

# HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20 October 2016 in the Meads Pavilion at 8pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD); Cllr John Kilby (JK); Cllr Marty Kilby (MK);  
Cllr Teresa Marks (TM); Cllr Matthew Reeves-Hairs (MRH); Cllr Richard White (RW)

Police Sgt Duncan Wallace. No other members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

**ACTION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8pm.

### 16.128 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: – Cllr Robb Denham (unwell)
2. Others: None

### 16.129 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

1. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Teresa Marks - a DPI as wife of the Clerk in relation to his payments, as stated on the agenda. Cllr Reeves-Hairs on all Village Hall matters, being Chairman of the VH Committee.
2. **Dispensations** (i) It was noted that Cllr Teresa Marks has a dispensation to speak and vote on Council finance business in which she has a pecuniary interest as the wife of the Clerk, as stated on the agenda; (ii) To receive requests for dispensations: NONE
3. **Requests for dispensations:** NONE.

### 16.130 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 September 2016

It was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 15 September 2016 were a true and accurate record.** Cllrs M Kilby and M Reeves-Hairs abstained, having been absent from the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**JD/Clerk**

### 16.131 Police Report: Sgt Duncan Wallace gave the following report:

Since the September meeting there have been two vehicle thefts in the area and two incidents in Hare Street and in Great Hormead. Overall crime incidents are slightly up from the same period last year, but still low when compared to the wider area. East Herts is up 7.4% against last year and there a general upward trend. Hare coursing continues to be a problem and should be reported whenever it is witnessed. The new Police Constable, Charlie Hall, started on 3rd October having moved from Norfolk, so he is well versed in dealing with rural crime issues.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Wallace for attending and he then left the meeting.

### 16.132 Chairman's Announcements: None

### 16.133 PLANNING

#### 1. New applications: None

#### 2. Decision Notices

**3/16/1951/HH & 1952/LBC Japonica Cottage, Hare Street:** Demolish glazed lean to extension and Replacement 2 and single storey rear extensions etc; various internal alterations. **WITHDRAWN**

**3/15/1689/FUL Steelcraft Works, Hare Street:** Demolition of existing buildings and removal of hard standing. Erection of five detached dwellings with parking and landscaping.

**Reconsultation DECISION AWAITED**

**3/15/1235/HH Meadowlands, Little Hormead:** Raising roof ridge with 3 no dormer windows, two storey rear extension, demolition and replacement of garage **DECISION AWAITED**

**3/14/1624/CL Hillcrest, Hare Street:** Certificate of Lawfulness for use as a dwelling house **DECISION AWAITED**

#### 3. Other Planning matters - Including any received too late to be included on the agenda:

**Neighbourhood Plan:** A request had been received from Laura Pattison, EHC Senior Planning Policy Officer, stating the examiner wants a more explicit statement from the parish councils in

the BCANP. Specifically, the examiner said HPC's statement falls short of explicit consent for Buntingford Town Council to act on its behalf in taking the lead in the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan and is thereby in breach of the T&CP Act 1990 s61F(2). Hornead Parish Council believed it could not make such a statement without giving parishioners the opportunity to have their say. The parish councils' statements in the Plan were based on wording recommended by the BCANP consultant. If parishes do agree to make the specific statement, it is understood they will be removed from the BCANP. It was therefore agreed to put a short piece in the November Newsletter inviting parishioners to comment before responding to EHC's request.

Clerk

**16.134 FINANCE**

**1. Report of the Council's finances for September was received (Appendix A)**

Finance Summary from 1 to 30 September	£
<b>Opening bank balance statement 402, 1 September</b>	<b>5,655.66</b>
Plus income 1 to 30 September	13,284.02
Minus expenditure 1 to 30 September	<u>3,901.65</u>
	<b>15,038.03</b>
Minus previous month's presented cheques	<u>417.60</u>
<b>Balance available to Council at 30 September</b>	<b>14,620.43</b>
Plus un-presented cheques as at 30 September	<u>693.20</u>
<b>Bank balance reconciled with statement #403, 29 September</b>	<b><u>15,313.63</u></b>
Petty cash in hand	£50.00

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statements be accepted.**  
*An accounts summary is published each month in the Minutes on the website.*

Clerk

**2. Accounts/bank statement reconciliation.** A copy of bank statements 402/3 were presented to the Council and noted to reconcile with Accounts Appendix A. Cllr J Kilby, as a non-signatory member, signed the accounts and statement reconciliation.

**3. Financial position against budget.** The Clerk presented the current position and the projected balance for the year end. Against currently identified income and expenditure, the bank balance at year end was anticipated to be approximately £5,900 against a budget of £4,100. The difference was mainly due to VAT reclaimed (not included in budget), lower expenditure, and additional income generated from events.

