

Chair: Cllr Toby Acton
Clerk: Bonnie Jones | Ware Farm, The Street, High Roding, CM6 1NT |
clerk@highongar-pc.gov.uk | www.highongar-pc.gov.uk

Meeting of High Ongar Parish Council
WEDNESDAY 11th September 2024 – at 7:30pm
at the High Ongar Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllr Funnell (Meeting Chairman), Cllr John Caitlin, Cllr Burton and *Cllr Arthur
Bonnie Jones (Clerk)
*District Councillor Mary Dadd

**For part of the meeting*

- 2024/25.66 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies received from Cllr Acton, Cllr Gallichio, Cllr Bosworth and District Cllr Ray Balcombe.
- 2024/25.67 Other Absences**
Cllr Steve Smith.
- 2024/25.68 Declarations of Interest.**
None.
- 2024/25.69 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
It was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July were a true record and were signed accordingly.
- 2024/25.70 Public Participation Session**
There were no questions received.
- 2024/25.71 Reports and Members Reports**
a) Chairman's Report – None
b) Vice Chairman's Report - None
c) District & County Councillors Reports – Cllr Mary Dadd advised that she had not yet received an update regarding the extra parking requested for the new Mill Lane site, and suggested that if S106 moneys could not be used for the purpose of extra parking then this Council look into possible off street parking or funding opportunities. Cllr Dadd also advised that from 1st November the refuse centre will be operating out of North Weald. Cllr Dadd also provided a detailed update on the planning changes coming into effect on 1st October.
d) Parish Councillors -
- Ward Councillor Report – Paslow Common – Cllr Burton advised that she had seen quite a few complaints on the village WhatsApp group regarding speeding through the Village. Cllr Dadd suggested contacting Bill Stock, who is a retired police officer who often helps rural villages to tackle speeding. The Clerk confirmed she would chase County Councillor Jaymie McIvor regarding the 20 is plenty campaign.

- Ward Councillor Report - High Ongar – Cllr Arthur advised that there was a fly tipping incident at the bottom of Mill Lane, however before he could report it the waste was removed.
Cllr Funnell advised that as you enter High Ongar from Chelmsford Way a sign has been kicked and broken where the white fences are. The Clerk confirmed she would take a look at this and report it.

- Ward Councillor Report- Norton Mandeville – None

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e) Highways Report– Councillors raised concerns regarding the large HGV lorries and tractors that drive through High Ongar Village. Cllr Dadd advised that Ongar Town has an Ongar Neighbourhood Plan Community Group Road Subcommittee where they have been campaigning since 2017 to tackle this issue, should a representative from High Ongar Parish Council wish to join. Cllr Caitlin confirmed he would be interested in joining. The Clerk confirmed she would get the details from Cllr Dadd and pass them on to Cllr Caitlin.

f) High Ongar Village Hall – Cllr Funnell advised that the Village Hall had a few updates over the last few months, including all lino repaired and paving slabs cleaned. He also provided an update on the Village Halls new regular weekly hirer FreeFood4U.

g) Police Reports – None

2024/25.72

Clerk's Report

All matters were included within the body of the agenda.

2024/25.73

Financial Regulations

Councillors reviewed the NALC 2024 Financial Regulations that were attached to the agenda. It was unanimously agreed by members to adopt these Financial Regulations which had been adapted to suit the Council's needs.

2024/25.74

Play Area Funding

Councillors were asked to discuss the future installation of a play area within High Ongar and its Location. Councillors agreed to defer this matter to the October meeting.

2024/25.75

Update - 2024 Over 65's Christmas Lunch

Cllr Burton advised that the Cuciana Italian were unable to match the quote received from the previous caterers. It was agreed to move forward with booking the previous caterers. The Clerks also confirmed that she would liaise with Cllr Caitlin to draft a poster for the event.

2024/25.76

Zurich 2024/2025 Insurance Renewal

Councillors unanimously agreed the 2024/2025 Insurance Renewal with Zurich Insurance.

2024/25.77

Banking arrangement

Over the past six months the Clerk has noticed banking with Lloyds Bank isn't as easy or as smooth as other Banks which many other Parish Councils use. The majority of Councils now bank with Unity Trust Bank who provide a very efficient and easy system of operation. The Clerk advised that the cost to Bank with Unity Trust is £72 per year, however can be opened, operated and accessed remotely. It was Proposed by Cllr Funnell and Seconded by Cllr Arthur to move over to Unity Trust Bank.

The Clerk also advised that Unity Trust also offer a savings account alongside the current account with a 2.7% interest rate. The Clerk confirmed she would put this as an agenda item for next meeting for Councillors to consider.

2024/25.78

New High Ongar Website

Councillors agreed to defer this matter to the October meeting.

