

HADLOW PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Planning & Environment Committee duly convened and held on
Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

Also in attendance: Melanie Stepkowski: Minute Taker)

3610 To receive apologies, reasons, and approval of absences

Apologies approved: O Baldock

3611 To receive declarations of interests

Cllr Massy, (Allotment holder)

Cllr Massy, (Employee of St Mary's Church) & Cllr Harvey (member of PCC)

3612 To note Minutes of meeting held on 22/02/2022

Minutes were resolved and signed at HPC 14/3/2022.

3613 To receive an update on progress of resolutions & matters from the last meeting 22/2/2022 not on the current agenda.

Minute 3609 Parish Emergency Plan – this was still to be actioned.

Minute 3609 Seating Areas – the newly re-installed bench at Williams Field dog walking area was stolen before it could be concreted into place. A bench for Access trail was still to be installed.

3614 New applications, amended applications and plans for comment (List 'B's)

- **TM/22/00527/FL** - Demolition of existing lean-to and erection of single storey rear extension. Coppins 3 Leeds House Mews Maidstone Road Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN110DF

HPC Agreed.

- **TM/22/00635/TNCA** - Various tree works as detailed on application form Conservation Area North Frith Hadlow.

HPC Agreed.

3615 Planning applications: results (List D's), out of area/comment & planning enforcements

List D's noted and enforcements noted.

3616 TMBC & KCC matters:

- a) Parish Infrastructure Statement for completion: The Clerk and Administrative Assistant had diarised a date to complete for Council consideration ahead of the June deadline. Members asked that additional parking was added to the “wish list”.
- b) Active Travel Strategy – Cycle Routes: After reviewing the consultation, it had been agreed that members would complete as individuals and the Clerk on behalf of Council highlighting the need for routes from Hadlow to Tonbridge.

3617 Non-planning issues:

- **St Mary’s Churchyard** -To respond to various correspondence relating to:

Yewtree inside main gate & other general tree pruning

Concern had been expressed by a resident as to the Yew Tree by St Mary’s Church main entrance with overhanging branches possibly damaging the wall over time. To reassure the resident minor cutting back of these branches would be completed. It was however noted that a tree inspection by an Arboriculturist after recent storms had concluded that despite one branch splitting away from the trunk the tree remained healthy. It was agreed to monitor the tree in the long term for any deterioration.

It was noted that other Yews within the Churchyard had branches expanding towards the gutters of the church and the wall opposite. It was agreed that before any issue arose Professional tree advice would be sought.

Stump removal or plant coverage & possible area specifically for wildflower/wildlife

Volunteers had tidied the churchyard and removed the thistles around the stump. Further consideration to planting around this and other areas within the church including vegetation for wildlife would be considered at the next PCC before approaching the Parish Council for any necessary approval.

- **Finger Post Signs – to resolve to:**

- a) Accept funds to facilitate a new wooden sign to become Parish Council responsibility
or
b) Accept replacement metal sign under KCC responsibility.

RESOLVED to approve replacement metal sign to be maintained by KCC. Proposed Cllr Harvey, seconded Cllr O’Shea and carried unanimously.

- **Allotments**

After receiving a response from an allotment holder about the new draft allotment terms and conditions in which Council had considered poly tunnels and similar structures to be no more than 2m high, 1.5 wide it was agreed to alter ongoing draft to read poly tunnels and similar structures to be no more than 2m high, 2m wide and 2 metres in length. As for existing structures on plots, these had now been documented and would remain in situ with any further structures needing to adhere to the proposed new terms and conditions.

- **Baseball update**

Practices (Thursday evenings currently) and social games (Sundays) have started and the schedule for league games expected shortly.

The storage container to which part has been designated to Kent Buccaneers is in situ and the preparation of a rental agreement for this and the Hy-Arts Centre usage etc is ongoing.

Recent concerns by the Kent Buccaneers regarding the state of the pitch had been resolved, noting that the first cut of the year is always rather choppy, but a second cut was completed a few days later and therefore the pitch is now ready for play. A reminder was also provided to the teams that they currently do not pay a ground fee and that council contract with the grounds team has limited cuts so if they require additional ground works, they must finance these.

All other matters have been addressed by the Clerk.

- **Climate change**

Cllrs O'Shea and Massy continued to work with the Clerk to input Council data onto the Carbon Footprint Calculator provided by Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) and a report would be forthcoming once all relevant data input. However, it was noted that a similar system provided by Exeter University for free may well be more "user friendly" and appropriate for Council use and this would be considered in due course.

- **KALC Planning Conference – Cllr Newman had attended the online session and reported that new proposed planning regulations were still to be finalised.**

- **Parish Partnership** - Although on meeting papers this item had not been on the agenda. It was however noted that the Panel meeting on 26 May 2022 would be focusing on general policing and anti-social behaviour. Members were asked to submit questions or raise issues that they felt need to be debated.

This would be addressed at the next HPC meeting but initial thoughts included:

- Lack of PCSO & Police visibility within the Parish
- Electric Scooters – lack of policing
- Anti-social behaviour particularly in areas such as Williams Field

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.54 hours.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed

Date