



## HEADCORN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, Headcorn Village Hall, Church Lane, Headcorn, TN27 9NR  
Tel: 01622 892496 Email: clerk@headcornpc.org.uk

### Minutes of the Meeting of Headcorn Parish Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7:00pm in Long Meadow, Village Hall, Headcorn.

Those in attendance: Cllrs Hammond, Davies, Thorogood, Glanfield, Mather, and Thomas.

Clerk: Stefan Christodoulou.

Assistant Clerk: Susie Barkess.

Four members of the public were present.

1.

(a) Co-option of new Councillors.

Ms. Oates and Ms. Gearing gave short accounts of their experience and what they will bring to the Council if they were to be elected. The Council took a vote by ballot and with 6 votes in favour, both Ms. Oates and Ms. Gearing were co-opted onto the Council.

(b) Signing of the Acceptance of Office.

Ms. Oates and Ms. Gearing both signed the acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk.

2.

- a) Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs Williams, Bates and Pyman.
- b) To seek notification on whether anyone intends to film, photograph, or record any items of this meeting: There were none recorded.
- c) Declaration of changes to the register of interests: There were none recorded.
- d) Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or other interests as defined by the Kent Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011 on any items on the agenda: There were none recorded.
- e) Requests for Dispensations: There were none recorded.
- f) Declarations of Lobbying: There were none recorded.

3. **Public session** (minute book closed.)

4. **To Confirm the appointment of Cllr Bates to the Planning Committee:** - It was agreed by both Cllr Pyman, Chair of Planning and Cllr Thomas, Chair of Council that Cllr Bates could join the Planning Committee. A new list of committees will be issued at the next Full Council meeting.

5. **Community Warden Report**

None received.

**Information regarding police issues in the village**

- Four RTC – Wheeler St, Lenham Rd, Mill Bank, Moat Road.
- Report of nuisance youths on Lenham Rd throwing stones, Patrol attended but no sign of anyone.
- Report of nuisance youths in the Park, Patrol attended but no sign of anyone. Patrol spoke to informant, took details and gave reassurance.
- Report of sheep worrying in Grigg Lane which is being dealt with at a civil level.



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### **The Police.UK crime classification report for the Ward of Headcorn.**

This gave the number of crimes for December 2021 as 28.

Further information [www.police.uk/pu/your-area/kent-police/maidstone --- headcorn/](http://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/kent-police/maidstone---headcorn/)

6. **To resolve that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Matters arising from previous meeting: -**
  - Lenham Road Lack of Footpath from the Crest Nicholson Site** –The Hop pocket pavement is now due in mid-February. Work should have started by 11<sup>th</sup>. Results to be confirmed in next full council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Off Road Parking, Kings Road** – Sign will be sited after installation of pole by Prime One Maintenance after Christmas. This is still on their work sheet. To chase Prime One.
  - Roberts Land** – It has been agreed with Orbit that we will proceed to pay to cover the costs for access and to recover the same from S106 funds at a later date. With regard to the S106 refund we need to approach Orbit to agree a deed of variance. There will be a meeting later this month to iron out this issue. Whilst Orbit has agreed in principle to a Deed of Variance it looks unlikely that we will be able to recoup these costs from S106 monies. The sum will instead be taken from HPC reserve account. A meeting has been arranged to get a status report from Orbit about the progress on the access road later in February.
  - Headcorn Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)** – This includes various schemes that are being discussed: -
    - **20MPH Zone and associated traffic calming measures – High Street, North Street, Kings Road & Forge Lane**

After discussion with the KCC officer and noting their comments: -

      - Siting SID's at the strategic entrance points to the village. We are in contact with KCC about these measures. Asking Toby Butler at KCC Highways. After a question from Cllr Pyman about a different variety of SID the Clerk has found out that number plate SID break GDPR laws. So they are not available.
      - Siting white village gateways at the entrance to the village on the A274 entering Headcorn from Maidstone. These have a psychological component which might make them as useful as other options. This will be followed up once we have a concerted line for what to ask for.
      - A parishioner suggested an idea of part-time 20 mph limit to be placed outside the school and this is being investigated by KCC Highways. Awaiting their further comments. Full Council to be informed of results at next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
    - **Oak Lane – Speed Issues**

The issue on Oak Lane is not necessarily one of speed but may have more to do with the narrowness of the road and lack of consideration by some drivers. Thus the Idea of a





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semi mobile SID could represent the best option for this area so as to rule out speeding and heighten drivers awareness of the circumstances on this road. See above about SIDS. We have received several suggestions for the placement of SIDS from parishioners. Once the school part time 20 mph is resolved, we will bring the entire list back to Council for a final decision.

