

Hersden Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 7.00 pm. At Hersden Neighbourhood Centre

Present: Councillors E Berceanu, A Brabham, J Brabham, C Warman, R Llewellyn, KCC Councillor Alan Marsh

Caretaker David Hards, HPC's Clerk Lisamarie Foster.

7 x Members of the Public

146/23 Apologies for Absence and reason for absence
CCC Cllr K Moses and CCC Cllr McKenzie attending a planning meeting
Cllr Hatton is unwell.

147/23 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda
None

148/23 To approve the minutes of the following Meeting

14th November 2023
Cllr Warman proposed and Cllr Berceanu seconded and all councillors agreed they were a true record of the meeting, and the Chairman duly signed them.

149/23 Matters arising not agenda items
Quotations were circulated to Councillors on the 23rd November 2023 to discuss and agree a price for the replacement of the Pedestrian gate on the play park. Not all responses were received via email, after discussion, it is agreed to use ESP Play for the replacement gate costing £2170.80. Cllr Berceanu proposed, Cllr A Brabham seconded, all Agreed. Clerk to contact ESP Play and place the order, for supply and installation.

150/23 Bread and Cheese field (including residents from Westbere)
Hersden Parish Council have received emails regarding the Bread and Cheese field, we are aware that a petition has gone out, the residents of Westbere are invited to talk, a resident from Westbere wishes to update us on the petition that has started and getting Canterbury Council to review the boundary and to designate the field as a green space. They did issue a petition approximately 3 weeks ago and the requirement of signatures has been reached. The Westbere resident would like to discuss as parish councils and the community how we can persuade Canterbury City Council to protect that field. Chairman Jack Brabham states we would like to protect the land and we do not want any more development, we have to remember that if it is in the local plan that the land owner has potentially allowed it to be in there. The Chairman suggests we need a public consultation, Westbere and Hersden working together showing all information, the residents can look at the proposals, the 150 homes is new information to us here at Hersden Parish Council. It is a shame our City Councillors are not here in attendance tonight as they have the contacts. Our first step is public involvement. It is agreed that the traffic increase will be considerable, another resident mentions the need for individual comments. The Chairman requests as much information as possible to be passed onto Hersden Parish Council from the Westbere residents.

Cllr A Brabham asks why is it so important that the boundary is changed? A response from a Westbere resident states the Historical importance of the Bread and Cheese field and the charity and how much it means to the residents of Westbere. Cllr Llewellyn states that the Charity will not disappear if it's in another Parish, another resident from Westbere states that we need to focus on the development and not so much the Boundary change, protection of that space is priority, Cllr Warman suggests the possibility that Hersden Parish Council will have more grounds to reject the development due to the amount of development going on at present in the village of Hersden, Westbere do not currently have any development.

Paul Glover (Westbere Parish Council Chairman) wants to clarify that the Westbere residents are here to represent The Westbere preservation Society and not Westbere Parish Council.

Cllr J Brabham (Hersden Parish Council Chairman) states that we are all in agreement that protecting the land is our priority and wherever the boundary goes is second on the list. The petition for boundary change is now down to Canterbury City Council, we will await further information from them.

Signed

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A resident from Westbere mentions that apparently Canterbury City Council have approved more planning than is required. Cllr A Brabham asks Paul Glover if he is in support of the boundary change and he agrees that they would support a change if the opportunity arose. After further discussion it is agreed that we meet informally, Westbere Parish Council, The Westbere Preservation Society and Hersden Parish Council to discuss further plans. KCC Cllr Alan Marsh states having been a Kent County Councillors for almost 20 years, so he tries to draw upon his experiences to find a way forward for all interested parties, he knows the pressure Canterbury City Council is under, He suggests If we want to protect the green space and have some separation between Westbere and Hersden then he suggest we work together and not concentrate on the boundary change.

Cllr J Brabham proposes that we wish to protect the future of the Westbere Bread and Cheese field, to maintain the green space and any future developments come, we will look at and address and work closely with Westbere Parish Council, seconded by Cllr E Berceanu, All agreed.

4 Members of the public leave the meeting, A short break is taken at 7.45pm

The Meeting resumes at 8pm

151/23

Public discussion on items on the agenda

David Hards asks on behalf of a resident, who maintains the public footpaths? He is advised that it is the land owner, if it's a public footpath it would be highways, if it's an access route it would be the landowner. David will find out where the location is and we can find out.

152/23

KCC & CCC Cllrs reports; PCSO & Community Warden reports

CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie and CCC Cllr Keji Moses - Report

- Harry met with representatives from SABORA on Popes Lane to inspect the site where a housing development is proposed, specifically to inspect drainage and proximity to the Sarre Penn, in order to make a more informed decision when the time comes.
- We met with a Fordwich Town Councilor on the Fordwich Water Meadows to inspect the site and discuss policy C24 in the draft local plan which allocates the site for a nutrient mitigation area. We are looking into this proposal, will monitor progress, and will communicate with the Fordwich Town Council and residents to find out what representations they want from us on the matter and keep them informed every step of the way.
- We attended remembrance day services, in Canterbury and Sturry, to pay our respects to all the armed personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and those who continue to put themselves at risk for us today. We will remember them.
- Keji joined Cllr Elizabeth Carr-Ellis from St. Stephens Ward in a meeting with Kent Police to discuss the benefits of feminist friendly planning.
- Keji attended the Sturry, Fordwich, and District Twinning Association AGM in Broad Oak Village Hall.
- Harry attended the public consultation on the proposed development in Popes Lane to hear more from residents and the developers to gain more knowledge of the application and public opinion to help with decision-making when the time comes.
- Harry joined the Hersden Parish Council, Kent Police, the Community Warden, and a representative from KCC at the Hersden Community Centre for a community safety event where he learnt more about local initiatives to tackle scams and rural crime.
- Keji attended and spoke at the Soroptomist march in Canterbury to mark the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Keji managed to secure funding to replace public benches that had been stolen from the corner of Riverview and Popes Way.
- We attended a briefing on the Broad Oak Reservoir proposal, hosted by South East Water, to hear more about the proposals and ask questions. We will create a separate statement to share our thoughts on this.
- We hosted two surgeries in Broad Oak and Fordwich where we heard concerns about planning enforcement, traffic control in Fordwich, and more.

Signed

Date

Hersden Parish Council

KCC Cllr Marsh report

Full Kent County Council, 81 member's minus those who decide not to turn up, we are closer to the budget, we are under extreme pressure, at least 14 are very close to not being able to prepare a budget.

A court case has been won against the home secretary which had been going on for 8/9 months, it has been agreed that the people living in the county of Kent will not be asked to pay for the cost of all the services from the immigrants as well as the increase of children coming into Kent from the London Boroughs. London Boroughs charge a fixed price for extra needs for example home to school transport. On Thursday we expect final decisions to be made regarding the budget. Council Tax will increase by 5%. The budget will go through then we start looking at 24/25 it will be far more difficult. Inflation has driven a truck through costs as it has in every household.

I want to end on a good note, The Pantomime is sleeping beauty, speak to Jack if you would like tickets.

153/23

Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports

Caretaker – Rain has made the litter heavy, issue in St Albans with a carpet that has been dumped and a broken wheelie bin with different waste will need collecting by Canenco. The black horse alleyway has been cleared as a matter of health and safety with the help of the payback group, David gives thanks to them for their help.

Chair – I met with the Youth bus, they meet every Tuesday 5-9pm by the welfare club, summer months they use the ball courts. All info is on the KCC website.

Cllr Llewellyn – Nothing

Cllr Warman – Nothing

Cllr A Brabham - Nothing

Cllr Hatton - Nothing

Cllr Berceanu – Mentions he has offered panto tickets to a new resident.

