

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16 May 2013 at 8.20 pm in the Meads Pavilion

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Jayne Denham (JD); Vice-Chairman Cllr Dave Baseley (DB);
Cllr Robb Denham (RED); Cllr Elaine Harding (EH); Cllr John Kilby (JK)

Clerk: Colin Marks

County Cllr Rose Cheswright and 5 other members of the public.

- 13.097 Apologies for absence** **ACTION**
- 1. Councillors:** Cllr David Ginn (business)
 - 2. Others:** Rev Kate Peacock, PCSO Amanda Higham
- 13.098 Declarations of Interest**
- Cllr Baseley as Chairman of the VHMC; Cllr Kilby as a VHMC trustee and officer.
Cllr R Denham declared none, having resigned from the school's Board of Governors.
- 13.099 Appointment of councillors to Special Interest Groups for the ensuing year**
- The following were appointed:
- Village Hall: Cllr Dave Baseley
 - Highways: Cllr David Ginn and the Clerk **Clerk**
 - Footpaths & byways: Cllr Robb Denham
 - Website: The Clerk
 - School: Vacant
- 13.100 Casual Vacancy** **Clerk**
- The Chairman reported that no one had yet applied to be co-opted.
- 13.101 PCSO Report.**
- PCSO Higham reported via the Clerk that no crimes had been recorded in the Parish since the April meeting.
- 13.102 Register of Interests: update**
- The Clerk said that he had not yet received Cllr Ginn's updated form, and that he had not received from EHC a copy of Cllr Kilby's form that had been sent directly to the Monitoring Officer. **DEG Clerk**
- 13.103 Chairman's Announcements:** Chairman Cllr Jayne Denham said she wished to thank the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Robb Denham for all the hard work he had done on behalf of the Parish Council during his term of office; Cllr Baseley and Cllr Harding expressed their agreement. The Chairman also thanked the other members of the council for their input during the year.
- 13.104 PLANNING**
- 1. Applications:**
- 3/13/0669/FP The Willows, Hare Street:** *First floor extension and new roof over garage, utility room and porch:* **NO COMMENTS**
- 3/13/0586/FP Stonebury Farm, Hare Street:** *Change of use of agricultural land and buildings to open and covered storage – retrospective:* **NO COMMENTS**
- 2. Decision Notices**
- 3/13/0313/LB St Mary's Church, Little Hormead:** *Foundation below nave floor to support exhibited Norman door* **APPROVED, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**

3/13/0456/FP Wildacre Log Yard, Wildacre Nursery: *Erection of a 1.5 storey 3 bedroom dwelling* **DECISION AWAITED**

3/13/0525/FP 1 & 2 Vine Cottages, Hare Street: *Two storey rear extensions and storm porches* **DECISION AWAITED**

3/13/0415/FP Bridge House, Great Hormead: *First floor front extension residential annexe* **APPROVED, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**

3/13/0438/FP White Cottage, Horseshoe Lane: *Single and two storey rear extensions with open porch* **APPROVED, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**

3. Other Planning matters:

The Planning Inspectorate: The Decision on Modification Order for Footpath Numbers 33, 34 & 35 was: **TO NOT CONFIRM THE MODIFICATION ORDER.**

13.105 FINANCE

1. The report of the Council's finances for 29 March to 30 April was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary:	£
Opening available balance 29/3/13:	3,468.62
Plus income to 29/4/13:	10,385.24
Less expenditure to 29/4/13:	<u>2,267.37</u>
Available to Council	11,586.49
Unpresented cheques as at 29/4/13:	687.00
Bank balance (reconciled with statement #340 of 29th April)	<u>12,273.49</u>

Following a vote it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.** **Clerk**

2. The list of orders for payment was presented for authorisation to be signed (Appendices B1 and B2). Following a discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve all the invoices presented for payment.** It was agreed to defer the signing of cheques to the end of the meeting. **Clerk/ JD**

3. Annual Accounts 2012/13 for approval for audit: Cllr Kilby questioned that the Meads expenses were not like-for-like, that the detailed explanation for the Y/E 2012 had differences to the Y/E 2013, and that the HHFC figures distorted the facts. Cllr R Denham explained the HHFC income simply covered their cost, that cost having been previously determined by Cllr Kilby, and that the accounts reflected the reality of the position. He said amendments needed to be made on the last year figures but the overall picture for the year was valid. The Chairman proposed the Accounts be accepted, seconded by Cllr Harding and, by a vote of 4:1, it was **RESOLVED that the Annual Accounts be accepted for audit.** Cllr Kilby requested that it be recorded that he strongly disagreed with the Meads receipts. **Clerk/ RED**

13.106 Correspondence

The list of correspondence as it appeared on the agenda was noted with brief comments on certain items not covered elsewhere on the agenda. **Clerk**

13.107 Special Interest Matters

1. **Village Hall.** Cllr Baseley had nothing to report and said minutes would be made available after the next VHMC meeting on 4th June. **DB**

2. Highways.

1. The Clerk said he had received notification that the repair work to the B1038 where it was caving into the Hormead Brook, just east of the Three Tuns, had been completed. However, upon inspection it was discovered that the repair had not been done. Photographs of the damage had now been sent to EHC. **Clerk**

2. The seat in Little Hornead at the junction of Worsted Lane and The Street had been repaired (*Clerk's note: it was discovered at the end of the meeting that this had been done by a resident and not Affinity Water's contractor. Thank you, that resident*).

3. The Clerk affirmed that he had been informed the B1368 closure for maintenance from Worsted Lane to Puckeridge was now scheduled for seven days in the second half of June, and that the B1038 from the Beehive and Horseshoe Lane would be similarly closed for seven between 6th May and 1st October.