2024/25.79

Changes to planning at EFDC

As reported earlier in the meeting by Cllr Dadd, EFDC has now agreed changes to how planning decisions will be made at Local Planning Authority level. The changes will mean that the Parish Council will have to ensure that if it wishes to object to a planning application, clear reasons material to the planning merits of the application will need to be detailed, and for the objection to be considered at an EFDC Planning Committee meeting the Parish Council must also state their

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willingness to attend and speak at said meeting. There are also changes to ward member representation, with ward Members being welcome to speak at committee meetings, ensuring that residents voices are represented, and their views are heard, however ward Members will not be able to cast their vote on whether an application is approved or not. A full summary of the changes had been emailed to Councillors. Councillors noted these changes.

2024/25.80 Planning applications for consideration

Councillors considered the below planning applications:

Reference	Address	Description	Details
EPF/1337/24	Little Acre Farm, Norton Lane, High Ongar, CM4 0LN	Certificate of lawful development for existing use of the barn for agricultural storage since its construction. It has stored machinery, hay and animals.	Lawful Development. The Parish Council is not able to comment on this application.
EPF/1586/24	The Yard, Norton Lane, Norton Mandeville, Ongar, CM4 0LN	Certificate of Lawful Development for existing engineering and creation of an area of hardstanding and the erection of 2 meter fence.	Lawful Development. The Parish Council is not able to comment on this application.
EPF/1643/24	258, Paslow Cottage, Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0JZ	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'External Finishes', condition 4 'Boundary Treatments' condition 6 'Contamination', condition 7 'Ecological enhancements', condition 8 'Surface Water Disposal', condition 10'Details of EV charging', condition 17 'Superfast Broadband' on planning permission EPF/2565/21 (Erection of a 4 bedroom dwelling on land adjacent to 258 Nine Ashes)	The Parish Council is not able to comment on this application.
EPF/2787/23 Neighbouring parish - Ongar	Land North of Chelmsford Road, Ongar, CM5 9LX	The development of 129 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, open space, drainage and infrastructure and the formation of pedestrian and vehicular access onto High Ongar Road (ONG.R4 - Allocated Site in Ongar) *REVISED DESCRIPTION, DOCUMENTS & PLANS*	Whilst the deadline is 10/09/2024. OTC have an extension agreed.

As a large number of Councillors were not present at the meeting. It was agreed for Councillors to provide the Clerk with their responses via email. The Clerk will then draft a response using delegated powers for Councillors to agree.

2024/25.81 Planning Updates

Councillors noted the below planning updates:

Reference	Address	Description	Details
EPF/0417/24	Former Larkins Farm, 199 Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0JY	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 'Contamination' on planning permission EPF/2601/18 (Demolition of an existing structure and replacement with 2 x detached dwellings with associated new vehicle crossover, garages and landscaping.	Approved

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EPF/0565/24	258, Paslow Cottage, Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0JZ	Non Material Amendment to EPF/2565/21 (Erection of a 4 bedroom dwelling on land adjacent to 258 Nine Ashes Road).	Approved
EPF/0524/24	11 Paslow Hall Cottages, King Street, High Ongar, Ongar, CM5 9NP	Certificate of lawful development for a proposed outbuilding.	Lawful Development.
EPF/0541/24	199, Former Larkins Farm, Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0JY	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 13 'Hard and Soft Landscaping' on planning permission EPF/2601/18 (Demolition of an existing structure and replacement with 2 x detached dwellings with associated new vehicle crossover and garages.	Approved
EPF/0216/24	Dodds Farm, Norton Lane, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0LN	Proposed single storey rear extension	Approved with conditions.
EPF/0540/24	199, Former Larkins Farm, Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar, Ongar, CM4 0JY	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 15 'Surface Water' and condition 16 'Flood Risk Assessment' on planning permission EPF/2601/18 (Demolition of an existing structure and replacement with 2 x detached dwellings with associated new vehicle crossover, garages, landscaping and other associated works)	Approved

2024/25.82 Finance

82.1 Councillors noted the bank balance as of 31st August was £55,848.77.

82.2 A bank reconciliation was tabled at the meeting. This was unanimously agreed and signed accordingly by the meeting Chairman.

82.3 The following payments were agreed:

Payee	Description	Method	£ (inc VAT)
EFDC	Play in the Park Session 2024	Online	£80.00
EFDC	May 2024 Elections	Online	£595.80
Skilled Tech Ltd	Microsoft 365 and Maintenance July	Online	£86.53
Skilled Tech Ltd	Microsoft 365 and Maintenance August	Online	£86.53
TBS Hygiene Ltd	Dog Waste Collection – July, August & September	Online	£95.16
MD Landscapes Ltd	Various grass cutting – July & August	Online	£268.80
Zurich Insurance	Insurance 2024-2025	Online	£300.00
High Ongar Village Hall	July & September Hall hire	Online	£64.00
NPower	July Street Light Electricity	DD	£58.55
NPower	August Street Light Electricity	DD	£59.29
Bonnie Jones	August – Clerks Salary	PAID	£476.05



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Bonnie Jones	September – Clerks Salary	Online (Scheduled payment)	£476.05
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2024/25.83 Outstanding Matters
None.

2024/25.84 Date of the next meeting
It was noted that the next meeting of High Ongar Parish Council will be held on 9th October 2024.

2024/25.85 Exclusion of the public and the press
There were no matters to be discussed

Meeting end: 20:49