

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HARTLEY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD, CHURCH ROAD

ON MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present : Cllr Larry Abraham
Cllr Chris Alford
Cllr Penny Cole (*Arrived at 7.31p.m.*)
Cllr Annette Ewing
Cllr Mally Malham
Cllr Matt Mohr
Cllr Anne Oxtoby – (*Chairman*)
Cllr Vince Sewell
Cllr Andrew Tremain
Cllr Dorothy Vesey

In attendance: Mrs Helen Boden - (*Clerk*)
Cllr David Brazier – Kent County Councillor
Cllr John Kelly – Sevenoaks District Councillor
18 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Bennett due to illness, Cllr Graeme due to family commitments and Cllr Ross due to family commitments.

RESOLVED: That, the absences of Cllr Bennett due to illness and Cllr Graeme and Cllr Ross, due to personal commitments, be accepted and approved.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Malham declared an interest under agenda item 5, Amenities & Open Spaces Committee, minute item 15 (a), Allotments, as he is an allotment holder and left the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Cllr Oxtoby declared an interest under agenda item 10 (a), Payments, as she was the recipient of one of the payments.

3. Dispensations

(a) The Council considered a request from Cllr Malham to grant a dispensation on matters relating to the Hartley Village Hall Trust.

RESOLVED: That Pursuant to paragraph 15 of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 10th November 2014, the request from Cllr Malham for the Council to grant a dispensation to enable participation in discussion and voting on any matter/s relating to the Hartley Village Hall Trust until the next ordinary election in May 2019, on the grounds that the Council is the sole trustee of the Charity and to do otherwise would impede

any business to be transacted by the Council on matters relating to the Trust, be approved.

(b) There were no further requests from Members for a dispensation.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Hartley Parish Council held on 8th August 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.32 p.m. to receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public.

The meeting resumed at 7.35 p.m.

Pursuant to Standing Order 3 (e) the Chairman of the Council invited members of the public present to express an interest if they wished to make representations, answer questions or give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda.

Four members of the public expressed an interest under agenda item 5, Amenities & Open Spaces Committee, minute item 4, Land at Beechlands Close, in the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2018.

5. Amenities & Open Spaces Committee

At the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held on 4th September 2018, the Committee considered a letter received from a resident regarding land for sale (by auction), at Beechlands Close, (approaching 3 acres of mature woodland.)

Residents expressed concerns that whoever purchased the land could close it off to the public or apply for planning permission to develop the land.

A member of the public commented that the area was designated as ancient woodland and as such, it should not be possible to build on the land.

A member of the public reported that they had recently spoken to the estate agents concerned and that the auction was due to take place imminently.

A member of the public commented that the area was well used had been walked for over 20 years.

The Chairman advised that in view of this, it may be possible to make an application for the area to be designated as a Public Right of Way.

Councillor Alford reported that if the Council was to consider purchasing the land, it could be a lengthy process, as in order to comply with the Council's Financial Regulations, it would be necessary to obtain an independent valuation of the land.

A resident asked whether the Council could stop the auction from taking place.

The Chairman replied that the Council has no authority to stop an auction.

It was suggested that residents make an application for the land to be designated as a Public Right of Way, as one of the main concerns was that access should be retained.

A resident reported that one option that had been considered was for the residents of Beechlands Close to jointly bid for the land.

The Chairman advised that this option may be worth pursuing in view of the limited timeframe and the fact that should the Council agree to pursue the matter, it would not be a speedy process.

Councillor Brazier commented that if the area is designated as Green Belt and Ancient Woodland, then the chances of future development would be minimal.

A resident asked whether there was a Tree Preservation Order on any of the trees and Councillor Abraham agreed to check this with the Tree Officer at the District Council.

Councillor Vesey reported that at the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held on 4th September 2018, a recommendation had been made to take no further action with regard to maintaining or seeking possessory title of the pond.

Councillor Brazier reported that in view of the fact that it is a drainage pond, he would request that Kent County Council make arrangements to clean it out.

Cllr Tremain proposed and Cllr Sewell seconded an amendment to the recommendation contained in the minutes of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th September 2018, (page 12, minute item 14, Pond), so that it reads;

“no further action be taken by the Parish Council to seek possessory title of the pond, but that the Council should continue to pursue any legal means available to enable it to maintain the pond.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: That,

the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held on 4th September 2018 and the recommendations contained therein, as amended, be received and, where necessary, approved and adopted.

6. Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That,

the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 11th July 2018, 8th August 2018, 22nd August 2018 and 5th September 2018, be received and adopted.

7. Nations' Tribute Working Party

RESOLVED: That,

the minutes of the meeting of the Nations' Tribute Working Party, held on 12th July 2018 be received and adopted.

8. Northfield Management Committee

The Clerk reported that the minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 3rd September 2018, were not available.

9. Pedestrian Crossing

Members considered an email dated 21st August 2018, received from the Schemes Planning & Delivery Manager at Kent Highway Services, following a meeting held on

21st August with members of the Parish Council and representatives from Kent Highway Services.

The Chairman reported that the Planning & Delivery Manager had advised that the option of a zebra crossing had been ruled out, but that an alternative, proposed by KCC officers, was the provision of a signalised crossing point instead. It was considered that this, whilst more expensive, would be more acceptable from a design perspective.

The Chairman reported that Kent Highway Services had agreed to review a design option at the agreed location between Park Field and Wellfield and give a possible timescale for the design to be fixed and audited and for the scheme to be delivered.

At this stage it is estimated that the scheme would cost in the region of £75,000.

Kent Highway Services has agreed that if Hartley Parish Council could allocate £25,000, then they would seek to allocate an amount in the region of £15 - 25,000, from the 2019/20 budgets, leaving a shortfall of approximately £25,000.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council's share could be taken from the ear marked reserve set up for highway improvements.

The Chairman reminded members that there may also be some funding available from CIL contributions.

The Chairman asked Councillor Brazier whether he would be willing to contribute from his Local Members Grant Scheme. Councillor Brazier confirmed that he had limited funds and would not be able to contribute the full shortfall.

RESOLVED: That,
the email dated 21st August 2018, received from the Schemes Planning & Delivery Manager at Kent Highway Services, be noted and the matter be considered further, once the design option has been received from KHS.

10. Payments

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the payment of accounts for September 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved;
- (2) the Council detail report as at 4th September 2018, setting out actual income and expenditure against budgeted estimates be received and noted; and
- (3) the bank reconciliations for the Council's three bank accounts for July & August, be verified after the close of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman of Hartley Parish Council

Date:.....