

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 7.30pm

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

**Apologies:** Cllr D Pearson  
Cllr M Milligan (ESCC)  
Kevin Kingston, Clerk/RFO

**In Attendance:** Mrs Natalie Kinch – Minute taking on behalf of Kevin Kingston, Clerk/RFO  
Cllr Isabelle Linington (LDC)  
One student attending work experience with HPC  
No members of public

*The meeting started at 7.20pm*

|        |   | Action |
|--------|---|--------|
| 14.7.1 | <p><i>Chair welcomes everyone to this meeting of the Parish Council</i></p> <p><b>Apologies for absence</b><br/>Kevin Kingston and Cllr D Pearson and Cllr M Milligan</p> <p>Chair welcomes back Cllr Henry after her maternity leave, and all express get well wishes to Clerk.<br/>Chair mentioned slight alteration to the original agenda regarding the Internal Auditor's Report which shall be deferred until the next meeting in September 2022.</p> |        |
| 14.7.2 | <p><b>Questions from the Public</b><br/>There were no questions from the public.</p>  |        |
| 14.7.3 | <p><b>Declarations of interest from any Councillor regarding items on the agenda.</b><br/>There were none</p>   |        |
| 14.7.4 | <p><b>Minutes of the council meeting</b> held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>   | Clerk  |

|               |  |                |
|---------------|--|----------------|
|               | Cllr McKendrick mentioned that some reports from March were accidentally added to the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2022. This shall be rectified with the correct May report added to the minutes.  |                |
| <b>14.7.5</b> | <p><b>Update on any matters arising from last meeting - action log</b></p> <p>Chair informed Council that all had been completed apart from action log 1 in appendix 1.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Cllr Linington shall investigate to ensure that the s106 agreement be a stipulation agreement for Hamsey Lakes.</i></p> | Cllr Linington |

#### 14.7.6 Financial matters

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



| Cheque No. Or transaction No. | Payee   | Amount<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 162465935                     | Clerk's salary - May 2022   | -           |
| 987770187                     | Clerk's NI & Tax for May 2022   | 124         |
| 704854747                     | Compost for Wildflower plugs  | 5.99        |
| 396955504                     | Sussex Drone Surveys – Drone film of Beechwood Park                       | 50.00       |
|                               | Grant to BB/OHL residents' association                                    | 250.00      |
| 512080808                     | Grant to Monday Afternoon Club  | 250.00      |
|                               | Tamsyn d'Arienzo - Supplies for Queen's Jubilee events June 2022          | 194.70      |
| 889480620                     | LDALC – annual subscription   | 20.00       |
| 223812051                     | Scribe Accounting – annual subscription                                   | 345.60      |
| 311875321                     | Tamsyn d'Arienzo - Refreshments for events and screws                     | 51.26       |
| 173417429                     | Kevin Kingston – Printer ink April (14.99), May (22.99) and Stamps (3.80) | 41.78       |
| 693192145                     | Clerk's salary – June 2022  | -           |
|                               | Clerk's NI & Tax – June 2022  | 124.00      |
| 98463442                      | Tamsyn d'Arienzo - Jubilee expenses including purchase of the PA system   | 534.62      |

|           |  |        |
|-----------|--|--------|
| 98463442  | Tamsyn d'Arienzo - Purchase of Laminator                                     | 43.27  |
| 275343796 | Barcombe Landscapes – 3x mowing of Beechwood Park                            | 162.00 |
| 339236709 | Kevin Kingston – Reimbursement for 2 pairs of replacement football goal nets | 97.93  |
| 273680781 | MH Goals – Replacement wheel for goals                                       | 46.56  |
|           | Greg Cockram – Grass cutting at Malthouse Way                                | 80.00  |
|           | Spiel Signs – Artwork for new Beechwood Hall Sign                            | 48.00  |
|           | Spiel Signs- erection of new sign and Notice board                           | 228.00 |
|           | Bus Shelter cleaning   | 10.00  |

*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 30th June 2022</b> | <b>£</b> |
|--|----------|
| Unity Trust - current account                          |          |
| Un-represented cheques                                 | NIL      |
| Unity Trust - savings account                          | 12,000.  |

Natalie Kinch informed the Parish Council that Clerk & RFO Kevin Kingston will update the Council on the current financial position and update on the budget on his return to work.

