

# HADLOW PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Hadlow Parish Council duly convened and held on**  
Monday 12 July 2021 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Cllrs N Collins (Chairman), E Bright, D Carey, M Harvey, J Massy, J Newman, S Richardson.

**Also in attendance:** Melanie Stepkowski (Clerk & Minute Taker), 2 Hadlow Park Association representatives.

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**4303 To receive apologies, reason, and approval of absences**

Approved Council absences: L Bright, M Barrett, R Morley

Other absences: TMBC Cllrs Anderson, Rogers, Sergison & KCC Cllr Hudson (other meetings) Community Warden, PCSO.

**4304 To receive Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4305 To resolve that the Minutes of 21 June 2021 are a correct record**

**Resolved** to approve the Minutes of 21 June 2021 as a correct record. Proposed Cllr E Bright seconded Cllr Harvey and carried unanimously.

**4306 To receive an update on progress of resolutions from the last meeting**

None.

**4307 To receive oral reports from TMBC & KCC Councillors**

None.

**4308 To receive report from PCSO & Community Warden**

Community Warden Sandra Edmonds sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and confirmed that the management role she had been covering looked to be long term. Sandra therefore thanked Council and the community for their support over the last three years and would try visit whenever possible. Her work to make Hadlow a Dementia Friendly community would continue but other duties had been transferred to Jess who was already doing a sterling job.

*(Cllr Newman confirmed she had attended the recent Dementia Friendly meeting on behalf of Council)*

**4309 To receive reports from Chairman and Clerk**

Please note that FPO 471 & 472 on June Minutes which were circa amounts have now been amended to read actual cost of £131.00 for each (minibus 10 week inspections with no additional works required)

**Youth Activities at Hy-Arts:** YMCA Youth Group have decided to stop Boxing at the end of the current session as interest from the local youth has waned. They will be looking into introducing other activities.

**Kent County Council Consultations & New Website** – they have recently switched over to a new website for engagement and consultations at KCC. As they can't transfer users details over to the new site, people need to re-register at [www.kent.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/consultations). The old system was switched off on 30 June.

If you have any questions at all, please get in touch with them at [consultation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kent.gov.uk).

The Clerk has re-registered the Parish Council.

**Traffic Issues:** A resident has raised concerns as to the vehicles travelling at high speed through Tainter Road and the risks that this behaviour creates. A request for the junction of Tainter Road with Twyford Road to be lined due to visibility issues has been reported to both Kent County Council and the Highways Steward who has in response sent the details to the appropriate officers.

**Staff:** The office staff are currently preparing to welcome Mr Roger Field to the team as Facilities Administrator.

**Williams Field** – The **dog bin** by the dog walking area entrance is broken and reported to TMBC.

The contaminated **bench within the dog walking area** has been dismantled, taped off and will be removed as soon as possible due to continual smearing of dog excrement both outside and within the tubing making it a health hazard.

Playground Slide – parts replaced on the net climb and all now operational – thanks to Cllrs Morley and E Bright.

**Grounds Maintenance** – our two new employees Harry and Elliott are doing a great job looking after grounds work. The Access Trail has had extra cuts in addition PROW, and they are maintaining the cemetery, churchyard and allotment grounds plus additional cuts at School Lane on top of various other duties.

**Minibuses & Truck** – 10 week inspections have just been completed for buses and all vehicles have recently been MOT & Taxed with insurances for the buses due for renewal at the end of July. The buses are now back in use with the Bourne Partnership and we are hoping to welcome back other users soon.

**Litter picking** – We have received a few enquiries as to setting up a litter pick group but at the current time are unable to co-ordinate anything more than providing individuals with equipment due to both health & safety concerns and time. It is more complicated than perhaps people realise with risk assessments being required, insurance, limits on which roads can be safely picked under insurance cover & other guidelines. E.g. only where there is a pavement and 30mph (if abiding by TMBC guidelines). For those interested in litter picking we would advise them to read guidance from “Keep Britain Tidy” website. We will however try to set up an annual litter pick next year as we have done in the past.

#### 4310 Public Time & Parish Matters

Dipped pavement outside Walnut Tree Cottage – The concave pavement continues to worsen. The clerk confirmed that she had liaised in the past with KCC on this matter to no avail. Cllr Harvey would take up the matter with KCC Cllr Hudson.

