HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

The Community Centre, High Street, Lower Halling, Rochester, Kent. ME2 1BS

Acting Clerk/Proper Officer/RFO Mr N Fursdon Email: <u>hallingclerk@btconnect.com</u>

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Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday November 1st 2021 at Jubilee Hall Upper Halling, commencing at 7pm

117/21 Chairman's welcome and recording of those present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone for attending. The Chairman also introduced new Cllrs G Batts, B Ali and R Barwick.

Present were – Cllrs	G Wenham	Chairman	Mrs S Chamberlain		
	L Hitchcock		G Chalker		
			Mrs L Ali		
			B Ali		
			G Batts		
			R Barwick		
			R Thorne		
Also in attendance	N Eurodon	Acting Clark	/ Dropar Officer / DEO		

Also in attendance N Fursdon – Acting Clerk / Proper Officer / RFO. C Fribbins – Clerk advisor.

4 members of the public attended.

118/21 Apologies for absence – Cllr C Buckwell (Medway meeting) Apology accepted.

119/21 Declaration of any Pecuniary and / or Prejudicial Interests – There was none disclosed by Cllrs.

120/21 Adjourn for Public Questions (Up to 30 minutes for the public)

Resident 1 said that he had sent the Clerk a document with certain matters that had been mentioned on social media. It was a case of who is responsible for these matters HPC or Medway. The person proceeded in reading them out.

The Rope Swing – Medway Council own this and it had been taken down due to safety concerns. **State of Cam Path and other footpaths** – HPC does not actually own many of the footpaths, the Cam Path is owned by Medway and most of the various footpaths are owned by the land owners that the various footpaths cross.

Lighting along River – *This is a Medway matter, HPC will enquire on the matter.*

Dog Poo Bins – The Chairman said that Medway own these, and they are not providing new ones at all now. It one gets to damaged it is taken away but not re-newed. You are now allowed to use normal litter bins. You need a special collection for dog poo bins.

More Litter Bins (esp Upper Halling) – *The litter bins are owned and emptied by Medway. HPC could provide new ones but would have to arrange to have them emptied.*

Zebra Crossing near to the rail station – *A Medway highways issue which HPC will enquire.* **CCTV/Speed Humps** – *A Medway Highways issue.*

Having speed humps could cause more problems.

Converting the white pits – *This area is owned by Cemex.*

Bishops Palace – *This is owned by Medway and has been closed off due to safety concerns. Funding is the main problem.*

Major Commemorative Days – Queen's Platinum Jubilee is being looked into.

Annual Fete/Fun Day – This matter will be looked into.

Outdoor Ping Pong Table – *This will be looked into*.

Skate Park – *The Parish Council have looked into this matter in the past, and a Health and Safety* survey was undertaken which found that there were no suitable land that the Parish Council owned. Also it would cost a lot of money to have a decent size skate park.

Dog Exercising – Resident 2 commented that there is nowhere in Upper Halling, where dog owners can exercise their dogs off the lead. He mentioned that at the bottom end of Upper Halling recreation ground there was some rough ground which he believes is owned by Lafarge / Blue Circle.

Cllr Chalker said that it would be a good idea, if it's surplus ground, The matter will be looked into.

Public Rights of Way – Resident 2 said that the driveway to Court Farm is actually a Public Right of Way, but it has been gated and is often locked.

The matter to be reported to the Public Rights of Way department at Medway.

Parish Council Organisation – Resident 3 said the Parish Council needs to get itself, organised better, like it used to be. In the past the Parish Council managed to get an extra street light installed near the Surgery.

121/21 To Approve the amended Financial Regulations.

The amended document had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Cllr Chalker said that the document was good, but did question that Budget Control had gone from £2.000 to £1.000.

Mr Fribbins said that £1,000 should be adequate.

Mr Fribbins said that the Parish Council could go back to the previous amount. Cllr Chalker suggested £1,500.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that the Budget Control Limit should be amended to £1,500. Cllr Mrs Chamberlain seconded the proposal. All Cllrs present agreed.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that the with the amendment in place, the Financial Regulations be approved. Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs present agreed.

122/21 To Approve the Updated Standing Orders.

Cllr Chalker said that he objected to having Item 7 taken out (item agreed cannot be reviewed for 6 months).

Mr Fribbins said it can be re-instated.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that item 7 is re-instated. Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal. All Cllrs present agreed.

Cllr Thorne said that Item 20 Freedom of information should also be updated.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that if both items 7 & 20 are updated the Standing Orders be approved.

