

## Hamsey Parish Council

[www.hamsey.net](http://www.hamsey.net)

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 31 March 2022 - 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr T d'Arienzo, Chair  
Cllr D Pearson  
Cllr J Redwood  
Cllr K McBrown  
Cllr C Croft  
Cllr L McKendrick

**Apologies:** Cllr C Henry  
Cllr Isabelle Linington (LDC)

**In Attendance:** Mr K Kingston - Clerk/RFO to the Council.  
Cllr Mike Milligan (ESCC)

*The meeting started at 7.30pm*

		Action
31.22.1	<i>Chair welcomes everyone to this meeting of the Parish Council .</i> <b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr Carolyn Henry, Cllr Isabelle Linington (LDC)	
31.22.2	<b>Questions from the Public</b> There were no questions from the public.  Cllr Matthew Milligan informed the meeting that ESCC has just released a £40K road safety campaign project budget – applications should be made to ESCC	
31.22.3	<b>Declarations of interest from any Councillor regarding items on the agenda.</b> There were no declarations of interest	
31.22.4	<b>Minutes of the council meeting</b> held on 13 January 2022 were agreed & signed as a true record with one minor amendment to change the word re-wilding to re-management at item 13.22.16 at bullet point 1.	Parish Clerk
31.22.5	<b>Update on any matters arising from last meeting - action log</b>  The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the majority of the actions detailed on the action log have now been completed or	

	<p>are in progress with the exception of items 2 and 18 which are not complete.</p> <p><b>Other information relating to action log</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action log item 10 – it was agreed that KK would obtain a licence from ESCC</li> <li>Action log item 6 – Cllr Redwood informed the meeting that he has now had contact with Cllr Linington at LDC and has been in contact with the enforcement officer – Toby Collins at LDC who informed him that the refreshment vehicle has been removed and there is no other unauthorised use on the site. A planning application for the site may be lodged shortly.</li> </ul>	Parish Clerk
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### 31.22.6 Financial matters

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

Cheque No. or transaction number	Payee	Amount £
	Kevin Kingston – monthly printer ink and office stationary	38.06
	Kevin Kingston – January 2022 salary	-
	Barcombe landscapes – gangmow field sep – nov 2021 and cut hedge 12/11/21	444.00
712284390	Barcombe Landscapes – construction of pathway at Beechwood Park (reimbursed by LDC and VAT reclaimed)	19,980.00
791525120	National trust – beacon licence	20.00
98396491	Kevin Kingston – monthly printer ink/paperclips and plastic wallets	26.47
	Kevin Kingston – February 2022 salary	-
	Kevin Kingston – March 2022 salary	-
	Wendy Darby – Christmas trees and lights	60.00
324690364	Mrs A C Barlow – clerk to Iden Parish Council for Simon Goacher retirement gift	25.00*
464459002	Howard Eaton Lighting limited – Trees of light , Cooksbridge	600.00*
Cheque - 300523	HMRC – tax and NI contributions for period January – March 2022	379.80*

\*Un - presented cheques as February 2022

Please note salaries are not privy to the public

All payments were approved.

**b) To note the Councils current financial position**

<b>Balance per bank statement as at 1 March 2022</b>	<b>£</b>
Unity Trust - current account	36,938.92
Un-represented cheques	1,002.06
Unity Trust - savings account	0.00

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting of the current position with the Councils budget stating that at the end of February 2022 our expenditure totalled £35,102 (including £19,950 expenditure on new pathway for Beechwood park for which LDC have refunded £16,650 through CIL and the remaining £3330.00 is in the process of being reclaimed through our VAT 12 reclaim). Income for the year including precept totalled £37,009.

The Parish Clerk also informed the meeting that a new savings account has been set up with Unity Trust bank and £12,000 would be transferred to this new account to cover the identified earmarked and general reserves included in appendix 2 of the agenda.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that a full breakdown of the expenditure and income would be provided following year end and that a new payroll provider has now been appointed following the retirement of Simon Goacher.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the 2022/23 first six months precept payment has been received from Lewes District Council and our insurance premium for 2022/23, which is due for payment in June, is £2150.48.

**31.22.7 Planning matters**

All Planning applications in progress, refused and determined since last meeting were noted.

Cllr Redwood noted that many planning applications, including some relatively small applications, are taking an in-ordinate time to be determined probably due to a lack of resources and staffing at Lewes District Council.