**4. Payments.** It was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve all the invoices presented for payment:**

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq	Power
30/9	Clerk	Salary August	417.40	1430	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
30/9	HMRC	PAYE 2ns quarter	156.00	1431	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
20/10	EHDC	Play area inspect	49.80	1432	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
20/10	BT contract	Hare Street kiosk	360.00	1433	LGA 1972 s144
20/10	SC Ruff	Litterpick to 7/10	260.00	1434	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
20/10	Earthworms	Meads Sept	1,485.00	1435	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
20/10	Clerk	Mileage etc Sept	35.16	1436	LGA 1972 s111
20/10	Clerk (cash)	Petty cash Sept	40.58	1428	LGA 1972 s111, 114, 140
20/10	ICO	Data Protect fee	35.00	1438	LGA 1972 s111
20/10	LCPAS	Delegate fee	25.00	1439	LGA 1972 s111
20/10	T Fuller	Tree surgery	96.00	1440	OSA 1906 s10(b)
<b>Recoverable VAT included: £89.10</b>					

There was a discussion on whether the annual cost of keeping open the Hare Street kiosk, £300 excl VAT, was good value for money. A data request indicated only one call in the last 12 months. Various opinions were considered and it was agreed to put another item in the Newsletter inviting parishioners' views as to whether the kiosk should remain live, or if it should be decommissioned and retained as an iconic piece of street furniture. A decision based on public opinion will then be made.

Clerk

Cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

**5. Poppy wreath.** It was **RESOLVED to purchase a wreath for up to £30 for the Remembrance Day service on 13th November.** The wreaths this year are smaller and cost £20. JD/Clerk

**6. Report on risk of precept capping.** HAPTC had drawn its members' attention to the risk of precept capping being introduced at parish council level at some point in the future. It was felt this would take away from local authorities the right to raise their own finances. It was also felt that the online technical consultation was beyond the scope of parish councils to answer properly and the Clerk was asked to seek advice on how best to respond to the consultation, objecting to parish councils having their precepts capped. Clerk

**16.135 Correspondence**

Eight items of correspondence were noted as appeared on the agenda:

- Hertford Cricket Club – roller funding outcome (16.137.1)
- Fallen tree branch- Meads (16.137.2.2)
- HCC and stonemasons: War Memorial refurb and grant (16.138)
- HAPTC: Notice of risk of precept capping (16.134.6)
- HAPTC: More Transparency Funding available
- Anonymous parishioner: Report of possible unauthorised business activity at Stonebury Farm
- Parishioner: Footpath boundary enquiry for property in Hare Street
- Angus Batey, HHCC: Report (16.137.1)

It was noted that East Herts Planning Enforcement officers are checking the activity at Stonebury. The Chairman said she had visited the site and spoken to Stonebury; all appeared to be in order.

**16.136 Special Interest Matters:**

**1. Village Hall:** Cllr Reeves-Hairs gave the following report: MRH

- The Crossover has been completed and the main gates are open once again.
- Mothers and Toddlers Group will be starting again.
- A business has been secured that was previously held in Buntingford.
- Together with Yoga, the current users will cover projected outgoings for this year.
- Re complaints about parking issues during a recent event, the VH was told there would only be a few people attending and the car park would adequately cater for them. Therefore, no cones were put out.

**2. Highways:** It was clarified that the consultation on yellow lines along the B1038 by the Village Hall only concerns the length of road to be lined and not whether to have any lines – that has already been decided. The Parish Council is not a consultee.

**3. Footpaths and byways:** Nothing to report

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

**5. Parishioners concerns:** None reported, other than identified in correspondence.

**16.137 Meads field and buildings**

**1. Pavilion and general:** The cricket club reported that the roller has been successfully repaired and with the help of Cllr Kilby's sponsorship, a balance of £255 is outstanding. The club asked if the PC could contribute. It was felt that the club should make some contribution to the repair costs and it was therefore **RESOLVED to grant £125 towards the cost of the roller repair.** Clerk

**2. Meads maintenance:**

1. The annual maintenance of the wicket has been done.
2. Diseased horse chestnut trees: UK Power Networks' contractor will take the tops out of the trees to clear the power lines, but they will not do any further work on them. Two arboricultural firms both assessed the trees as suffering from bleeding canker, from which they will not recover. Felling is recommended as branches will continue to fail, potentially dangerous. Two quotes for felling were considered and it was **RESOLVED to accept the quote of £425 + VAT from Tim Fuller.** Work to be undertaken once UK Power Networks have cleared the electricity lines. Clerk

**3. Play area:** The RPII report was received and all risks noted were deemed to be low or very Clerk

low. It was agreed to put contact phone numbers on the sign inside the area. Nothing further to report on grants.

TM

**16.138 War Memorial Cleaning**

The Clerk had spoken to the parishioner who tends the War Memorial site and he is very much in favour of having any necessary work done. East Herts has awarded a 50% grant towards the cost of cleaning and refurbishing the memorial against the quote of £700 by Hugh McAlpine. It was therefore **RESOLVED to instruct Hugh McAlpine to undertake the work as quoted.**

Clerk

**16.139 Late items and items for future agendas**

- 1. Late items: none
- 2. Requested items for future agendas: none
- 3. Meads Car park: new gate and access
- 4. Neighbourhood Plan: final report when available

RW/Clerk

***No members of the public were present for comments***

**16.140 Date of next Meeting:**

Thursday 17th November, 8pm in the pavilion.

Clerk

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.32pm

Signed..... Dated.....