

**HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2014 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE STREET, HIGH HALSTOW AT 8.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Gary Thomas                      In the chair  
 Cllr Martin Andrews  
 Cllr Stuart Bailey  
 Cllr Ray Collins  
 Cllr Gary Jerreat  
 Cllr Mrs Lesley Munday  
 Cllr Mrs Christine Watson

Mrs Roxana Brammer                      Clerk

7 members of the public

**Item no** *Action point*  
*Minute no 2013/14/*

**1            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

339            An apology for absence was received from

Cllr George Crozer                      Away from home

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Munday seconded by Cllr Thomas and agreed this apology be accepted.

**2            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

340            Cllrs Thomas and Mrs Munday declared personal interests in 11a, Recreation Hall as members of the Management Committee.

**3            MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2013**

341            It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Munday, seconded by Cllr Andrews and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2013 be signed as a true record.

**4            MATTERS ARISING**

342            No matters were raised.

**5            CASUAL VACANCY**

343            The Clerk reported that Cllr Gordon had resigned, due to his move out of the parish. She had contacted the Electoral Registration Officer and had put up the statutory notices. If a bye election was not called, the vacancy would be advertised for co-option.

**6            PLANNING****a            Applications**

344            i            **MC/13/2970:** 6 Christmas Lane: Construction of a chimney to side elevation

Cllr Bailey said he had only just received the plans and he had not had time to investigate, but he could not envisage a problem. It was agreed the Clerk be delegated to make a response, with the advice of Cllr Bailey. RB

- 345 ii **MC/13/1671:** Deangate Cottage, Dux Court Road: Retrospective application for change of use of land to rear from agricultural to a junior off road track (Sui Generis use class) with portable office/wc building and associated works

The Chairman said that the site lay within Hoo St Werburgh parish and that High Halstow Parish Council had only become aware of the application in the last few days. The Parish Council would base its response on planning issues. He then suspended the meeting to enable members of the public to speak.

Members of the public recounted the planning history of the site as they understood it and their experiences of its operation. Major concerns were of noise and air pollution. It was stated by one resident, an environmental manager by profession, that the noise assessment survey was flawed

The Chairman thanked the members of the public and reconvened the meeting.

Cllr Bailey said that a noise assessment survey had had to be carried out as part of the original planning consent. This stated that while motorbikes were running the noise level was 45dB, which was not dangerous but irritating. Cllr Andrews described how bikes were tested at Brand's Hatch circuit before being allowed onto the track. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Mrs Munday and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council object as follows:

High Halstow Parish Council objects to this application.

The site lies within Hoo St Werburgh parish, but affects residents of High Halstow. High Halstow residents complained last summer about the noise from the site under the operations given one year's temporary permission. They stated the use of the site continued until September 2013, several months after the expiry of the temporary permission and that they could hear it in use until 10pm and occasionally later.

High Halstow Parish Council is objecting on grounds of noise and air pollution. The noise already experienced was a nuisance to residents and affected their enjoyment of their gardens due to the noise of the bikes and of the public address system, which could be clearly heard. Apart from the air pollution from the bikes' engines, the air was also polluted by the dust from the track. The Parish Council is opposed to any continuation of these losses of amenity to its residents.

The Parish Council has also been informed by a resident who is an environmental manager by profession that in his opinion the noise level survey submitted by the applicant is flawed.

Should the Local Planning Authority be minded to give consent, the Parish Council would like to see stringent conditions imposed for the control and monitoring of the activity in terms of noise, air pollution and hours of use.

- 346 c **Decisions**

The decision as listed on Appendix A was received.

347 **d Appeals and Other Matters**

None.

348 **e Licensing Applications**

None.

**7 FINANCE**

349 **a Bank Balances**

The bank balances as listed in Appendix B were noted.

350 **b Payments made since the Last Meeting**

The payments made since the last meeting as listed on appendix B were ratified.

351 **c Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Munday, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watson and agreed that the accounts for payment as listed in Appendix B be paid (cheques 100620-100623), with the addition of £101, Society of Local Council Clerks (cheque 100624).

352 **d Budget 2014/15**

Cllr Thomas explained that the Finance Committee had not been able to meet. Before he could draft a budget, he needed to know what the Council Tax reduction scheme grant would be. When this information was released, he would prepare a budget for adoption at the February meeting.

*GT*

353 **e Precept 2014/15**

For the reasons just given in discussing the budget, setting the precept would also be deferred to the February meeting.

**8 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

354 None.

**9 MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S LAND AND PROPERTY**

**a Recreation Ground**

355 i. General Matters. It was reported that the all-weather path needed attention and Turfsoil would be asked to quote.

*RB*

356 ii. Fence by all-weather path. Cllr Collins said the fence at the other side of the cricket pitch also needed repair. Meopham Fencing would be contacted.

*RB*

357 **b Play Park and Outdoor Gym**

Cllr Thomas said he had looked at the playpark and everything was in order.

358 **d Allotments**

Cllr Mrs Watson said there was still one person on the waiting list.