As discussed with Jennie Watson of KCC Highways we can introduce any and all these possibilities if we are willing to pay for them.

**Planning and Enforcement Issues** – Meeting with William Cornall, representatives of MBC, Borough Councillors Round & Trzebinski, Ulcombe & Boughton Malherbe took place and although it was clear that nothing could be done in the immediate future to change the situation in the Ward there were ideas that may help address the issues in the future. It was confirmed that a workshop with Parishes would be held to discuss potential ways of meeting G&T need and other G&T issues such as landscape impact/conditions/other legislation. The workshops for the Parishes to attend, to further discuss these issues, will be organised soon. Workshops to be arranged for early January 2022. Still waiting on an exact date from MBC. Clerk has chased regarding this issue and remains hopeful we will hear something soon.

**Redhill Stables** – The bids have been finalised and permission has been granted by MBC to Ms. Holly Lyon-Hawk for the provision of a natural burial ground for people and pets. This would be the first one in the South East. A proposed agreement is being put together by her for a Headcorn Community Fund and she will forward details in due course.

**External Speedwatch provided by Kent Police** – New dates requested. We had received new dates in February and March. However due to sickness this is not taking place this month and is being rolled over to subsequent months. Awaiting new dates.

**Disabled Access to the Village** – Having been updated on this by KCC we will need to ask MBC if it is possible to use CIL monies to pursue this project. Waiting for a reply from KCC about projected costs which are likely to be very high for a major work of this sort. However a smaller scale project might be viable. This is being investigated and will be added to the next FC agenda once all the information is in. Still collating list of suitable locations for possible dropped kerb placement.

**Speedwatch** – the Chair continued to encourage Cllrs to attend a Speedwatch session. New dates requested. Due to sickness this has been postponed. Awaiting dates from the Speedwatch coordinator.

**To discuss the Headcorn Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) and agree the next steps** - The matter will be taken forward by the Clerk and the HNP team. The revised draft will be brought to Council once the HNP team have met with MBC to take the plan to the next phase. It was decided that going forward Cllr Hammond would join the HNP Team on behalf of HPC. The Clerk organised a meeting with Dr Driver and the Leaders of the Council for an up-date on policies and proposed next steps. The meeting was held on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Driver was able to explain what had been drafted and its impact on the Village, also explained was the urgency of starting the final steps of this process as they are quite lengthy in and of themselves. It was agreed by the Council



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that the HNP had the Councils full support and that Dr. Driver and the steering committee should progress to the next stage.

**Deposit documents for road traffic orders** - This was received regarding a TRO to change the times for a Single Yellow Line in Kings Road to enable a change in position of a crossing guard for the school. Also received was the extension of the 30mph limit out along the Lenham road. If the Council wishes to extend the 30 mph beyond the agreed boundary, a further TRO will need to be issued, "should the speed limit be pushed back further to the edge of the Cricket & Tennis ground". Currently, the speed limit is set to stop at the edge of the Weavers.

**To discuss the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and agree actions required** - It was also a suggestion to plant some trees in honour of the Queen on her platinum Jubilee. The Clerk's Office will continue to progress this as the date comes closer. The time of the lighting of the beacon has been moved to 9.45 p.m. This is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. We have arranged for George Bartle to be our Bugler in conjunction with his son (a Cornet player). They will perform the designated tune "Majesty". We have also contacted the local Church choir to perform the winning song "A Life Lived with Grace". We have also given permission for the Rev Fiona Haskett to organise a party on Parsonage Meadow for Parishioners to attend if they so wish, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, the day of the "Big Jubilee Lunch". If parishioners wish to have a street party on that day, KCC have issued us with a road closure application form for small cul-de-sacs, and small estates, which is to be completed and submitted to KCC by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March. This information will be circulated on social media and the Village and Parish Newsletters.

**To review request from MBC to deploy anti idling signs and agree actions required** - It was agreed that the Council would like to take up MBC on their offer and additionally would suggest an extra two signs at each cardinal arm of the Cross Roads. A query to this effect has been sent to Stuart Maxwell. Where the signs are positioned depend on to whom, the poles they will be affixed to, belong. As soon as KCC reply to the Clerk's request to verify the posts they can be secured to, the signs will be duly erected.

