

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HASTINGLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ON 10th MARCH 2015**

Present: Cllr Gardener (Chair) Cllr Mrs Day
Cllr Mrs Helmer Cllr Johnson

In attendance: Cllr Jane Martin

To be actioned by

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Boxall.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Clerk had contacted Ashford Borough Council regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, the reply she received read, "Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011, and enables local communities to shape development in their area through the production of a neighbourhood development plan – effectively this is a Local Plan for a very specific neighbourhood area – usually these are Parish Council areas. It can include its own policies and identified sites for new development. The local community that produces the Plan takes responsibility for its preparation – it is subject to an examination by an Inspector and local referendum before it can be formally adopted.

If a neighbourhood plan is in place then planning applications that were submitted within the area of the Plan would be judged against policies in that neighbourhood plan – the neighbourhood plan has to conform with the over-arching Local Plan that the Borough Council prepares. Where there is not a neighbourhood plan in place then the Local Plan for the area continues to apply – so existing policies that deal with planning applications will still apply in Hastingleigh as they do at present – there is no detriment to you as a parish because you do not have a neighbourhood plan. There are only five NPs being prepared in the Borough at present – Wye, Rolvenden, Boughton Aluph, Pluckley and Bethersden.

It was agreed that Hastingleigh PC would not progress with a Neighbourhood Plan.

May Election: the advert in the magazine had not produced any enquiries into becoming a Parish Councillor.

3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Local Councillors Report

Cllr Jane Martin reported that she had been busy in Aldington with planning applications, a solar farm application and drainage problems in Bromley Green Road where a long term solution is being sought. HGVs are an issue across the Borough and alternative routes are being sought to stop the HGVs driving along very narrow lanes and also a resolution to the parking of lorries on road edges around the orbital park is being trialled. Cllr Jane Martin offered some help with the application at the Saw Mill and also at The Church.

5 Changes required due to the introduction of the Transparency Code

The new Standing Orders were circulated, agreed and adopted.

The Complaints procedure was circulated, agreed and adopted.

The protocol of filming and recording meetings was circulated, agreed and adopted.

The publication scheme was circulated, agreed and adopted.

The Clerk noted that the transparency code applies to the websites only and not the notice

board so a notice is to be placed on the notice board listing where to find the relevant information and the time frames for these to be available.

6 Footpaths - stiles and fallen trees

There are several fallen trees along the path following on from the Football Field, 2 stiles are also broken, one at Lilleys and the other on the path behind the Village Hall. The Footpath Warden will be asked to report these issues.

TB

7 Meeting with Highways

The meeting had taken place on Wednesday 25th February. It was considered a successful meeting. Potholes and drainage issues, especially at Robertsdane and Vigo had been discussed, verges along New Barn Road are to be looked at, kerb stones in Becketts Close were reported. Wye Hill was discussed, white lines, pot holes and surface debris. A "drainage plan" had been promised at the Highways Forum, the Clerk was asked to contact Katie Lewis with regard to this. Church Lane had also been reported but was not considered bad enough to warrant any work as yet.

TB

8 Risk Assessment

There are no changes to the Risk Assessment.

7 Financial Statement

A copy of the financial report and a budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors. A cheque was signed for Clerks expenses and the Transparency Code training attended.

8 Correspondence

The Clerk has circulated all correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

Common Land was discussed, the Clerk is in discussion with Land Registry about this matter.

TB

The situation with broadband was discussed. The Government, BD:UK and DEFRA have all put money into the upgrading of the system but this is still not adequate to provide every home with Super Fast broadband, therefore, although the exchanges will be upgraded as much as possible, not every home will be able to access faster broadband.

10 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 14th 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed:

Date: