

Hersden Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7.00 pm. At Hersden Neighbourhood Centre

Present: Councillors D Almond, E Berceanu, A Brabham, J Brabham, M Cooper, P Glover, P Hatton, R Llewellyn, C Warman, KCC Councillor Alan Marsh, CCC Councillor Harry McKenzie and CCC Councillor Keji Moses.

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

44/24 **Apologies for Absence and reason for absence**
Linda Hayes, Community Warden

45/24 **Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda**
None

46/24 **To approve the minutes of the following Meeting**

12th March 2024

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

47/24 **Matters arising not agenda items**
For information, we owe 1 penny to HMRC, despite our efforts to make the payment owed immediately, a 1 penny charge for interest has been added to the outstanding payments. We have been reassured that this will need increase and should be taken as part of the DD that has been set up.

48/24 **Public discussion on items on the agenda**
David Hards mentions a Darts fundraising event to the Councillors, hoping to raise money for a new Computer for the Under 5s and money for the Bowls club. Hoping to raise £1000. KCC Councillor Alan Marsh kindly donates £50.

Cllr Glover arrives for the meeting.

49/24 **KCC & CCC Cllr Reports; PCSO & Community Warden Reports**
CCC Cllrs report was circulated to all councillors, Cllr J Brabham reads the report out. The park and ride is now open.
Food bank project, a meeting with Hersden Parish Council took place to discuss ideas, more information will be available soon.
A meeting is taking place with Kent Wildlife Trust tomorrow regarding Pyes wood, at the end of North View, this is at 10am if anyone wishes to join.
CCC Cllrs handed out Easter Eggs at the Hersden Community Centre Easter Fair.
Volunteers are needed for the Sturry Speed watch scheme.
A petition is being circulated for the Number 7 bus through Broad oak to be reinstated.

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh

We worked hard to get our budget for KCC to be correct, we have done it, we had to cut back on certain things. Roadworks we are doing is enormous, lots of road closures and pot holes etc being repaired. Alan shows the Councillors a newspaper article from a year ago and the car parking charges have doubled since then. The Park and ride is back up and running, hopefully it will be a success however it doesn't work for those wanting to leave Canterbury late in the evening.

The Panto tickets for next year are being organised.

KCC Councillor Marsh leaves the meeting

Signed

Date

Hersden Parish Council

50/24

Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports

Chair – I am meeting with The Wildlife trust regarding a Protection order on Pyes wood, previously mentioned in Keji and Harrys report. There is a tree 500 years old that needs protecting. Anyone else wanting to attend is welcome.

Cllr Llewellyn – Attended the planning exhibition for the Miners 3-week pop up over August. Discussed funding and volunteers, Ross is asked if there is anything the Parish Council can contribute. Ross is in the process of doing a timeline for the period of the Chislet Colliery from start to finish. Another meeting in 2-3 weeks' time and Ross will have more information after.

Cllr Almond – Provides more information on the Miners exhibition. Fly tipping in Chislet Gardens is not collected by Canterbury City Council, its private property so the responsibility lies with the Management Company, David is asked to forward the email response to Harry or Keji and they will follow this up. Concerns are with the new building in Hersden, will this be the same throughout the new build estates.

The ANPR for the residents for the park and ride, do we need to set up a new account, Harry will find out.

Cllr Glover – The Pension scheme has been looked at, it is straight forward, there is a cost, a spreadsheet is to be completed to include people we anticipate will need the service in the future and be added to the scheme, the contribution rate will be decided, then a recoverable charge could be up to £2000, the benefit of this scheme is it is a very very good scheme, it is a KCC scheme that has been in the system for a long time, for our employees it's the best we can offer. Cllr J Brabham asks how it compares to the Nest scheme, what do they offer in comparison to the Nest scheme. Cllr Almond states the benefit is the employees get a better payout/pension, the £2000 covers any new members of staff to enroll onto the scheme, it is a one-off cost. The nest scheme requires the minimal amount the government suggests. The KCC Scheme is one that most local Clerks use. Cllr Glover is asked to seek further information regarding the costs and contributions for the KCC Scheme.

Cllr Warman – Nothing

Cllr A Brabham – Nothing

Cllr Hatton - Nothing

Cllr Berceanu – Nothing

Cllr Cooper – Lots of dog waste, maybe we can have some signage made. If it's in Chislet Gardens, we previously offered to provide a bin and empty it etc however this was refused by the management company. We do have several bins already in the village, any new bin we would be responsible for. This issue is discussed further with the mention of dog waste bag dispensers. The new councillors are shown the poo bag dispensers we currently have available in the Parish office, these are advertised on our social media, this will be advertised again. Dog waste can be reported to Canterbury City Council and it will be removed promptly. Paul Glover will provide us with the details of the signs ordered by Westbere Parish.

