

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18th April 2019 in the Meads Pavilion at 8pm

*Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD)
*Cllr Robb Denham (RED)
*Cllr Kevin Glogner (KG)
*Cllr Andrew Hazell (AH)

*Cllr John Kilby (JK)
*Cllr Teresa Marks (TM)
Cllr Richard White (RW)

* Denotes present

Four members of the public, County Cllr Jeff Jones, District Cllr Peter Boylan

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

ACTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8pm

19.041 Apologies for absence. The following councillor apologies were accepted:

1. Councillors: Cllr Richard White (family commitment)
2. Other apologies: Sgt Duncan Wallace

19.042 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 Kevin Glogner: a DPI re agenda item 19.048.4 where his company (Landscape Concept Ltd) is receiving a payment.
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. **To consider requests for dispensations:** NONE.

19.043 To approve and sign Minutes

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, 21st March 2019: It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st March 2019 be taken as read and were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JD/Clerk

19.044 Chairman's Announcements: None

19.045 Police Crime Report for the Parish, 21st March to 18th April

The Chairman read the following report that had been sent by PCSO Deborah Mead:

Crimes

24/03 –Anstey Quarry: Anti-Social Behaviour/Criminal Damage/Assault Police – Offender received Youth Caution

29/03 – Brent Pelham: Theft of Garden Equipment/Theft of Trailer – Finalised as no lines of enquiry.

01/04 – Hare Street: Theft of trailer – Under Investigation

03/04 – Brent Pelham: Burglary Non-Dwelling – theft of garden strimmer – Finalised as no lines of enquiry

11/04 – Theft from person – purse dipping

ISR'S (999 & 101)

4 x calls on 101 – 2 police generated, 1 Neighbour Dispute, 1 Concern for Welfare

Any Other Information

Purse Dipping: Please make people aware – high numbers of purse dipping cases in Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – elderly women targeted in particular. Please ask people to be vigilant when in shops:

- Use a handbag that can be closed properly – zipped up preferably – so that it is more difficult for someone to open it and reach in.
- Never leave it unattended or in a shopping trolley
- Be aware of people around you, especially at ATM machines

19.046 District and County Councillors' reports:

County Cllr Jeff Jones reported on the southern Hare Street SID location, noting the social media uproar and report in the local paper. He explained that the location of SIDs is a Highways decision. He funded it but had no say in where it was placed. However, there has been a site visit by the Highways Officer, and it is proposed to relocate it next to the signpost opposite Worsted Lane that points to Furneux Pelham. The Parish Council said it had come under criticism from parishioners who had assumed that it was responsible for placing the SID behind the hedge where it is hidden from view for all practical purposes. The Parish Council contested that it had been placed on private land and further than one metre from the highway. It further disagreed that there is no other Highways land on which it could have been more suitably accommodated and that its present position is a waste of public funds since it doesn't do its job. Cllr Jones said that there was no other location that fulfilled the Highways criteria for SID placement, and that if the Parish Council did not like the proposed new location, he would get it taken away and used somewhere else. The Council responded that that was a threat and a completely unacceptable answer. SIDs situated in Dassels and Braughing were much better placed. It was acknowledged that the SID at the northern entrance to the village works very well.

Cllr Jones said that surface dressing had been undertaken on the B1368, but that 20mph warning signs should have been put in place. The contractor will return in two weeks to brush away any loose chippings that remain on the road.

Regarding speeding on the B1068 toward the school, a speed and volume study could be undertaken over a seven-day period. If that proves that a percentile of vehicles travel over the speed limit, Highways will look at what can be done to address the problem. Cllr Jones was asked, and agreed, to arrange for the study to be done during the school term when traffic is at its peak and the problem most acute. The Parish Council said that unless the issue is remedied, it will continue to get worse and a serious accident will be the inevitable outcome.

