

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mr K Kingston, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

Beechwood Hall & Rural Park, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge BN7 3QG, East Sussex

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Draft Minutes of the meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at Beechwood Hall & Rural Park on Thursday 9 September - 7.15pm

Present: Cllr T d'Arienzo, Chair
Cllr Croft
Cllr S Fleming
Cllr C Henry
Cllr J Redwood
Cllr K McBrown

Apologies: Cllr Dan Pearson
Cllr I Linington (LDC)
Maria Caulfield MP

In Attendance: Mr K Kingston - Clerk/RFO to the Council.
No members of the public were in attendance
Cllr Milligan (ESCC)

The meeting started at 7.15pm

		Action
09.21.1	<p><i>Chair welcomes everyone to this meeting of the Parish Council .</i></p> <p>Apologies for absence – as above</p>	
09.21.2	<p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>There were no questions from the public.</p> <p>Cllr Milligan informed the meeting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bus improvement plan will be published in December 2021• The cover for the ticket machine at Cooksbridge station will be installed in October 2021• The Adult social care levy and the effect on the precept awaited• Beechwood Lane pothole will be reported shortly.	
09.21.3	<p>Declarations of interest from any Councillor regarding items on the agenda</p> <p>Cllr Redwood and Cllr d'Arienzo declared an interest in planning application LW/21/0361 & 0362 as close neighbours</p>	
09.21.4	<p>Minutes of the council meeting held on Thursday 15th July 2021 were agreed & signed as a true record.</p>	

	<i>(It was noted that the meeting was not a virtual meeting as stated on agenda)</i>	
09.21.5	Update on any matters arising from last meeting None	

09.21.6 Financial matters

a) To approve the following payments (including VAT).

Please note salaries are not privy to the public

Cheque/ Transaction number	Payee	Amount
371148592	Lewes District Council for play park inspections to Beechwood park and malthouse way.	£126.00
120732724	NALC – making rural housing affordable event for Chair to attend on 17 November 2021.	£51.71
839912998	ESALC planning training course for Cllr Henry to attend.	£48.00
21058374	CPRE annual renewal subscription.	£36.00
902512443	Contribution to Suzie Johanson for sustainable Hamsey logo design.	£100.00
300503	Natalie Kinch - Clerks salary and phone expenses.	-
300504	Greg Cockram for grass/hedge cutting services carried out in Malthouse Way park (5 x grass cuts at £20 each and 1 x hedge cut at £100)	£200.00
635587207	Expenses to Cllr d'Arienzo for adobe for July 2019, July 2020 & July 2021 (£21.14 per year).	£63.42
306887983	Expenses to Cllr d'Arienzo for parking space rental agreement documentation.	£29.99
378289708	Marion Hughes for expenses for 3x Community enhancement awards	£36.00
300505	Natalie Kinch for salary to include back pay after pay increase and phone expenses.	-

All payments were approved

b) To note the Councils current financial position

Balance per bank statement as at July 2021	£
Unity Trust Account	40,308.78
Less any unrepresented cheques	£0.00
Net balances as at 23 July 2021 of unity account	38,680.58

c) Grant applications

The Council agreed the following grant applications:

	Action
Hamsey Church for environmental works to churchyard £50	Clerk to make payment
Cooksbridge station partnership - £25 for annual rail future membership fee and £30 for Community rail partnership membership £30	Clerk to make payment

9.21.7 Planning matters

All planning applications noted on the agenda were noted and the following issues discussed and actioned:

