



Chair: Cllr Toby Acton
Clerk: Bonnie Jones | Ware Farm, The Street, High Roding, CM6 1NT |
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High Ongar Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 10th April 2024 - at 7.30pm
at the High Ongar Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Toby Acton (Chairman), Cllr John Catlin, Cllr John Tory, Cllr Steve Smith, Cllr Simon Bosworth, Cllr Chris Funnell and Cllr Gordon Arthur.

Bonnie Jones (Clerk)
Susan Deluca (previous locum Clerk)
*Essex County Councillor Jaymey McIvor
9 members of the public

*For part of the meeting

2023/24.57 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Gallichio and District Councillor Ray Balcombe, who had provided a written report.

2023/24.58 Other Absences

None

2023/24.59 Declarations of Interest.

None

2023/24.60 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th February were a true record and were signed accordingly.

2023/24.61 Public Participation Session

A member of the public advised she was attending to discuss agenda item 2023/24.66. She has requested the use of Paslow Common for her wedding day on 8th June. She advised she was hoping to use Paslow Common for her guests to park, due to a lack of parking at the property. Councillors agreed that it would be dangerous for cars to be parking on the road, and using Paslow Common would be the safest option. The Clerk confirmed she would be in contact to arrange to drop off and collection of the key to the Palsow Common gate. Three members of the public were in attendance to discuss agenda item 2023/24.69, and the Chairman advised he would allow them to raise their points under this specific agenda item. Local PCSO Warren Shepherd advised that the local problem resident who was brought to the Councils attention around one year ago had now been evicted. He also provided crime statistics for the area.

2023/24.62 Reports and Members Reports

- a) Chairman's Report – Cllr Acton confirmed that the consultation letters for a proposed play area on Millfield Green had been delivered to all households in Millfield.
- b) Vice Chairman's Report - None

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c) District & County Councillors Reports – District Councillor Ray Balcombe was not in attendance, however provided a written report which included the following matters:

- Cllr Balcombe is currently looking into implementing gateway signs in High Ongar to help reduce speeding through the village.
- The Garages along The Street are currently being investigated due to reports that they are being used for storage.
- It was reported at last night's Council meeting that High Ongar had been granted the majority of the moneys for the installation of a new play area. Cllr Balcombe confirmed he would support this proposal.
- Cllr Balcombe was becoming increasingly concerned over the large number of Councillor vacancies throughout Essex.

County Councillor Jamey Mclvor gave a verbal report which included the following matters:

- He advised that villages have great local people and businesses that are willing to help. If the Council have projects or matters they feel could be tackled without the help of Essex County Council, they should do so.
- Cllr Mclvor has submitted an LHP Application to increase fencing by the school.
- He briefly discussed Ride London, and advised if anyone had any issues or questions to please contact him.
- Various Highways matters.

d) Parish Councillors

- Ward Councillor Report – Paslow Common – Cllr Smith advised that there was good communication surrounding the issue of the rubbish burning at Woolmongers lane on the WhatsApp group.
- Ward Councillor Report - High Ongar - None
- Ward Councillor Report- Norton Mandeville – Cllr Bosworth advised that Norton Lane was still in a terrible state due to unfilled potholes. The Clerk confirmed she would make contact with Cllr Jaymey Mclvor.

e) Highways Report. - None

f) High Ongar Village Hall – Cllr Funnell advised that the Village Hall has had to dispose of a number of outside tables and chairs due to health & safety concerns. The previous Locum Clerk advised that High Ongar Village Hall was being looked at in the next round of funding for a possible grant. The Clerk confirmed that this would be on the next agenda to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council providing the funds by way of a grant.

2023/24.63 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave a verbal report which included the following matters:

- Confirmation of an uncontested election with 7 Councillors standing for election. All Councillors who stood have been re-elected unopposed.
- The Clerk has been contacted by Chanel 4 seeking information surrounding a field behind a home along Mill Lane.
- The Clerk has ordered a free portrait of the King, which was being offered to all Village Halls. Cllr Funnell advised that the portrait was not needed.

2023/24.64 Millfield Play Area

The feedback received from the Millfield Play area consultation was tabled at the meeting. A detailed discussion occurred where Councillors raised various concerns if a play area was

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installed, as well as discussing what a great benefit this would be the for Children in the area. A detailed discussion took place as to the benefit to the area as well as what complexities may occur if a play area was installed. After further discussion, and on the basis of sending out the consultation documents specifically naming Millfield, it was proposed by Cllr Tory to use Millfield Green as the location for the proposed play area. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Bosworth. A vote took place, the outcome of which was a majority decision. 5 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. A second proposal was made by Cllr Tory to accept the grant funding, and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Catlin. A vote took place, the outcome of which was a majority decision. 5 for, 1 against, 1 abstention.