The planning portal on the Canterbury City Website is still not working from the Cyber-attack, Harry will look into this and report back. We do get weekly reports in the office informing us of local planning applications.

The Recycling Centre have been charging for DIY waste, this is going to cause an increase in fly tipping in the region. KCC are shifting the financial burden of waste to Canterbury City Council.

Clerk – I need to remind all councillors of the Parish Engagement meeting at the Guildhall in Canterbury on the 18th April 7pm-9.30, email invitation was circulated to all councillors.

I have sent Cllr Almond and Cllr Coopers completed DPI forms to Electoral Services. Cllr Glover provides me with his and this will be sent and a copy to Paul.

I have emailed Richard Jenkins regarding the verge parking and pavement parking, the signage on the main road hasn't gone up and a resident wanted clarification as to where the pavement restrictions ended, were the Sycamores included, the response wasn't very informative so I will chase this again, Harry asks to be included in the email. Cllr J Brabham asks Harry for enforcement information, how can we report.

The bus shelter repair has been passed to the maintenance contracts team at CCC.

The KALC subscription invoice has been received, this is for £670.90 and will be added to next months payments. The concurrent funding from CCC is the same as last year £5470, this payment should be received shortly and the next years grant agreement should be received over the next couple of weeks.

Signed

Date

Hersden Parish Council

Caretaker – Lots of litter near the School grounds, the hedge by the school isn't maintained regularly and the litter builds up in the area. Cllr Glover suggests we write to the governors and request they regularly maintain the hedges and clean and litter pick the public pathways in their grounds.

Cllr J Brabham states maybe a Social media group is to be created for residents to make comment and post complaints etc, Cllr Brabham would be prepared to approve posts, manage and moderate and would like volunteers to be administrators. This would be a good way for residents to communicate with us and interact, we would encourage good behavior, no shaming etc. Residents can be directed to report things on the CCC Website, the service works well. Cllr McKenzie suggest all posts are approved before they go live, comments would need to be monitored. Cllr Berceanu, Cllr Almond, Cllr A Brabham and Cllr J Brabham are happy to be administrators for the Facebook page.

51/24

Correspondence received:

Lots of road closures in Kent, those concerning the village have been posted on Facebook.
 Bus Shelter update
 Email from Mazars regarding the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR)

52/24

Planning & Enforcement Matters:

None

53/24

Finance Matters:

Grant Application received from Chislet club for the sum of £300 for the D Day event, was discussed at our previous meeting, Cllr A Brabham mentions the procedures indicate that only one Grant application can be received from an organization within the financial year or 12 month period. Cllr Llewellyn proposes, Seconded Cllr J Brabham and a majority of the Councillors agree to the £300 grant with the conditions stated on the application criteria – that this grant will be the only approved grant for this year. Future events would need to be joint events.

Variable DD set up with HMRC This has been set up, the accounts will be checked nearer the DD payment date to see if this has been successful.

Accounts for Payment

Payments – April 2024		
John Caddick	Grounds Maintenance (March) £316.99	£316.99
David Hards	April salary paid by s/o Mobile phone credit (March)	£***** £10.00
Lisamarie Foster	April salary – (Including 4 hours overtime and 10 hours holiday pay) CCC 99yr Lease- land	£***** £1.00
ESP Play	Gate Replacement	£2,170.80
Receipts – March 2024 - None		
Bank card purchases - None		
Monthly fee		£3.00
Bank Balance as of 31 st March 2024		£77,045.48

Banking sign - off (Monthly rotation) Cllr A Brabham and Cllr P Hatton

Payments this month – Proposed Cllr Warman, Seconded Cllr Cooper, All agreed

54/24

Play Area: Order has been placed for the new equipment in the play area.

55/24

Working Group Updates

Staffing: Pension – covered previously.

Signed Date

Hersden Parish Council

Playground: covered previously.

Youth: Nothing

BMX Track: Nothing

Finance: Nothing

Events: covered

Beautification: Tulips look lovely in the planter on the Sycamores. Cllr Cooper suggests a litter picking group half yearly.

Community Safety Group: Nothing

Training: Look into the Dynamic Councillor training

56/24 **The Pavilion** – still waiting for a meeting date, Cllr J Brabham suggested the Monday as it suits all. Clerk to chase.

57/24 **APM:** Discussed having the APM, AGM and ordinary meeting all on the same evening next month, this is agreed. The meetings will start at 6pm.

58/34 **Joint Parish Meeting:** We will be hosting this meeting, it will take place on a Monday late June, date to be confirmed. Cllr Llewellyn will provide us with a short presentation on the history of the village. Silvertime Legal will be scheduled to do a talk.

59/24 **Any other business:** None

60/24 **Date of the next meeting**
14th May 2024 6pm start

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 8.49pm.

Signed

Date