**To discuss the Parking at Kingsland Grove and whether it needs parking permits.**

After some discussion it was decided that perhaps it would be better to ask for parking dispensations rather than permits so as not to place a great burden on MBC Officers with trying to govern this idea. It was agreed that HPC would take up this issue with MBC. Clerk e-mailed representation to Jeff Kitson at MBC. The Officer concerned stated that this would not be possible, and the two options open to us were, either to stay as they are, or for the single yellow line to be removed. The Clerk is pursuing further lines of inquiry regarding this issue.

**To discuss options for funding the former Methodist Church purchase with a PWLB Loan.**

It was agreed that HPC would like to help the Heart of Headcorn Community Group with a PWLB Loan after a meeting and consultation with the Village ending in a simple vote (for and against) on whether they too were in favour of supporting this initiative. Once further details of the purchase price are received from the HOHCG a meeting with the Village can be organised to secure their approval of the loan.



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### 8. Finance

#### (a) To review and agree the following: -

##### i. Schedule of online Payments for February 2022

Schedule of online payments (Schedule A) was reviewed, approved, and signed by the Chair.

##### ii. Income for Month ended 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022

There was an income for the month of £26580.76

##### iii. Bank Reconciliation for Month ended 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022

The bank reconciliation was reviewed, approved, and signed by the Chair.

##### iv. To review Budget Analysis and agree any actions required.

The budget was reviewed, approved, and signed by the Chair.

### 9. Correspondence: -

**Email from Parishioner enquiring if the TRO moving the 30mph Speed zone from the Headcorn end of Lenham Road to the end of the Weavers would open up the area to more development and if the Parish Councils commitment to restricting Development of green field sites still held.** The movement of the 30mph Speed zone should not have any effect on the possibility of development on the fields to the left of the road as they directly back onto the River Beult and its associated flood plain. This TRO is being sought to make the area safer from speeding vehicles and as such peoples safety must take precedence over unfounded development fears. That being said the Parish remains committed to resisting unwanted development in Headcorn.

**Email from a Parishioner who recently had a car crash into their house.** The Parishioner enquired if HPC had any schemes to help reduce the speed of vehicles on the roads around Headcorn. The Clerks Office were able to reassure them that we do have items already in the Minutes that directly relate to plans to cut speed in and around the Village and that they will be rolled out as soon as they are finalised. We are in the final stages of instigating at least three speed calming measures inside the Village envelope.

### 10. To consider proposal for the purchase of a utility truck for the Lengthsmen to help them complete more work faster: -

It had been agreed at Open Spaces that we would seek to buy a truck for the Lengthsmen. This would also mean passing the resolution at Full Council as well given the high cost of the purchase. Full Council agreed that this would be a worthwhile addition to the Lengthmens equipment as it would allow them to reach the further edges of the Village more often as well as generally helping with the quantity and quality of their work.

### 11. To consider an arrangement for the land at the back of the Carpark adjacent to the Longmeadow Burial Ground: -

The company who owns the Carpark at the back of the Foremans Site would like to gift us a small portion of the land we currently rent from them in



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exchange for giving up the rental agreement on the whole site, thus allowing them to utilise a larger portion of the land they own which they intend to use for further retirement housing to expand the Tallow Court Complex. It was agreed that we should make further enquiries into this matter and report back to Full Council.

**12. To receive the minutes of the following committees for information and to raise any queries arising from them: -**

**Planning Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

There were no amendments or comments.

**Open Spaces – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022**

There were no amendments or comments.

**13. To receive inspection reports for Days Green and Hoggs Bridge Green**

The Days Green inspection was received, no action is required.

The Hoggs Bridge Green inspection report was received, no action is required.

**14. To receive reports from any External Meetings attended by Councillors and agree any action required: -**


Meeting with Dr. Driver – as explained above – no further action required other than that in the minutes.

Meeting with Golding Homes and their architect – Golding homes representative and their architect explained that they wish to put some new social housing on thatch barn road on the site of some disused parking and garages. This would consist of 2 maisonettes constructed in an environmentally up to date manner and incorporating energy and heat saving technology to further reduce their ecological impact and to afford the tenants lower energy and heating bills. They assured us that these homes would be offered to local families as a first resort for at least 6 to 9 months before being opened up to other social housing tenants.

**15. Any other business.**

Cllr Mike Davis verbally submitted his resignation from the Council with immediate effect.

There being no other matters for discussion the meeting closed at 21:32 hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....7.3.22.....