		Action
LW/21/0160	<p>Removal of condition 27 in relation to planning approval LW/14/0712 – former Hamsey Brickworks South Road, South Common, Chailey, East Sussex</p> <p>Cllr Redwood informed the meeting that the developer wished to increase the site occupation from 50% to 85% before occupation of Business units and a further application to this effect would be registered.</p> <p>In view of this Cllr Redwood suggested that that the Parish Council should withdraw our objections at the current time pending new application but would object to any increase above 85%. This was agreed .</p>	Clerk to add to planning portal
LW/21/0573	<p>Outline application to demolish an existing bungalow and rebuild 4 new two bedroom cottages with off road parking concerning access and layout with remaining matter reserved.</p> <p>Cllr d’Arienzo reported that Cllr Linington was surprised that the Parish Council didn’t register an objection. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council felt there were no real grounds for objection subject to appropriate landscaping . HPC would request an informative.</p>	Clerk to add to planning portal

9.21.8 Beechwood Hall working group reports

Cllr McBrown suggested council meet with local street design artist re creative signage around the new Beechwood park path for which construction would be funded by CIL money. All agreed the idea in principle.

9.21.9 To note any correspondence received since last meeting and any action required.

All correspondence was noted but no action required.

9.21.10 Reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk

All reports were noted and the following actions were agreed:

	Action
SALC meetings – it was agreed that any SALC meeting notifications and/or invites would be sent to Councillors for information.	Parish Clerk
Sustainable Hamsey report for meeting on held 11 August 2021 has been circulated and should be added to minutes.	Parish Clerk
It was agreed that Cllr Redwood would provide the Council, at an informal council meeting, with a planning overview session early October possibly during the week commencing 4 October 2021.	Cllr d’Arienzo & Cllr Redwood to agree date and confirm

9.21.11 Highway and traffic issues

The report and update from Cllr Fleming and Cllr McBrown was noted. No issues to follow up but the condition of the pavements between the Rainbow and the school were of concern but work has successfully started in widening the path but Cllr McBrown will follow up to see if this can be extended to Chandlers Mead. In addition litter picking between Bevernbridge and the rainbow pub would need to be considered in near future. **Action: Cllr McBrown**

9.21.12 Rail and bus issues

(1) Cllr Henry’s report was noted with thanks. Cllr Henry informed the meeting that Robert Baughan had rejoined the rail committee and was still discussing vibration/aggregate issues and the continued absence of one service to London and one service to Lewes.

(2) It was agreed that Cllr Henry would try to obtain station usage numbers for next meeting.
Action: Cllr Henry

(3) Railway station planters –Regular Volunteer gardeners are needed at Cooksbridge Station. Special permission is required to work on station and names of volunteers need to be provided to Network Rail, so having regular volunteers works better than adhoc. Local resident Miki Brightmore is Cooksbridge Station Partnership contact.

(4) Bus consultation – it was noted that Natalie Kinch has provided a whole council report to ESCC.

9.21.13 Police/Neighbourhood watch issues

A number of unusual recent incidents were discussed including a burnt out car, car being left in field after it was driven through a fence at speed opposite Offham Church and unlocked cars being emptied of car park change. It was felt that a short article in the next edition of Hamsey news would be appropriate in order to advise residents to be vigilant. In an attempt to identify improvements, all agreed to the inclusion of information regarding anti-social behaviour as a section in a general parish survey which could include businesses. **Action: Cllr d’Arienzo**

9.21.14 Environment

All reports have been circulated and available on website. Matters discussed are as follows :

(1) Lewes District Food Partnership – Cllr Fleming recently attended a steering group meeting and a second meeting has been arranged for September. Cllr Fleming reported that the partnership are very keen to have representation from a small Parish. The meeting discussed allotments/green spaces/food growing/awareness/ local food sourcing and affordable meals.

(2) Air pollution and monitoring – Cllr Fleming reported that the school are carrying out a project about air pollution and monitoring.

(3) Water main work – it was reported that work should be completed this week.

(4) It was noted that Cllr Nicholson (Leader of Lewes District Council) contacted the Council regarding a new green initiatives newsletter for the district which includes call for action on air pollution, which could include speed limits on local roads and other environmental evidence.