St Mary's Churchyard – a stone against Hadlow Tower wall had been laid down for safety reasons.

TMBC Councillors attendance at Parish Meetings – It was noted that Borough representation as Parish Meetings had waned and the Clerk asked to discuss the matter with Borough Councillors asking for at least one to attend meetings when possible or at least provide a report on local current issues.

Closure of Hadlow Public Convenience – Cllr Carey reported a resident had contacted expressing concerns over TMBC's decision to close the public toilets in Hadlow square; he had referred the resident to the Parish Office. Noted.

#### **4311 Correspondence**

1. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – for consideration.

It was agreed that due to Hadlow's location a beacon would not be appropriate. However, the Clerk would liaise with the local Hadlow Primary schools, Scouts, WI, Bakers, Weathered & worn and other groups to see whether they intended to hold any events and or wish to assist with an Afternoon Tea Dance.

2. Counter Terrorism Policing UK Protection National Bulletin

Cllr Collins had completed a questionnaire on the matter on behalf of Council. Members were in agreement that local groups, charities etc were not in a position to provide trained anti-terrorism staff at events.

3. Kent Police Speed Watch June Newsletter

Noted.

4. TMBC Consultation on how they pay for the costs for Public toilets in Tonbridge and Christmas lighting across the Borough – for consideration & response.

It was agreed to respond to the consultation as individuals.

#### **4312 To consider Kent Buccaneers – Request for Youth Baseball Diamond to be permitted on Williams Field and improvements to the adult pitch infield.**

It was agreed that Council representative would meet with Kent Bucs to discuss detail.

#### **4313 To receive reports from representatives of committees and pass such resolutions thereon as may be necessary:**

Finance & General Purposes Committee

a) **To resolve** proposed payments to date

**RESOLVED to approve payments to date** (*see appendix a*). Proposed Cllr E Bright, seconded Cllr Richardson and carried unanimously.

b) **To approve** June accounts (bank reconciliation, income & expenditure, cost centre report and trial balance)

**RESOLVED to approve June accounts in their entirety.** Proposed Cllr Massy, seconded Cllr E Bright and carried unanimously.

c) **To consider** donation to Citizens Advice Bureau.

**RESOLVED to donate £50 (fifty pounds) to the Citizens Advice Bureau**

Planning & Environment

a) **To consider** planning applications as received:

- **TM/21/01612/FL** - Single storey rear extension. 1 James Close Maidstone Road Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0LX.

**HPC Agreed**

- **TM/21/01718/FL** - Variation of condition 2 (limited period of time) pursuant to planning permission TM/14/02816/FL (Change of use of land to a private gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 2no. pitches). Alans Hectare Cemetery Lane Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0LT.

**Hadlow Parish Council (HPC) objects to the above planning application on the following grounds:**

The original temporary planning consent granted under appeal by the Secretary of State's Inspector in relation to application TM/14/02816/FL was made based on certain specific criteria. The Inspector's Appeal Decision made it clear that the original application failed to meet a number of key criteria for a permanent consent to be granted and HPC do not believe that any of these criteria have changed to a significant degree, if at all, since 2016. These criteria are as follows:

- that the proposed change of use does constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt, contrary to the Framework and to the PPTS;
- that the proposed change of use does result in a harmful reduction in openness of the Green Belt and, as such, is contrary to the Framework;
- that the proposed change of use is harmful to the character and appearance of the appeal site and its surroundings;
- overall, very special circumstances do not exist sufficient to justify granting consent on a permanent basis.
- It appears to that one of the reasons why temporary consent was granted related to the lack of suitable alternative sites. TMBC's intention was to identify and bring forward additional permanent sites for the Gypsy and travelling communities within a 5 year period, so that this site could be returned to the open Green Belt. If TMBC has been able to provide such additional sites, there should be no need to grant any consent on this site.

Finally, the Appeal was allowed subject to a number of Conditions, including:

- the need to undertake the development in accordance with the relevant drawings, particularly relating to the number and type of caravans;
- to preclude commercial use, to limit the size of vehicles, to regulate external lighting and, in particular, to remove the then existing fence structure to the south of the plots;
- further development by means of enclosure and of other buildings were precluded, to ensure that the remainder of the site should remain otherwise unoccupied as pasture land.

