

# Hersden Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 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.

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

**106/24 Apologies for Absence and reason for absence**  
Cllr E Berceanu will be arriving late to the meeting  
CCC Cllr Keji Moses, no reason given  
CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie, no reason given

**107/24 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda**  
None

**108/24 To approve the minutes of the following Meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

**109/24 Matters arising not agenda items**  
None

**110/24 Public discussion on items on the agenda**  
No members of the public in attendance

**111/24 KCC & CCC Cllr Reports; Police & Community Warden Reports**

**Community Warden Report** – Roger Lithgow provided a report, this was circulated to Councillors and the Clerk read out the meeting

**KCC Cllr Alan Marsh** – The things I can tell you will not be bone fide until Thursdays meeting, Thursday is full County Council, we are looking to try wherever we can, I will touch on a couple of things, Hersden has always been my favourite place. It is outrageous that the 25% reduction on Council tax for single person is to be withdrawn. £90000 is the basic salary for back benchers, on top of that they also get a heating allowance of £3400 a year. I will try to use this information. If you want to travel to France even if it's just for the day, you will need to have a passport valid for 12 months, this will be implemented from November 10<sup>th</sup> when face, eyes, fingerprint security will come in.

Cllr Marsh asks who owns the playing fields, Cllr J Brabham responds with 'it's complicated'.

Canterbury City Council from Central Government will be increasing council tax depending on the amount of land/garden, re-banding might be done. Petrol will increase by approx. 5/10pence a litre.

Cllr Marsh requests an update on the Persimmons development and the Pavilion.

I don't think the residents of Westbere will be happy with the Council Tax increase as a result of the Boundary change.

We have the pantomime, the last one, we don't want anyone to miss out.

**112/24 Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports -**

**Chair, Cllr Jack Brabham** – The pantomime is booked, I don't have the date to hand but I will let everyone know. I met with Persimmons for the planning/site visit, we walked from one end of the village to the other, A lot of questions were raised and answered. The bungalows, these must be designed specifically as bungalows and it would not be possible for these to be modified into 2 storey.

Signed .....

Date .....

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Also attended the Masterplan/Pavilion meeting, lots of feedback from residents mostly negative, both plans have gone back to City Council. The Masterplan was over budget, this would be a project over 10 years. Communication from City Council is quite poor, but out of our control, we can only present the plans to our residents when we get the information. We will be consulting with our residents as and when we have communication from Canterbury City Council.

I removed a deceased cat from the main road, I took it to the vets, it was not chipped. I didn't want children to see the cat after school.

**Cllr Cooper** – As discussed in a previous meeting, bins, The Sycamores bus stop is surrounded by litter. The stop is going towards Canterbury. Cllr Glover, suggests we purchase the bins and Canterbury City will empty them as part of their rounds. Cllr Glover will provide some information regarding the bins that Canterbury City Council recommend and his contact. Cllr Cooper will look at the bins needed along the main road and report back.

## **KCC Councillor Alan Marsh leaves the meeting.**

**Cllr Claire Warman** – Attended the persimmons site meeting and the Masterplan meeting.

**Cllr Ross Llewellyn** – The miners pop up exhibition was well attended and we have been asked to do it again next year.

**Cllr A Brabham** – Attended the site visit from persimmons and I have emailed Suzi Wakeham regarding the pavilion plans.

**Clerk** – Over the summer I spent a lot of time dealing with overgrown vegetation on the Redrow side of the main road, this should now be dealt with. Also spoke with Roger Lithgow, our community Warden regarding a resident reporting anti-social behavior on the roundabout by the Redrow estate. Children were hiding in the long grass and throwing items at passing vehicles. Police dealt with the incident.

The overgrown hedges along the footpath towards the mushroom farm lane was brought to my attention after the persimmons site visit, this has now been reported to KCC and they have sent an enforcement letter, the land isn't locally owned, I am unsure if the hedges have been trimmed.

Letter issued to a resident about overhanging lavender, this has been addressed and any more issues with hedges encroaching on the footpaths please report to me, after the birds have finished nesting I can send letters out asking for them to be cut back.