The Council also raised the issue of concerns about travellers possibly settling on EHC land by Hare Street Road, and there are already concerns about the activity on land to the north of Hare Street village. Cllr Jones said he would find out whether there is any untoward activity.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jones for attending and he left the meeting at 8.25pm

19.047 PLANNING

1. New applications

3/19/0642/HH Box Tree Cottage: Detached garage with store.

It was RESOLVED to object for the following reasons:

The siting, design and size of the proposed building is out of character with the Great Hormead Conservation Area and in its setting of a listed building. It negatively impacts the area and nearby houses and is therefore contrary to policies HA4, HA7 and DES4 of the 2018 District Plan and contrary to the adopted 2017 Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan.

Clerk

2. Decision Notices (for information only)

3/19/0265/FUL The Shop & Petrol Station, Hare Street: Erect 2 dwellings **REFUSED**

3/18/0349/OUT High Trees, APPEALED 18/00140/REFUSE **APPEAL DISMISSED**

3/14/1624/CL Hillcrest: *Certificate of Lawfulness for use as a dwelling.* **WITHDRAWN**

3/19/0456/HH Yeznaby, Horseshoe Hill: Convert garage into gym with roof lights. **AWAITED**

3/19/0199/LBC Shangles, Hare Street: Retile part roof with Welsh slate. **AWAITED**

3/19/0161/FUL & /0162/LBC Hormead Cottage: Reconstruct three chimneys. **AWAITED**

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

NONE

19.048 FINANCE

1. Report of the Council’s finances for March was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary from 1 to 31 March (financial year-end):	£
Opening bank balance statement 1 March	13,713.15
Plus income	150.00
Minus expenditure	<u>2,628.15</u>
	11,235.00
Minus presented February cheques 1690, 1691, 1694	<u>1,028.32</u>
Balance available to Council at 31 March (cashbook balance)	10,206.68
Plus unpresented March cheques 1700, 1701	<u>1,052.89</u>
Accounts balance reconciled with bank statement at 31 March	11,259.57
Petty cash in hand	<u>50.00</u>

Accounts/bank statement reconciliation. It was noted that the Accounts sheet (Appendix A) and bank statement reconciled. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the Accounts Statement.**

2. Verification of Accounts and Bank Statement. Cllr Andy Hazell, as a non-signatory member, signed the accounts sheet and bank statement reconciliation.

An accounts summary is published each month in the Minutes on the website.

Clerk

3. Budget vs performance at financial year-end, 31 March 2019

The Clerk presented an itemised performance report against the budget. Against the budgeted year-end bank balance of £8,367, the actual bank balance was £11,260. With £1,053 in unpresented March cheques, the cashbook balance was £10,207 (exclusive of the VAT reclaim due of £1,372). In view of the work undertaken during the year, this represented an excellent financial achievement. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the report as presented.**

Clerk

4. Payments. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve the signing of all orders for payment: (Appendices B1 and B2)**

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq	Power
31/3	Clerk	Salary March, pay award backpay	873.00	1700	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
31/3	HMRC	PAYE 4 th quarter Jan to March	179.89	1701	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
18/4	HAPTC	Annual subs	399.36	1702	LGA 1972 s111
18/4	Clerk	Expenses March	30.35	1703	LGA 1972 s112 (1), (2a)
18/4	SC Ruff	Litterpick to 19/4	260.00	1704	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
18/4	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance	1,077.29	1705	LGA 1972 s111
18/4	Landscape Concept	Meads 2 of 8	975.00	1706	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
18/4	T Fuller-Arborist	Meads tree work	1,209.60	1707	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
Recoverable VAT included:			£ 364.10		

Cheques were signed after the meeting.

