the date has yet to be finalised. **Action Cllr Bell to notify Cllr Fletcher when a date has been finalised. Cllr Fletcher will let Cllr Cox know the name of the officer attending.**

7. ITEMS FOR PLANNING

Case Ref: PA/2024/1111
 Location: Duck Barn, Water Fall Road, Hothfield, TN26 1AB

Proposal: Change of use from paddock to residential garden (retrospective)
 Comment Deadline 30/07/2024

Resolution - HPC considered the application and made no comment.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance at Bank As of 13 June 2024:

£100.00	Current Account
£1055.87	Direct Reserve Account
£68,505.48	Business Reserve Account
£69,661.35	Total

Receipts

£85.67	NatWest Interest
£1.30	NatWest Interest
<u>£1.38</u>	Interest
£88.35	Total

Authorisation of payments against Budget

Payee	Item	Amount
KCC	Speed Survey	£15,116.97
K Marden/M Norris	Salaries	£861.38
HMRC	Tax	£91.60
L Robbins	Audit Fee	£105.00
St Margarets Church	Churchyard Maintenance	£650.00
The Pilgrims Hospice	Litter pickers	£300.00
M Norris	Stamps	£10.80
EDF	Muga Electricity	£18.00
	TOTAL	£17,153.75

9. CCTV Survey Update

Cllr Cox reported that Electranet will provide a site visit to Hothfield on Wednesday 17th July to consider possible locations for CCTV installation and to provide advice and costings of a system that would best suit our requirement. Cllr Cox will update further when an appointment time is confirmed so that other councillors can attend.

Action: Cllr Cox

10. Speed Restriction Update

An invoice for payment had now been received and full payment was approved by the Council. We now await a start date for the works.

The clerk suggested that this was now a good time to review our current Highways Improvement Plan to consider if there are any new actions that we wish to be included on the plan.

Action: Clerk to send HIP Plan to All Councillors

11. Muga

No report given by Cllr Fletcher, however the weeding around the muga is still required. The PC agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting where Mr Marden will be invited to attend.

Action: Clerk to raise on September agenda.

12. Ashford Plan 2041

Following ABC's recent call for sites, 4 areas in Hothfield were proposed these include

- The Nursery, The Street Hothfield
- Ashford Woodturners Bethersden Road
- Land to the east of Coach Drive
- Land on the A20 (Upper Weald & Downs West)

Cllr Bell confirmed that case officers would welcome feedback from the PC on their suitability. The deadline is Monday 16th September. Action Chairman to arrange a meeting with Westwell PC Chairman

13. Joint Parish Planning Group

A meeting will be arranged between Westwell and Hothfield PC to discuss their views and if possible, agree a joint approach. Action Chairman to arrange a meeting with Westwell PC Chairman

14. Coronation Orchard

Cllr Cox reported that having now identified 4 potential sites for the fruit trees. A representative from Aspire came to inspect the sites and was happy to approve any of the 4 sites that we had proposed. In addition, Aspire were also happy to approve the grounds of the village hall as a potential location.

The PC had also considered the area along the village green for planting. This, however, was not approved as it was felt that it may attract children near to the roadside. In addition, the trees may grow outward and inhibit the traffic, therefore this position was not put forward as a potential site.

Cllr Cox confirmed he was in contact with the Ashford volunteer bureau who had offered advice to how the Parish Council could create a volunteer group for planting and management of the trees should we move forward with the scheme. It was suggested that the volunteer bureau be invited to the September meeting to discuss ideas in more detail. Cllr Cox will now contact KCC to seek approval to use the land in front of the old school to plant 3 to 4 fruit trees amongst the existing trees.

The Clerk also raised the question that if we are asking KCC for permission to plant trees, could we also consider this as a spot for a Christmas tree as Hothfield have lost access to their tree as it is

within the confines of the Children's Centre. **Action: Cllr Cox to contact the Ashford volunteer bureau to invite to the September meeting.**

15. Hothfield Newsletter

Cllr Lloyd reported that a distributor of the Hothfield Newsletter is required for Coach Drive. Cllr Lloyd will publicise this in the newsletter and it is hoped a resident will volunteer. In the meantime, copies of the newsletter will be made available at the Post Office. **Action: Cllr Lloyd**

16. Correspondence Received

The parish council considered the request from a local school to advertise their school. It was felt that the parish council should not look to do this as it could appear to be favouring one local school over another. **Action Clerk to contact the school.**

17. Hothfield Village Hall

Cllr Sutcliffe attended the last meeting. The following items were noted:

- Bookings for the hall are increasing.
- The committee have requested financial assistance with a door repair. Cllr Sutcliffe advised the village hall committee that they would need to get a quote for the work and submit this to the parish council for them to consider further.

18. KALC Report

Cllr Cox was unable to attend the last meeting, therefore no report was presented to the PC.

19. Forum for Information

- It was suggested that Cllr Pollock, although not at the meeting, may wish to invite the Godinton gardeners to judge the craft show on the 11th August 2024.
- A quote for clearing the Hothfield Triangle had been received by the clerk. Councillors will visit the site following the meeting to finalise the works requirement.

20. Items for next agenda

Cycle Routes
Litter Picking within the village
Joint Parish Planning Group

There being no other matters the Chairman thanked attendees and called the meeting to close at 8:20pm

Chairmans Signature:

Date: