

## 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

Tel: 07795 - 336143 Email: [clerk@hamsey.net](mailto:clerk@hamsey.net)

### Draft Minutes of the meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at Beechwood Hall & Rural Park on Thursday 12 May 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 Matthew Milligan (ESCC)

**In Attendance:** Mr K Kingston - Clerk/RFO to the Council.  
Cllr Isabelle Linington (LDC)

*The meeting started at 7.30pm*

		Action
	<i>Chair welcomes everyone to this meeting of the Parish Council .</i>	
12.5.1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr Carolyn Henry, Cllr Matthew Milligan (ESCC)	
12.5.2	<b>Questions from the Public</b> There were no questions from the public.	
12.5.3	<b>Election of Chair &amp; Vice Chair of the Parish Council for 2022/23</b>  Cllr Tamsyn d'Arienzo was unanimously elected as the Chair of the Parish Council for 2022/23  No Councillor has come forward as Vice Chair but should they be interested in the future please contact the Chair	
12.5.4	<b>Declarations of interest from any Councillor regarding items on the agenda.</b> Councillor McKendrick declared an interest in agenda item 9.1 as a resident of Old Hamsey Lakes	
12.5.5	<b>Minutes of the council meeting</b> held on 31 March 2022 were agreed & signed as a true record	

<b>12.5.6</b>	<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 are in progress.	
	Item 6 Cllr D'Arienzo informed the meeting that a site meeting with Dan Witcher at ESCC would be convened at a later date when the development is nearing completion	

## 12.5.7 Financial matters

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

### Current Account

Cheque No. or transaction number	Payee	Amount £
<b>2021/22 financial year</b>		
	McAfee – AV protection for laptop for 2 years	40.99
<b>2022/23 financial year</b>		
480677171	Ian Ginn – station partnership grant	55.00
705484228	ESCC – verge cutting 2022/23	405.60
57555271	D James – bus shelter cleaning	15.00
	The Parish Notice Board Company	744.00
203673534	ESALC – annual subscription	184.18
299276441	Simon Goacher – 2021/22 payroll service	209.05
	Andrew Somerville – the centenary pipe company for piper at Queens Jubilee event (£150 + £10.80 travel)	160.80
127503787	Zurich Municipal - Insurance Premium for 2022/23	2150.48
53383878	Kevin Kingston – stationary, printer ink , stamps	32.36
-	Bank charges	18.00
-	VAT 126 reclaim	-3775.40
772800278	Kevin Kingston – April 2022 salary	-
521742996	Greg Cockram – mowing at Malthouse Way play area on 9/3, 23/3, 6/4 and 20/4	80.00

396369864	Grant Offham Churchyard mowing	600.00
959135543	ESALC – training for Cllr Lindy McKendrick	48.00
399216914	HMRC – Parish Clerks Tax and NI contribution for April 2022	123.80
899860546	D James bus shelter cleaning	10.00
523990901	Society for Local Council Clerks – annual membership for clerk	140.00
76637744	Central line markings – Beechwood Hall car park line markings (£395 to be reimbursed by Beechwood Hall budget)	954.00
983125044	Knill - James – payroll costs for 2022/23	468.00

*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 31 March 2022</b>	<b>£</b>
Unity Trust - current account	39,044.91
Un-represented cheques	NIL
Unity Trust - savings account	12,000.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting of the Councils financial position as at 31 March 2022 which was noted and agreed and informed the meeting of payments made and income received since 1 April 2022. He also informed the meeting of some of the big expenditure items made since 1 April 2022 detailed above.

**c) To note the date of the internal audit visit**

The date of the visit was noted and the Parish Clerk informed the meeting that it hoped that the visit shouldn't present any difficulties. Any issues or concerns from the audit will be reported to Parish Councillors and at the next Parish Council meeting.

**d) To note and agree the AGAR return for the financial year ending 31 March 2022**

This was noted and agreed.

**12.5.8 Planning matters**

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

Cllr Redwood thanked Cllr d'Arienzo for attending the recent planning meeting that decided on application LW/21/0622 to present and explain the Parish Council's position and objections to the application. Whilst the application was approved, it was a success to have cemented the

proposal for a community building and secured a play area for the development, hopefully via a section 106 agreement.

Cllr Redwood noted that progress on the Local Plan continues albeit slowly and that the Planning system is still in favour of developers and nothing that the Government has said recently changes that position.

Cllr McKendrick asked when the decision on LW/21/0622 would be in public domain so that residents are aware of decision. Cllr Redwood stated that the minutes of the meeting should be available on LDC's website within a couple of weeks although the application would not be determined until the Section 106 agreement is agreed. The future of the proposed community building and the play area will also need to be agreed and the management of the community building could be handed over to the Parish Council. Subsequent conversations have indicated these may be implemented through conditions but a s.106 agreement is sought for greater reassurance that they will be carried through. Cllr d'Arienzo and Cllr Linington agreed to chase. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo & Cllr Linington**

#### 12.5.9 Grant applications

##### 9.1 Grant applications

The £250 grant application from the Monday afternoon club was welcomed and approved.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

The £250 grant application from the Old Hamsey Lakes and Bevernbridge Residents Association was welcomed and approved. **Action: Parish Clerk**

