

Hersden Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hersden Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.00 pm. At Hersden Neighbourhood Centre

Present: Councillors, D Almond, J Brabham, P Glover, P Hatton, R Llewellyn, C Warman, CCC Councillor Keji Moses, Community Warden Roger Lithgow

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

42/25 Apologies for Absence and reason for absence

Cllr E Berceanu -away abroad
Cllr A Brabham – Unwell
PC Parkinson-Wellard unable to attend
CCC Councillor Harry McKenzie - on Holiday

43/25 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the Agenda

44/25 To approve the minutes of the following Meeting

18th March 2025

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.

45/25 Matters arising not agenda items

46/25 Public discussion on items on the agenda

47/25 KCC & CCC Cllr Reports; Police & Community Warden Reports

CCC Councillors – Report received and circulated to councillors, CCC Councillor Keji Moses summarises the report. First 2 items are not relevant to Hersden however we have had an increase of casework come through regarding housing. We have had an update regarding the rat infestation and the fly tipping, enforcement will be looking into this. The Local Government Reorganisation, everything is moving forward, I need to highlight the role of the Parish Council will be very important and we will be here to support you. Cllr J Brabham gives further information regarding the 2 fly tipping issues, one of those being on Council land and the rat infestation.

Community Warden Report – I have an apology from PC Parkinson-Wellard, she intended on coming this evening but she was called away.

I have been mentoring the new Nailbourne community Warden, we have a joint base in Littlebourne, we are still waiting for her vetting with Kent Police to go through, this is very slow, then she has a 2-day course, once this is done she will be going alone and I will have more time in the area, I'm still doing a visible presence when I can in Hersden. I've been getting a lot of reports of dog poo and reporting it when necessary. Last night due to the issue in Hersden, I changed my work day so I could be here, this was the suspected bomb, I believe the bomb disposal team were here overnight, the police wouldn't discuss and engage with me. The police are investigating and dealing with the issue.

48/25 Chair, Cllrs, Clerk and Caretakers reports

Clerk – I have been very busy, I attended the Broad oak stakeholder meeting and further to the survey I circulated I have sent the results of this back to South East Water, thank you Cllr Almond for your response, We have had some feedback I will circulate this if I haven't already. I attended the Sturry Parish Council group meeting and I managed to get some information about the defibrillator training, so I will follow that up. I've received an email from a resident asking if a dog walking area could be added to the recreational ground, I have copied CCC Harry McKenzie into this.

Signed

Date

Hersden Parish Council

The roadworks taking place on Island Road, both Jack and I have been over to speak to the Site Manager to find out what is happening as we have had residents asking. A Pedestrian crossing is being placed by the Sycamore Green, the footpath will be widened and the bench moved back slightly and levelled.

The litter was discussed and the site manager informed us that they will remove any site waste but it is the responsibility of Highways. Clerk to check this information as the management company mow the area. Also discussed the possibility of some Litter bins on that side of the road, they can't put the bins in but could maybe purchase them.

A resident contacted us again regarding the parking on Blackthorn Road, the garage is parking the cars in the residential area taking up spaces. Clerk suggests a letter is sent to the Garage asking them to park elsewhere.

Further to last month's meeting when it was discussed that Quinn's purchased the old Tina Rintoul Centre for the Under 5's nursery, Cllr A Brabham spoke to Quinn's and it was verbally confirmed that the new building would be a vets or similar and if anyone knows of any businesses interested to send them in his direction.

The photographs of the daffodils provided by Cllr Almond were posted on Facebook and our website and the defibrillator locations including a map have been put on facebook. Cllr Glover suggests we join forces with Westbere for the defibrillator training. Cllr J Brabham states a resident asked if the defibrillators are lit up in the evenings, a suggestion is put forward that we look at getting signage showing the locations. Cllr J Brabham would like to discuss putting bollards along the verge where the cars from the garage are parking as this is the first impression of the village.