359 e **Forge Common**

The Clerk reported that due to the wet weather conditions, Turfsoil had not been able to cut the hedge for fear of damaging the land. If there was a hard frost, they would be able to bring in the machinery to cut it.

f **Village Grounds Maintenance**

360 i. General Matters. Nothing to report.

361 ii. Car park. The Clerk reported that replacement of the missing posts was in hand. The builders had not cleared out the blocked drain as requested and another contractor be asked to do it.

*RB*

**10 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

362 a **Public Rights of Way**

Cllr Collins had nothing to report.

363 b **Street Cleaning**

Nothing to report.

364 c **Tree Warden**

Cllr Collins had nothing to report.

365 d **Speed Limits**

Cllr Thomas and the Clerk reported on the alteration to speed limits on the Peninsula. The orders had been published in the newspaper and if all went well it was expected the signs would be up and everything in place by the end of March. Cllr Collins asked that High Halstow Times print a reminder to people to wear light clothing when walking along Dux Court Road.

**11 HALLS**

366 a **Recreation Hall**

Cllr Collins said that all requests for release of the grant funding had been submitted and £17,000 was due from one provider. They were now fund raising for the kitchen and the rest of phase 3 and events were planned. Cllr Mrs Munday added that the Committee had discussed promoting the hall.

367 b **Memorial Hall**

No meeting.

**11 YOUTH**

368 a **Youth Club**

Cllr Mrs Munday said there was a long Christmas break due to the Dramarama production and the Youth Club was not re-opening until 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**b Future Youth Provision**

- 369 i. Skateboard Facility. Cllr Mrs Watson suggested asking the children what they wanted in terms of size. Cllr Thomas said the issue was the siting. After discussion it was agreed the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Watson seek advice from a manufacturer and bring it to the March meeting. *RB*

**12 RURAL LIAISON COMMITTEE****370 a Representative's Report**

Cllr Collins reported on the last meeting. The police had stated there were to be 2 sergeants, 5 constables and 3 PCSOs on the Peninsula. Crime had been identified at Allhallows Holiday Park. A representative of British Telecommunications had given a presentation on broadband and upgrading was expected from the first quarter of 2015. Jane Ringham of Medway Council had spoken about costs to parishes of shared elections and if there was a parish election it would cost £3,156. There had been updates on the Core Strategy and on the Re-cycle Plan to 2017.

**14 KALC/MEDWAY AREA COMMITTEE****371 a Appointment of Representative**

There was a vacancy due to the resignation of Josh Gordon. It was agreed not to appoint and defer to the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

**372 a Representatives' Report**

Cllr Bailey said there had been the usual parish reports. One report concerned a youth who had been causing problems in Upnor. He had now been arrested and was waiting for court proceedings.

**15 POLICE LIAISON****373 a Police Liaison Representative's Report**

Cllr Andrews said a meeting was due. Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Andrews to raise the fact that police surgeries were being held at times when few if any members of the public were around. He also asked that he believed there were lampers in the village and for this fact to be passed on.

**16 COMMUNICATION****374 a Surgery**

Cllr Mrs Watson reported on the surgery held in December. There had been complaints about the dog bins and asked that an article go into High Halstow Times asking residents not to put bags on the ground by the bin if it was full, but to take them home to dispose of. The state of the vacant building site in Eden Road had been raised. Cllr Thomas said he had reported this to Medway Council and would find out what was happening. *GT*

**375 b High Halstow Times**

The next issue would be in February.

376 c **Web Site**

Cllr Thomas said he was getting the website up to date. Cllr Andrews explained about cycling groups and the British Cycling Federation website. He volunteered to set one up for High Halstow to put on the website and would organise it. MA

17 **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

377 a **Project 90**

More volunteers were needed.

378 b **Centenary of First World War**

Deferred to the next meeting, in the absence of Cllr Crozer.

18 **HIGH HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

379 Due to the resignation of Josh Gordon, there was now no liaison councilor. Cllr Mrs Watson said she would approach the school. CW

19 **RELIEF IN NEED**

380 Cllr Mrs Munday had nothing to report.

20 **FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S**

381 Cllr Thomas reported that the Christmas Tree Festival had raised just under £200 and Santa's visit, £884. Activities being considered were another music event, a cake and flower festival, an opera performed in the church and a tour and talk for members.

21 **CONSULTATION**

382 No documents received.

22 **CORRESPONDENCE**

383 None.

23 **REPORTS & CIRCULARS**

384 The reports and circulars as listed on the agenda were received.

24 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

385 a **RSPB**

It was reported that trees were being cut down on Northward Hill.

The Chairman suspended the meeting for the public session.

No matters were raised.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

**25 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

386 It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Mrs Munday and agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds the following item concerned a commercial contract.

**26 GREENSPACES CONTRACT**

387 The submitted tenders were discussed and evaluated. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Collins and carried unanimously that the contract be awarded to Turfsoil Ltd for three years from 1 April 2014. The inclusion or otherwise of the churchyard within the contract would be deferred to the next meeting to allow Cllr Crozer to speak to the Rector and report back.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.04 pm

Signed .....Chairman

On the .....day of .....2013