

Minutes

Hever Parish Council minutes of meeting that was held in Four Elms Village Hall on Tuesday 4th March 2025. The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm. The Planning Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Angela Haydon (AH) Chair, Councillor Hilary Jones (HJ), Councillor Joanna Wade (JW), Councillor Duncan Leslie (DL), Councillor Nick Roberts (NR), Councillor Mark Thomas (MT), Councillor Nick Pepper (NP)¹, Councillor Rick Brookes-Smith (RBS) and Councillor Phil Lindsay (PL)

Also Present: Rachael Turner, Clerk & RFO, District Councillor Barnett and 1 member of the public (MOP)

Absent: Councillor Stephen Lark

- 1) Apologies received from Cllr Lark and County Cllr McArthur. Cllr Pepper also sent apologies as he had been delayed and would arrive late.
- 2) Public Forum.
Cllr Barnett reported the Council Tax increase would be 2.97%. Kent County Council had not been accepted onto the Devolution Priority Programme. There are now plans for local government re-organisation such as amalgamating local borough councils. There may be elections for a shadow unitary council. The local elections will still take place in May this year and Ian Butcher is the Conservative candidate.

The Boundary Review has been postponed and there is a CIL Board on 2 July.

Fly tipping signs have been put up around the parish and there is now mobile CCTV at various locations.
- 3) Declarations of interests: Cllr Leslie confirmed his interest in Hever Castle during the Planning Meeting. No other declarations received.
- 4) The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2025 were duly approved and signed.
- 5) *Planning: Please see Planning Meeting Minutes.
- 6) Finance:
 - a) The bank reconciliation was approved and signed by Cllr Haydon.
 - b) Payment of items of expenditure, including ratification of items made between meetings, was duly approved.

¹ Cllr Pepper arrived at 8.05 pm
Hever Parish Council

- c) Precept for 2025-2026: receipt of request from HPC has been confirmed by Sevenoaks District Council.

7) Update reports received on:

- a) Pond – Cllr Roberts reported the gullies around the pond had been cleared by KCC so there were no flooding issues at present.
- b) Gatwick - Cllr Haydon confirmed the runway decision had been deferred until October 2025 with the Government indicating they are likely to support it. There are grave concerns on the impact on the area should the second runway go ahead.

8) Grant Applications:

- a) The Grant Application for Four Elms School for £1,000 towards playtime equipment and storage was considered and duly approved.

8.05 pm Cllr Pepper arrived

- b) Thanks received from Hever Village Hall and We Are Beams regarding the grant received from HPC was noted.

9) Fly tipping: The increased incidence of fly tipping in the parish was discussed. Signs have been put up in the area and there are covert mobile CCTV cameras that are moved around the parish. Cllr Barnett confirmed that some offenders had been taken to court. Vigilance and reporting of incidents was encouraged. Clerk to publicise measures taken and suggestions for prevention via the Link and social media. The MOP asked if further preventative measures could be made as it feels like the problem is just being moved along. With individuals now required to register their vehicle, and provide proof of residency when using local waste facilities, it was felt that could be a barrier for some. All tradespeople who take waste from jobs must have a waste disposal licence. Clerk to raise awareness for people to ensure they check this when appointing a tradesperson.

Cllr Barnett is to clarify what the impact is of the covert CCTV cameras.

10) Highways Update: The current Highways Improvement plan has a focus on Four Elms Crossroads regarding safety which is being looked into by KCC. In Markbeech there is the possibility of installing warning signs of pedestrians in road and investigating extending the 30mph speed limit in Four Elms. HPC Highways Working Group will be meeting with Highways next month so hope to be able to update further on this and confirm new HIP.

It was reported bollards had been left on How Green Lane that need to be removed. The surface on Uckfield Lane is really bad. Clerk to inform Highways.