Cllr Redwood also informed the meeting in respect of the current position with LW/21/0622 stating that the development isn't progressing as promised and it was agreed that our objection to the application remained in place and that the Parish Council would respond, appear and speak to the objection when the application is discussed at Lewes District Council Planning Committee. The date for this application has still not been agreed although it could be on 27 April 2022. Cllr d'Arienzo stated that she has also contacted District Councillors regarding this application. **Action: Cllr Redwood/Cllr d'Arienzo**

*Councillor Caroline Croft had to leave the meeting at this point*

### 31.22.8 Grant applications

**8.1 Community rail partnership subscription** – the meeting agreed a grant payment of £55.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**

**8.2 Hamsey Churchyard** – there was a long discussion in respect of the churchyard and it was felt that a further discussion on re-management and disabled access would be held at a later date. Following the discussion a grant of £600 was agreed for 2022/23. **Action: Parish Clerk**

### 31.22.9 Beechwood Hall working group – update

**9.1 Line markings – Beechwood Hall** – the relining of the car park in accordance with plan was agreed and the £795 quote with Central Line Markings was approved. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact Central Line Markings to arrange the work and that the cost of the work be shared 50/50 with the Beechwood Hall. Cllr d'Arienzo asked the Parish Clerk to request an additional space to be marked out at Chatfield Close. **Action: Parish Clerk**

**9.2 EV charger - Beechwood Hall** – Cllr d'Arienzo informed the meeting that a new EV charger has been installed at Beechwood Hall. Users of the EV charger would be charged and any profit relating to the use would be shared between Brighton Energy Co-op and Beechwood Hall.

**9.3 Councillor Mc Browns report** – Cllr d'Arienzo thanked Cllr McBrow for her excellent report which was noted.

### 31.22.10 Correspondence

The correspondence logs for January, February and March were noted.

- Cllr Redwood informed the meeting of the information sent by NALC re the Ukraine Crisis and asked if we should support and sign the motion in support of Ukraine. It was agreed that we should sign the motion and that we should make enquiries with SALC to identify anything we could tangibly do to assist. **Action: Parish Clerk**
- The meeting also discussed the crisis in more detail and Cllr d'Arienzo informed the meeting that 2 por 3 Ukrainian refugees will be shortly arriving in the Parish and that it is hoped that the community would assist, support and help them to settle in.
- The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish (and East Chilington Parish) have been approached by the non parished area of St John Without to merge and become part of our Parish. The Parish Clerk has informed the Legal Service at Lewes District Council and has asked for guidance. The guidance once received will be passed to Councillors for information and a future discussion.

### 31.22.11 Reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk

Meeting with Chailey Parish Council – a useful meeting was held with members of Chailey Parish Council and the Parish Clerk relating to issues affecting both Parish Councils including LAA assessments, cycle & pedestrian routes between Cooksbridge and Chailey . It was agreed that we would keep in close contact as and when issues relating to the above developed and progressed.

#### **31.22.12 Highway and traffic issues**

##### **Bevernbridge – bus layby and A275**

Cllr McBrown raised concerns about the bus lay-by and the new pathway being created north of the lay-by including the proximity and closeness to the A275 which she feels is dangerous and may need the installation of crash barriers between the road and pathway.

Cllr Redwood stated that ESCC should have carried out a safety audit on the construction along with a specification of works. It was agreed that Cllr d'Arienzo would contact Dan Witcher at ESCC to obtain the information relating to the safety audit and specification of works and ask for a site meeting (with Antler Homes if appropriate) to discuss. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo**

Cllr d'Arienzo informed the meeting that Firlie Parish Council are thinking of purchasing a speed monitor and have contacted other Parish Councils to see if that would like to share cost.

#### **31.22.13 Rail and bus issues**

Cllr d'Arienzo thanked resident Robert Baughan and Cllr Henry for the excellent Rail report. It was agreed that Cllr McBrown would take over responsibility for rail and bus issues until Cllr Henry is able to resume. **Action: Cllr McBrown**

Cllr d'Arienzo and Cllr Pearson informed the meeting of on-going vibration concerns from the railway and the heavy lorries using A275 including cracking on house frontages opposite the school and the old Police house. Individual residents adjoining the A275 are calling for and are likely to fund a vibration survey of rail and A275. Further information to follow.

#### **31.22.14 Police/Neighbourhood watch issues**

Cllr McBrown informed the meeting that she is still waiting for PC Rose Stainer re bike marking event at Beechwood Hall. Cllr d'Arienzo would forward hall booking calendar to Cllr McBrown to arrange date. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo**

#### **31.22.15 Environment**

Cllr d'Arienzo thanked Cllr Croft for her excellent report.

**15.1 Lost woods project** – Cllr d'Arienzo and Cllr McKendrick updated the meeting with progress including access issues, management, involvement of Woodland Trust (which has been invaluable) and survey, tiers of access, design implications relating to size of woodland, how the woodland could be used ie possible forest school use.

