

ST MARY HOO PARISH COUNCIL

LET THE
PEOPLE
SPEAK

JULY / AUGUST NEWSLETTER

**If your loved one needed help with a defibrillator
would you know how to use it? No?**



St Mary Hoo Parish Council have previously set up a training session which was extremely successful.

If you missed out and wanted to attend—free of charge—please text the Clerk

**07825 619 353 or email
Clerk@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk.**

If enough people want to train then we can set up another session.

**Your knowledge could
then save a life!**

EMAIL OR WHATSAPP ALERTS?

St Mary Hoo Parish Council are considering setting up a **WhatsApp** group and a **News Alert** email system. This could well be a way of villagers being informed immediately on anything urgent or what may be going on in the village. If you would like to take part in this new initiative, please either text or email the Clerk.

St Mary Hoo Parish Council

NOTICE is hereby given that the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 12 September 2023. **There is no AUGUST meeting.**

Darren Summerfield (Chair)	Darren.Summerfield@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk
Bill Budd (Vice Chair)	Bill.Budd@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk
Sally Carman	Sally.Carman@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk
Pat Kelly	Pat.Kelly@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk
Linda Atkinson (Clerk)	Clerk@StMaryHoo-pc.gov.uk
07825 619 353	32 Goodwood Cl, High Halstow ME3 8SU
Alex Clarabut	Footpaths Officer 07879 402 696
Andrew Laphorn	Tree Warden

RESUME OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 13 July 2023

The meeting was held in the Green room of the High Halstow Recreation Hall.

There were no apologies for absence as all four Councillors were present.

There were 3 members of the public present. Ward Cllr Chris Spalding attended and offered his report.

Chris opened his report by explaining that he will be endeavouring to attend all four parish council meetings in his All Saints Ward if he is not expected at another Medway meeting.

He explained that there were a few issues on the question of where residents

could place their vote. Allhallows Parish hall was used as a Polling Station at the last election. The Polling Station may be moved to Crossparks—although this is only at the investigation stage. For St Mary Hoo residents, Chris was looking into what could be done as the Elections team are reviewing this issue.

The next election will be in May of 2024 to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner.

Chris went on to explain that Medway Council appear to have a recruitment problem. They are short of social

Resume of Meeting of the Parish Council on 13 July 2023

workers, planning officers and enforcement officers.

The new Chief Executive is looking into what can be done about recruitment.

Chris appreciated that St Mary Hoo has a speeding issue and is considering proposing for chicanes to help alleviate the problem. There was some discussion on the fact that this could be difficult for farm machinery but it was acknowledged that buses manage quite well. This idea is still in its infancy stage.

Members had considered inserting data strips to bring together evidence on speeding and what type of vehicles are using the road.

Chris had confirmed that PC Dave Budd is the new beat policeman. Chairman Summerfield had confirmed that PC Budd had made himself known in the village which was welcomed.

PC Budd was aware of the drug problems on the peninsula and was tackling this face on.

The Clerk provided a list of expenses for members to consider. Members voted unanimously in favour to accept the payments.

There were no planning applications to be discussed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45



MOST WEDNESDAYS AT THE MASONIC HALL, 11-2PM

5 MANOR ROAD, CHATHAM, ME4 6AU

PLEASE TELEPHONE: 07576 999024 Or Email:

headwaymedway@gmail.com For further details, &/or your enquiry

Headway Medway, a branch of Headway UK, is a local charity supporting people with Brain Injuries. These are often caused by Stroke, accidents on the road, at home and work. As well as by tumours, infections, bleeds and many other reasons.

These injuries often affect people the rest of their life.

HEADWAYMEDWAY@GMAIL.COM

Letter to Kelly Tolhurst MP

14 July 2023

Kelly Tolhurst MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

kelly.tolhurst.mp@parliament

Dear Ms Tolhurst

Gigabit broadband in the UK: Government targets, policy, and funding

I write to you on behalf of St Mary Hoo Parish Council, to bring to your attention the anxieties of parishioners regarding the inadequate provision of broadband within the Parish, and issues around the electricity supply, to both residential and business properties. We hope you may be able to support us in pushing for better services in both these areas.

