

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.05 p.m. on Tuesday 15th July 2003 in The Function Room of the Fenn Bell Inn St Mary Hoo

Attendance and Apologies for Non-Attendance Those present were as follows:- Parish Councillors Mrs M D Stanney (Chairman); R J Beckey; Mrs C Johnson; H S Khatkar and The Clerk/RFO E C Woodards

Mrs B Gower and Mrs Ordway were also in attendance.

A letter was received from Medway Councillor C Buckwell congratulating the Parish Councillors on the result of the recent election and apologising for being unable to attend the Meeting.

Code of Conduct The Chairman Mrs M D Stanney made a Declaration of Personal Interest relating to the Meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th May 2003 These Minutes, copies of which had been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Further Bank Mandate Form The Clerk referred to the second Bank Mandate Form which Barclays Bank had required since the last Meeting bearing only the names of the three Members entitled to sign financial documents, namely, Maureen Stanney; Malcolm Budd and Harjinder Khatkar. Members accepted the Bank's requirements.

Internal Audit and the Audit Return The Clerk reported that the Audit Return had been sent to the External Auditor but that no Audit Opinion, or comment on the suggestion that internal audit should take place only once a year, had been received..

Member's Allowances Regulations The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with David Howes, Head of Council Office, Medway and requested a submission to the Allowances Panel for the present allowance of £180 p.a. to continue to be paid to the Chairman only, until the end of the current financial year when a further submission would be made which would cover the year 2004/2005. No other allowances would be paid without first reviewing the full range of allowances payable at Estimate time and seeking Panel approval for any additions or variations.

Planning Applications and Associated Items The Clerk reported on the following:-

1. Application withdrawn for 2 four bedrooled self-catering Holiday Chalets at Fenn Croft Newlands Farm Road.
2. Biffa Landfill Site. A Variation to permit Filling to an Amended Pre-Settlement Restoration Profile has been submitted by Biffa in spite of a previous application being refused by Medway in April 2003. It was agreed that a strong letter of objection should again be submitted.
The Chairman thanked Mrs Gower and Mrs Ordway of the Landfill Action Committee for the leaflet that they had prepared objecting to Biffa's proposals.
The Chairman stated that she was investigating an alleged contravention of the hours of operation at the Landfill Site.
3. Application to construct a first floor and single storey side extensions at Maysons View, Ratcliffe Highway. Accepted.

4. Application for a brick wall 1.65 Metres high around the garden at Newlands Farm House. Accepted.

Reports from Representatives serving on Committees and Organisations The Chairman reported on a Biffa Liaison Committee Meeting held on the 26.06.03 and on a K.A.P.C. Local Area Committee Meeting she attended with Councillor Budd. Councillor Mrs C Johnson reported on a Police Liaison Committee Meeting held on the 08.07.03.

Finance

1. British Red Cross Approval given to the payment of £100 allowed in the Estimates as a contribution to the Hoo Medical loan Centre. Section 137 1972 Act.
2. Stoke Village Hall Management Committee Approval given to the Payment out of Meeting for the hire of Stoke Village Hall in the sum of £9.00 on the 14th May 2003.
3. Kent R.C.C. It was agreed not to renew Membership for 2003/4.
4. Uncontested Election Costs The charge of £47.56 was accepted.
5. Community Room at Allhallows Primary School A Contribution of £100.00 was agreed. Section 137 1972 Act. Cheque to be drawn after the Meeting when details of the Payee are known.
6. Rural Liaison Grant Aid the Clerk reported the receipt of £158.49 from Medway as Grant Aid for the purchase of a Computer leaving a current balance of grant of £1475.82. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs C Johnson obtains an estimate for the clearance of the Environmental Area at Fenn.
7. Accounts for Payment Approval was given as follows:-
 1. Stoke Village Hall Management Committee. Hire of Hall on 14.05.03. Cheque drawn after the Meeting. £ 9.00
 2. Mrs M D Stanney On a/c Chairmans Allowance 2003/4 £ 30.00
 3. E C Woodards On a/c Clerks Allowance and Expenses for 2003/4 (Detailed breakdown submitted) £ 83.24
 4. J W Nettleton Hire of Function Room on 15.07.03 £ 14.00
 5. British Red Cross Contribution to the Hoo Medical Loan Centre for 2003/4. Section 137 1972 Act. £100.00
 6. Medway Council Uncontested Election Expenses on 01.05.03. £ 47.56

Medway Meeting on 09.06.03. - Rural Strategy for Parish Councils The Chairman and Councillor Mrs C Johnson attended the Meeting which discussed issues facing the Rural Areas.

Medway Meeting - More to Medway Partnership No-one available to attend this Meeting concerning the Local Strategic Partnership.

Medway's Public Transport Information Strategy No comments made.

Consultation Paper issued by the Government on Indemnities on Members and Officers of Local Authorities No comments made.

Small Lottery Grants - Awards for All - Funding Workshop Clerk reported that a Nil Return had been sent.

Medway Council's Public Consultation Document on Medway's Open Spaces Questionnaire completed by Chairman.

Code of Conduct - New Ethical Framework Regulations The Clerk drew Members attention to the new framework.

Kent and Medway Structure Plan Produced for information.

Fenn Bell Inn The Clerk reported on the Transfer of Licence to Jeffrey Whitby Nettleton and Mrs Maria Nettleton.

Unsightly Chevrons erected at Fenn Corner by Medway Council
Complaints were made by the Chairman and Councillor Beckey. It was stated that no prior warning had been given of the intention to erect the signs and that the signs were unsightly, hampered the vision of coach and lorry drivers and made leaving the Parish onto the A228 more dangerous. The Clerk was asked to draw the attention of Medway's Highway Department to these representations.

Next Meeting It was agreed to hold the next Meeting at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 9th September 2003.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Dated.....