

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16 January 2014 at 8 pm in The Meads Pavilion

PRESENT: Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD), Cllr Dave Baseley (DB)
Cllr Robb Denham (RED), Cllr John Kilby (JK); later joined by Cllr Denis Madden (DM)

5 members of the public, PC Sgt Duncan Wallace, PCSO Amanda Higham.

In attendance: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

- 14.001 Apologies for absence** **ACTION**
1. **Councillors:** None
 2. **Others:** CC Rose Cheswright, attending an East Herts District Plan meeting
 3. **Other Councillor absences:** None
- 14.002 Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Baseley: Chairman of Village Hall Management Committee
- 14.003 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 19 December 2013**
Cllr Kilby asked for it to be recorded that he did not approve them; no specific reason was given. Cllr Baseley pointed out that draft Minutes are circulated two weeks in advance and asked that in future any comments be made before the meeting, as had been previously agreed. The Chairman agreed and said the previously adopted procedure must be followed. Following a vote of 2:1, it was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 19 December 2013 be accepted as a true and accurate record.** Cllr Baseley abstained, being absent in December. The Chairman signed the Minutes at the end of the meeting. **JD/Clerk**
- 14.004 Casual Vacancy**
1. Due to the resignation of Cllr David Ginn: The Clerk reported that the time for 10 electors to request EHDC for an election expired at 5pm that day and that the Monitoring Officer had not been in contact to say such a request had been made. Therefore, subject to confirmation, the PC should invite eligible electors to apply to be co-opted. **Clerk**
 2. Application for co-option by Denis Madden: Mr Madden was present, and following a brief discussion with him it was unanimously **RESOLVED that Denis Madden be accepted as a member of the Parish Council.**
- Denis Madden then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk. The Clerk gave him a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Register to complete within 28 days, and a copy of the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The Chairman welcomed him as a member of the Council and he took his place for the remainder of the meeting. **DM/Clerk**
- 14.005 Police Report.**
PC Sgt Duncan Wallace gave a comprehensive report on recent criminal activity in the area and the police response. The parish and neighbouring area into Essex had been subject to a number crimes and he was working with Essex police to identify and apprehend those responsible. This involved night work; high-performance cars were being used by the miscreants. One team of criminals had been arrested that same afternoon and were in custody.
- The crimes were mainly focussed around shed and garage break-ins and only very specific items were being taken. Another problem was the burglary of rural residential dwellings, into which there was rapid entry and exit, and again with only specific items stolen. When apprehended, the criminals have been found to be in possession of very large quantities of stolen goods, which have been made available for the public to reclaim.
- At present there are no reports of break-ins to commercial premises.
- Fuel oil has also been the subject of theft, particularly on the Cottered side of Buntingford. Sgt Wallace pointed out that no suspects were from Hertfordshire and they were operating out of the Peterborough area.
- He acknowledged the Clerk's report on concerns about speeding, particularly through Hare Street, and residents' anxiety caused by speeding lorries. He pointed out that no

lorry has ever been caught speeding through the village, but it was recognised that, even within the speed limit, they can be very loud and intimidating in a close environment. PCSO Higham said that Dassels had embarked on a "Drive Safe" scheme and wondered if that would be of interest to Hare Street.

DM/Clerk

14.006 Register of Interests:

The Clerk said he had heard nothing further from the Monitoring Officer.

Clerk

14.007 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman said she wished to read a statement on two matters: the Newsletter and the Hornead Hares. She asked that this be recorded in full as a matter of public record so as to avoid any misunderstanding. *Clerk's note: the statement is appended to the end of these Minutes.*

Clerk

14.008 PLANNING

1. Applications:

None received.

