

DRAFT**Minutes of Halling Parish Council held on 14th October 2015 at the Community Centre**

Present: Chair George Wenham (Upper Ward) GW; Chris Herbert (Lower Ward) CH ; Bob Morton (Lower Ward) BM; Trevor Reynolds (Upper Ward) TR; Les Hitchcock (Lower Ward) LH; Mark Joy (North Ward) MJ; Matt Fearn (Upper Ward) MF and Richard Thorne (Lower Ward) RT.

Bill Swan – Clerk (WS) and 23 members of the public. PCSOs Donna Shah and Ali Hardy.

1. **Apologies for absence**
Andy Simpson – reason accepted.
2. **Disclosure of any other Business**
RT – 1 item; WS – 4 items
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary and Prejudicial Interests** - none
4. **Adjourn meeting for Parishioners' Questions**
Among the points raised were the following:
Skate ramps in Lower rec. Grass cutting in cemetery and signs/painting of gates.
Commercial vehicles in St Andrews Park. Reopening of RS201.
The PCSOs gave details of how they could be contacted by residents. There will be a police surgery every six weeks. They will be looking at the parking problems at the school. Training can be given for speed watch.
5. **Reconvene meeting and approve minutes of 8th September meeting.**
It was proposed by MJ, seconded by CH, that items 26, 27 and 28 on the Agenda be held in private. All agreed It was then proposed by CH, seconded by BM that the minutes of the September meeting be adopted. All agreed and the Chairman duly signed them
6. **Matters arising from the minutes** - none
7. **Co-option of new Members to fill the vacancies in Lower and North Wards**
Three people have applied for the two vacancies and after a secret ballot, Kelly Talbot was chosen to represent Lower Ward and Michael Chattington was chosen to represent North Ward. They duly signed the Declaration Book and took their seats.
8. **Report by Trevor Reynolds on the meeting with the Monitoring Officer.**
He said that it had been a very useful meeting and proposed that HPC write to Perry Holmes thanking him for his efforts. This was seconded by RT.
9. **Footpaths and Marsh**
The Clerk read out the report by Barry Barnes, the footpaths officer. He is informed by Lafarge that HPC must request the permissive footpath from Medway Council as there needs to be a legal agreement and until this is agreed no fences or gates can be installed. It was proposed by MJ, seconded CH, that HPC approach Medway and all agreed. The Clerk will contact them.
As regards the RS320 vandals have again struck at the lifting bars and a decision needs to be taken as to whether these should be permanently bolted in position. The Clerk is to check on the legal situation.

Lafarge have insisted that they will carry out any maintenance on any paths which cross their land ie Plough, Ticker and Cam paths.

With the enthusiastic help of fellow villagers, a new perimeter footpath – starting just beyond the marsh gate and to the right – has been cut open all the way round to Maximillian Drive. When the cattle leave on 31st October , the exit gate will be unbolted for easy pedestrian access.

10. Halling Association

MF said that the application for the lower rec. project is on hold. The application for chairs in the Community Centre needs further information before a decision can be made.

11 Planning

MF said that one application had been received – MC/15/3065 – 1 Mount Pleasant, Bradley Road, Upper Halling – two storey side extension. The Parish Council had no comments on this.

12. Cemetery

MF said that he is still getting complaints about the state of the cemetery. The Community Pay Back scheme has been cutting the grass but this has finished for the year. He proposed in principal that HPC should make a donation to the PCC towards the cost of grass cutting. He and MJ will get an idea of the cost of grass cutting from Medway Norse.

13. Lower Recreation Ground

Les Hitchcock read out Maria Cook's report following a meeting of the project team. HPC did not get a grant from Sport England this time but can reapply in the New Year. The application to Veolia is due to be decided in December 2015.

14. Redrow Homes

Richard Thorne reported on his meeting with Chris Lilley, the Managing Director for the South East. Among the things discussed were as follows:

1. The delay in the reopening of the RS201 is caused by the underground pipe line.
2. The footbridge over the A228 will be started next year.
3. Redrow are to join Halling Association
4. Redrow to designate football pitches and changing rooms. These should be ready for the start of the 2016/7 season.

CH asked if these were going to be gifted to HPC

5. Redrow are looking to purchase woodland to the north west of the site.

CH said that this land was going to be for recreation not housing.

6. Formby Terrace is being demolished soon
7. The Blue Lake has been sold to Medway Diving club who will maintain it.
8. The sewage pipe is not going through the village but will run alongside the A228 to Holborough.

CH asked how they were going to manage this. MJ is concerned at the increase in traffic on the A228.

