

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HARTLEY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD, CHURCH ROAD

ON MONDAY 11th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present :

Cllr Larry Abraham
Cllr Chris Alford
Cllr Penny Cole
Cllr Perry Cole
Cllr Lesley Driscoll
Cllr Laurence Glander
Cllr David Graeme
Cllr Anne Oxtoby
Cllr Ian Ross

In attendance:

Mrs Helen Boden - *(Clerk)*
Cllr David Brazier – *(Kent County Councillor)*
1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Jim Colwell due to family commitments, Cllr Mally Malham due to family commitments and Cllr Vincent Sewell due to family commitments.

RESOLVED: That,
the absences of Cllr Jim Colwell due to family commitments, Cllr Mally Malham due to family commitments and Cllr Vincent Sewell due to family commitments be accepted and approved.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Graeme declared an interest under agenda item 9 (a), Payments, as he was the recipient of one of the payments.

Cllr Oxtoby declared an interest under agenda item 9 (a), Payments, as she was the recipient of one of the payments.

3. Dispensations

There were no requests from Members for a dispensation.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED: That,
the minutes of the meeting of Hartley Parish Council held on 13th March 2022, 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 7.51 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.

There were no expressions of interest.

5. Amenities & Open Spaces Committee

Cllr Glander commented on the recommendation contained in minute item 6, Manor Field (b), Community Garden, 3) granting permission for water butts to be attached to the pavilion guttering to collect rain water for use on the community garden.

Cllr Glander suggested that the water butts should be attached to the pavilion by a suitably qualified person to ensure that no damage occurred to the guttering.

Cllr Oxtoby commented on the recommendation contained in minute item 10, Pavilion (f) relating to a request for the hire of the Pavilion for a 50th birthday party, including the erection of a marquee and asked whether the hirer intended to have inflatables at the event such as a bouncy castle, as if so they would need to comply with the Council's bouncy castle/inflatables policy.

RESOLVED: That,

1) confirmation be sought from the organisers of the Community Garden, that the water butts to be attached to the pavilion guttering to collect rain water for use on the community garden will be fitted by a suitably qualified person with adequate public liability insurance;

2) confirmation be sought from the hirer wishing to hire the Pavilion for a 50th birthday party, as to whether they intend to have inflatables at the event and if so, they be issued with a copy of the Parish Council's bouncy castle policy which must be adhered to and,

3) the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Open Space Committee held on 30th March 2022 and the recommendations contained therein, be received and, where necessary, approved and adopted.

6. Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That,

the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 16th March 2022 and 30th March 2022 and the recommendations contained therein, be received and, where necessary, approved and adopted.

7. Covid -19 Pandemic

Members had been requested to consider any action that may be required due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Clerk reported that the New Ash Green & Hartley Cricket Club had asked whether normal use of the Pavilion could be resumed from the start of the cricket season.

At the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held on 30th March 2022, the Committee considered the ACRE briefing for village and community halls updated, "Living with COVID-19" dated 22nd February 2022 and noted that after 1st April, new public health guidance would be issued.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) no additional action is required at the present time and,
- 2) the New Ash Green & Hartley Cricket Club be advised that normal use of the Pavilion could be resumed, but that it should be kept well ventilated. In addition, whilst the Government has signalled the ending of Covid restrictions from 24th February the (advisory) Special Conditions of Hire are still in place, in order that more vulnerable people feel safe using the hall. These will be updated once the new public health guidance has been issued.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Alford reported that the Landscape Character Assessment and the Green Belt Assessment had now been completed.

Members noted that the Planning Consultant that had originally been appointed was no longer able to continue and that a quotation had been sought from an alternative consultant.

Cllr Alford reported that the Government Grant scheme for Neighbourhood Plans had been extended and that a further application would be submitted by the Steering Group in due course.

Members noted that the new website was currently being drafted and should be up and running shortly.

RESOLVED: That,

Cllr Alford's report be noted.

RESOLVED That,

pursuant to Standing Order 10 (a) (ix), the order of business be altered so that agenda item 9, Hartley Wood, be deferred to the end of the meeting.

9. Payments

RESOLVED: That,

- (a) the payment of accounts for April 2022, attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes, be approved.

- (b) the Council detail report as at 31st March 2022, setting out actual income and expenditure against budgeted estimates be received and noted;
- (c) the bank reconciliations for the Council's four bank accounts for March 2022, be verified by Cllr Larry Abraham after the close of the meeting.
- (d) it be noted that the bank reconciliations for the Council's four bank accounts for February 2022 had been verified by Cllr Perry Cole.

RESOLVED: That,

pursuant to Standing Order 3 (d), members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Members of the press and public left the meeting at 8.20p.m.

10. Hartley Wood

The Chairman reported that the landowners of land in Hartley Wood leading from Beechlands Close had recently been contacted to seek their views on the Parish Council's suggestion that the footpath be claimed as a Public Right of Way and had expressed an interest in selling the land.

Members noted that the area in question was designated as Ancient Woodland and was also subject to a blanket Tree Preservation Order.