Clerk

19.049 Correspondence (As per the Agenda - noted for information)

- HH Cricket Club: Re removal of cricket club belongings from the premises (19.051.3)
- EHC: Re May 2nd Parish Council elections and notice of uncontested election result (19.052)
- C Cllr J Jones: re Hare Street SID location (19.050.50.1)
- Parishioner: Query re possible contaminated land by the River Quin (19.050.3.1)
- Parishioner: Hare Street bonfires creating possible environmental hazard and other activity of concern (19.050.3.1)
- Merchant Navy Fund: Appeal for Merchant Navy Day 3rd September 2019 (19.053)
- The Pensions Regulator: Employer’s re-enrolment duties deadline 31st August 2019
- Parishioner: possible encampment concerns (19.050.3.1)
- Parishioner: Rogation walk, 25th May (19.050.3.2)

19.050 Special Interest Matters

1. Highways

1. Hare Street SID: Discussed with County Cllr Jones under agenda item 19.046 above.

2. Public Rights of Way (PRoW) - footpaths and byways

1. The Countryside Officer’s March report was received and noted. A copy is on the website.

3. Parishioners' concerns and other matters

1. Hare Street: A parishioner was present who had reported bonfires causing possibly toxic smoke blowing across his land and preventing him from working. The matter had been discussed with the County Councillor and the advice was to make diary notes of when it occurred, and to take photos. The parishioner had footage and photos of the problem but had not forwarded it to the agency. Cllr Peter Boylan confirmed that it was the best way to secure a result and encouraged the parishioner to follow the advice given.

Concerns were also expressed at possible traveller activity at two sites in Hare Street; these had also been discussed with the County Councillor.

Parishioners had also been concerned at the blocking of the gateway between the Meads and the field to its south by heaps of soil. There was also some concern whether the soil had come from a development site and was possibly contaminated. Environmental Health had been informed and the Environment Agency would check that there would be no contamination of the River Quin through run-off. The Clerk said he was not aware of any right of way into the field from the Meads and that there was no permissive footpath through the field marked on the Definitive Map.

Clerk

2. The Rogation Walk on Saturday 25th May were noted. Posters are on the notice boards.

19.051 Meads field and buildings

- 1. Pavilion.** Shower room ceiling and possible roof leak: ongoing
- 2. Pavilion.** Painting and external refurb: ongoing
- 3. Cricket club.** Removal of club's items from premises: all now removed.
- 4. Tree management.** Work now completed
- 5. Play area equipment maintenance.** Ongoing
- 6. Other matters for consideration.** None raised. Thanks to Martin George were recorded for kindly helping and removing the metal work that had been left following the shed clearance.

**KG/RW
KG/All**

KG

19.052 Parish Council elections, Thursday 2nd May

- 1.** It was noted that Jayne Denham, Kevin Glogner, Andy Hazell, John Kilby, Teresa Marks and Richard White had been declared elected unopposed and that no parish poll will take place on May 2nd due to insufficient nominations. Cllr Robb Denham did not stand for re-election and there will therefore be one vacancy to be filled by co-option.
- 2.** It was noted that the new councillors will take office on Tuesday 7th May.

ALL

19.053 Late items and items for future agendas

- 1.** Late items: None
- 2.** Items for future agendas:
 - Merchant Navy Day Appeal, 3rd September, was noted.

Suspension of meeting for public comments

At 9.10pm it was **RESOLVED to suspend the meeting for public comments**

- Complaints were made about the previously mentioned blocking of the way between the Meads and the field to the south, as discussed in item 19.050.3.1
- Complaints were made about the number of simultaneous road closures occurring throughout the district.

The meeting was called to order and resumed at 9.15pm

19.054 Date of next Meetings, all in the Meads Pavilion

- 1. Annual Parish Council Meeting:** Thursday 16 May at 7.30pm, followed by the
- 2. Ordinary Parish Council Meeting:** Thursday 16 May at approx 8pm
- 3. Annual Meeting of the Parish** (meeting of the electorate): Thursday 23 May at 7.30pm

Clerk/JD

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

There followed a presentation to Cllr Robb Denham who was retiring, having served as a parish councillor for some 18 years.

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