**HPC believes that the occupiers have not complied with a number of these Conditions, and possibly all of them, and that any future planning consent, if granted, should be conditional on these Conditions being complied with. We also note that these Conditions do not appear to have been enforced by TMBC and we**

**strongly believe that TMBC should ensure that they are enforced with immediate effect**

- **TM/21/01790/FL** - Single storey side extension and associated external works. 11 Monypenny Close Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0LG.

**HPC Agreed.**

- **TM/21/01590/PDVLR** - Prior Notification for Residential Extension: Increase the width of the current conservatory from 3.2m to 4m (Part 1 Class A). 11 The Cherry Orchard Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0HU.

**HPC Agreed.**

- **TM/21/01668/FL** - Proposed construction of new single storey side extension and the addition of a new side dormer. 29 The Freehold Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0ES.

**HPC Agreed.**

- b) **To receive update on the Electric Charging Points Project and consider any recommendations.**

In the absence of Cllr L Bright, Cllr E Bright reported that the application to KCC had been submitted and an on-site engineer's visit was awaited.

- c) **Motion by Cllrs E& L Bright, Barrett, Harvey & Carey to reverse resolution HPC Minute 4301 Planning & Environment Committee item f): "To receive a report and consider road naming options for the new development opposite Hope Farm".**

*(as a result of the following information received by TMBC after resolution: TMBC's street naming and numbering policy states in 3.3.5 "Avoid having two phonetically similar names within a postal area and, if possible, within a borough, example, Alfred Road and Alfred Close or Churchill Road and Birch Hill Road".)*

**RESOLVED to reverse resolution HPC Minute 4301 Planning & Environment Committee item f): "To receive a report and consider road naming options for the new development opposite Hope Farm".** Proposed Cllr Harvey, seconded Cllr Newman and carried unanimously.

- d) **To resolve naming of the new development on Carpenters Lane opposite Hope Farm**

**RESOLVED to propose to KCC the name Fairfield Close.** Proposed Cllr Carey, seconded Cllr Collins and carried unanimously.

*(the following information was provided when making the name proposal for the new development):*

*After considering the name Thirsk to honour Joan and Jimmy Thirsk who were residents recognised for their work at Bletchley Park it was agreed to keep the name in reserve for a larger more important road development. Fairfield Close was suggested as it was listed on the 1870s - 1890s map and was apparently the original name for the area now known as "the Freehold" just down the road from the new development.*

- e) **To receive an update on matters relating Open Spaces and pass such resolutions thereon as may be necessary.**

Vandalised Bench in Dog Walking Area of Williams Field:

**RESOLVED to remove the bench, clean and re-instate once clean within St Mary's Churchyard.** Proposed Cllr Collins, seconded Cllr Massy and carried unanimously.

*(Mr & Mrs Tippins Excused from the meeting)*

KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) – Next meeting 22/07/21

TMBC Parish Partnership – Next meeting 2/09/21

Joint Transportation Board – No report.

Joint Standards Committee – No meeting.

**4314 Motion to Exclude the Press and Public** (to enable Council to consider any items on the agenda in which significant aspects will be of a confidential and financial nature).

Proposed Cllr Collins, seconded Cllr Harvey and carried unanimously.

Staffing: Mr R Field had been employed as Facilities Administrator

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.04**

**Date of next meeting: Monday 13 September 2021, 7.30pm at Old School Hall**

**Signed**

**Date**

## **Appendix A**

### **Faster Payments HPC Approved**

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|-----|---|--------|
| 476 | D H Mowers - Stihl Strimmer Heads                   | 30.00  |
| 477 | Evans - Window Cleaning July                        | 55.00  |
| 478 | Flash Mobile Welding - Inv645 Dog Bench Remove      | 90.00  |
| 479 | Zest - Hall Cleaning June                           | 522.00 |
| 480 | NKM - Annl Fire Alarm Tests HY/MC/HOS               | 613.84 |
| 481 | EJP Fire Protection - Foam Extng Minibuses          | 67.20  |
| 482 | 4th Platform - Quarterly IT Admin                   | 542.71 |
| 483 | Travis Perkins - Inv7A667 Key Cupb Wd (HS)          | 51.64  |
| 484 | Screwfix - Employ Clothing & Cupb Building Pts (MS) | 159.37 |