

Minutes

Attendees: Councillor Angela Haydon (AH) Chair, Councillor Nick Roberts (NR), Councillor Mark Thomas (MT)

Also in Attendance: Rachael Turner (Clerk and RFO), County Councillor Margot McArthur

The meeting was held in Four Elms Village Hall on Tuesday 11th July 2023 and commenced at 7.30 pm. The Planning Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

Public Forum

Cllr McArthur reported on KCC recycling projects with the IT recycling scheme being rolled out. Details are available on the Device Recycling Scheme website. On the Plan Tree Project 50 sites had been identified for the next 2 years. There is funding available for more new trees too. No Mow May had resulted in an increase in flying insects.

As a pothole update there is a new machine that fills patches rather than just the pothole which should result in improved repairs. There are two machines across the county. On the M20 Operation Brock will be in place for the summer.

Cllr McArthur had visited the new Edenbridge Hospital building and was pleased to report it seemed to be on track for completion at the end of the year.

- 1) Apologies received and duly approved from Councillor Joanna Wade, Councillor Stephen Lark, Councillor Phil Lindsay, Councillor Duncan Leslie, Councillor Edward de Ryckman, Councillor Rick Brookes-Smith and District Councillor Barnett.
- 2) No declarations of interest were received.
- 3) The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th May 2023 were duly approved and signed.
- 4) Planning: Views agreed by the Planning Committee were ratified.
- 5) Finance
 - a) Bank reconciliation was unanimously approved and signed by member of FEC (AH).
 - b) Payment for items of expenditure, including ratification of payments made between meetings, was duly approved.
 - c) The report was received on expenditure against budget for the first quarter of 23-24.
- 6) Update reports were received on:
 - a) Pond - Settlement of the insurance claim (£2,412.50) for costs incurred for repairs to damage caused at the pond by the road traffic accident in November 2022 had now been received. Solicitors on behalf of the Insurer are attempting to reclaim costs, including the £250 excess paid from the Pond Account, from the party involved.
There were a number of dead fish found in the pond. These have been removed and the remaining fish look healthier.

A local resident has kindly been cutting the grass around the pond. It was proposed that a contribution should be made towards fuel costs for the equipment of £40 per year, split into two payments of £20 each. Cllr Haydon proposed and this was seconded by Cllr Thomas and duly approved. Cllr Roberts is to provide Clerk with details for payment.

- b) Gatwick – Application (Development Consent Order (DCO)) has been submitted for the Northern Runway Project to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Once the application is open for comment Cllr Lark will assist with a response. Cllr Barnett is also raising concerns.
- 7) No Grant Applications were received in time for consideration.
- 8) Review and adopt:
 - a) Standing Orders 2023 – duly adopted.
- 9) Roads
 - Highways Improvement Plan – At the next submission of the HIP this is to be updated to reflect ATC results. HPC will also look at pressing for reduced speed limits past Four Elms School to the crossroads.
 - a) Four Elms Crossroads – Feedback has now been received from Highways on their assessment of the crossroads. Some of the markings will be refreshed to emphasise the approach to the crossroads. Signage was checked and the opinion was that further signage would not improve safety. HPC has asked that Kent Highways persist in requesting satellite navigation companies to modify systems to highlight that drivers must stop at the crossroads when approaching from Four Elms School.
 - b) Traffic Speed Surveys – Additional ATC surveys have been requested for Four Elms and will be carried out soon. HPC will meet the cost of these, which will total £255. The survey carried out through Markbeech showed reduced speeds. As a result, HPC will press to get the speed limit lowered.
- 10) To consider the closure of the Four Elms Playing Field Charity – The Clerk has enquired regarding closing the charity associated with the field. The field is looked after and used as intended, and is in the name of HPC, it is felt there is no need to continue with the Charity. The Charity was set up back in 1978. There are no financial incomings or outgoings associated with it and to close it would ease administration. Duly approved. Clerk to pursue next steps with the Charity Commission to close it.
- 11) To consider funding swathe cuts across the Parish to allow for 3 cuts per year rather than the 1 now provided by KCC. This would be in conjunction with the Chiddingstone cluster as in prior years. Approved in principle. Clerk to investigate costs.
- 12) Co-option for Councillor Vacancy – Four Elms Ward. Duly approved. Clerk to advertise vacancy.
- 13) Hever defibrillator – this is currently situated at Hever School, but due to the security gate, is not instantly accessible 24/7. Edenbridge Community First Responders are willing to take over maintenance but need it to be accessible. It was suggested the Henry Pub might well be a suitable central point to relocate it to. Clerk to approach the Landlord.
- 14) To receive report from Clerk outlining any actions taken since the previous meeting and any other updates.

- a) Caretaking duties: The notice boards across the parish are scheduled to be maintained over the summer. The toddler swing seat at the Four Elms playground is to be replaced. The playground annual Safety inspection will take place shortly.
- b) Free Family Fun Day 15th August. The Four Elms School PTA are not available so the Clerk will attend and will purchase some refreshments to offer to children attending the event.
- c) Policing Update – Following the Police restructure the parish has been assigned a Beat Officer, Michael Sexton. Clerk will invite him to a HPC meeting.
- d) Four Elms School is converting to an Academy and subsequently there will be a change of licence (from KCC to the Academy) to use Four Elms Playing Field. Cllr Wade has kindly agreed to review the new agreement and the Clerk will only appoint a solicitor if it is deemed necessary. Clerk has enquired as to whether any legal costs might be met by KCC or the Academy.
- e) Training – Various options on offer have been circulated which are available to all Councillors, who are to let Clerk know which they would like to attend.
- f) Tribute Bench. The family concerned has ordered the tribute bench and it should be installed in Four Elms over the summer.
- g) Electric Vehicle Charging points – Clerk is investigating options.

