

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 March 2012 in the Meads Pavilion at 8pm

PRESENT: Cllr Robb Denham (RED), Chairman; Cllr Geoff Abbey (GA);
Cllr Elaine Harding (EH); Cllr John Kilby (JK)

Clerk: Colin Marks

District Cllr Rose Cheswright and six other members of the public

ACTION

12.042 Apologies for absence

- 1. Councillors:** Cllrs David Ginn - holiday
- 2. Other Councillor absences:** None
- 3. Others:** PCSO Amanda Higham (off duty)

12.043 Simon Drinkwater's seminar: feedback

The Chairman considered it a very useful and good clear presentation. Cllr Kilby said that Simon Drinkwater had told him the previous evening, 14 April, that it had been a waste of time because no-one would listen to him. Other councillors questioned whether this comment had really been made.

12.044 Charity Commission: Code of Conduct

The Chairman reminded the councillors that all local authorities operate under the statutory Code of Conduct rules and model, which had been adopted by Hormead Council in June 2007. He further stated that the exemption for councillors from declaring a prejudicial interest merely because they were an appointed representative on another body was specific but was not reciprocal. There followed a discussion regarding the precedence of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct during which the Chairman made the point that if Cllr Kilby considered that he was not bound by this, he should leave the meeting. Cllr Kilby agreed to act under the Council's Code.

12.045 Declarations of Interest

Personal interests declared by Cllr Kilby, Cllr Harding and Cllr Abbey in respect of the Village Hall, and Cllr Denham in respect of the School.

12.046 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 16 February 2012

- Cllr Kilby asked for an amendment to be made to the opening statement so that it reads "Due to the Village Hall being unavailable...", instead of "...being double booked". The amendment was agreed.
- Under Public comments, Cllr Kilby disagreed that Cllr Ginn is the Parish Council's representative because the VHMC do not accept him.

3. Under 12.023, Cllr Kilby denied having said the Charity Commission Code overrides the Parish Council Code of Conduct. Cllr Kilby requested a recorded vote regarding items 2 and 3 above. Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment to point 1, the Minutes of 16 February 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record by a majority of 3:1, Cllr Kilby voted against the motion.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

12.047 Chairman's Announcements: None

12.048 PCSO Report:

In PCSO Higham's absence, the Clerk gave her report, which was that there had been no reported crime in the parish since 21 March.

Adjournment for public comments

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

1. Simon Hossack asked whether, in view of the disagreements over what was said by councillors, meetings could be recorded. The Clerk said he would clarify the rules.

Clerk

2. Brian Stone asked if the VHMC was holding its AGM in April and pointed out the requirement for a public meeting before the building plot is sold. Cllr Kilby declined to answer.

3. Sarah Fremantle said the Parish Council should not be obsessed with the village hall and should focus on the vitally important production of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman said the Council has obtained the necessary guidance information for a Plan to be outlined, and assured Mrs Fremantle that it was not obsessed with the village hall. He also pointed out that there may be large sums of money required to have any plan accepted by EHDC.

**RED
ALL**

12.049 Internal Administration

1. The Chairman reported the revision of Standing Orders is ongoing.

RED

2. The Chairman reported that due to the necessity of independence, a new internal auditor was being appointed.

Clerk

3. The Chairman said that following Simon Drinkwater's seminar, members were being asked to update their Register of Interests and return them to the Clerk as soon as possible.

**ALL
Clerk**

12.050 PLANNING

1. Planning Applications

3/12/0250/FP Willow Close, Great Hormead

Demolish garage blocks and replace with seven social housing units and parking for 9 vehicles

The Council discussed a number of concerns regarding this application. The loss of existing parking facilities – 45 garages, of which 19 are reportedly in use, and hard standing - coupled with proposed parking provision for only 9 cars for the new houses, will leave Willow Close with totally inadequate car parking spaces. It is feared the consequence of this will be even more congested parking on the roads in the area, and that parking may even spill on to Horseshoe Hill.

The Council has further concerns that the highways access, which is already difficult, will not safely accommodate any additional traffic. The planning application also makes assertions about local amenities that are misleading, for example referring local shops, a post office, and bus services, and, whilst mentioning the short walking distance to the village, omits to point out the steepness of Horseshoe Hill. It is understood that at least one garage is privately owned, and the owner is understandably very concerned. It was agreed to object to the application. Cllr Rose Cheswright offered to liaise with the Clerk on this.

Clerk

Objection

2. Decision Notices

3/11/2122/FP 2 Bradbury Farm Barns

Stable block and associated hard standing)

PERMISSION GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

3. Other Planning matters

1. 11/02146/1CM: Nuthampstead Shooting Range: New date for Development Control Committee meeting yet to be arranged.

Clerk

2. No further applications received.

12.051 FINANCE

1. The report of the Council's finances for the period 28 January to 28 February 2012 was received (Appendix A).

Finance Summary:

Opening available balance 28/1/12:	£ 9,878.89
Plus income to 28/2/12:	300.00
Less expenditure to 28/2/12:	<u>3,351.85</u>
Available to Council:	<u>6,827.04</u>

(Reconciled with bank statement 316):

It was **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.**

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

It was noted that the Gt Hormead Village Hall invoice included a hire charge for 15th March. Cllr Kilby acknowledged the error and the invoice was amended from £225 to £200.

It was **RESOLVED to approve the invoices presented for payment subject to the above amendment re the Village Hall.**

Clerk

It was agreed to defer the signing of cheques to the end of the meeting.