#### **31.22.16 To discuss general improvements to the Parish**

**16.1 Queens Jubilee** – it was agreed that a piper would be sourced at a cost of £160.80 for Beacon lighting at Mt Harry on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. East Chiltonton PC may be providing a buglar. Plans to be agreed with the East Chiltonton working party **Action: Parish Clerk**

Cllr d'Arienzo asked the meeting whether we should hold another event to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and following discussion the general consensus is time is short. However it was agreed that the idea of an event with funding available from Parish Council , by way of a small grant , would be made available if a group(s) were interested. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo to post information on Hamsey.net and social media**

**16.2 CIL bid** – Cllr Mc Brown informed the meeting that our CIL bid has passed stage 1 and she will be meeting up with the Parish Clerk and Natalie Kinch on 7 April to discuss stage 2 application. **Action: Cllr McBrown/Parish Clerk**

**16.3 Interpretation sign/chalk pit** – it was agreed that the Parish Council would grant £500 towards the cost of the interpretation board. **Action: Parish Clerk for payment.**

Cllr d'Arienzo informed the meeting that the unveiling of the board will take place on Tuesday 12 April at 12pm should anyone wish to attend.

**16.4 Bevernbridge/Hamsey Lakes update** – Cllr McKendrick gave a verbal update on the Hamsey Lakes development including completion of 1<sup>st</sup> stage of development close, Antler now focussing on amenity areas, poor communication between residents and Antler, clearance of materials from woods, recreational area/kids play area. Cllr McKendrick is compiling a list of issues and questions for Antler and the Bevernbridge Residents Association (BARA) have now extended to include Hamsey Lake residents and Cllr McKendrick is assisting the Chair of BARA with support and the setting up of a meeting of BARA to discuss the development at the end of April. It was agreed that information from BARA could be posted on Hamsey.net.

Cllr d'Arienzo has contacted Cllr Zoe Nicholson at LDC in respect of village status for Bevernbridge.

#### **31.22.17 Footpaths and rights of way**

17.1 North end stream footpath/bridge – Cllr Redwood informed the meeting that the bridge is on the ESCC repair schedule and that it wasn't really a job that the Monday Group would undertake.

#### **31.22.18 Council policies**

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that there were no planned changes to Council policies at the present time although a new grants application form has now been posted on the website

#### **31.22.19 Future agenda items**

Cllr Croft - Climate change

Cllr Pearson – Southern Water and South East Water grant applications – application process commences in May 2022

**31.22.20 Date for future Council meetings in 2022**

The following dates were agreed:

- Thursday 12 May
- Thursday 14 July
- Thursday 15 September
- Thursday 10 November

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The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed .....Chair

Date.....

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

## **Late report considered and discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 31 March**

### **Sustainable Hamsey – Cllr Caroline Croft 28/3/22**

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Sustainable Hamsey meeting on 23 February. The following items were covered:

#### **Hamsey Churchyard**

We have been looking at how we can help conserve and restore nature in this site of special interest while importantly keeping areas accessible for people visiting graves and also ensuring the plans are affordable for the church.

A new management plan has been drawn up by the church which involves the grass in front of the church and in most of the new churchyard being cut on a regular basis. The areas at the back of the church, in the old churchyard and two discrete areas of the new churchyard will be allowed to grow through the summer months for habitat creation for invertebrates and mammals in response to the biodiversity crisis.

Members of Sustainable Hamsey helped collect grass cuttings on 19 March. Volunteer help is needed for future dates listed below please.

#### **Wildflower planting**

A group of volunteers have planted wildflower seed and the plugs will be planted in areas around the parish in about 6 weeks. Hamsey Primary children are being invited to join this work at Beechwood Hall. Volunteers have also worked at Beechwood Hall to increase planting for biodiversity on 26 March, digging up existing beds, moving plants to a much larger wildflower area, old wildflower beds will then have lavender planted in it for pollinators and visitors to enjoy.

We are working to establish roadside areas that won't be strimmed so that wildflowers are left to grow. An interactive map has been created for residents to signal areas that would potentially be left to grow: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1nfMDy6fCfEYTNSeSz4nNXsK1kxhtkbsd&usp=sharing>.

#### **Offham South East Water conservation site**

Caroline attended an online meeting for wildlife preservation with South East Water Biodiversity Manager Richard Dyer to discuss how we can help encourage further native flora and fauna diversity and provide further habitat possibilities at their site. An event is being planned in May, for people interested in the South East Water project and possibilities for assisting the biodiversity work there, including removal of Himalayan Balsam, creating further hibernaculums in particular for amphibians and reptiles, butterfly surveys etc.

