



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 13th December 2023 at 7:00pm in Long Meadow, Village Hall, Headcorn.

Those in attendance: -

Councillors: Thomas, Mather, Sexton, Coppen, Gearing, Thorogood and Glanfield.
Clerk: Stefan Christodoulou.
Assistant Clerks: Susie Barkess and Jo Mitchell.
Public: Six and Borough Councillors Round and Trzebinski.

1.

- a) **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllrs. Bates, Baars, Pyman and Newman.
- 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.

2. Public session (minute book closed.)

3. To resolve that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting: -

Roberts Land now known as Millbank Meadow – Orbit has agreed in principle to a Deed of Variance. Walk around the land to be carried out late August or early September. Have received clarification from Brachers. Documents signed and sent to solicitor. Clerk's Office is checking with Solicitor if the deeds have been transferred yet, as well as informing Land registry. Clerk to check if this has been completed.

Headcorn Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – Clerk, Chair and Vicechair had meeting with KCC on 25th January. KCC representative agreed to forward our requests to the relevant KCC Officer for evaluation. Yellow lines in Sharps field etc. were deemed to not be a priority and wouldn't be carried out. KCC Highways planners gave us a template to do another consultation of residents for SYL in sharps field etc. Clerk's Office to carry out as soon as the format of the letter is agreed with KCC. It was decided to reject KCC changes to the Gibbs Hill SYL. KCC came down and saw the road and agreed with us that yes something more does need to be done. Clerk's Office will liaise with KCC to move this forward.

To discuss the Headcorn Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) and agree the next steps – The post consultation meeting on the 8th sept was attended by the Clerk, Chair, Jane's Newsletter and Dr Driver. The clerk gave a verbal update of HNP to council. This presented the overwhelmingly positive reactions from the Parishioners who replied which was about 95%. As well as all comments left with the survey. This is ongoing with Dr Driver and the Clerk's Office. We are waiting on MBC to finish their current section of Local Plan.



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To discuss the cost of new play equipment on Days Green. The Council agreed with all the proposed play items. This has been given the go ahead, starting 4th December. This has been finished and will be removed.

Letter to Sainsbury's - The Clerks Office sent a letter to Sainsbury's about the amount of shoplifting and how their lack of security enables a lot of antisocial behaviour in the Village. Reply received, very underwhelming. Clerk's Office is speaking to the KM and Cllr Round about this. Second letter sent. No reply. We have noticed the addition of a security guard in the shop. This does not seem to have had much, if any, effect yet.

To discuss if a memorial item should be included at Millbank Meadow to commemorate this kind gift by Dr Roberts. The Clerks Office are checking that they would actually wish for this and if so it was decided that we should put in place some sort of memorial item. Whilst The Roberts didn't want something for themselves a plaque in general thanking the donation would be appreciated. Clerks will organise this once the land registry section is done.

5. Finance

(a) To review and agree the following: -

- i. **Schedule of online Payments for December 2023**
Schedule of online payments was reviewed, approved, and signed by the Chair.
- ii. **Income for Month ended 30th November 2023**
There was an income for the two months of £30,423.81
- iii. **Bank Reconciliation for Month ended 30th November 2023**
The bank reconciliation was reviewed, approved, and signed by the Chair.
- iv. **To review Budget Analysis for the year 2023/24**
The budget was reviewed, approved, and signed by the Chair.

6. **To discuss the quote for resurfacing works at the Scout Hut car park.** – H Surfacing provided us with a quote of £13889.59 plus VAT to completely resurface the Scout Hut / Allotment / Hoggs Green Car Park. The Council agreed that this should go ahead given the very poor state of the surface at the moment.

7. **To discuss the quote for installing a permanent gazebo on Parsonage Meadow.** – A quote was not received so no determination could be made.

8. **To discuss the Toilets on days Green** - It was decided that we should go ahead with the meeting with MBC for the purchase of the building block as set up by MBC Cllr Round and then make decisions about what to do with it after. The options being to either refurbish the toilets, refurbish some of the toilet and convert the remainder into more storage or shut them and have the entire building be for the use of the Lengthsmen.

9. Planning Applications to be considered: -

23/504888/FULL: Boarden Stables Boarden Lane Staplehurst Tonbridge Kent TN12 0EB

Change of use of land from equestrian arena to recreational use, including replacement of existing equestrian arena with a hard tennis court with perimeter fence for private use.



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The Committee wish to see this approved, as long as the present rubber crumb surface can be disposed of in an ecologically sound way.

Referral to MBC Committee is not required.

- 10. To discuss if Headcorn PC are happy to support Staplehurst PC with their attempt to get traffic lights at the Headcorn / Staplehurst border bridge.** – It was decided that HPC should support SPC with all efforts to get the situation with the bridge sorted once and for all! We have all made extensive representations to KCC Highways to have this bridge made safer as it is on the boundary or both our Parishes. It turns out that KCC has spent nearly £40,000 over 5 years repairing said bridge when £70,000 would pay for traffic lights. Given this rate of expenditure it is reasonable to propose that traffic lights would be an overall saving of £10,000 in 10 years if implemented now.

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

Planning Committee – 21st November 2023. This was accepted by the Council and signed as there will be no Planning Meeting this Month.

- 12. Correspondence: -**

We have received one item of correspondence: -

A Parishioner has written to both us and MBC Cllr Round about the speed of traffic and the need for a crossing as the bottom of Millbank near the Crossroads Traffic Lights. They even attended the meeting and expressed their view during the Public Session as well. HPC is aware of both the problems in this area and has already added it to the HIP and approached KCC Highways about this. KCC Highways reasoning for inaction was both that a crossing would be potentially dangerous in this area and that no accidents had been reported. The Council and MBC Cllr Round would continue to ask KCC for alternatives or actions that can be taken to make this area safer. Cameras were one option that was suggested and the Clerks Office will ask about this possibility.

- 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: -**

KALC – 27th November 2023, this was read and there were no comments.

- 15. Any other business.**

Tim Thomas gave a report about a meeting with Medway Flood Partnership.
He also gave a report on the AEF about the environmental impact of flights.



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There being no other matters for discussion the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Signed.....

Date.....