It was agreed that a statement would be drafted and released, confirming the outcome of the meeting.

2023/24.65 Local Highways Pannel – Speed calming measures

Cllr Acton felt that High Ongar was a great candidate for the 20 is plenty campaign. Cllr Jaymey McIvor agreed to support the application and suggested providing evidence as to the speeding issue such as statements from local residents.

2023/24.66 Resident request for use of Paslow Common

This item was discussed in agenda item 2023/24.61.

2023/24.67 Community Speed Watch Group

A detailed discussion occurred surrounding this matter. Cllr Catlin was happy to look into the possibility of reinvigorating the community speed watch.

2023/24.68 LHP Application – Safety measures surrounding High Ongar Primary School

Cllr McIvor advised in his report that he had submitted an LHP Application for increasing fencing at the school. He detailed within his application that if fencing was not possible then another option be provided.

2023/24.69 Woolmongers Lane, Paslow Common ward - Continuous ongoing issue of rubbish burning

A number of residents in attendance detailed the increased problems they are facing due to the continuous rubbish burning at various scrap yards at Woolmongers Lane. The previous Locum Clerk confirmed that District Councillor Ray Balcombe was the Contracts, Service Delivery and Improvement portfolio holder, and that she would contact him to ask how to move forward with this matter. Residents in attendance provided the Clerk with their email addresses so she could keep them informed of future correspondence.

2023/24.70 Planning applications for consideration

RE-CONSULTATION

Application No:	EPF/1718/18 Full Planning Permission
Proposal:	(HONG.R1) - Erection of 7 three bedroom houses including new access from Millfield, provision of parking spaces, amenity space and landscaping. **FURTHER AMENDED PLANS**
Site Address:	Land at Mill Lane, High Ongar, CM5 9RQ

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Councillors would like to object to the above re-consultation on the following grounds:

- Insufficient parking provision.
- Difficulty of access.
- Overdevelopment of the site which will exacerbate the existing parking provision in the immediate area.
- Lack of amenity space.

Councillors also advised they would like to note the numerous errors within the application, which leaves the Parish Council with questions as to if there are any further errors within the application.

High Ongar Parish Council would like the opportunity to discuss this application at Plans East.

2023/24.71 Planning applications responded to by way of Clerks delegated powers

Reference	Address	Description
EPF/0313/24	Fickle Field, Norton Lane, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0LN	Conversion of Agricultural Building to Holiday Accommodation with Shared Access Track
No Comment.		
EPF/2638/23	Norton Field Farm Norton Lane High Ongar Ongar, CM4 0LN	Demolition of all buildings and removal of all hardstanding areas and proposed residential re-development comprising 20 self-build dwellings and improvements to existing access. Provision of open space, allotments and communal garden
<p>The Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overdevelopment in a rural area. - The amount of traffic that would be generated is unsuitable for the size of the road. - Concerns of egress and ingress into the site. - Detrimental to the amenities of nearby residents. - Out of keeping in a rural area. <p>The Parish Council would like to speak at Plans East Committee.</p>		
EPF/0435/24	2 Prospect Villas, Norton Heath Road Old A414, High Ongar, Ingatestone, CM4 0LQ	Single storey barn style extension to existing cottage to form ancillary accommodation for a family member.
No Comment.		

2023/24.72 Planning Updates

The planning updates attached to this agenda were noted.

2023/24.73 Finance

73.1 Councillors noted the current bank balance as of the 31st March 2024 was £48,990.46.

73.2 The following payments were agreed:

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Payee	Description	Method	£ (inc VAT)
Bonnie Jones	Clerks salary (February)	PAID	£476.05
Bonnie Jones	Clerks salary (March)	PAID	£476.05
Skilled Tech Ltd	Microsoft 365 (inv687)	Online	£80.00
Skilled Tech Ltd	Microsoft 365 (inv744)	Online	£80.00
D.R Metson & Partners LLP	Hedge cutting – Mill Lane	Online	£420.00
TBS Hygiene	Dog bin collection (inv5133)	Online	£36.60
EALC	EALC Affiliation fees 2024/25 NALC affiliation fees 2024/25	Online	£422.99
High Ongar Village Hall	Hall Hire 2023	Online	£300.00
Bonnie Jones	Printer Ink	Online	£26.89

73.3 It was proposed by Cllr Acton and Seconded by Cllr Bosworth to approve the 2023/2024 accounts.

2023/24.74 Outstanding Matters

The Clerk confirmed that she will be made aware when the 2024/2025 round of funding is accepting applications.

2023/24.75 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 8th May.

2023/24.76 Exclusion of the public and the press

There were no matters discussed.

2023/24.77 Gaymers Land

This matter is still ongoing.

Meeting closed.