

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HARTLEY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN

THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD, CHURCH ROAD,

ON MONDAY 14th JANUARY 2008 AT 8.00 P.M.

Present : Cllr Mr L Abraham
Cllr Mr C Alford
Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mr J Gaywood (Chairman)
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr J Minns
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby
Cllr Mr B Ramsay
Cllr Mr V Sewell

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
8 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs P Cole due to her husband's work commitments, Cllr Mr D Graeme due to family commitments and Cllr Mr S Granger due to family commitments.

RESOLVED: That, the absences of Cllrs Mrs P Cole, Mr D Graeme and Mr S Granger be approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 5 in respect of Hartley Wood, as contained in the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held on 18th December 2007, (page 4, item 14), as her private residence was located adjacent to the woodland.

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 10 in respect of the payment of accounts for January 2008, as she was the recipient of one of the payments.

3. Register of Interest

Members were reminded of their duty to update the Register of Interest within 28 days of their interest changing.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th December 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.01 p.m. to receive reports from the District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public.

The meeting resumed at 8.12 p.m.

5. Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held on 18th December 2007 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 19th December 2007 and 9th January 2008 be received and adopted.

7. Hartley WI Hall

The Council considered a verbal report on discussions with the Hartley WI on the proposal to transfer the ownership of the WI Hall to the Parish Council. A copy of the building inspection report undertaken by consultants in November 2007 had been circulated separately to Members. The report was based on a visual assessment of the physical condition of the property and set out a number of recommendations in respect of the future maintenance and repairs to the premises, which, if the Council pursued the title transfer, could cost approximately £30,000, although it was noted that any building work could be phased over a 3-5 year period to minimise annual outlay. The Council noted that any expenditure would be offset by the income generated from the lettings of the hall, which was currently in the region £7,000 per annum.

The Council considered the building inspection report to be favourable and felt that the offer made by the Hartley WI to donate the hall to the Parish Council for the benefit of the community was very generous, providing residents with a community facility which was not currently available. Furthermore the Council felt that the community would be obtaining a valuable asset, at minimal cost to local council taxpayers and wished to confirm its intent to pursue the matter by instructing the Council's solicitor to undertake such investigations and prepare the necessary documentation in readiness for the transfer of title.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) the Parish Council proceed with the transfer of the WI Hall to the Parish Council's ownership and agree to pay all of the legal costs, including all of the legal costs of the WI,
- (2) the Parish Council continue to negotiate with the WI Committee to have the entailed capital monies transferred to an ear marked reserve held by the Parish Council,
- (3) the Clerk be authorised to investigate the availability of grants to refurbish the hall,
- (4) the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for tell-tales to be fitted in the hall, as recommended in the building inspection report of November 2007 and
- (5) the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for the hall to be valued.

8. Sevenoaks District Open Spaces Study: Parish/Town Council Consultation 2007

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee, Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee and the Planning Committee, be authorised to return the information requested and to comment on Open Space Study, as requested by Sevenoaks District Council in its letter of 20th December 2007.

9. KAPC

RESOLVED: That, the Parish News Issue no 329 be received and noted.

10. Payments

RESOLVED: That, the payment of the accounts for January 2008, attached as appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved.

11. Exclusion of the press and public

RESOLVED: That, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of minute item 12, New Burial Ground, on the grounds that the likely disclosure would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

12. New Burial Ground

The Council reviewed the arrangements for future burial facilities and was satisfied that there were no alternative sites in the parish for the provision of a new Burial Ground other than that previously identified at Manor Field and for which planning permission was obtained in 2006. The Council considered advice from its insurers confirming that indemnity insurance against any future legal challenge was not available and that if the Council decided to proceed with the provision of a new Burial Ground on land at Manor Field, it should apply to the Lands Tribunal for a modification to the restrictive covenants.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the Council reaffirms its decision to proceed with the establishment of a burial ground for residents of Hartley at Manor Field as it is satisfied that it is the only viable long term solution for the continued provision of burial facilities in the Parish,

(2) in the light of legal advice and the advice from the Council's insurers, the Council is satisfied that it is in the public interest to seek a formal modification of the covenants in relation to the land at Manor Field, by the Lands Tribunal, to permit the use of the land and access thereto for burial purposes,