We understand The Government's target is for gigabit broadband to be available to 85% of the UK by 2025 and nationwide by 2030. There is a paper that discusses the background to these targets and the Government's policies on the rollout of gigabit broadband.

We also understand that the UK Government has primary responsibility for broadband policy and coverage targets because telecommunications is a reserved power.

In 2023, excluding a few properties close enough to Fenn Corner to access FTC with speeds of 68-70Mb, for the overwhelming majority of the community the maximum broadband speed available is 28-30Mb, available through WiFi Max or a 4G router.

As more people work from home and most houses have multiple users, these speeds are proving totally inadequate for most residential properties, and totally impossible for businesses.

The landlord of the Fenn Bell, a local pub/ restaurant/ zoo, had to spend nearly £5000 to install a full fibre business line, with ongoing cost of £520 a month, just to ensure his card machines could actually work. He told me no Government funding was available to help.

The owner of a holiday rentals business spent over £3000 getting a Starlink satellite service installed, with ongoing costs of £75 a month per link.

Most galling is that when councillors first started investigating this issue a few months ago, Gigabit Vouchers were available across the Parish, but as we started to coordinate a plan using these vouchers, the facility has been “currently paused in your area”.

Trooli is focusing on new developments in Hoo, and BT has no plans in the near future.

We understand that VFast are cancelling their supply as their repeater in Stockbury is being decommissioned. Residents are therefore having to revert back to 4G.

HM Government has given reasons to get a heat pump

The information below has been copied from the Government website:

1. Reduce your energy bills

Moving to a heat pump means you can avoid the volatile prices associated with gas and oil. If you are using oil, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) or electric heating, you could see a reduction to your energy bill if you move to a heat pump.

2. No VAT to pay on installation

The government has recently announced 0% VAT on the installation of heat pumps and biomass boilers, which will last for

5 years, further reducing the cost of installation.

3. Reduce your carbon footprint and combat climate change

Heat pumps are significantly more efficient than traditional boilers and use cleaner electricity, so will reduce your home's carbon footprint. A heat pump takes heat at a low temperature from the air or ground, increases that heat to a higher temperature and transfers it into your home to provide heating and hot water.

4. Save time and storage space by stopping fuel deliveries

If you're using oil or LPG, you'll no longer need to deal with fuel deliveries and can save space with not needing the storage for this anymore.

5. Get ahead of the curve

Heat pumps are an important part of the future of heating, and installing one now will give you access to the latest technology and allow you to future proof your home.

Many of the homes in St Mary Hoo are pre 1900 and it has been proving impossible to obtain quotations for air sourced heat pumps because many of the homes are not on 3 phase electricity and therefore this is an impossible task.

How are residents meant to comply with the Government advises when the local infrastructure is unable to cope?

Electricity Supply

As almost all properties in the Parish have their electricity supplied by overhead wire, long term residents are used to multiple and frequently prolonged power cuts.

Things have improved — there were only 19 episodes of power outage

between 1st Jan 2023 and 30th June. (As recorded by a resident with a Tesla powerwall). Whilst the majority of these were of less than a minute, they still necessitated resetting numerous sensitive electrical systems and timers.

It is Government policy to phase out the sale of new diesel and petrol vehicles by 2030, and the installation of oil-fired boilers, which heat the majority of local homes, where no gas is available. Air source heat pumps will then be the only realistic alternative for most local homes, and since many were built pre1900, even with the best insulation possible these will require heat pumps with a larger Kw capacity, which will require 3 phase electricity supplies to operate. Almost all the local properties have single phase supplies, and some would require major local infrastructure upgrades to provide 3 phase.