15) Items for information only and correspondence

- a) Community Cost of Living Grant from KCC. Delighted to confirm the grant, applied for by HPC for Bridges Centre of £1,000, has been awarded. Clerk to arrange transfer of monies to Bridges Centre.
- b) Bulk Refuse Freighter is due the morning of Saturday 22 July 2023.

16) Items for noting or inclusion on future agenda at the discretion of the Chairman.

- a) There is some funding of up to 4k for capital projects available from the UK Prosperity Fund. Ideas invited. Clerk to investigate if monies could be used from this for public footpath refurbishment.
- b) Affordable Housing Survey. This is due to be carried out and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Date of next meeting – Full Council Meeting Thursday 14th September 2023 – Hever Village Hall 7.30 pm.
Planning Meeting at 7.00 pm.

Meeting dates/times can be subject to change, please always check Hever.org website for next meeting date/Agenda.

HEVER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE – MINUTES

11th July 2023, Four Elms Village Hall, 7pm

Present: Nick Roberts (Chair), Angela Haydon, Mark Thomas.

Also present: Rachael Turner, (Clerk & RFO).

Discussed and view agreed at the meeting:

SDC Ref.	Address	Summary of application
23/01643/HOUSE	Lower Buckhurst Buckhurst Mark Beech Edenbridge Kent TN8 5NS	Demolition of existing garage. Demolition of existing chimney. Paving. Canopy. New dormer. New chimney. Landscaping. Reconfiguration of solar panels. Alterations to roof. Alterations to fenestration. Rooflights
HPC Comment: No objection but would like to understand specification of glass on the dormer windows		

Other Planning/Consultations to Note:

SE/23/01608/FUL - Fields Land North Of Lydens Lane Hever Edenbridge Kent TN8 7EP This is outside of the parish, but felt it was relevant to comment.	HPC Comment: Concerns regarding over densified development in the area with specific regard to the proliferation of equine and automotive retail businesses. The proposal can be seen from the footpath & road, in an area of Green Belt.
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To note Appeal(s) made since last meeting: None at time of printing

Planning Enforcement: None at time of printing

To note Planning Applications received and views submitted since last meeting:

23/01504/FUL 23/01505/LBCALT	Hever Castle Hever Road Hever Edenbridge Kent TN8 7NG	Restoration of the north portion of the Astor Wing to provide additional guest accommodation, and a new spa at basement level for the Astor Wing bed and breakfast. Replacement of the Squash Court (currently utilised as store room) with a new office and guest accommodation (The Lodge). Replacement of the existing Restaurant and Shop buildings and the erection of a new building to re-provide the Miniature House Exhibition adjacent to the KSY Military Museum
HPC Comment: Hever Parish Council supports this application, in particularly we agree with Historic England that a faithful representation of a Tudor design, for the restaurant and new buildings, is more preferable than a contemporary style design favoured by Sevenoaks District Council.		

23/01458/HOUSE	Outwood Uckfield Lane Hever Edenbridge Kent TN8 7LR	Demolish existing rear, detached, garage and single storey rear extensions to the property. Replace with a single storey rear extension, with a flat roof and two flat roof lights. Alterations to fenestration
HPC Comment: No objection		
23/01572/FUL	Land South West Of New House Farm Bungalow Newhouse Farm Lane Hever Kent	Construction of a new stable block with associated landscaping, sand school and new access
HPC Comment: Object to the application. HPC strongly objects to this application on the grounds that the size and scale of the proposed equine stabling is not proportionate to the size of the field grazing curtilage. We were disappointed to learn that the Ecological Survey was carried out after the land was cleared with potentially valuable natural habitat already destroyed. There are also questions over whether the land might have been contaminated in the past and of the future long-term development intentions.		
23/01641/HOUSE & 23/01041/HOUSE	Warren Cottage Hever Lane Hever Edenbridge Kent TN8 7ET	01641: Alterations to roof, replacement open porch with alterations to fenestration. 01041: Additional information has been submitted in response to comments made by Environmental Health
HPC Comment: No objection		
23/01383/HOUSE and 23/01384/LBCALT	Terrys Barn Rectory Lane Hever Edenbridge Kent TN8 7LH	Conversion of the existing outbuilding and construction of new link to main dwelling
HPC Comment: No objection		
23/01322/FUL	- Land Southwest Of Six Chimneys Five Fields Lane Four Elms Edenbridge Kent TN8 6FR	Provision of 3 new stables, hay store, wash bay, and tack room and associated hardstanding in an existing paddock; with a new pedestrian gate in the existing fence
HPC Comment: No objection		

23/00997/FUL	Red Kite Farm Cowden Pound Road Mark Beech Kent TN8 5NR	Erection of a steel framed building
HPC Comment: No objection		

Decisions received from SDC since last meeting:

Ref/Address	Details of application	Decision by SDC
23/00990/FUL Prettmans Paddock Land North Of The Stables Prettmans Lane Edenbridge Kent	Change of use of existing agricultural store/workshop to residential, including small rear extension and private drainage system	Granted
23/00954/HOUSE Rose Cottage Cow Lane Mark Beech Edenbridge Kent TN8 5NX	Demolition of porch, erection of part single, part two storey side and rear extension, relocation of entrance to house.	Refused
21/03201/OUT Land West Of Hever Road Hever KENT	SDC Appeal Ref: 22/00042/RFPLN Outline application for provision of two new equine isolation units with all matters reserved.	Appeal dismissed