2. Decision Notices

3/13/1791/FP Great Hornead Hall, Hall Lane: Change of use of agricultural building to B2 for processing and packing meat. *APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS*

3/13/2128/FP Yew Tree Cottage, Little Hornead: *New domestic biodisc sewage treatment plant.* *DECISION AWAITED*

3/13/0586/FP Stonebury Farm, Hare Street: *Change of use of agricultural land and buildings to open and covered storage – retrospective:* *DECISION AWAITED*

3/13/0984/FP & 0985/LB Gardeners Cottage, Hare Street: *Erection of oak-framed orangery.* *UNDER APPEAL*

3. Other Planning matters: None

Clerk

14.009 FINANCE

1. The report of the Council's finances for 30 November to 30 December was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary to 31 December:

Opening available balance 30/11/13:	£ 7,415.22
Plus income to 31/12/13:	100.00
Less expenditure to 31/12/13:	<u>1,183.22</u>
Balance available to Council 31/12/13	6,332.00
Unpresented cheques as at 31/12/13:	<u>858.07</u>
Bank balance reconciled with statement #353, 27/12/13	<u>7,190.07</u>

Following a brief discussion and vote it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.**

The Clerk pointed out that an accounts summary is published each month in the Minutes on the Parish Council website.

Clerk

2. The list of orders for payment was presented for authorisation to be signed (Appendices B1 and B2). It was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve all the invoices presented for payment.**

Clerk

3. Budget/precept 2014-15:

Cllr R Denham presented a detailed budget proposal that projected a bank balance of £2,955 at the 2014-15 year end. The projected bank balance at the current year's end on 31/3/14 was £2,905, against a budgeted balance of £2,513. He proposed that the Precept remain at £16,500, to be ratified and signed at the February PC meeting. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the budget, and for the precept to remain at £16,500 for 2014-15, for ratification at the February PC meeting.**

ALL/
Clerk

14.010 Correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the agenda. The Clerk drew members' attention to items not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

- The next EHAPTC meeting with EHDC will be 22nd January at Wallfields. **RED/Clerk**
- HHFC (Eileen Worby): It was understood that the Hares require one 11-a-side pitch plus changing room, Sunday mornings for one junior age group, for home matches commencing 2014/15. Cllr Baseley asked that the Clerk contact HHFC to confirm this, together with an idea of the total number of participants that would be involved, the number of matches anticipated. He requested the matter be added to the February agenda to discuss fees. **Clerk**
- HCC: Mineral & Waste Development Framework modification consultation deadline 17th February. **ALL**
- HCC: Centenary Poppy Campaign: Invitation to participate. It was agreed to add this to the February agenda. **ALL**
- HCC: Town & Parish Council Conference on Localism and Engagement, Stevenage, 7th April. **ALL**
- Police Locality Panel Meeting: Friday 17th January, 1pm, Buntingford Police Station. Cllr R Denham said he would attend. **RED**

14.011 Special Interest Matters

1. Village Hall.

- Cllr Baseley said there was nothing to report; the next meeting would be later in January. The main activity was around the securing of the £9k grant and cost assessment to reduce cost to within budget. The house was now sold and access sorted. It was hoped that work would start on the new hall in march and be completed by the end of November. **DB**

2. Highways.

- B1038 speed issues raised with HCC and CC Rose Cheswright are ongoing.
- B1368 speed issues: as reported above, consider "Drive Safe" scheme. **Clerk**
- Large hole in the B1038 west of the kennels: this has a warning sign and safety barrier around it and will be fixed by HCC in due course.
- Vehicular damage to verges on Horseshoe Hill: reported by resident Christopher Hole; he suggested there is a passing place at the Horseshoe Hill/Willow Close junction that is used as a parking bay; this to be investigated. Decision to report to Highways. **Clerk/DM**
- Salt bin at junction of Worsted Lane and the Street damaged by tree blown down on recent storm: report to Highways. **DM/Clerk**

Cllr Madden expressed an interest in highways matters and it was agreed that he should be take on the responsibility for highways liaison. **DM**

3. Footpaths and Byways

- Cllr R Denham noted that footpaths continue to be churned up by horses. **RED**
- RED expressed concern about the ongoing matter of broken gates at the field opposite the pumping station. The sign has been taken and parts of the gate are in the river. Neither gateway has any way of being closed. It's uncertain who is the responsible landowner. **RED/Clerk**
- Roland Coxall also noted that bales had gone into the river at Stonebury; he offered to investigate. **RED**

4. Website

- The Clerk had nothing to report **Clerk**

5. Parishioners' concerns.

- As discussed in items above. The Chairman observed that Matthew Reeves-Hairs had expressed concerns about a security camera at Willow Close that had been covered in the police report above. **Clerk**

14.012 The Meads and Pavilion

1. The Meads generally: Cllr R Denham reported that the Meads had not flooded during the recent heavy rains. He expressed concerns at the deep ruts across the field caused by the maintenance contractor's vehicle.