One local resident whose Eco credentials already include installation of solar panels, battery and electric car charger, reports that last year they tried to get an Air source heat pump installed to replace an aging oil boiler. Three separate specialist installers surveyed the home, and talked through costings, before they checked the electricity supply.....where upon all 3 backed out. Delays and additional extra costs made the project infeasible. What happens when we all need to install car chargers and electric heat pumps?

We would like to be able to reassure our parishioners, that appropriate upgrades to the local electricity grid supply will be made in a timely fashion, to allow us to make our contribution to the zero-carbon agenda, without risking bankruptcy.

We are very aware that as a small rural parish we are low down on providers upgrade lists. But as we watch hundreds, possible thousands of new homes being built on the Peninsula, we worry that

our already fragile service infrastructure will be overwhelmed, resulting in even worse provision for our community.

We would be grateful for any information you can obtain on planned upgrades, and your continued support in pressing for necessary improvements

We understand the enormity of the project but the fact that St Mary Hoo parish still has broadband issues is not acceptable in 2023. The very fact that Medway Council (with direction from Government) is insisting that over 12,000 homes will be built on the peninsula the fact that broadband is an issue makes the idea unsustainable. This letter is not intended to be a complaint about over development but the need for the infrastructure that is afforded by other areas in Medway.

Are you able to confirm what the position is for rolling out Broadband and Electricity supply to the peninsula?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Atkinson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Linda Atkinson
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
St Mary Hoo Parish Council

**ON GOING TO PRINT, WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A
RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER**

Planned roadworks and temporary speed limit at A228 Four Elms Hill

Planned roadworks will see a lane closure and a speed limit put in place along a busy commuter route.



The A228 Four Elms Hill headed towards Strood from the Hoo Peninsula will partially close next month.

This is to allow for a widening of the existing shared footway and cycle lane.

One lane headed southbound will shut from Monday, August 7 for around four weeks.

This means there will only be one lane for traffic travelling towards the Medway City Estate and Strood from the approach to the Peninsula Way Roundabout through to the Four Elms Roundabout.

Medway Council says drivers will also have to meet a new

temporary speed limit of 40mph because of “safety reasons”.

The slip road from Upchat Road will closed for the duration of the works.

Beacon Hill Lane will also close for a week but a date for the closure has not yet been confirmed.

Improvement works are planned to take place Monday to Saturday, from 7am to 7pm.

Both the temporary lane closures and temporary speed limit measures are planned to be put in place from Sunday August 6 to allow works to start the next day.

MY COMMUNITY VOICE



My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts we send you, share information and tell us about the issues affecting you.

We are committed to engaging with communities to increase trust and confidence and to help protect people from harm. Police, partners and the public working together can build resilient and safe communities, and both reduce and prevent crime.

You will be able to play an active part in police appeals as well as keeping updated in what is happening in your local area.

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk>

**Keep
informed**



Annual Policing Survey 2023



SCAN ME



It is that time of year when we put the spotlight on you, the public, to share your views on policing performance, your experiences of being a victim of crime, and what crimes matter most in your communities.

The survey also focuses on how much you trust Kent Police and how safe you feel in your area, and your preferences on how offenders of crimes, such as antisocial behaviour and criminal damage, are punished through out of-court orders. **Making Kent Safer** is Matthew Scott's Police and Crime Plan, which sets the priorities he expects the Chief Constable to deliver. The priorities are shaped by what the

residents and businesses of Kent tell him what matter most to them. This is why this survey is so important. If you have a spare few moments in your day, please scan the QR code using your camera on your phone and click on the link that pops up on the screen (if you have a smart phone).

Let us know if you need hard copies instead of the online version.

contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk kent-pcc.gov.uk



Peninsula Cycle Repairs

07776 424 083

Friendly, local bicycle repairs

based in St Mary Hoo

peninsulacyclerepairs@hotmail.com

Instagram—peninsula_cycle_repairs



iToo Electrical Ltd

**MCS accredited Solar PV and
Battery storage installers**

07940 459 876

Neil Atkinson

24 Pepys Way

Strood Kent ME2 3LL

itooelectrical@yahoo.com

ltoolectical.co.uk

