

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8 December 2011 in Hormead Village Hall at 8pm

PRESENT: Cllr Robert Denham (RED), Chairman; Cllr David Ginn (DEG), Vice-Chairman; Cllr Geoff Abbey (GA); Cllr Elizabeth Collery (EC); Cllr Elaine Harding; Cllr John Kilby (JK)

Clerk: Colin Marks

PCSO Amanda Higham and PCSO Higgins
District Councillor Rose Cheswright and 4 other members of the public.

ACTION

11.268 Apologies for absence

- 1. Councillors:** None
- 2. Other Councillor absences:** None
- 3. Others:** County Cllr Jane Pitman

11.269 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ginn and Cllr Kilby: personal interest in respect of the Village Hall; Cllr Abbey and Cllr Harding: prejudicial interest in respect of the Village Hall; Cllr Collery: personal interests in respect of the Village Hall, the School, and possibly police matters; Cllr Denham: personal interest in respect of the School.

11.270 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 10 November 2011

There was a discussion following Cllr Kilby saying that he did not make the remark about the Clerk's expenses. However, four Councillors affirmed that he did. It was **RESOLVED by 5 votes to 1 that the Minutes of 10 November 2011 be agreed and accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

11.271 Minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting 17 November 2011

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED by 3 votes to 1 (2 abstained) that the Minutes of 17 November 2011 be agreed and accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

11.272 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman had no announcements.

11.273 PCSO Report

PCSO Higham reported that for the period 10 November to 8 December no crimes were recorded in the parish. Four crimes were reported in the surrounding area, 3 involving cars and 1 a shed, but overall the area remains quiet. In the wider district there is an increase in thefts from white vans. The Chairman thanked her for attending and giving a report.

Adjournment for public comments

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended to allow public comments.**

DC Rose Cheswright asked the Council if it was possible to change the meeting from the 2nd Thursday so that she could be available to attend. It was agreed to consider this at 11.288 below.

11.274 Internal Administration

The Chairman reported that preparation of Standing Orders based the new model were still in progress.

RED

11.275 Planning

1. Planning Applications

3/11/1946/FP & 1947/LB Great Hornead Bury

Single storey annex and basement (amended scheme)

Accepted

Clerk

3/11/1563/FP Great Hornead Bury

Swimming pool and enclosure.

Accepted

Clerk

3/11/2057/FP Elm Side, Horseshoe Lane, Gt Hornead

Erection of detached open cart lodge

Councillors had been unable to open the plans online and could therefore make no comment.

The Clerk to write to EH Planning to complain.

No comment

Clerk

2. Decision Notices

3/11/1430/FP Little Horneadbury Farm

Change of land to residential, new stables and tennis court; landscaping

PERMISSION GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

3/11/1546/FP Great Hornead Bury

Erection of detached car port

PERMISSION GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

3. Other Planning matters

There were no other planning issues to discuss

11.276 FINANCE

1. The report of the Council's finances for the period 29 October to 29 November 2011 were received (Appendix A).

Finance Summary:

Opening available balance 29/10/11: £ 13,087.07

Plus income to 29/11/11: 300.00

Less expenditure to 29/11/11: 1,477.55

Available to Council: 11,909.52

(Reconciled to bank statement 313):

RESOLVED: That the Accounts Statement be accepted.

2. The list of orders for payment was presented and authorised to be signed (Appendices B1 and B2).

There was a discussion as to whether the Clerk should be involved in sorting out issues at the Meads (which would not normally fall within a Clerk's remit) and whether councillors should play a more active role there. No Councillor felt they could take on the duties and it was agreed that an average of £36 a month was not an unreasonable sum to pay the Clerk to undertake the responsibility.

RESOLVED: To approve the invoices presented for payment. It was agreed to defer the signing of cheques to the end of the meeting

Clerk

3. Online bank statements: Ongoing, not yet resolved by the bank; wrong forms sent out for signature.

Clerk

4. The Chairman presented a Budget and Precept proposal for 2012/13, and this was discussed. The figures gave only a nominal contingency and the Chairman suggested consideration be given to the precept being increased. Cllr Kilby questioned the need for holding 11 meetings a year since it led to additional costs and time. He was opposed to any increase since Hormead already has one of the largest precepts in the district for a small parish. The Clerk said that some neighbouring parishes were considering raising their precept by 5%-10%.

Expenses that could be reduced included holding Parish Council meetings at the Meads rather than in the Village Hall; stopping donations; not celebrating the Diamond Jubilee.

Cllr Abbey argued that a £1500 increase was probably in the order of 20 pence a week per household, and he thought that would not be unacceptable in order to maintain existing facilities.

It was agreed to consider these further before finally approving the budget in January.

11.277 Correspondence

The list of correspondence was received (Appendix C). Items arising:

1. EHC information regarding salt and regulations for use: discussed under 11.278.2(iii)
2. The Clerk apologised for not circulating the message that the A10 would be closed, with traffic consequently being diverted via the B1368 due to Herts Highways' unforeseen last minute difficulties.

**GA
Clerk**

11.278 Special Interest Groups Reports

1. Village Hall.

Cllr Collery reported:

(i) The next stage, now in hand, was the detailed submission for building regulations.

(ii) The EHC condition of the Hall being completed before the house being built was being questioned in order to provide funds.