**14.7.7 Planning matters**

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

**7.1** Cllr Redwood discussed with Council the new 'Call for Sites' from South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for suitable land for the development of housing within the Parish. Cllr Redwood explained that the SDNPA shall be asking all local Town and Parish Councils within the South Down's National Park to identify any areas that they feel are particularly suitable or unsuitable, with the reasoning behind this.

Within the 'Call for Sites', SDNPA have also requested any councils inform them directly if they are looking to review their Neighbourhood Plan as this shall impact on their own policies when looking for suitable sites.

Chair thanked Cllr Redwood for sharing with Council this information and then raised the question of whether Council should look to comment on the field adjacent to Beechwood Hall

as this is likely to be identified again as a suitable area for development. A discussion was had as to reviewing Hamsey Parish's Neighbourhood Plan, the likely time line in carrying out a review and what is involved.

Cllr Redwood explained that the existing Neighbourhood Plan is still a legal document but some areas identified within it such as Local Green Spaces (reserved by LDC as a saved policy) may be usurped by SDNPA in their own Plan

All agreed Council should work with the SDNPA throughout the Plan process to help steer things locally as appropriate.

Cllr Henry suggested a consultation on all areas identified prior to a full review of the Neighbourhood Plan being mindful of the extent of work and raised the issue of so called affordable houses not being affordable in reality. All in favour to ask for professional guidance in an initial review of the Neighbourhood Plan by consulting with AiRS (Action in Rural Sussex). All conscious not to have Cllrs' own personal opinions dictate what the outcome shall be of the consultation.

Action: Cllr Redwood to make contact with AiRS.

Cllr Lington requested any latest information and progress regarding the Ancient Woodland at Bevernbridge be sent to her. **Action:** *Chair to send any relevant information.*

#### 14.7.8 Grant applications

##### 8.1 Grant applications

Council noted no further applications for grants received in June.

##### 8.2 Proposal was presented to the Council by work experience student Hayden.

With guidance from Chair, Hayden outlined an event whereby Applause, Rural Touring Theatre Company, would come to the Parish and put on a performance at Beechwood Hall for the community to enjoy. This would be a great opportunity to get everyone together to enjoy some family fun and showcase the new seated arena area on the field. Proposals were heard for two different shows... one being a vivid explosion of colour and art through creativity and the other a comical show called The Campers involving vegetable puppetry and 90s classics.

The shows are subsidised by the Arts Council but costings would need to be factored in. Options to be £350 paid by Council and then charged tickets at £10 each with a 60/40 split between the PC and the performers or,

£500 if the PC pays without charging tickets. All discussed the event in great detail and unanimously agreed that it would be the better option to keep the event as a free show but incorporate a bbq and bar if possible so people could buy food and drinks on the day. A donation jar was suggested by Cllr McBrown and Cllr Henry put forward the idea of holding the event on a summer's evening this year so as many people as possible can attend.

All in favour of a free performance, subsidised by the Council, and 'The Campers' was the favourite choice of show.

**Action:** *Chair to discuss with Cllr Pearson and discuss combining his suggested bbq event with the performance.*

Chair thanked all for their contributions and special thanks went to Hayden for his fantastic proposal.

Hayden told Council a bit about himself and his future aspirations to become an actor and his love of singing. Chair thanked Hayden for choosing to have his work experience with the

Council and praised him on his keenness to learn about the Council and his articulate presentation. Hayden then left the meeting.

#### **14.7.9 Beechwood Hall working group – update**

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

**9.2** Cllr McBrown made the suggestion that the hall be marketed towards seeking a person to start up a parent and baby/toddler group as there appears to be some new little ones now in the Parish. Suggestion is to encourage someone through an advert in the Parish Newsletter. The hall would be free of charge for a trial period and the person could potentially ask for donations of suitable toys/ sensory equipment to start up the group. A grant from the PC could also be applied for.

