

HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE STREET, HIGH HALSTOW AT 8.00 pm**

PRESENT: Cllr George Crozer Chairman
 Cllr Martin Andrews
 Cllr Ray Collins
 Cllr Gary Jerreat
 Cllr Bill Khatkar
 Cllr Michael O'Hanlon
 Cllr Mrs Christine Watson
 Cllr Brian Williams

Miss Cat Bloomfield Joint Clerk

In attendance 40 members of the public

Item no *Action point*
 Minute no 2017/18/

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

417 All parish councillors present. An apology for absence due to illness was received from Mrs Roxana Brammer, Clerk.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS

418 None.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2018

419 It was proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Atkinson and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2018 be signed as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING.

420 No matters were raised.

As members of the public were present, it was agreed to vary the order of the agenda.

12 DEANGATE RIDGE GOLF COURSE

421 The Chairman suspended the meeting to enable the members of the public to speak.

Cllr Crozer said that the decision to close Deangate Ridge has been taken by Medway Council. Members of our community and parish council believe that how Medway Council has operated is in fact outside of their own policies and procedures. Cllr Crozer invited Joanne Shorter to speak to the meeting regarding what has happened to date. Ms Shorter explained that she and Cllr Crozer have presented Medway with a petition asking them to reconsider the closure of this facility.

A week ago the cabinet made the announcement that they were going to consider the closure of Deangate Ridge. Ms Shorter and Cllr Crozer believed that this consideration had been made without a viable business case. Medway Council had worked the report from a dictatorship point of view rather than a democratic view. An insight into how they would take forward the Medway Plan. The draft plan ignores the industrial areas, the vacant property and Capstone Park. Ms Shorter stated that a full analysis should be taken of Deangate rather than dictating to the public how they would like to move forward. A number of FOI requests had been submitted by the parish council and members of the public – all of the information that has been asked for should be able to be provided if they had completed the business case in the correct way.

Cllr Crozer said that Deangate is the first nail in the coffin to the rest of the peninsula. The first consultation will be taking place in March in regards to the local plan. A formal conduct investigation has been opened regarding Medway Cllr Barry Kemp after the email that he sent saying that he hoped that the cleansing at Deangate had been completed.

Jeff Westlake – Golf Fraternity from Deangate Ridge – 25% of Deangate revenue comes from golf club members – 75% of the revenue comes from pay and play – this has not been taken in to account by Medway Council – evidence of the poor business case that they have based their decision on. The club members have in a short time responded and pulled together a large number of signatures for the petition. Jeff has also contacted Golf England who may be able to offer legal support.

David Saunders is a member of the RSPB but was not speaking as a representative. He spoke about the routine maintenance that has taken place at Deangate. He was not am not representing the RSPB nationally – Adrian Thomas the RSPB nominated representative had voiced an opinion about Deangate – this is available for review on Facebook.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Andrews that High Halstow Parish Council is wholly against the closure of Deangate Ridge Golf course. The motion was seconded by Cllr Mrs Atkinson and carried unanimously.

Cllr Crozer then made a call for volunteers to go through minutes in relation to Deangate – 1968 – 1972, if there had been any discussion regarding Deangate being solely used for leisure this could stand up in court. The next meeting of Medway Council's cabinet was due to take place on 22nd February and it would be advantageous for people to attend.

5 PLANNING

a Applications

- 422 i **MC/18/0096:** Land adjoining 35 Cooling Road: Outline planning application for the demolition of outbuildings and erection of six 3 and 4 bedroom detached and semi-detached dwellings with associated garages, parking, landscaping and improvements to existing vehicular access with all matters reserved except for access

After discussion, it was agreed to object as follows:

High Halstow Parish Council objects to this application. Members consider there would be over intensification of the site. There are also concerns about the infrastructure.

There are problems with the foul water pumping station; the primary school is oversubscribed; medical services are insufficient; the road is narrow and unsuitable for volumes of traffic - 6 family homes could generate 24 cars or more. There would be loss of amenity to neighbouring properties. The land is outside the village envelope and therefore would be development in the open countryside which is contrary to planning policy. Some years ago permission for development on the site was refused and an appeal was dismissed.

The Parish Council draws attention to the objections from neighbours and a former neighbour and to the fact that none of the letters of support come from residents of High Halstow.

423 **b Decisions**

The decisions as listed on Appendix A were noted.

424 **c Appeals and Other Matters**

None

425 **d Neighbourhood Plan**

CB

Miss Bloomfield had spoken to the clerk to Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council for advice as they have started their neighbourhood plan already. Chris Fribbins also confirmed that more than one parish can join together but other parishes have demonstrated that this can be complicated. Initially Chris thought that a peninsula plan could be good – but working together with other villages trying to safeguard their own areas could prove to be difficult.

Cllr Collins – Not against it – but worried that a government could overturn it after we have completed that amount of work as has happened in other areas of the country.

Cllr Crozer – High Halstow will have to take some proportion of houses – do we want to have a say or not? He was of the opinion that all of the villages should have a neighbourhood plan – but joint objectives.

Cllr Crozer said that a committee should be formed– a committee should be formed to take the local plan forward.

Cllr Mrs Atkinson proposed that the Council go ahead with the neighbourhood plan. This was seconded by Cllr Crozer and the motion was carried unanimously.

A meeting to be arranged to invite volunteers and council reps to attend a meeting regarding - meeting in the next week. It was agreed the PARISH Council representatives be Cllrs Collins, O’Hanlon and Mrs Atkinson. Miss Bloomfield was asked to research how to start and funding. It was agreed to invite Chris Fribbins to the first meeting.

6 FINANCE

425 **a Bank Balances**

The bank balances as listed on Appendix B were noted.