It was agreed that the Sustainable Hamsey forum should discuss this and in particular look at evidence to support including pollution, food, transport and energy. It was noted that Ringmer Parish Council are currently actively pressurising ESCC for a 20mph speed through the village on a B road and consideration should be given to a similar limit on the A275.

It was also felt that pressure should be applied to Network rail for better signage re pollution close to and approaching the rail crossover.

9.21.15 To discuss general improvements to the Parish

It was agreed that every other month when there isn't an official council meeting an informal meeting would be held, if necessary and appropriate, to discuss other matters including planning (October), future projects, rural poverty & IT/google drive (dates to be agreed).

9.21.16 To consider GDPR requirements

It was agreed that Parish Clerk & Cllr Henry would prepare draft GDPR policy for discussion at next Council meeting. **Action: Parish Clerk/Cllr Henry**

9.21.17 Review of play park at Malthouse Way

Cllr McBrown informed the meeting that this meeting was cancelled and would be re-scheduled.

9.21.18 To discuss and elect a representative for the Remembrance Sunday service at Offham Church

It was agreed that a Parish Council representative would be agreed when date of Remembrance service is known. The representative would attend and lay a wreath on behalf of Parish Council. **Action: Parish Clerk to liaise with Rev Anne Dunlop to order wreath, and Cllr d'Arienzo to identify representative.**

(Subsequently to the meeting Remembrance Sunday would be on 14 November 2021)

9.21.19 To discuss a meeting to run through google drive

It was agreed that Cllr d'Arienzo would contact Cllr Pearson to set up training workshop on google drive and consider other IT applications ie project management software. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo/Cllr Pearson.**

9.21.20 Items for noting or adding to future agenda

- Christmas sleigh and Christmas party

9.21.21 To discuss meeting dates for 2022

Following discussions it was agreed that Council meetings in 2022 would be held on the first Wednesday of alternate months with a start time of 7.15pm. Therefore the Council meeting dates for 2022 would be as follows:

Wednesday 5 January

Wednesday 2 March

Wednesday 4 May

Wednesday 6 July

Wednesday 7 September

Wednesday 2 November

9.21.22 To agree the next meeting date

The next Council meeting date is 11 November 2021.

The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 8.35pm

SignedChair

Date.....

Minutes taken by Kevin Kingston, Clerk and RFO to Hamsey Parish Council

Habitat development at Hamsey Churchyard.

Bob Doran described the plans to increase biodiversity in Hamsey churchyard initiated by Anne Dunlop, the new Vicar, supported by botanist Helen Proctor. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped removed large quantities of plastics, wreaths and oasis etc from the churchyard. Biodiversity is already increasing - including the arrival of a rare orchid, the Lizard Orchid.

The extreme rainfall this year has resulted in massive growth of plants & grasses. Seeds will be set by now and everything will be scythed to ground level in October (by paid contractors)

Actions:

- a. Volunteers are needed to collect up cut grass for composting on 9 October, time to be decided.
- b. Bob & Sue to find suitable compost site.
- c. A species survey in the churchyard will be undertaken by the group in Spring/Summer 2022 to provide year on year records.
- d. More information is needed at the church to explain the project and give explanations about the vital importance of increasing habitat for wildlife in the face of the biodiversity crisis that we are facing.
- e. Sustainable Hamsey members would be happy to discuss ways of helping the church in their important initiative to support nature in this way while making sure that people are still able to visit the graves and pay their respects to family members.

Air Pollution in Cooksbridge, Links to COP 26

Concerns expressed about air pollution from cars, motor bike noise and lorries from local sites

Signs by the railway crossing are not being noticed. Discussion on how to raise awareness:

Actions:

- a. The group decided to take action on air pollution in Cooksbridge to raise awareness at the same time as the COP 26 international climate talks in Glasgow are taking place.
- b. Caroline is liaising with the school and the children will make posters. Caroline is also approaching Green United to see if air quality monitors can be sourced as part of the school's involvement.
- c. We hope to engage with local press, radio, social media etc
- d. Sue is finding out about electronic time countdown at crossing or by the school.

e. Emily sent link to Idling Fines: Idling is illegal but difficult to enforce
<https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/emissions/idling/>

f. Imogen sent: <https://www.confused.com/on-the-road/driving-law/fines-for-idling>

People interested in this action are involved to get in touch with Caroline at carolinehamseypc@gmail.com

Tree and Hedgerows Planting

Hamsey PC has been told about a Community Hedge Fund, funded by Defra. Sites were suggested.