11) Land use in England consultation: Clerk to provide summary of questions and circulate so HPC can consider whether to submit a response which is due 25th April 2025

- 12) Swathe cuts: Resolved to approve continuing with local cluster verge cuts Costing around £600 based on two full swathe/visibility cuts. Duly approved.
- 13) Living Roof bus shelters: Cllr Jones is seeking information on the living roof bus shelter that has been installed in Edenbridge. Cllr Barnett is to provide further information.
- 14) Caretaker works. The Clerk provided an update as follows:
- a) Bulk refuse signs – these had been updated and have been put up
 - b) New basketball net for Four Elms received and to be installed
 - c) Caretaker quoting for maintenance of closed churchyard at Hever church
 - d) Hever map sign – looking into replacing map and having board refurbished
- 15) Environment: Litter Picks and bulk refuse freighter arranged for this month. Infrared camera - Clerk to organise booking system, publicise and Cllr Thomas will co-ordinate.
- 16) Community big lunch in June: It was decided it was too late to arrange an event for this time and felt that some focal point was needed rather than just a picnic. Clerk to conduct poll on interest and HPC may consider an event for next year.
- 17) Warm Spaces update: No volunteers have come forward to run a regular social event in Four Elms which would be funded by HPC. Cllr Wade highlighted the St Pauls coffee morning and monthly lunch would welcome funding. More information is to be sought and possible support considered at next meeting.
- 18) Report received from Clerk outlining any actions taken since the previous meeting and any other updates:
- a) Four Elms Field Charity. Legal advice sought and Solicitor has confirmed the land could be transferred to HPC as recreation ground under S298 of the Charities Act 2011. Clerk to seek agreement from Charities Commission and update interested parties once further information available
 - b) Change of HPC bank accounts from Nat West to Unity Trust update. Clerk is completing application forms but will hold off agreeing date of transfer until after year end for ease of administration.

8.55 pm – MOP and Cllr Barnett left meeting as the next item on the agenda was a confidential matter

- 19) Items for information only and correspondence
- a) Confidential Item – Cllr Wade discussed the confidential item. It was agreed the Clerk could investigate legal costs and next steps.
- 20) Items for noting or inclusion on future agenda at the discretion of the Chairman.

- a) Those present were asked to note the next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council and will start at 7 pm and would be followed by the Planning Meeting.
- b) Suggestions were made for speakers for the Parish Assembly. Cllr Roberts is to contact Edenbridge Voluntary Transport to see if they could attend. Clerk to contact Police and local MP, Tom Tugendhat.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 6th May 7.00 pm Full Council – Annual Meeting, Planning 8.15 pm in Four Elms Village Hall.

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
Tuesday 4th March, Four Elms Village Hall, 7pm

Present: Councillor Nick Roberts (NR) Chair, Councillor Angela Haydon (AH), Councillor Hilary Jones (HJ), Councillor Duncan Leslie (DL), Councillor Mark Thomas (MT), Councillor Rick Brookes-Smith (RBS)

Also Present: Rachael Turner, Clerk & RFO, 1 member of the public (MOP) and District Councillor Barnett (arrived 7.25)

CURRENT PLANNING – To consider the applications and to resolve to agree recommendations.

Discussed and view agreed at the meeting:

SDC Ref.	Address	Summary of application
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 - Amended plans and elevations (Moat Restaurant)
HPC view agreed: Fully support Note: Cllr Leslie declared his interest in Hever Castle and abstained from the resolution.		
25/00440/LDCEX	Soul Fit Block G Hever Hotel Hever Road Hever Kent	Ancillary timber structured buildings for use as part of the health and fitness centre.

HPC view agreed: There has been objections in the past to development on the site and there is currently outstanding enforcement notices on the site. HPC strongly object to this application.

Other: Appeals

25/00007/RFPLN	The Hollies How Green Lane Hever Kent TN8 7NN	Development: Detached open sided car port for two cars. Appeal against refusal
HPC view agreed: clarify HPC have no objection to the development.		

Other: Planning Enforcement:

Hever Stud/Land West of Hever Road/ Hever Hotel

The appeal will be held in May 2025. The company that had licenced the site for camping has been made aware of the unauthorised development there and has subsequently withdrawn the licence and will not consider renewing it for that site again.

Planning Meeting closed: 7.35 pm