#### **Kiln Wood**

Cllr Tamsyn D'Orienzo, Cllr Lindy McKendrick and Cllr Caroline Croft attended a second meeting with the Woodland Trust at Kiln Wood by the Old Hamsey Brickworks to discuss the wood's inclusion in the Lost Woods of the Low Weald project. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work/england/lost-woods/>

Cllr Croft also attended a Lost Woods training and networking event near Henfield in February.



## Cycle path

Active transport options are a priority for Sustainable Hamsey to help reduce car use in the face of the climate crisis and connect isolated communities to rail. The group is delighted to hear that there is now a plan formulating to connect South Chailey to Cooksbridge, then from Cooksbridge to Lewes, overland rather than along the road. Cllr D'Arienzo has spoken to Sustrans who can work on a feasibility study (£15000) 5 months work to identify routes for cycle path. LDC may offer money for feasibility study from capital fund.

From Cooksbridge to Lewes may involve Hamsey Lane and the Drove, Quiet Lanes will have cyclist and pedestrian priority in low speed areas. Options are either:

- the Coach Road from Offham church through the woods to come out in Landport. Footbridge over the railway needs to be widened or up through Pells towards Elephant and Castle.
- Hamsey Lane to Whitfeld Lane and along the river. Surfaced path has been added from Wiley's Bridge to Hamsey border.
- Railway track that previously ran past Hamsey Church from Hamsey Island to Malling Sustrans keen to develop old railway paths, footbridge could be added near or on site of old railway bridge. The area of old train track was filled with landfill in the 1972. The topsoil is now very thin and the garbage being exposed and eaten by wildlife in places. Capping could possibly be added to provide more protection for wildlife.

## Upcoming events

- Saturday 2 April – Hamsey churchyard
- Saturday 30 April - Hamsey churchyard
- Saturday 11 June – Hamsey Churchyard
- Wednesday 22 June - **Bat Walk**, getting to know the bat species that live in and around old Hamsey and the habitat they need to thrive. We will confirm the time and meeting place nearer the date.
- Tuesday 12 July - **House martins ID and habitat talk** with the Sussex Wildlife Trust. House martins are frequent residents of Hamsey but are now on the endangered red list, so we want to know what we can do to support them.
- Saturday 16 July – Hamsey churchyard
- Saturday 13 August – Hamsey churchyard
- Saturday 10 September – Hamsey churchyard
- Saturday 15 October – Hamsey Churchyard

## **Bevernbridge and Old Hamsey Lakes – Cllr Lindy McKendrick 31/03/2022**

### **Agenda Item 16 – general improvements to the Parish - Update**

There is now a real sense in Bevernbridge and Old Hamsey Lakes that the major part of the new development is nearing completion.

The majority of the houses are now occupied and the final lakeside properties have just been launched, so finally both established and new residents are beginning to understand what it will be like.

Antler is now focusing on the community facilities e.g. pathways, clearing the woods etc

There will be further building and the outcome of the planning applications, mentioned previously, will influence that next stage.

I have become increasingly aware that:

- Antler have made changes to the original plans over time and some of these affect community living and these are now becoming clearer.
- Established residents have their understandings, established over time, and may not have been updated.
- New residents have probably largely been informed by sales brochures and, discovering as time passes, what community facilities there will be.

So, there is a real need for communication, so plans can be shared, people can be informed and expectations managed.

It might be appropriate for members of the Parish Council to ask for a meeting with Antler, so they can update us on their plans for the communal areas and we can all have a common understanding?

This might cover:

- The Woodland Management Plan (including the opportunity of the lone woods).
- The Management Company. The SLA, who will award the contract and when.
- The possible commercial unit for community use.
- The pedestrian and traffic matters along the A275, including signage, speed limits, lines and possible crash barriers where the new path falls below road level, possible seating or shelter at the bus stop etc
- The arrangements for traffic calming on the development (including a speed limit)
- The recreation area and what it would provide for children
- The grassing and preparation of the open area on the buffer by the entrance to the bluebell walk.

There has also been a lot of interest in having a Residents Association here.

I have spoken with Martin Blackmore who is the chair of the Bevernbridge Area Residents Association and they are happy to extend their membership to the residents of Old Hamsey Lakes.

I have agreed to help him with the arrangements for this first meeting, which will be held at the end of April. It will be a real opportunity to bring people together.

**I understand that for the next meeting in May we will have a separate agenda item for Bevernbridge and Old Hamsey Lakes.**