Cllr Batts seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs present agreed.

123/21 To Approve Minutes of meeting held on September 6th 2021

Cllr Chalker said that he did mention the planning application at Cuxton for a winery which includes a large visitor centre which would cause large traffic problems for both Cuxton and Halling.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that with the above amendment added the Minutes should be approved. Cllr Mrs Chamberlain seconded the proposal. All Cllrs present agreed.

Matters arising from Minutes

It was debated that there may be a need to have a Planning Committee.

124/21 Formation of an Estates and Environment Committee.

Mr Fribbins suggested adding the Planning Committee into this Committee. Cllr Chalker agreed The Parish Council to run but possibly have non- Cllrs on the Committee as well Cllr Chalker and Mr Fribbins to look into the make-up of the Committee.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that the Committee be formed. Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal. All Cllrs present agreed.

Cllr Chalker and Mr Fribbins said they would look into terms and reference.

125/21 Finance

(A) Payments & Receipts July 1st 2021 to September 30th 2021 as circulated to Cllrs

A copy is attached to the Minutes Appendix 1

Cllr Chalker raised an issue with the printer, and suggested that the printer contact should be looked at.

Mr Fribbins said it may be cheaper to get a new printer.

Cllr Chalker Proposed that the Payments & Receipts be approved.

Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs present agreed.

(B) Approve budget for purchase of Christmas Tree

The Chairman said that last year, Medway Cllr Ferne donated the Christmas Tree.

The Chairman Proposed that a budget of £350 be set for the Christmas Tree. Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs present agreed.

126/21 Discuss Joint Christmas event with Community Centre and approve financial input from Halling Parish Council

There had been a joint meeting between some members of the Parish Council and the Halling Community Centre.

There are 2 events the first is on Saturday December 4th with the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights where the Parish Council will provide funding for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

The second is on Saturday 11th the Christmas Fair where the Parish Council will providing funding for presents for Santa's Grotto

Cllr Thorne Proposed that £200 be set for the Christmas Tree Lights switch on and £500 be set for Santa's Grotto.

Cllr Batts seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs present agreed.

127/21 Any other Business

Cllr Thorne mentioned about arranging Platinum Jubilee celebrations for 2022 The Chairman said it may be better to have an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the matter. Cllrs agreed.

128/21 (PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETING) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC)

To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public are to be excluded from the Meeting. A vote will be taken.

The Chairman Proposed that public and press leave the meeting. Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal. All Cllrs present agreed.

129/21 Personnel and confidential matters

The Chairman spoke to the Cllrs

The Chairman Proposed that Mr Fribbins be employed as Clerk/Proper Officer/RFO to the Parish Council at 8 hours per week.

Cllr Thorne seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs present agreed.

Cllr Thorne said he would like to minute a vote of thanks to Mr Fursdon for his work as Acting Clerk over the past years.

Mr Fribbins accepted the position and spoke to Cllrs.

130/21 End of Meeting – Meeting ended at 8.30pm

HALLING PARISH COUNCIL Appendix 1

INCOME & EXPENDITURE – JULY 2021

Halling Community Centre (Office Rent)		£	275.00	SO DD			
				DPC			
				DPC Paid in			
Bank Interest				r alu ili			
INCOME & EXPENDITURE – AUGUST 2021							
Halling Community Centre (Office Rent)		£	275.00	SO			
MHS Homes (Garage rent)		£	45.50	DD			
HMRC – VAT claim back		£	13,203.60	Paid in			
Staff costs		£	499.15	DPC			
Bank Interest		£	1.14	Paid in			
	Total payments Total paid in	£	<mark>819.65</mark> £ 13,204.74				
INCOME & EXPENDITURE – SEPTEMBER 2021							
Halling Community Centre (Office Rent)		£	275.00	SO			
MHS Homes (Garage rent)		£	45.50	DD			
C Fribbins (Consultancy fee)		£	616.00	DPC			
Blakes Security		£	85.00	DPC			
Playground Inspection		£	300.00	DPC			
BT		£	205.00	DD			
Your First Partners (printer contract)		£	72.00	DPC			
Community Centre (Caretaker retireme	nt)	£	25.00	DPC			
NPC Services (PAT Test)		£	75.00	DPC			
Staff Costs		£	565.48	DPC			
Bank Interest		£	1.07	Paid in			
	Total payments Total paid in		£ 2,2	263.98 1.07			
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