(iii) The Management Committee are busy looking at all funding and grant possibilities.

Cllr Ginn asked Cllr Collery if she could confirm the date she became a member and Trustee of the VHMC.

EC

2. Highways.

Cllr Abbey reported he had requested 2 site meetings:

- (i) The footpath between the Hall and the School, which is narrowing.
- (ii) The missing Great Hormead sign, to confirm its correct location.

GA

(iii) Winter salt: Because of regulations, it was agreed that the Council would not employ anyone to use the salt but rather make it available for use, with a cautionary notice on the salt bins

GA

3. Footpaths and Byways.

No report.

4. Website.

The Clerk said the new website is now up and running but the new password has yet to be issued.

Clerk

5. School.

The Chairman reported that latest fund raising event was successful.

6. Meads.

The Hares have reported that they are employing a specialised contractor to level-off the football field, which will involve heavy machinery on the Meads. The Chairman has contacted Eileen Worby to express concerns about it being too wet to undertake the work now. He is awaiting a reply. The Council's view is that it is the wrong time of year to do this work and risks damaging the ground.

RED

11.279 Hormead Hares Football Club

In view of the comments at 11.278.6 above, it was urged that the forthcoming meeting be arranged as soon as possible.

RED

11.280 Meads: The following issues were considered

1. Play Area Repairs (Appendix D). The information from the 3 quoting companies was not consistent and the Clerk was asked to ensure like-for-like prices were being quoted.

Clerk

2. Pavilion electrics (Appendix E). Quotes were still awaited from Steve Day. He has been chased.

Clerk

3. Pavilion toilets / drains. Although no problems at present, it should be borne in mind that that there have been issues in the past.

4. Garage building/users. The building is owned by the Parish Council and is used by HH for keeping grass-cutting equipment. The Cricket Club would like to use it for storage equipment, but there is no room. HH also have a container on the other field for their equipment.

ALL

5. Old equipment. There are two rollers and some old goalposts lying around the field.

6. Car parking. Parking on the B1038 remains a serious problem, with cars recently blocking the footway and forcing pedestrians onto the road (which is illegal). It was acknowledged that visiting teams and supporters could be the main cause of the problem. It was also noted that cars are also being parked in Worsted Lane. This should be taken up with HH at the meeting and considered for inclusion in the new lease.

ALL

7. Fencing. The fencing is disappearing in places and there is a duty of care to be considered. Warning signs may be necessary.

ALL

	<u>8. Disclaimer Signage.</u> Further to the above item, other signs may be needed at certain locations. Warning signs regarding rabbit holes and scrapes should be considered.	ALL
	<u>9. Pest Control.</u> It was uncertain whether Roy Jarman deals with rabbit control. The Clerk to clarify.	Clerk
	<u>10. Vehicular access to Meads.</u> Discussed at 11.278.6	
	<u>11. Locks.</u> Lock to be checked to see whether replacement needed.	Clerk
	<u>12. Other issues.</u> There are concerns that holes in the boundary hedge provide access to neighbour's property and paddocks.	ALL
11.281	Insurance Further to 11.280.8 above, players or supporters tripping in rabbit holes is not covered and a risk assessment needs to be done for insurance purposes.	RED/ Clerk
11.282	Keys and keyholders No further information. Keyholders to be discussed with HHFC at the forthcoming meeting.	
11.283	Queen's Diamond Jubilee 1. Due budget constraints, it was discussed whether celebration plans should go ahead; it was agreed they should. 2. Beacon: Cllr Ginn will investigate sponsorship.	DEG
11.284	Councillor Training evenings 1. Simon Drinkwater: dates to be finalised. 2. The Clerk reported that Carina Helmn now thought it best to postpone her councillor training until after Simon Drinkwater's session.	Clerk Clerk
11.285	Registration of Village Hall land The Chairman reported that no further correspondence had been received from Land Registry and the matter was therefore still open.	
11.286	Casual Vacancy The Clerk reported that EHC had not received any calls for an election and therefore a co-opted councillor was to be sought. Application notices to be posted without setting a closing date.	Clerk
11.287	Items for future agendas None	
11.288	Date of next meeting Following DC Rose Cheswright's comments in the open question session above, it was discussed and agreed to move Parish Council meetings to the 3 rd Thursday of the month. <i>Clerk's note following the meeting: the January meeting will still take place on the 2nd Thursday, ie the 12th, due to the necessity of finalising the precept.</i> Thursday 12 January at 8pm in the Village Hall (or 7.30pm if a significant number of planning applications have been received).	Clerk Clerk
11.289	Supplementary agenda item Cllr Ginn requested that potential highways parking issues posed by the	

new Village Hall Plan be discussed. He suggested the alternative Option 3 recently proposed by a resident would resolve all parking issues and alleviate cost concerns. Cllr Collery said it was her understanding that the proposed Option 3 had a shorter life expectancy than the approved plan due to the proposed materials and construction method.

It was agreed that the Parish Council could write to VHMC to request the effect on parking by Option 3 be given consideration, but beyond that it was for individuals to take up matters with the VHMC.

The Chairman proposed the meeting be open for public discussion, but announced that he had to leave at this point and invited the Vice-Chairman to continue. Since the Vice-Chairman also had to leave, the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 10.22 pm.

Signed **Dated**