In conclusion RT said that he will continue to liaise with Redrow and get formal meetings with HPC underway.

15 Jubilee Hall

Mark Joy said they had a successful Quiz Night and raised £118.00. 50 % of this will be used for family night on 31st October.

16 Halling in Bloom

Richard Thorne said that in his travels around the Country, he had seen many signs for “Village in Bloom” He suggested that Halling might like to do this and perhaps funding could be obtained from the Ward Fund. He will obtain costings and report to the next meeting.

17. Seal naming competition

The Assistant Clerk reported that the school had taken this on board and will have the names ready by half term. It is to be judged by Ken Brown who took the original photo of the seal in the river. The Sea Life centre in London have sent complimentary tickets for the winner and their family.

18. Christmas decorations for Upper Halling

The Clerks had investigated the cost of solar powered trees which were very expensive at £200 each whether they were purchased or leased. It was decided not to proceed with this. The provision of an ice rink was discussed perhaps inside the Community Centre. It was proposed by MF, seconded by GW, that £2,000 from the unspent events budget of £4,000 be used towards the cost of the Christmas event. All agreed.

The date for the delivery of the tree for the Community Centre is 28th November with the Carol Service and the switching on of the lights being one week later on 5th December at 6.00 pm.

19. Poppy Collection.

It was decided that nobody would be pressured into doing house to house collections but we would just have to rely on the static points in the Church, shops and pubs.

20. Kent Community Rail Partnership

BM reported on the meeting of the group on 15th September 2015.

Network Rail have started work on the footbridge at Halling Station on 3rd October. This includes replacement of the footsteps and decking plus shot blasting of the structure and a complete repaint. A general repaint of the station will take place over the next few months. Two notice boards have been installed and it is hoped that displays of the school children’s work will be displayed in them. There has been a “deep clean” of the station to include clearing vegetation, new rubbish bin and repairs to a coping stone. It is hoped to install a new ticket machine which will accept debit and credit cards but not cash. Network Rail is waiting for Section 106 monies from Redrow before installing new shelters but are hoping to receive more funding to enable them to be of a better design. BM is very keen to establish a “Friends of

Halling Station” for the village to help keep it tidy and litter free and this could include the provision of floral displays. The village is very lucky to have such a well sited station but we do need to look after it. This will be a worthwhile project for 2016 once the refurbishment has been completed.

21. Policing in the village

See Parishioners Questions.

22/23. Receipts and Payments

Date	Budget Head	Net	Vat	Gross Total		
23/09/2015	Lizzie Hilder	Advert in Halling View		45.00		
<u>Needing ratification</u>						
26/08/2015	Total Property	Marsh stiles	EST	48.00	48.00	
28/08/2015	Ben Cook	Work on Recs/paths	EST	145.00	145.00	
02/09/2015	Scarbutts Printers	Printing Halling View	HV	890.00	890.00	
02/09/2015	Total Property	Seat repairs	EST	92.00	92.00	
02/09/2015	Total Property	Dehumidifier hire	F/S	60.00	60.00	
02/09/2015	Total Property	barrier fencing	EST	58.00	58.00	
11/09/2015	Ben Cook	Recs and path	EST	105.00	105.00	
14/09/2015	Halling Minors FC	Donation	Section 137	80.00	80.00	
23/09/2015	Ben Cook	Litter picks and bins	EST	50.00	50.00	
28/09/2015	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit fees	G/A	400.00	80.00	480.00
30/09/2015	BT	Phone and broadband	G/A	179.62	35.94	215.56
30/09/2015	Tom Bailey	Work on JH car pk and rec	EST	110.50		110.50
				2218.12	115.94	2334.06

It was proposed by MJ, seconded by LH, that the above payments be ratified. All agreed.

24 Dates of forthcoming meetings of the Parish Council

10th November 2015 at the Jubilee Hall at 7.30 pm.

25 Any other business

The Clerk passed round details of the KALC AGM to be held on 27th November at Ditton Community Centre.

Closed Session

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk left the meeting for this item.

26. Standards Committee – feedback from the Committee and recommendations of actions to be taken

The Clerk and his assistant re-entered the meeting.

27. Halling Fire Station

CH said that he is concerned by comments about HPC's expectations. He proposed that HPC considers any offer received of £175,000 or above. This was seconded by MJ. All agreed apart from MF and MC who abstained.

28. KCC Legal scheme – payment of legal fees update

The Clerk said that no payment has been made. It was proposed by TR, seconded by MJ, that HPC does not renew its membership of the scheme. All agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm.