

Hersden Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7.00 pm. At Hersden Neighbourhood Centre

Present: Councillors, D Almond, E Berceanu, J Brabham, P Glover, P Hatton, R Llewellyn, C Warman, KCC Councillor Alan Marsh.

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

14/25 Apologies for Absence and reason for absence

Cllr Andrea Brabham - Unwell
Community Warden, Roger Lithgow – on leave
CCC Cllr Keji Moses and CCC Harry McKenzie have prior commitments

15/25 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda

16/25 To approve the minutes of the following Meeting

14th January 2025

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.

17/25 Matters arising not agenda items

Highway improvement plan, circulated to Councillors, this is something we need to look at and add or remove. The items currently on the plan are 20mph zones and yellow lining through the village, Shaftesbury road to be permit holders only, this is to be scrapped as residents were not keen on this.

Community Governance Review Reorganisation Order (Westbere) information circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, just confirming the Boundary change.

Email received from South East Water, with an invitation to the Broad Oak Reservoir Stakeholder advisory group meeting Wednesday 19th February, Clerk and Cllr Paul Glover to attend.

18/25 Public discussion on items on the agenda

19/25 KCC & CCC Cllr Reports; Police & Community Warden Reports

Community Warden Report – report received and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

CCC Councillors – Alongside the apologies Keji mentions she has been liaising with the Chislet Bowls Club in Hersden to explore a workable solution for their lease extension application, which would allow them to create additional on-site parking.

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh – After 20 years, this is the worst time I have ever had to come to Hersden parish council, you were the first people I briefed about the government wanting to change how local government works and the 2 tier system between district councils and county councils, I described to you how we have been forced to take option 1 or option 2 which was given to us on December 16th and we had to formally reply by January 10th which we did as well as 17 other County Councils. A week ago having told you exactly what we had been told that I would continue to serve until at least the end of the year. Last week, Angela Rayner decided there were too many County Councils to do the work at the same time. I will read this slowly.....Angela Rayner has announced that 9 local authorities have been given permission to delay their local elections until May 2026 as part of the devolution priority programme, more importantly I will give you the names of the Counties, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Thurrock, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire, The IOW and Surrey. What that has done has completely surrounded the county of Kent with 9 unitaries without giving Kent the ability to become part of the programme. So the 9 I have mentioned will get the benefit of extra finance, an elected mayor they will become

Signed Date

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in their own right strategic authorities, Kent County will not. There is a limit on how much County Councils can raise council tax without having a referendum, Angela Rayner has given her blessing on 6 County Councils to ignore the 5% increase in Council Tax, at the same time, we are already 6 meetings in, we have full council on Thursday where it will go through as far as Kent County Council is concerned, despite all of the financial burdens we have carried, it will be less than 5%, this could be why Angela Rayner doesn't want us to be a unitary because most unitaries are running out of deficit. I am trying to give you as much information as I can, what has happened now is Kent County Council is in no man's land. The County of Kent will have to hold County Elections. I have 8 weeks left to work with you, I am very angry that we are being forced to do something that was not our idea it was the governments idea. They have isolated Kent County Council, now surrounded with smaller unitaries, we have carried most of the financial responsibilities from the people coming across the channel. I am going to share with you everything as I have always done, if the government decide that Kent will be in the second tranche, you can run it forward 18 months to 2 years before it happens. We're not the only ones that have been rejected. We were promised priority, we complied with everything but we didn't get it. The last thing I'm going to say to you, the names of all of the candidates for Kent County Council elections have already been submitted and approved. I have done as much as I can do. I will be around if you want someone to talk to.

20/25

Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports

Caretaker – A few smashed bottles, I've been on annual leave, so just doing one day a week, it's been wet so the paper is heavy making the bags heavier.

Councillors –

Cllr Ross Llewellyn thanks the councillors and residents for the flowers for his late wife's funeral.

Cllr David Almond mentions litter on the recreation ground, it has been reported and should be collected in due course.

Cllr Jack Brabham has formally responded to the bowls club, a copy of the email was circulated to all councillors. Secondly, Parking, I am in close contact with the enforcement team at CCC, spoke to them on Sunday and reported 2 nuisance vehicles, they are looking at maintaining a 2-week daily visit to tackle the parking issues. This covers verge parking and yellow lines.

Clerk – I have ordered the x3 rubbish bins, they have arrived, we will discuss the locations of these at the next meeting.

I have informed Electoral services about Michael Coopers resignation and displayed the notice accordingly.

I have spoken to Jack about restarting the Neighbourly collection/donations, this is something I would happily take on depending on my work load, this is a good thing for the residents, it was very well used.

21/25

Correspondence received:

Lots of road closures in Kent

KALC/NALC training schedules and newsletters circulated to Councillors

KALC Chairmanship conference all day event 27th Feb 2025 (circulated to Jack and Claire)

Resignation received from Michael Cooper dated 28th January 2025.

Resident has asked if lighting can be installed to the rear of the properties overlooking the play park, Councillors agree that without a power supply this would be difficult and could increase anti-social behaviour, this can be reviewed once the work on the play area is completed as small bollard lighting is being installed in the play area along the paths.

22/25

Planning & Enforcement Matters:

CA/24/01430 Outline application for up to 50 Dwellings with associated parking and infrastructure; with all matters reserved except access, Hoplands Farm, Island road, Hersden, Kent. Councillors discuss and agree that our previous comment dated 12th September 2024 still stands, clerk will copy and paste the comment stating the comment still stands.

23/25

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. Payments Proposed by Cllr Hatton and Seconded by Cllr Berceanu, All agreed.

Signed

Date

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Banking sign-off (monthly rotation) Cllr Almond and Cllr Berceanu.

24/25

Working Group updates

Staffing:

Playground:

Youth:

BMX Track:

Finance:

Events:

Beautification:

Community Safety Group:

Training:

25/25

Any other business:

VE day celebrations, David Hards will find out if the Colliery club are holding an event and we could contribute towards the event.

Gift for Alan, he has been with us and helped us, an email will be sent out with suggestions for a gift for approval. Clerk emailed John Caddick regarding his continuation with the grounds maintenance, he verbally confirmed to Jack Brabham and he will increase his prices slightly. Clerk to get this confirmed via email. It is agreed that we will renew his contract annually.

26/25

Date of the next meeting: This meeting will take place a week later than normal, **18th March 2025** due to the clerk attending another meeting at the Guildhall on the 11th March 2025.

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 8.12pm

Signed

Date