

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
HASTINGLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ON 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

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

In attendance: Mr and Mrs Martindale

		To be actioned by
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Apologies had been received from Councillors: Mrs Sue Boxall, Mr Les Johnson and The Clerk.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
	There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	Cllr Mrs Day reported that the article regarding the documenting of War Memorials in England had not yet been published in the Parish Magazine.	KD
<b>5</b>	<b>Football Field Checks</b>	
	It was reported that the erecting of the football nets had been delayed but Mr Boxall would be asked to assist Mr Helmer in putting these up as soon as possible. It was noted that Cllr Gardener would be carrying out the Football Field checks during February and March and Cllr Mrs Helmer would undertake checks in April and May.	WG /YH
<b>6</b>	<b>Speed Limits</b>	
	Councillor Jane Martin had emailed a request for any comments the Parish Council may have on Speed limits in rural areas for a Cabinet Meeting in April. The Councillors felt they could not contribute to this as they did not have any speed watch data available.	
<b>7</b>	<b>HM Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Celebrations</b>	
	Correspondence had been received from NALC and The Viscount De L'Isle, Lord Lieutenant of Kent, suggesting events during 2016 that might be held in local communities to celebrate both The Queen's 90th Birthday and The Duke of Edinburgh's 95th Birthday.	
	On 21st April Her Majesty The Queen celebrates her 90th Birthday. Beacons will be lit that night across the United Kingdom. The Queen has graciously agreed to light the Principle Beacon on 21st April 2016 at a time to be advised. The Cllrs agreed that it would be a good idea to join with Elmsted Parish for this event and contact should be made with them by the beginning of March to discuss details of where, when and what.	TB
	It was hoped that on 12th June local communities would hold street parties like those in 2012, when the Nation celebrated The Queen's Golden Jubilee. The Cllrs agreed it would be a good idea to join with Elmsted PC and Evington Community Project to organise a similar Street Party.	TB
	The Lord-Lieutenant had suggested there might be a minimum of pump-priming funding available and the Cllrs suggested emailing the Borough Councillor to enquire about this.	TB
	The Village Hall should be booked for this event.	TB

<b>8</b>	<b>Correspondence regarding donation to the Village Hall</b>	
	A letter had been received from Evington Hall Committee enquiring if Hastingleigh Parish Council would be able to offer some funding towards the upgrade of the toilets at the Hall. It was agreed that Hastingleigh Parish Council should offer £250.00 towards this project. Elmsted Parish Council had agreed to provide a similar amount. If problems occur with securing sufficient additional grants then the Cllrs would consider this again.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Pond Tidy</b>	
	It was agreed that the Pond area should be cleaned up on Saturday, 27th February 2016, at 10.00 am. A poster advertising this and requesting help should be placed in the Village Notice Board and by the pond.	TB
<b>10</b>	<b>Kent Highways</b>	
	Cllr Mrs Helmer reported that she would be meeting with the Kent Highways Liaison Officer on Wednesday, 10th February, when she would discuss the situation with potholes around the village and banks of earth and grit on the Wye road.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Planning Applications</b>	
	A Planning Application had been received for adding an additional bedroom at the back of Tapp Cottage. As Ashford Borough Council's Planning & Enforcement Officer (Technical) had advised the Parish Council that due to a problem with the plans, the application was currently invalid, no further discussion took place.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Future Meetings</b>	
	The Councillors present agreed that the Parish Council should book eight meetings each year and not meet in July/August, nor December/January. The absent Councillors to be consulted about this.	
<b>13</b>	<b>Risk Assessment</b>	
	There are no changes to the Risk Assessment to be made.	
<b>14</b>	<b>Financial Statement</b>	
	A copy of the financial report and a budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors. It was agreed that the financial situation should be discussed at the next meeting, when a final decision should be made on donations to The Queen's birthday celebrations, the Village Hall and cost of external audits.	
<b>15</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	The Clerk had circulated all correspondence.	
<b>16</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	There were no further items to discuss.	
<b>17</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	
	Two members of the public were present and reported they had experienced difficulty in hearing the proceedings. The Cllrs considered using a microphone in the future and placing chairs for the public nearer the Councillors' tables.	
	The members of the public represented the Ashford Dyslexia Centre and explained how they had been asked to leave their previous accommodation in International House, where they shared a floor with five other groups undertaking community work, when Ashford Borough Council took this building over and required commercial rents. They had previously been paying over £2,000 per year for a classroom and 2/3 smaller rooms, with the possibility of hiring a meeting room.	
	They were offered some alternative accommodation which was totally unsuitable for the confidential work they undertake, being just an open-plan space.	

	<p>They had attended a previous Hastingleigh Parish Council meeting, and were surprised to hear the Ashford Borough Councillor, who was present at this meeting, report that the previous tenants at International House had been asked to leave as they were not paying a full commercial rent.</p> <p>The Cllrs were disappointed to hear that alternative suitable accommodation had not been offered to the six community service providers that had been required to leave and would ask Ashford Borough Council to support such organisations in the future as they provide an extremely useful service unpaid.</p> <p>The Ashford Dyslexia Centre is currently situated in The Annexe at The Live It Well Centre, Canterbury Road, Ashford.</p>	
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Date of the Next Meeting</b> The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.10pm</p>	

Signed: .....

Date: .....