

Hersden Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.00 pm. At Hersden Neighbourhood Centre

Present: Councillors E Berceanu, A Brabham, J Brabham, P Hatton, R Llewellyn, C Warman, KCC Councillor Alan Marsh, CCC Councillor Harry McKenzie

HPC's Clerk Lisamarie Foster
HPC's Caretaker David Hards

3 x Members of the Public

14/24 Apologies for Absence and reason for absence

CCC Cllr Keji Moses attending another meeting
Linda Hayes is on Annual Leave
PC Simon Proctor, rest day

15/24 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda

None

16/24 To approve the minutes of the following Meeting

9th January 2024

Cllr J Brabham proposed and Cllr Berceanu seconded and all councillors agreed they were a true record of the meeting, and the Chairman duly signed them.

17/24 Matters arising not agenda items

None

18/24 Public discussion on items on the agenda

None

19/24 KCC & CCC Cllr Reports; PCSO & Community Warden Reports

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh reports the communication between the Island Road Management Company and the request for yellow lining.

Attended 2 meetings in 2 days for the KCC Budget, 15 County Councils are very close to defaulting, one of those is the City of Birmingham. Another meeting is scheduled for Friday and I will brief everybody once more information is available, Full council for this budget will be done on Monday. Everything is being driven by too much expenditure and not enough income, the growth in demand for 3 separate things, Adult Social Care, Children's Care and Education and Special Education needs.

CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie (report previously circulated to Cllrs)

Harry has been working closely with Cllr Brabham regarding a family in the village facing homelessness, this is being addressed and hopefully a resolution is close.

Lots of complaints about missed bins.

Helped on the community payback day with the planting of 50 trees, a really good day, talking to those on probation, also walked around the village with Cllr Brabham, some yellow lining, verge parking, pavement parking ban and some issues with litter, fly tipping and graffiti, all of which have been reported.

Planning and other matters, a 2 storey industrial building has been granted permission on the Lakesview industrial park.

At the last general purposes committee meeting, councillors voted in favour of the community governance review to review the boundaries between Westbere and Hersden and decide whether to return the Bread and Cheese field to Westberes boundary, this follows from a successful petition in Westbere to trigger a CGR. In March, the new local plan will go out for consultation – we will keep you updated about that.

20/24 Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports

Signed

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Caretaker – Quiet month, gas pellets and a large canister found whilst litter picking and some broken glass
On annual leave a day a week so concentrating on the worst areas for litter in the village. New fence erected on the sycamore green and bulbs coming up in the planter. Cllr A Brabham mentions lots of dogs in the park again, maybe the signage is too small. Clerk to look at larger signage and to get quotes. CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie will look into enforcement.

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh leaves the meeting

Chair – Trees planted last week, walk around with Harry and Keji, looked at a property in the village in breach of tenancy terms, Harry has sent emails and officers will be visiting the property.

Attended the Lord Mayors Civic service at the Cathedral.

We are going to do a food drive, for fresh produce, Keji has mentioned some funds. Canterbury food bank have been asked for vouchers, dates to be confirmed.

Westbere consultation regarding the Boundary is taking place at the Westbere village hall, one will be arranged for Hersden also.

Cllr Llewellyn – Nothing

Cllr Warman – Nothing

Cllr A Brabham – Had a meeting regarding the Pavilion with Hayley Bassett CCC, Lisamarie (Clerk) and George Brabham, discussed moving the pavilion slightly to make it more accessible. Another meeting is scheduled for 27th February (Virtual) with the Kent football association. We might be able to tap into the FA financially because we are a long way short of the required amount for a like for like rebuild.

Cllr Hatton - Nothing

Cllr Berceanu – He has viewed the new councillors application forms, also mentions the noticeboard being empty near the colliery club, this is due to the items getting wet inside, Agendas/posters will be laminated in future.

Clerk – Contacted Westkent regarding the litter and maintenance issues, no response yet. However, some issues have been resolved (member of the public informs).

21/24

Correspondence received:

Lots of road closures in Kent, the local ones have been posted on Facebook.

Invitation to attend the next joint parish Group meeting at Hoath Parish Council 18th March 2024 7-9pm, the invitation was circulated to Cllrs. Myself, Jack, Andrea and Claire has agreed to attend, Patricia would also like to attend.