Clerk

3. Footpaths and Byways. Cllr R Denham reported that the reinstatement of some footpaths and bridleways was ongoing.

RED/
Clerk

4. Website. The Clerk had nothing to report

Clerk

5. School. Cllr R Denham reported that he had resigned as a school governor due to conflicting council requirements. He asked if another councillor would consider taking on the role without response.

ALL

6. Parishioners' concerns. Nothing to report.

13.108 Meads and Pavilion

1. The Meads generally. Cllr Kilby asked the Clerk what the position was now it was discovered that the registering of the Meads with Fields in Trust in December 2012 had created a charity? The Clerk replied that a charity had not been created and that the FiT Deed of Dedication specifically stated that fact. However, the Clerk went on to say that he had learnt that under the Recreational Charities Act 1958, now the Charities Act 2011 s 5, land given or left to a community for a recreation ground is now deemed charitable, depending upon the wording of the governing document. Since the 1949 deed and the subsequent 1950 deed both specifically stated the land was for a recreation ground, (possibly complicated by the 1965 60-year lease taken by the now dissolved Hornead Sports Association charity) he had begun to make enquiries with the Hedleys solicitor who, at an HAPTC event, raised this awareness. The investigation would involve legal costs. Cllr Baseley questioned whether the Fields in Trust solicitors would look at it for free since they were involved in preparing the recent dedication deeds. The Clerk said he would make enquiries.

Clerk

A sign advertising the Meads and its facilities for hire was discussed and Cllr Baseley said he would produce a suitable sign, liaising with the Clerk.

DB/
Clerk

2. Roofing repairs. Cllr Baseley produced photographs that showed the cause of the leak above the changing room external door. He also reported that the broken corrugated PVCu panels of the terrace roofing could be replaced, although the panels were getting brittle with age. He agreed to provide prices for the repairs.

DB/
Clerk

Cllr Baseley further reported that the electric cable coming out of the ground by the shed had been checked to ensure it was not live, and that it had now been safely buried.

3. Kitchen. The Chairman and Cllr Harding volunteered to thoroughly spring clean the kitchen area.

JD/EH

4. River bank fencing. The Clerk reported that he had received one quote for post and rail fencing and was awaiting a quote from another contractor for alternative solutions.

Clerk

5. Refurbishment of parish benches and notice boards. Quotes from Stephen Ruff for refurbishing the notice boards and benches were considered. A member of the public asked whether there were any volunteers from the parish who would undertake the work. Cllr R Denham said the quotes were reasonable and work should be done; Cllr Baseley said he would like to assess the benches himself, and following a vote it was **RESOLVED to refurbish the notice boards and benches, subject to Cllr Baseley's assessment.**

DB/Clerk

13.109 Neighbourhood Plan

1. Cllr R Denham reported that, following the Annual Parish Meeting, Stuart Taylor and Edward and Sarah Fremantle had expressed interest in forming a representative group from the community to explore the possibilities of producing a plan. The Clerk had forwarded to them information and minutes of EHAPTC meetings with EHC.

There was a discussion on Buntingford Town Council's invitation for two or three councillors to attend a presentation on 3rd June where the proposal for neighbouring parishes to join BTC's Neighbourhood Plan would be explained.

**RED/
Clerk**

2. The Clerk said he had not yet received any direct response to the letter sent to the neighbouring Parish Councils of Anstey, Braughing, Brent Pelham & Meesden, and Furneux Pelham enquiring if they had any interest in joining together to create a single plan for a cluster of parishes.

Clerk

13.110 H&H newsletter:

1. The Clerk reported that it had not yet been possible to arrange a meeting with Chrissy Withers to discuss criticisms of bias, but he had spoken at length to her on the phone and presented a summary of her points to the meeting. Cllr Harding said she had spoken to Chrissy directly and hoped that recent changes would enable both sides to now move on. After a discussion, it was decided the Council did not want to pursue the matter any further. The Chairman said that should any issues arise in future, they should be raised at the time and talked through with the editor.

Clerk

2. Parish Council Newsletter. The feasibility of producing a newsletter was discussed. Cllr Baseley said that such a newsletter should report only facts without embellishment and must not be biased either. The Chairman agreed but made the point that in the past, biased and personal comments against the Parish Council had been included in the H&H Newsletter.

Cllr Baseley said the VHMC were considering doing their own newsletter to keep everyone informed of developments, and were open to the possibility of producing it jointly with the Parish Council if the parties were willing.

JD/DB

13.111 HHFC

The Chairman gave an overview of her recent correspondence with Peter Worby and Dave Winkworth concerning the various matters previously reported to the Council. Despite the Hares' assertion that parishioners feel free to speak to them about any concerns, that was not what parishioners were saying to councillors. The Parish Council has a duty to pass on to HHFC any comments made to it about rubbish etc perceived to be related to the club's activities, and would continue to do so.

13.112 Insurance

The Clerk presented like-for-like quotations from the existing insurer, AON, and Came & Co (Aviva) and Zurich – all parish council specialists. These were considered. Against the AON quote, Came & Co were approximately £200 cheaper and Zurich approximately £600 cheaper. Following a vote it was unanimously **RESOLVED that Zurich be awarded the insurance contract for 12 months commencing 1 June 2013.**

Clerk

13.113 Urgent matters not elsewhere on the agenda: None

13.114 Items for future agendas

1. Feasibility study for new Meads pavilion: Cllr Ginn
2. Other items for consideration: *No other items were suggested.*

**DEG
ALL**

Adjournment for public comments

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

Cllr Rose Cheswright suggested that the Standon & Puckeridge quarterly newsletter, which has a circulation of over 3,000, might be a good vehicle for advertising and reporting.

The meeting was resumed.

13.115 Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Thursday 20 June 2013 at 8pm in the Church Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.52 pm.

Signed **Dated**.....