Action:

a. Caroline & Sue will talk to Tamsyn about discussing with local land owners.

b. Emily sent this link: Free trees from the Woodland Trust. Schools and communities are eligible <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

Picnic in the Park.

Sustainable Hamsey had a stall at this successful community event. We ran two popular activities including Sarah's wildflower ID quiz and Emily's water quality test activity. Some new members signed up and people were informed about Sustainable Hamsey activities.

Hamsey News

Sarah wrote an article for Hamsey News to describe the activities of Sustainable Hamsey, particularly in regard to our supporting role in the Old Hamsey Church biodiversity project.

Local Plan

- We talked about the importance of the Local Plan. Members were encouraged to reply, in addition to the Council response, especially in relation to planning & developers, also environment & climate change sections.

Renewable Energy

- There was a discussion with Rex and David who will follow up on forming a group to look at **Renewable Energy**.

Reptile and Amphibian hotspot

- Caroline is in touch with Reece Ashdown who is interested in **creating reptile and amphibian hotspots** including habitats for grass snakes. The school is interested in participating in this. Bob Doran of Offham Church said they may be interested to host a habitat site.

Cycle paths

- Sue has returned a separate report on meetings with LDC

Many thanks to all involved in Sustainable Hamsey for their commitment, time and energy. It is much appreciated.

Footway report – August 2021 (Councillor Sue Fleming)

Cllrs Tamsyn d'Arienzo, Caroline Croft and Sue Fleming met with LDC Project leader Chris Bibb to discuss the suggestion of a cycle & walking route from the new housing development on Old Malling Farm over to Hamsey. It would need a bridge over the river, potentially to follow the route of the old railway line from Malling Recreation ground right into Hamsey or perhaps at another, shorter crossing point. HPC are to consult with parish residents for their views on this proposal. The waste landfill site along the railway cut by Hamsey church has been noted as a separate issue.

HPC is in discussion with LDC & Cycle Lewes to look at alternatives. It appears that the reluctance of ESCC to support cycle ways is related in part to the ongoing maintenance they would be liable for if paths are built.

Finishing off the path from Wileys Bridge to Hamsey: Nearby resident Chris Yarrow has helped liaise with the national park and Environment Agency to achieve some higher spec surfacing along the river. National Park Rangers are currently liaising with landowners for permission, which has now been granted for continuation to join up the missing link on the Lewes side of the new stretch. Funding is being sought for the work.

Cllr Tamsyn d'Arienzo continues to explore options for a cycle path from Cooksbridge to South Chailey to address the problem for Bevern Bridge and the isolated Hamsey Lakes development that has not even got a footpath. Options are being explored for a safe, car free route for Chailey School Students, commuters, and leisure walking and cycling, via Bevern Bridge.

Cllt Redwood, working with the Monday Group, asked ESCC to get the rangers to clear the path from the rec to the A275, which is currently impassable. The Monday Group has recently cleared the path by the station, and the path from Beechwood Hall and the Pond over to Lower Tulleswells.

I'm pleased to report that the path from the Rainbow to the school has been strimmed by Highways and the verge has started to be cut into to show that there is indeed a much wider path available, maybe 3 feet in places. The workmen were only there for one day. Cllr McBrown will follow up to see if it can continue to be widened all the way down.

A group of us will meet soon, with maps, to look at Footpaths in the parish and see if any improvements are needed.

