

# Hersden Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00 pm. At Hersden Neighbourhood Centre

**Present:** Councillors, D Almond, E Berceanu, J Brabham, P Glover, P Hatton, C Warman, KCC Councillor Alan Marsh, CCC Councillor Harry McKenzie

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

### **1/25 Apologies for Absence and reason for absence**

Cllr Andrea Brabham - Unwell  
Cllr Michael Cooper – Physio appointment  
Community Warden, Roger Lithgow – Mentoring another warden  
Cllr Ross Llewellyn - Bereavement  
CCC Cllr Keji Moses, attending another meeting

### **2/25 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda**

### **3/25 To approve the minutes of the following Meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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.

### **4/25 Matters arising not agenda items**

Councillor Warman mentions the information/Adverts in the noticeboards are not consistent throughout the village, Clerk responded, some noticeboards are difficult to open, sometimes they will not open, the one near the shop doesn't always lock so members of the public put notices in. All noticeboards were full leading up to Christmas but the information is now out of date so they have been removed. We no longer advertise in the board by the school as it has been vandalised.

Councillor Berceanu asks if we can have a 20mph limit through the village, this has been discussed with KCC previously

Sadly, Cllr Ross Llewellyn recently lost his wife, Cllr Jack Brabham proposes £50.00 for either flowers or a gift, seconded by Cllr Berceanu, All agreed. Clerk to organise.

x2 Planning applications came in late, these will be discussed under Agenda Item 9/25.

### **5/25 Public discussion on items on the agenda**

David Hards asks if the planning can now be put on our facebook page, Clerk to action.

### **6/25 KCC & CCC Cllr Reports; Police & Community Warden Reports**

**Community Warden Report** – report received and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting, Jack Brabham summarised the report.

**CCC Councillor Harry McKenzie** – Wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and New year and formally apologises for his lack of attendance lately to meetings, he is hoping to be less busy moving forward. Keji has sent some devolution paperwork through, at full council last week there was a motion that was put by the liberal democrats to call on the resident minister in the government to review the National Insurance contribution payments for Parish Councils, I agreed with the leader of the Council that it did seem to be somewhat of an anomaly so I spoke on that motion and agreed and voiced that all the Parish Councils in this ward do fantastic work and I wouldn't want to see that hindered in anyway by financial problems, so I did vote in favour of that motion and say that it's good that we should engage constructively with the minister to find out whether we can sort that compensation formula so that we are not affected by that National Insurance contribution.

Signed .....

Date .....

# Hersden Parish Council

Yellow lines were needed in the village due to safety, I'm pleased to say that they have been accepted, Keji and I agreed that we were happy for that to go ahead.

Spoke to PC Sherwin Fernandez recently regarding a number of community safety issues in the village, some he was aware of and dealing with.

Planning, I will look at the proposals tomorrow, I have organised a meeting with the Planning officer, also spoken to other community groups like Sturry Kings, who are eager for this to happen. I still need to look through this in detail. Harry confirms he is still on Planning.

I'm happy to report that Keji and myself have formed a very good relationship with Roger Gale, since his re-election in July despite being from different parties we are sharing casework and its working quite constructively. We look forward to meeting up with him in the near future.

Cllr Hatton requests further information on the yellow lining, Harry will circulate the detailed plan.

**KCC Cllr Alan Marsh** – This is the governments devolution white paper, it was sent to KCC on the 16<sup>th</sup> December and it demanded a formal reply by the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, we have had 3 meetings at County, the last one was an extraordinary full council meeting last Thursday, it is a substantial document, what is in this paper has already been delivered in some places. What it says is, in a nutshell, there will be no district councils, they are all finished, the timescale for this is approx. 18 months, there will be no Kent County Council election or any other County elections for at least 12 months, Those current County Councillors have the option of either resigning their seat and causing a bi-election or carrying on for at least another 12 months, at the end of those 12 months the process of turning all of the Southern England County Councils into a unitary is very cumbersome and requires so many changes. If you think Canterbury City council took so long to come up with a local plan, I can tell you now that plan is dead in the water, because once a mayor is appointed in 18 months over the unitary where Canterbury sits, it will be the Mayors responsibility for the local plan. That's just one example, it throws up lots of different things. What we did have to do by the 10<sup>th</sup> January was to say whether you wished to be in right from the beginning, Kent County Council need more money to look after the people and it needs control of strategic planning, the mayor will be the main function in the unitary to raise the funds needed. Medway have signed up and would like to be their own unitary but to be a unitary you have to have a population of half and million people and Medway doesn't, could some land be moved to lift the number people, but this doesn't seem to be feasible. Medway will most likely have to be part of a unitary. Please be aware that you as a parish Council, will be very very important because if there is no district councils then you will have nowhere to go. 11 County Councils have agreed. If we agree to having a mayor, we will have strategic authority status and direct access to money. It's going to change a lot, I am doing my utmost to serve my 7 Parish Councils. Canterbury City council has reserves and it has assets, where does that money go? What I'm trying to do is get your reactions, I will update you monthly. I have said that I will stay another year until May 2026. The Pantomime for the end of this year will be Dick Whittington.

Cllr Almond asks Cllr Marsh if KCC will be working with Parish Councils on this, Cllr Marsh responds and states that they have already been working with KALC in the last 7 days, and hopeful that Parish Council may even have a bit of strategic planning of your own.

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

7/25

### **Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports**

**Caretaker** – currently taking some annual leave, some issues round St Albans again, ongoing problems with rubbish and overgrown vegetation. The alleyway to the rear of the properties is blocked. Cllr McKenzie will take some details and pass this onto the relevant departments.

The bin by the club, needs replacing, this has been reported several times, Canterbury city council responded stating it has been dealt with but it hasn't. Cllr McKenzie will look into this.

Cllr Almond has reported fly tipping on the Recreation ground, has been reported several times with Canenco who say it has been collected but it hasn't, Cllr McKenzie will report this again.

Signed .....

Date .....

# Hersden Parish Council

- 8/25 Correspondence received:**  
Lots of road closures in Kent  
KALC/NALC training schedules and newsletters circulated to Councillors
- 9/25 Planning & Enforcement Matters:**  
CA/24/02253 Single-Storey sports pavilion and associated external works comprising vehicle parking, cycle parking and hard and soft landscaping.  
  
CA/24/02256 Upgrade of sports court together with new skate park, parking area and associated landscaping.  
Cllr Warman mentions some possible wording issues on the Design and Access Statement, unsure whether it was part of the prior agreement but they are claiming that our play park upgrades are part of their phase 1 works, also within the phase 2 works it looks like they plan to change all of the boundary fencing, phase 2 doesn't have a start date so it might be that Hersden Parish Council do the needed fencing in the meantime. Cllr Jack Brabham says that maybe we need to comment stating that the playground equipment and exercise equipment has already been installed/replaced by Hersden Parish Council.
- 10/25 Financial Matters**  
**Accounts for payment** (Appendix 1)  
x2 Cllrs checked the list of payments against the invoices/pay slips/statements/receipts and signed the papers as they corresponded with the Appendix.  
  
**Banking sign-off (monthly rotation)** Cllr Hatton and Cllr Berceanu.
- 11/25 Working Group updates**  
**Staffing:**  
**Playground:**  
**Youth:**  
**BMX Track:**  
**Finance:**  
**Events:**  
**Beautification:**  
**Community Safety Group:**  
**Training:**
- 12/25 Any other business:**
- 13/25 Date of the next meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
  
There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 8.02pm

Signed .....

Date .....