**Action:** *Cllr McBrown to write an advertisement for the next Hamsey Newsletter.*

**9.3** Chair informed all that a meeting had been held between herself, Cllr McBrown and Natalie Kinch with Wealdon Rehab who were recommended by charity Changing Places. After measuring the available space within the confines of Beechwood Hall itself, plus taking into consideration potentially having to have unisex toilets and shutting the hall for up to 2 months whilst works are carried out, it was decided that the Changing Places Space would be more suited to be located outside where the existing toilet now stands. The toilet unit would be removed and offered to a fellow Parish Council, so the new modular unit comprising of the adapted bathroom facilities including hoist for adult personal care and a separate non chargeable WC could be positioned in place for community use. The Changing Places unit would be accessed using a radar key. Chair explained that the Government are currently offering full funding grants to organisations for purchase of these facilities. Dale shall be sending through a quote soon then grants can be applied for. This project shall provide a much needed facility for profoundly disabled people and their families whom usually are restricted in their travel and days out time due to not having the correct hygiene facilities.

Cllr Redwood suggested seeking advice from SDNPA as to whether planning permission may need to be obtained.

**Action:** *Chair to consult with SDNPA re planning permission.*

#### **14.7.10 Inclusion Officer Position**

**10.1** An email with the proposal to invite Natalie Kinch to take on the new role as Inclusion Officer was sent prior to the members of Council. The role will be a volunteer role in which Natalie aids with any admin, such as emails, reports and proposals. Natalie will help support the Cllrs and bridge any gaps and obstacles with any inclusion issues. All in agreement. Cllr Redwood proposed the motion and Cllr McBrown seconded.

#### **14.7.11 Bevernbridge update**

**11.1** Chair thanked Cllr McKendrick for her comprehensive report, hard work and diligence in getting structure in place with the residents at Bevernbridge and Old Hamsey Lakes.

Cllr McKendrick states how things are coming together but stresses how it can take time to get a new and old community to merge together. There is to be a coffee morning held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 for residents at Bevernbridge/ Old Hamsey Lakes to get together and

meet one another. Cllr McKendrick is compiling a list of questions raised from the residents to share and address at the next residents' association meeting.

All thanked Cllr McKendrick for her hard work and offered support in her new role should she ever require it.

#### **14.7.12 Highway and traffic issues**

Council received a report from Cllr McBrown.

**12.1** Cllr McBrown added that she had reported to East Sussex Highways the deterioration in the pavement between Downsview Cottages and Cooksbridge level crossing – with a request to review the path and repair it. The main verges along the A275 from Cooksbridge to Offham garage have now reportedly been cut back to enhance visibility for motorists and safety for pedestrians.

#### **14.7.13 Rail and bus issues**

**13.1** Chair thanked Robert Baughan for the extensive and detailed report.

**13.2** Chair thanked Cllr McBrown for covering the Rail and bus issues whilst Cllr Henry has been on maternity leave. Cllr Henry is keen to resume Council duties and will liaise with Cllr McBrown and Robert Baughan (CPS) to be updated on any issues within the parish.

**13.3** Cllr Croft requested an update on the Uckfield/Lewes line proposals, to which both Chair and Cllr Linington stated they believed the recent application had been denied for this round. Cllr Croft aired concerns after reading some concerning information recently regarding the proposals. Chair also expressed concern that our local MP Maria Caulfield is championing the reopening of this line, however local residents within the parishes adversely affected by the potential reopening of the line, are most strongly against the proposal. The impact of Cooksbridge level crossing adversely affects pollution levels, tranquillity, and village life including disruption. To see Hamsey village cut up by another rail link would be devastating.

Cllr Redwood requested that all be sent the up to date information regarding the proposal so they can make an informed decision. Suggestion by Cllr Henry is for anyone wanting to know more, to attend the next Rail Committee meeting and ask Robert Baughan and Ian Ginn.