12.052 Correspondence

The list of correspondence was received (Appendix C). Items arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda:

1. The Clerk pointed out that a grant application form for Jubilee and Olympic events had been received from EHC.

2. Hormead School requested a donation to be considered in lieu of Jubilee mugs.

RED/Clerk

3. Booking confirmations have been received from Hormead and Sawbridgeworth Cricket Clubs, and Mr H Medicott, but nothing from Ware CC, despite being chased.

Clerk

4. Mandy Irons has resigned as the Pavilion cleaner due to health issues. The Clerk will write her a letter of thanks. Cllr Harding volunteered to be responsible for cleaning the Pavilion for the time being.

Clerk
EH

12.053 Special Interest Groups Reports

1. **Village Hall.** No report.

2. **Highways.** Cllr Abbey reported on the proposed closure of Hall Lane sometime in the next three months. He will get more specific information when it is available. He also confirmed that the phone number for reporting Highway faults is 0300 123 4047.

There is a Rural Transport Consultation which concludes on 21 May.

3. **Footpaths and Byways.** No report.

4. **Website.** Nothing to report.

5. **School.** The Chairman visited the school during an Ofsted inspection. Governors were questioned by the inspector, and it seemed to go well.

Clerk
GA

12.054 Meads:

The following matters were considered:

1. Play Area Repairs update. The Clerk reported that with all work completed and the grant application made, he was awaiting an inspection date from EHC so the grant could be released.

Clerk

2. Pavilion electrics. The Clerk reported that a 3-year safety certificate has now been issued. Following a further incident, it was reported that fuses were still being tripped when the kettle was in use by the Hares; Dry Electrical had rechecked the wiring and found no faults.

3. Disabled Access to pavilion. The Clerk presented an estimate from Broadmead Leisure for improving the disabled access to the pavilion. It was agreed to seek other quotes for comparison, and it was suggested Cllr Jane Pitman be approached to see if she could provide some funding from her Locality Budget.

Clerk

4. Car parking on the B1038 and B1368. The Chairman reported that the Hares are unable to do anything more, the problem being caused by visiting supporters. The Clerk will talk to the police.

Clerk

5. Warning and Disclaimer Signs. The Clerk reported that he had spoken with Rob and Michelle of the Hares and they would welcome more signs warning children to stay out of the river area since it is an ongoing concern for them. It was agreed for the Clerk to liaise with Simon Hossack and arrange for him to produce and erect the signs.

Clerk

6. Contract renewals: It was agreed to renew the contracts for Hormead CC and Sawbridgeworth CC at the same rate as last year. The Hares contract needs to be considered quickly, although it was pointed out that the contract for last year was never signed. Contracts for services should also to be reviewed. As reported at 12.052.4. above, Cllr Harding will clean the Pavilion for the time being.

Clerk
RED
EH

12.055 Hormead Hares Football Club

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

RED/Clerk

- 12.056 Queen's Diamond Jubilee**
1. The Chairman reported that further to his invitation to the VHMC to consider joint plans for the event, the VHMC have declined due to other fundraising commitments.
 2. Cllr Ginn was not present to give an update on the Beacon event. **DEG**
 3. Commemorative Mugs: The Chairman reported that the Council could no longer follow its plan, agreed at the last meeting, to give these to children at the school because Cllr and Mrs Kilby have gone ahead and arranged to do it themselves.
(Cllr Harding apologised and left the meeting at 9.25pm.)
 4. QEII Fields Award: The Clerk said that, having spoken at length to QEII Challenge, he could not identify any positive benefits for registering the Meads because 1) being a flood plain, it was not under threat from housing development and therefore did not need protecting, and 2) the award would neither protect nor prevent any plans the Hares might have to develop the area since all sporting or recreational activities are supported by both QEII Fields and Sport England.
 5. Herts U3A: It was agreed that HU3A could use the car park from mid morning to mid afternoon on the 7th and 14th June as a base for their sponsored Jubilee walk along the Hertfordshire Way. Clerk to arrange. **Clerk**
 6. Grants for Jubilee event: It was suggested Cllr Jane Pitman could be approached for funding from her Locality Budget. Clerk to check arrangements for the bonfire. **Clerk**
- 12.057 Councillor Training evenings**
1. Carina Helmn on Councillor Training: Date to be agreed. **Clerk**
 2. The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk were booked into the HAPTC Accounts and Year End Finance Workshop on 21 March. **RED Clerk**
- 12.058 Casual Vacancy**
- The Clerk reported that no applications for the co-option vacancy had been received, and that the deadline for an election had passed without a request. Therefore, there are now two vacant posts to be filled by co-option. The Chairman invited anyone to come forward, saying they would be most welcome. The requisite notice would be posted on the notice boards. **Clerk**
- 12.059 Parish Council Meeting dates and days**
- The Chairman pointed out that, since the Council owns the Pavilion, it is obliged to conduct its meetings there (*LGA 1972 s 134(1)*). Following a discussion, it was agreed to continue meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- 12.060 Annual Parish Meeting**
- To be confirmed at the next meeting.
- 12.061 Items for future agendas**
1. Neighbourhood Plan: Discussed under Point 3 of Public Discussion above. **RED ALL Clerk**
 2. Joining the New Standards regime: Details of the new proposals are anticipated in May and it was agreed to consider the matter then.
 3. Insurance: to be reviewed following submission of Risk Assessments. **RED/Clerk**

4. Other items for consideration: No other items suggested.

12.062 Date of next meeting

Thursday 19 April at 8pm in the Meads Pavilion.

Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed **Dated**