Chair – Lots of things to bring up this evening, we have planted 50 more trees in the village, these are to replace some trees previously planted that went missing.

I have reported a broken street light.

Met with Redrow with Lisamarie, this has already been covered.

Resident has spoken to me about parking on the Elms, Clerk will provide further information to Keji, there is also an issue with parking in Chislet Gardens where a family are parking on the footpath blocking emergency access. The investigation into the 999 call handling of the house fire is back, no one was at fault, but the 999 operators will look at the procedures and see if improvements can be made.

I've been dealing with a resident with a boundary fence issue next door to the Colliery Club, David Hards has been trying to contact Canterbury City Council and isn't getting a response. David will communicate with Keji regarding this.

Merton Village show, more information later in the agenda.

Louise from the Colliery Club has asked for information regarding the road that runs alongside the club as this is in need of repair.

We need to have our emails as '.gov.uk', I am looking into this again with our service provider. This is something we need to do to comply with regulation. Cllr Brabham proposes this, Seconded by Cllr Glover, All agreed.

Cllr Warman – What happened at the meeting in Sturry, Clerk responds and states the meeting wasn't structured but it was a great opportunity to discuss matters and meet other Councillors and Clerks, Cllr Hatton states the meeting would have been better attended if it were a different night not a Friday, other councillors agreed. Cllr J Brabham mentions for minute taking purposes that one of our councillors that attended the Sturry Parish meeting was injured and an accident report was completed.

Caretaker – Weather has been lovely, litter has increased in the play park, bin being emptied every other day. Grass has been cut. A new bin has been acquired, this has replaced the broken bin.

49/25

Correspondence received:

Lots of road closures in Kent

KALC/NALC training schedules and newsletters circulated to Councillors

Received the invoice from CCC for the 99yr lease land – See finance appendix

Received the invoice from KALC for subscription – See finance appendix

Email from KALC regarding the Canterbury Area Committee meeting taking place on the 22nd May at the Herne Centre at 7.30pm.

Resident enquiry regarding the road works on Island Road

Telephone call from Events at CCC regarding the Merton Vintage Show, information has been circulated to the Councillors and Cllrs have been copied into the email communication, Cllr J Brabham has been in touch with the event organisers.

AGAR forms and information received from Mazaars – Clerk has requested an appointment with the internal Auditor Lionel Robbins.

Signed

Date

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50/25 **KALC – Changes to the Model Financial Regulations** – The changes to the Model Financial Regulations are read out and noted. The new document will be uploaded to our website.

51/25 **Planning & Enforcement Matters:**
None

CCC Cllr Keji Moses leaves the meeting

52/25 **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 J Brabham and Seconded by Cllr Glover, All agreed.

Banking sign-off (monthly rotation) Cllr D Almond and Cllr P Hatton.

53/25 **Working Group updates**
Staffing:
Playground: A resident requested a dedicated dog area in the recreation ground. CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie was copied into the email; it is Canterbury City Councils decision.
Youth:
BMX Track:
Finance:
Events: Clerk comments that the VE Day poster advertising the event at the Colliery Club in Association with Hersden Parish Council has been changed to reflect the items discussed in last month's meeting but we haven't yet received an invoice for the payment towards the entertainment or any other official communication from the Colliery Club.
Beautification: The daffodils are coming up slightly later in the play park. The daffodils on the Sycamore green have been treated with Phosphate by the Community Centre.
Community Safety: Clerk hasn't yet found time to contact the Fire brigade regarding Smoke alarms in the village.
Training:

54/25 **Any other business:** Clerk mentions that next month we will hold our APM at 6pm and then our AGM alongside our normal Parish Meeting so the meeting start time on the 13th May 2025 will at the earlier time of 6pm. Cllr R Llewellyn mentions the Mining museum festival at Betteshanger in August, he will be helping out but would appreciate some extra help during the event. Further information will be available nearer the time.

55/25 **Date of the next meeting:** 6pm 13th May 2025

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 8.02pm.

Signed

Date