##### 9.2 Grant applications made by Parish Council

Cllr Pearson informed the meeting that he had made contact with SW & SE water but had little response. However level 2 grants of between £1-8,000 would be available at end of May with a wide remit and probably relevant to us for application. It was agreed that Cllr Pearson would circulate an e-mail to all Councillors asking for any ideas for application and he would prepare application on behalf of Council. **Action: Cllr Pearson**

#### 12.5.10 Beechwood Hall working group – update

**10.1** Cllr d'Arienzo thanked Cllr McBrown for her excellent report which was noted.

Cllr d'Arienzo reported that she has met with Chris Bibb at Lewes District Council and agreed that the park would benefit from new beech, elder and fruit trees in the near future through a funding bid. Cllr d'Arienzo also reported that a relocated oak tree whip has been replanted in the park and would be dedicated to people fleeing Ukraine in line with the wishes of a citizen recently settled in Cooksbridge. Two new handmade rustic benches and 2 new recycled plastic benches have been installed by the pathway.

#### 12.5.11 Correspondence

The correspondence log for April was noted.

#### 12.5.12 Reports from meetings

No significant issues arising from meetings to be reported. Cllr Croft informed the meeting that she wasn't able to attend NALC's climate change on-line meeting.

#### 12.5.13 Highway and traffic issues

**13.1 Ivors Lane sign** - Cllr Croft reported that the Ivors Lane sign has gone missing. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would report this to Lewes District Council. **Action: Parish Clerk**

#### 13.2 Vibration monitoring on A275

Cllr d'Arienzo informed the meeting of vibration concerns raised by a group of residents whose properties were adjacent to the A275 near to Hamsey School. Cllr d'Arienzo explained that the residents concerned were raising money to carry out investigations into the vibration issues and wondered if the Parish Council could assist.

This was discussed in detail and it was agreed that the Parish Council would put pressure on ESCC to carry out a study but felt it couldn't help financially at the current time because its not considered a wider issue affecting a number of properties in the village and could set a precedent that is beyond the Parish Councils remit and financial ability to address.

Chair agreed to find out costs for a wider parish vibration study from road, and also rail as residents continue to report issues with a recent late night train regularly affecting their homes.

#### 12.5.14 Rail and bus issues

14.1 Cllr d'Arienzo thanked Robert Baughan and Ian Ginn for the excellent rail report.

#### 12.5.15 Police/Neighbourhood watch issues

15.1 Cllr McBrown informed the meeting that the police van to carry out bike marking would happen in the next few weeks at the station car park.

15.2 Cllr McKendrick thanked Cllr McBrown for arranging a visit by Police Community Support officer to meet residents of Old Hamsey Lakes to discuss issues of concern at the development and to introduce themselves to the residents.

#### 12.5.16 Environment

16.1 Cllr d'Arienzo thanked Cllr Croft for her excellent report. It was agreed that the cost of compost for wildflower plugs would be funded by Parish Council. **Action: Parish Clerk**

#### 12.5.17 To discuss general improvements to the Parish

**17.1 Queens Jubilee** - Cllr d'Arienzo informed the meeting that a Beacon would be lit on 2 June at 9.45pm on Mount Harry with the support of East Chiltington Parish Council, on the 3 June there would be a BBQ at the Blacksmiths Arms and on 4 June a picnic in the park at Beechwood Park. Further information on events would be posted on [hamsey.net](http://hamsey.net) and on social

media outlets. The purchase of a small PA system at a cost of approx. £100 for future events including the Santa Sleigh was also agreed. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo**

**17.2 CIL Bid** - Cllr McBrown informed the meeting that progress on our CIL bid will not be available until June/July.

**17.3 Late summer event** – it was agreed in principle that Cllr Pearson would organise a late summer event/BBQ with a budget of £200/£250. **Action: Cllr Pearson**

#### **12.5.18 Bevernbridge update**

**18.1 Bevernbridge/Hamsey Lakes update** – Cllr McKendrick gave a verbal update on the Hamsey Lakes development and informed the meeting that good progress is being made by Residents Association and that Cllr McKendrick has been invited to attend meeting of the residents association in her capacity as Parish Councillor. Cllr McKendrick reported that she now has a named contact at Antler to discuss concerns and issues and that Antler have agreed to provide private road and 10mph sign. Cllr McKendrick also reported that we have applied to the Royal Mail for a post box to be installed at the front of the development.

In addition the woodland management plan and lost woods project is progressing well and Antlers exit strategy is still awaited.

#### **12.5.19 Footpaths and rights of way**

Cllr Redwood stated that he has contacted Clare Rowling at ESCC who has confirmed that North end gate repairs would be carried out shortly. Cllr Linington agreed to contact Cllr Milligan re the poor condition of north end stream bridge. **Action: Cllr Linington & Cllr Milligan**

#### **12.5.20 Council policies**

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that he would review all the Council Policies over the next few months.

#### **12.5.21 Future agenda items**

No items added at this time

#### **12.5.22 Date for future Council meetings in 2022**

The following dates were agreed:

Thursday 14 July  
Thursday 15 September  
Thursday 10 November

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The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 9.35pm

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.**