426 **b Payment Made since the Last Meeting**

None.

427 c **Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Watson, seconded by Cllr Khatkar and agreed to approve the payment of £280.08 to HMRC (cheque 101005). In the absence of the Clerk it was agreed to defer all other items to the next meeting.

428 d **Advertisement Rates 2018/19**

Item deferred to next meeting.

429 e **Budget 2018/19**

Adoption of budget deferred to next meeting.

7 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

430 None.

8 **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

431 Miss Bloomfield informed the Council and as an action point –

8 **MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S LAND AND PROPERTY**a **Recreation Ground**432 i **General Matters**

Nothing to report.

433 ii **Cricket Ground Fence**

The fence had come down – three concrete supports and a panel need to be completed – Meopham Fencing could be contracted to complete this week. Cllr Khatkar would give Cllr Collins details of someone who could complete the work. Members were in agreement that Cllr Collins can go ahead with the work in the interim. Cllr Williams agreed to investigate alternative types of fencing. A letter had been received from a resident who was concerned about the training ground as there was a footpath next to it where dogs were walked. Miss Bloomfield to contact the cricket club over the training facility and safety concerns.

CB

b **Playpark.**434 i **General Matters**

Nothing to report.

435 ii **Welding**

The welding had been completed, but there was a rough edge left that was sharp and dangerous. Cllr O'Hanlon would check this and look at what could be done to make it safe until the job could be completed.

436 **c Allotments**

Cllr Mrs Atkinson reported there was one person on the waiting list.

437 **d Forge Common**

Nothing to report

438 **e Village Grounds Maintenance**

Nothing to report.

439 **f Village Signs**

It was reported the "Home of the Heron" signs were nearly ready. Cllr Crozer said that the winning poem from the World War I competition would be mounted on a plaque. Cllr Collins said it could be put up in the Memorial Hall if the Hall Committee had no objection.

440 **g Commemorative Seat**

The VE day commemorative seat in the churchyard was in a state of disrepair and whether to replace it or not was discussed. It was agreed this would be dependent on the cost and Cllr Collins would investigate.

441 **h Public Conveniences**

The offer to buy the toilets was not discussed and was deferred to the next meeting.

9 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

442 **a Public Rights of Way**

Nothing to report.

443 **b Street Cleaning**

Nothing to report

444 **c Tree Warden**

Cllr Collins reported that the commemorative trees had been planted that day The 11 plaques would cost c £195 and it was agreed Cllr Collins proceed with ordering them.

445 **d Bus Shelters**

Nothing to report

446 **e Potholes**

It was reported there were potholes in Christmas Lane, Britannia Road and in Eden Road near the telephone mast. Miss Bloomfield was asked to report them to Highways.

CB

447 **f Parking**

A complaint was made about “illegal” parking. Cllr Andrews referred to a pick up van on the junction of Half Moon Way and said he would be calling the company that owns the van to ask them to park more responsibly.

448 **g Dux Court Road**

A series of complaints had been received about lorries using Dux Court Road and Miss Bloomfield was asked to write to Highways.

CB

10 HALLS449 **a Recreation Hall**

Agreement to replace the hall with LED lights and they are going to repaint the main hall

450 **b Memorial Hall**

Nothing to report.

11 RURAL LIAISON COMMITTEE451 **a Representative’s Report**

Cllr Collins reported on the meeting held on 16th January. There was no presence from the police, who would advise when they are going to attend. A report was given by Medway Youth Service. A presentation was given by a member of the Monitoring Officer’s staff on the new Medway Code of Conduct and it was hoped that all parishes would adopt the same one. Miss Bloomfield was asked to investigate Disclose of Interest forms.

CB

12 POLICE LIAISON452 **a Police Liaison Representative’s Report**

No update was given.

453 **b CCTV**

Ongoing. A suggestion was received from a member of the public that the residents of Cooling Road share the cost.

13 KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL MEDWAY AREA COMMITTEE

454 The next meeting was on 21st February.

14 COMMUNICATION455 **a Councillors’ Surgery**

Nothing to report.

456 **b High Halstow Times**

Cllr Mrs Atkinson reported that she no longer had any support to produce the magazine. She was also concerned that Invoices may not been sent out for the advertisements. Miss Bloomfield was asked to request the invoices and to lead on the invoicing.

CB

457 **c Website**

Cllr Mrs Atkinson reported that there was more traffic coming to the website now via Facebook. An events tab will be added so that the public were aware of what meetings are happening and any events in the village. Miss Bloomfield suggested the Council have its own Facebook page.

15 YOUTH

458 **a Youth Club**

Nothing to report

16 HIGH HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

459 Nothing to report.

17 FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S

460 Nothing to report.

18 RELIEF IN NEED

461 Nothing to report.

19 CONSULTATION

470 No documents received.

20 CORRESPONDENCE

471 None

21 REPORTS & CIRCULARS

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

22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

473 **a Letters from Councillors on Behalf of the Council**

Cllr Crozer stated that letters on behalf of the Council could be signed by a councillor, as long as agreement had been voted by the Council.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman suspended the meeting to enable members of the public to speak.

A request was made for a litter bin to be installed by the bus shelter outside the Recreation Hall. The organizer of the monthly craft fair said he would like to expand in the summer and hold one on the Recreation Ground in Whitsun week. He was asked to write to the Clerk.

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

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

23 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

474 As there were no updates for the following items on the agenda, which would be deferred until the next meeting, this resolution was not necessary.

24 BOUNDARY DISPUTE

475 No update

25 REGISTRATION OF LAND

476 No update.

The Chairman thanked councillors and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 11pm.

Signed Chairman

On theday of 2018