(3) the Clerk, in consultation with the Council's legal advisors, to prepare an application to the Lands Tribunal for the modification of the covenants in relation to the land at Manor Field, so as to enable the Council to establish a burial ground,

(4) pending the outcome of the application at (3) above, the earlier decision of the Council to seek Counsel's opinion, be held in abeyance and,

(5) Messrs Glover be informed that whilst the Council welcomes their continued support for the proposed burial ground at Manor Field and the modifications to the appropriate covenants, it is concerned that other persons may have benefit from the covenants and therefore the Council believes that it has a public duty to protect the community by seeking a formal modification of the covenants by the Lands Tribunal.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chairman of the Council

Schedule of Payments January 2008

Chq No	Payment to	Particulars	Net	VAT	Total
104502	J Hoad	Salary 01/01/08 - 31/01/08 (prev approved)	1,547.99	-	1,547.99
104503	H Gilder	Salary 01/01/08 - 31/01/08 (prev approved)	828.95	-	828.95
104504	HM Revenue & Customs	Month 10	881.65	-	881.65
104505	Kent County Council	Employers & Employees pension contributions January 2008	421.42	-	421.42
104506	D Cunningham	Clean Pavilion & water temperature checks and de-scaling January 2008	100.00	-	100.00
104507	Mrs A Oxtoby	Travelling allowance: Maidstone re Village Green application 29/11/07	20.08	-	-
		Car park ticket re above 29/11/07	1.50	-	21.58
104508	Supplies Team	Black ink cartridge and fax refills inv 1572014 minus refund of small order charge on invoice 1490230	32.67	5.72	38.39
104509	Cash	To reimburse petty cash - 13/12/07 100 x 1st & 2nd class stamps 21/07	59.00	-	-
		To reimburse petty cash - 20/12/07 2 x keys cut re Library for Police 22/07	8.98	-	67.98
104510	T D Munday	Pick up litter, empty bins & sweep path @ Manor Field inv 96	56.00	-	-
		Football pitch line marking and goal post check inv 96	31.00	-	-
		Inspect playground equipment inv 96	144.00	-	-
		Litter pick @ Rectory Meadow inv 96	45.00	-	-
		Litter pick Hartley greens inv 96	24.00	-	-
		Litter pick @ pond inv 96	20.00	-	-
		Litter pick @ Gorse Wood inv 96	36.00	-	356.00
104511	T D Munday	Burial Ground visual inspection inv 97	18.50	-	-
		Garden maintenance at Burial Ground inv 95	120.00	-	138.50
104512	Marshalls PLC	5 x bollard keys re Manor Field + carriage charge	30.00	5.25	35.25
104513	EDF Energy Customers PLC	Electricity used at Pavilion 21 Sep - 08 Jan + Standing charge	187.65	18.11	205.76

104514	Kent County Council (KCS)	Konica copy charge 21 Sep 07 - 20 Dec 07 inv PR0042714	77.25	13.52	90.77
104515	Sevenoaks District Council	Dog bin emptying October - December 2007 inv 2017640	318.00	55.65	373.65
104516	Sevenoaks District Council	25 bundles of garden sacks inv 71924	75.00	-	75.00
104517	BT Payment Services Ltd	Calls & line rental charges re Parish Office	83.35	13.79	97.14
104518	Calor Gas Ltd	Bulk propane delivery 08/01/08 & surcharge inv 17038927	584.12	29.21	613.33
104519	Kent County Council (KCS)	Photocopier rental 21 Dec 07 - 20 Mar 08 inv PR0042968	161.46	28.26	189.72
TOTAL			5,913.57	169.51	6,083.08

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8.01 p.m. to receive reports from the District Councillors and to take questions from members of the public.

Cllr Mr B Ramsay reported briefly on the District Council's budgeting setting process and his recent meeting with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Baroness Andrews.

Dr Roberts asked questions in respect of the costs to lift the covenants on Manor Field.

Dr Cramp sought details on the Open Spaces Study being undertaken by the District Council.

The meeting resumed at 8.12 p.m.