Settlement of Reorganisation Order, Sturry Parish Council have agreed the sum owed to Hersden Parish Council, this should be agreed and approved at their next meeting, we should receive this money in due course.

Pavilion meeting took place on Monday 29th January at 4pm with Hayley Bassett from CCC property and regeneration, a further meeting is scheduled for 27th Feb at 2pm (virtually). CLERK to reschedule so that Cllr Warman can attend.

Island Road Management company have been communicating regarding the Parish Council resuming litter picking in the area, Agenda item 25/24.

Canterbury City Council have had a cyber-incident causing disruption to services. Cllr McKenzie informs us some services are back up and running.

Resident kindly informed us of a new fence being installed on the sycamores/telephone green.

Signed

Date

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Email from resident regarding the position of a tree planted on the grass verge outside the property in the Avenue. On the back of this Cllr J Brabham states that cars parked incorrectly can be reported on the CCC website as a parking issue, upload photos etc, anyone can do this.

22/24 **Planning & Enforcement Matters:**
None

23/24 **Finance Matters**

Standing order for information, the previously authorised setting up of the standing order for the Clerks new increased wage hasn't been implemented due to the fact the amount may change monthly because of NI contributions and pension so this will be set up as a payment for authorisation each month.

Accounts for Payment

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

Payments – February 2023		
John Caddick	Grounds Maintenance (January) £316.99	£316.99
David Hards	February salary £***** paid by s/o Mobile phone credit £10.00 per month (January)	£***** £10.00
Lisamarie Foster	February salary – £***** including overtime	£*****
Hersden Community Centre	Office Hire Charge (Oct, Nov and Dec)	£780.00
Zurich	Insurance Policy renewal 4/4/2024-3/4/2025	£299.82
Receipts – February 2024		
HMRC	VAT reclaim for period 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	£1402.64
HMRC	VAT reclaim for period 16/02/2021 – 31/03/2022	£2731.50
Bank card purchases - None		
Monthly fee		£3.00
Bank Balance as of 31st January 2024		
		£72,481.29

Payments this month – Proposed Cllr J Brabham, seconded by Cllr P Hatton, All agreed

24/24 **Working Group Updates**

Staffing: Cllr J Brabham states a pension should be provided for Lisamarie (Clerk) Payroll will provide the pension calculation. It would be more cost effective for the Council to continue paying a company to do the payroll and in addition the pension scheme. Figures will be sourced.

Playground: All quotes are back now after several reminder emails chasing quotes these can be discussed informally at 6pm prior to our next parish council meeting.

Youth: Nothing

BMX Track: Nothing

Finance: Nothing

Signed

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Events: D-Day event in June, the welfare club will be holding an event/family fun day. Discussions need to take place regarding this and how we wish to support the event. All Cllrs are interested in attending a meeting with Louise at the Welfare club.

Beautification: The Sycamore green is looking nice now the fencing has been replaced and the grass is growing. Bulbs would need to be planted in September, some established fruit trees could be purchased to line the fence. Cllr J Brabham would like a Christmas Tree on the sycamore green as discussed in the previous meeting. Electricity supply for the Christmas period could possibly be sourced from the adjacent property.

Cllr Warman mentions the parking issues in the village, should we put trees on the grass areas to prevent these being used for parking especially as a pavement parking ban and yellow lining is likely in the near future. Box hedging is mentioned, planters with trees or some posts with the diamond timber in between. Cllr J Brabham will get some quotes to bring to the next meeting.

Community Safety Group: Nothing

Training: Clerk has been forwarding any training that could be of interest to the Cllrs.

25/24

Litter bin in Chislet Gardens: Island Road management company have been in touch again asking for us to resume the litter picking in the area, they previously declined our offer of putting a litter bin in the entrance to the alleyway to Spires academy, we offered to purchase, place and empty the bin to help reduce the litter in the area. We have invited them to meetings to discuss the matter but sadly they have not attended. Initially the contractors litter picked but now they do not do this and the price has increased.

26/24

Any other business: Cllr A Brabham asks if a noticeboard could be placed here at the community Centre for both the Parish Council and the Community Centre advertising. Montgomery Gardens could also have a noticeboard installed, CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie will try to find out who the management company are for Montgomery Gardens. Cllr J Brabham will communicate with Redrow for Noticeboards.

27/24

Date of the next meeting
12th March 2024

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 8.32pm.

Signed

Date