**Action:** *Chair to send out all relevant information to all of Council once R.Baughan has had a chance to revise if necessary. Cllr Henry to liaise with Rail Committee to set up a meeting to discuss the impacts of the Uckfield/Lewes line for Cllrs to attend.*

#### **14.7.14 Police/Neighbourhood watch issues**

**14.1** Cllr McBrown proposed to Council that they hold a community meeting to have any issues/ questions addressed, whether they be regarding Highways, Planning, Council Tenancy or Police/ Neighbourhood Watch etc. Chair reiterates how in the past community meetings have been successful and had naturally tailed off as issues improved, so suggests putting the idea out on social media to ascertain if there is need within the community to hold such a meeting. Cllr Redwood suggested The Planning Department would be better placed

than HPC to properly answer planning queries, though officers are unlikely to attend. All in agreement the best course of action would be to set up a post on the Hamsey Community Facebook page to invite residents to let the Council know whether there is a need for a community meeting, but to discourage airing any incidences in public on this forum.

**Action:** *Chair to set up a post on social media.*

#### **14.7.15 Environment**

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

**15.2** Cllr Croft highlighted the recent successful Bat walk around the Parish and informed all how special the experience was, and in particular the way in which it brought to life buzzwords like biodiversity, when you could see and hear the bats all around. One third of national species of bats were observed on that single bat walk in Hamsey.

**15.3** There is to be a Bird ID session held in September – details shall be shared in the next edition of the Hamsey Newsletter.

**15.4** All members congratulated Cllr Croft on her recent success with the Patina Parade held in Lewes on the first Friday in July every year. The parade celebrates the moving on of primary aged school children transitioning to secondary school through their creativity and love of art. Every year, a new theme is chosen, which the children learn and research about. Talented artists then get assigned to a local school, where they attend along with some parent helpers and the children; they create wonderful and colourful masterpieces of art to wear during the Patina parade through Lewes town centre.

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

**16.1 CIL Bid** - Cllr McBrown informed the meeting that although the Council have not been officially informed, it has been announced publicly on Twitter that Council have been successful in our bid for a CIL grant towards the new play park at Malthouse Way. Chair thanks Cllr McBrown and Natalie for their great work in making this happen. Match funding is still being sought.

Cllr McBrown stated that a further project in the future will be to add to the park at Beechwood Hall, with two pieces of disabled enabled equipment to make the park more inclusive. Grants will be sought to achieve this mini project. Cllr Croft suggested contacting the Sussex Community Fund to see if they can help.

**16.2** Chair told all that in September, a group of Special Educational Needs young adults from Plumpton College shall be coming to work on the phonebooks area at the end of Chandler's Mead. They shall aid in redesigning the area to make it more of an accessible community hub for all to enjoy.

#### **14.7.17 Reports from meetings attended**

Reports received and attached to the agenda.

**14.7.18 Footpaths and rights of way**

**18.1** Cllr Redwood informed all that the walk way bridge from the field off the main A275 near the Rainbow Inn, is still awaiting repair. This shall be commenced once the crops have been cleared so therefore the public right of way remains out of action for now.

**18.2** Cllr McBrown informed all that the hole that had formed along the main footpath in Cooksbridge adjacent to Covers, has now been repaired.

**18.3** Chair explained to all that the latest development for a cycle path from the new lakeside development at Bevernbridge through to Lewes has some positive news as an LDC employee has included the Sustrans feasibility study for the cycleway in a separate grant bid. Fingers crossed for success with this bid. Chair outlined the route for Cllr McKendrick and stated that this is the biggest priority safety wise that the Council has at present.

**14.7.19 Council policies**

**19.1** All in agreement that the following policies shall be reviewed ahead of the next meeting held in September 2022:

Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Risk Assessment

**14.7.20 Future agenda items**

**20.1** To discuss the potential Uckfield/Lewes line

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

Clerk has requested a change of date to the next meeting to be held in September 2022.

Proposed date is Thursday 8th September 2022. All in agreement. Cllr Croft sent her apologies for the next meeting in advance.

Next Council meetings shall be held at 7.30pm on:

Thursday 8th September 2022

Thursday 10th November 2022

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The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 8.53pm

Signed .....Chair

Date.....

Minutes taken by Natalie Kinch, covering absence of Clerk/RFO, Kevin Kingston