2. Permanent "For Hire" sign: There was a discussion questioning the necessity and expense of a permanent sign and the decision in October to apply for planning permission. It was decided to not proceed and following proposal and vote it was unanimously **RESOLVED to rescind the decision made in November (Minute 13.207.1) to apply for planning permission for a permanent sign and to take no further action.** This in accordance with Section 18 of Standing Orders.

Clerk

3. Annual play area report: A quote from Broadmead Leisure for rectifying the issues identified in the RPII report was considered and following a discussion it was agreed to take no action on the basis that all the items identified in the report were categorised as either Low Risk or Very Low Risk. A further Risk Assessment would be conducted in the spring.

RED/
Clerk

4. Small Capital Project Grant:

- The Clerk said that he had asked the builder to resurface the remainder of the first car park with type 1, up to the value of the grant awarded by EHDC.
- The disabled ramp was on order and would be installed shortly.

Clerk

14.013 Risk Assessments

Cllr R Denham said the review is ongoing. He noted that two small trees were blown down in the storms, but none had fallen in the river.

RED/
Clerk

14.014 Asset register

Cllr R Denham said this is still in progress. As well as the assets listed for the Council's accounts, there is also a much wider ranging asset list required for the Neighbourhood Plan. So far 179 items have been identified, which includes things as diverse as benches, buses, cricket, conservation areas, access etc. This is needed by BTC by the end of January and so should be available for February's PC meeting.

RED

14.015 Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr R Denham said that there was no significant progress to report since December.

RED

14.016 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on the agenda: None

14.017 Items for future agendas

The following were requested for February:

1. HHFC hire of the Meads (subject to formal request and precise information being received)
2. To consider bi-monthly meetings

Clerk

Adjournment for public comments

Following a vote at 9.31pm it was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended to allow public comments.**

No members of the public made any comments

The Parish Council Meeting resumed at 9.32pm.

14.018 Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Thursday 20 February 2014 at 8pm in the Meads Pavilion.

Clerk

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.33 pm.

Signed Dated

Appended to these Minutes: Transcript of Chairman's statement made under 14.007

Statement made under Agenda item 14.007, Chairman's Announcements

I want to make a prepared statement that I would like recorded in the Minutes so as to avoid any misunderstanding or misrepresentation.

With regard to the hiring of the Meads by Hormead Hares, I can see no reason why individual councillors need to be contacted; the Parish Council is a team and there is no "I" in team!! At worst this is seen to be a divide and conquer exercise.

As Chairman, I would ask that from now on the Hares be treated in the same way as other outside agencies who wish to hire the Meads, ie an email or telephone call to our Clerk, Colin Marks; dates, times etc to be given to him and then booked if available. We need as a team to decide what our charges for this will be otherwise it can all be done through Colin and the booking form.

I can see no value in dwelling in the past; the Council has moved on from several years ago and I wish to state yet again that I personally have no history with the Hares. I am currently the newest member of the team; I joined after Dave Baseley which is a point that seems to have been missed.

I also want to bring up the editing of my article for the December Newsletter so that I can have it included in the Minutes. The Newsletter Editor wrote to me concerning the cut:

Hi Jayne thanks for sending the original, I actually have no idea why that sentence was left out, it certainly wouldn't be a sentence I would consider editing as you are just stating a fact. I can only apologise and assume it was an error when I was cutting & pasting or the like. Rest assured if I were to have any queries in the future I will consult with you before editing. Many thanks Chrissy.

On another matter I can report that all creditors have now been paid and steps have been taken to ensure that this is a situation that cannot happen again, even if Councillors leave with no notice.

Lastly I would like to record my thanks to Robb as expressed by several impartial parishioners, another indication that we have moved on from a few years ago!

*Cllr Jayne Denham
Chairman Hormead Parish Council
16 January 2014*