I started the online banking procedure to add David and Michael, this is agenda item 116/24

April, May and June accounts are done

Fly tipping not addressed in St Albans, this has been reported again.

**Caretaker** – Children climbing on the planter, Litter is an issue by the bench on the Sycamore green and the alleyways. Grass is growing where the framework was adjusted for the new swing set. The new play equipment was immediately enjoyed by lots of children.

**113/24**

## **Correspondence received:**

Lots of road closures in Kent.

Email from a resident wishing to provide a free library box (Forwarded to councillors). It is agreed that we contact the resident asking him if it can be placed at the end of his garden and maintained. Councillors are concerned that if it is placed elsewhere it will be vandalised. Cllr Berceanu will speak with the resident.

Welcome letter from Kent Pensions, Clerk and Cllr Glover will liaise.

Communication with Redrow regarding overgrown vegetation.

Communication with KCC Highways regarding overgrown hedge.

**114/24**

## **Planning & Enforcement Matters:**

CA/24/01203 Two Storey side extension 13 Blengate Close, Sturry. This was circulated to the Councillors on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, no comments were put forward.

Hersden Pavilion and Masterplan – previously discussed, we are waiting for communication from Canterbury City Council.

Signed .....

Date .....

# Hersden Parish Council

Westbere and Hersden Community Governance Review – Response, all agreed that the Parish Council will comment, using Cllr Almonds previous response.

CA/24/01430 Outline application for up to 50 dwellings with associated parking, Hoplands Farm, Hersden – Cllrs decide to comment on this planning, Hersden Parish Council does not support this proposal, would prefer the industrial units not housing. This was the original approved plan, Redrow tried to have housing before and it was declined and now Quinn are trying to get housing approved. It is taking away employment opportunities and we already have too much housing planned.

**115/24**      **The NALC model Financial Regulations and Model Standing orders RECEIVED and all councillors RESOLVED to adopt new the Model Financial Regulations and Model Standing Orders to reflect the NALC model templates. Two Councillors will add their signatures to all invoices in the future – this was implemented with immediate effect. HPC Policies and Procedures are also updated, The Clerk will replace these on the Parish Councils Website.**

**116/24**      **Finance Matters (Appendix 1)**

**Schedule of Payments appendix 1** Payments approved, Cllr J Brabham proposed, Seconded Cllr Berceanu, All Agreed.

**Grant Application** received from Hersden Baby Group, this is discussed at length and agreed that £552.00 be paid for the Half Term club activities. Proposed by Cllr Berceanu, Seconded Cllr Llewellyn, All agreed.

**Pension** – Pension is now set up, payroll have informed us the extra administration fee will be £120 annually. Employer contributions backdated to April 2024 is £1090.01. It will take the Pension scheme a few weeks to give us details of the payments required.

**Banking Authorisation forms** – The necessary banking forms are signed by 3 councillors to agree to Cllr Almond and Cllr Cooper to go on the banking system to enable them to authorise the payments online.

**Banking sign-off (monthly rotation)** Cllr Berceanu and Cllr Llewellyn

**117/24**      **Working Group updates**

**Staffing:**

**Playground:** Caretaker has the tools for the new play equipment.

**Youth:**

**BMX Track:** Prices still need to be obtained for the fencing.

**Finance:**

**Events:** Christmas needs to be thought about in preparation for the next meeting. Cllr Berceanu will contact the resident by the Sycamores green to discuss the use of the Electricity for lights.

**Beautification:** Discussed the purchase of Daffodil bulbs to be planted along the new fence line on the Sycamores green, £200 before VAT is allocated. Proposed by Cllr J Brabham, Seconded Cllr Berceanu, All agreed.

**Community Safety Group:**

**Training:**

**118/24**      **Any other business:** Cllr Llewellyn mentions the BMX being used. Cllr E Berceanu mentions his job title has changed, he wasn't in attendance at the beginning of the meeting, Clerk provides DPI form to be completed for the next meeting.

**119/24**      **Date of the next meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 8.38pm.

Signed .....

Date .....