Clerk – The Christmas tree arrived and has been decorated by the Community Service workers, we would like to thank them.

154/23

Correspondence received:

General emails regarding road closures in Kent. Lots of roadworks at the moment.

Email: Resident interested in joining the Parish Council, he is in attendance at our meeting this evening, he is informed that our policy is to attend 3 meetings, 2 other members of the public verbally show their interest in joining Hersden Parish Council.

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh leaves the meeting

155/23

Planning & Enforcement Matters:

CA/23/02123 Land South of Island Road, Reserved matters application for the approval of 370 dwellings etc.
We have had meetings with Pegasus regarding the development, this is the formal side.

156/23

Finance Matters

Budget Precept approval 2024/24 (with additional figures to be included after staffing matters are resolved)

Cllr J Brabham states that some of the figures are subject to change after we discuss the staffing at the end of the meeting.

Cllr J Brabham reads through the budget document, Councillors did study the budget line by line and it has been discussed to get to the draft presented tonight, The Budget as set out in the documents presented of £39,119.36, this is an increase on last year due to the salary increase for our Clerk and the provision for new equipment in the park due to requests from our residents.

Signed

Date

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Cllr Warman Proposes, seconded by Cllr Llewellyn. All agreed.

Accounts for Payment

Banking sign - off (Monthly rotation) Cllr E Berceanu and Cllr Llewellyn

Payments – December 2023		
John Caddick	Grounds Maintenance (November) £316.99	£316.99
David Hards	December salary £225.77 paid by s/o Mobile phone credit £10.00 per month (November)	£225.77 £10.00
Lisamarie Foster	December salary – £523.25 paid by s/o	£523.25
Meadow Grange Nursery	Christmas Tree	£300.00
TOTAL for December Payments		£1376.01
Bank Card purchases		
Printer (agreed June 2023 86/23)		£279.90
Christmas Card Printing (agreed November 2023 142/23)		£130.90
Monthly fee		£3.00
Bank Balance as of 30 th November 2023		£78062.16

Payments this month – All agreed

157/23

Working Group Updates

Staffing: Covered later this evening.

Playground: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Youth: Nothing

BMX Track: Nothing

Finance: Nothing

Events:

Beautification: 50 trees are being delivered in January. Any suggestions for tree placements.

Community Safety Group: Met in November, not a good turn out from Residents but some good information was received. We need to better the advertising of events.

Training: Clerk is always on the lookout for training for the new Councillors, nothing local.

Meeting closed to the exclusion of public and press

158/23

Discuss and Agree Staffing matters

Clerks salary is discussed, emails with figures have been circulated to Councillors previously. The salary needs to be increased to the NALC salary scales. From April 2023 when Lisamarie took on the role of Clerk. The salary will be on LC2 (23) SCP23 £16.67per hour (so backdated) then in April 2024 Lisamarie will move to SCP24 currently £17.16 per hour then every year (April 1st) there will be an increase through the LC2 Scale Range to point 28 then it will be discussed.

Proposed Cllr J Brabham, Seconded Cllr Warman. All agreed.

Signed

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David Hards (Caretaker) is on 3pence more than the minimum wage, he hasn't had a pay review for a long time. We are not legally obliged to increase David's salary but morally we need to look at this. After a discussion, it was agreed we increase David's Salary from the next payroll (January) to £13.00 an hour, this includes the 24/25 pay increase so it will not increase in April 2024. Cllr Warman proposes, seconded Cllr Llewellyn. All agreed.

Pensions, we are obliged to provide a pension scheme for our clerk. Lisamarie has asked for a pension, Cllr J Brabham needs figures clarified from payroll for the pension to be arranged directly with them, it is more cost effective for us to pay a payroll company rather than the clerk doing the payroll. We need to find out if David wants to opt in for a pension. Pension and payroll will be on the next month's agenda.

159/23

Any other business:

None

160/23

Date of the next meeting

9th January 2024

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 20.58

Signed

Date