RESOLVED: That,

further information be sought from the landowners.

The meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman of Hartley Parish Council

Schedule of Payments April 2022 - Paid by Internet Banking from Unity Trust Bank					
Ref:	Payment to	Particulars	Net	VAT	Total
745291866		PAID 24/03/22 - Empty dog bins Jan-Mar 2022 inv 2072785	386.10	77.22	463.32
290705600		PAID 24/03/22 - Tree work Woodland Avenue allotments inv 307793	120.00	24.00	144.00
473217680		PAID 24/03/22 - Supply & application of fertiliser & iron MF inv 2181	397.67	79.53	477.20
824442278		PAID 24/03/22 - Operational playground inspection inv 52915	200.85	40.17	241.02
903415969		PAID 24/03/22 - Reimburse re keys cut for pavilion	11.00	-	-
		PAID 24/03/22 - Reimburse re line marking paint	43.46	8.69	-
		PAID 24/03/22 - Reimburse re skip hire allotments	230.00	46.00	339.15
877858879		PAID 24/03/22 - Water at allotments 01/01/22-01/07/22 bill no 69108	172.61	-	172.61
528090781		PAID 28/03/22 - Hartley Neighbourhood Plan Green Belt appraisal Inv HA/2	1,037.75	-	1,037.75
517621040		PAID 24/03/22 - Bulk propane delivered 08/03/22 inv 34897280	1,038.74	51.94	1,090.68
761078454		PAID 29/03/22 - Set up Neighbourhood Plan website inv 14494	900.00	180.00	1,080.00
235473051		PAID 29/03/22 - Fees & expenses re Landscape Character Assessment inv 2201 HPC 01	3,720.81	744.16	4,464.97
517335734		PAID 31/03/22 - Cleaning of Pavilion & watr checks inv 03553	229.00	-	229.00
564977007		PAID 31/03/22 - Routine maint, tree planting & fence repairs @ BHS	674.35	-	674.35
599239102		PAID 31/03/22 - 20 x garden waste sacks 29/03 inv 2072866	280.00	-	-
76838694		Refund re burial. Treble fees paid should have been single	245.00	-	245.00
		PAID 31/03/22 - 2 x recycling sacks 29/03 inv 2072866	16.00	-	296.00
968767334		Salary 01/04/2022 - 30/04/2022 (Pre-approved) + backdated salary 01/04/21-31/03/22 re 2021/22 National Salary Award	2,616.15	-	-
		Reimburse re subscription to Logmein (as approved at Finance Committee meeting 16/02/22)	330.74	-	2,946.89
917746171		Salary 01/04/2022 - 30/04/2022 (Pre-approved) + backdated salary 01/04/21-31/03/22 re 2021/22 National Salary Award	1,389.69	-	1,389.69
238718217		Month 1 Employer & Employee NIC & PAYE	2,065.88	-	2,065.88
56197682		Employer & Employees pension contributions April 2022	1,578.80	-	1,578.80
62284149		Annual subscription 01/04/22-31/03/23	115.00	-	115.00
427332939		Annual subscription 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 inv 4458/2022/23	95.00	-	95.00
620969230		Business rates re Parish Office inv 13/0	1,010.48	-	1,010.48
			18,905.08	1,251.71	20,156.79

Schedule of Payments April 2022 - Paid by cheque/DDR from Barclays Bank					
Chq No	Payment to	Particulars	Net	VAT	Total
107033		PAID 23/03/22 - Chairman's allowance (previously reported as chq 107031 in error).	500.00	-	500.00
107034		PAID 23/03/22 - Top up Unity Bank account (previously reported as chq no 107031 in error)	21,500.00	-	21,500.00
107035		Top up Unity Bank account	35,000.00		35,000.00
107036		Reimburse re purchase of Plum Tree from Woodlands GC	44.99	-	44.99
			57,044.99	-	57,044.99

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7.32 p.m.

Cllr Brazier reported that Kent County Council had received £35 million in government grants through the National Bus Strategy, but that the government has been very specific as to what it can be spent on.

The original bid had been for £212million. Out of 79 authorities that submitted bids, only 31 were granted an allocation, of which KCC received the ninth highest grant sum.

Cllr Perry Cole reported that residents of properties in council tax bands A – D would be eligible for a rebate of £150 as a one off payment.

If a resident's council tax is paid by Direct Debit, the refund will be made automatically. If council tax is paid by any other method, it would be necessary for residents to apply for the rebate.

Cllr Cole advised that the District Council would be writing to those residents who would be able to sign up via the website.

Cllr Cole reported that rebates would also be considered for those residents in council tax bands E and above that required it.

Cllr Abraham reported that he had recently attended a Police & Crime Commissioner meeting, where they had promoted the new system "My Community Voice", a two way engagement tool where residents can share their views and/or concerns.

Cllr Graeme asked whether Cllr Brazier had any information on the cessation of charges for certain items at the Pepper Hill Household Waste and recycling Centre.

Cllr Brazier confirmed that he was unaware of any changes.

The meeting resumed at 7.51 p.m.

