



Hamsey Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 2023 May at 6.30pm – Beechwood Hall & Rural Park

Present : Cllr Tamsyn d’Arienzo, Cllr Carolyn Henry, Cllr Kate McBrown, Cllr Amanda Sanders, Cllr Minty Cadwallader, Cllr Lindsey Bell, Cllr Millie Darling.

Lewes District Councillor - Cllr Mark Slater, Cllr Joa Saunders

East Sussex County Councillor – Matthew Milligan

There was one member of the public present

1. Welcome – Chair of Hamsey Parish Council – Tamsyn d’Arienzo

Cllr d’Arienzo welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies

3. Agreement to the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held 12 May 2022 were signed and agreed.

4. Matters arising from last Annual Parish Meeting

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports from East Sussex County Councillor, Matthew Milligan and District Councillors Mark Slater and Joa Saunders.

Cllr Matthew Milligan’s report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Milligan also stated that there was a new Highway contractor, Balfour Beatty and that they are keen to engage with Parish Councils. He was hopeful that the SLR’s will restart and that he had submitted for the A275 through Cooksbridge to be resurfaced. Cllr Henry asked if this could be completed in red or another colour or even stripes to denote that people were driving through a village.

Cllr Slater introduced himself and Cllr Saunders and thanked the public for their support. He gave a brief overview of the new political structure of the District Council and stated that the Green Party and working in an alliance with the Labour Party.

6. Annual reports for year ending 31 March 2023

The annual reports of all Parish Councillors are attached to these minutes and were read out at the meeting by Councillors d'Arienzo and Henry.

7. Financial summary for Year ending 31 March 2023

This is attached to these minutes

8. Questions from the floor

There were no questions from the floor

The Annual Parish Council meeting ended at 7.00pm

For details of the attachments please see the website or request from the Parish Clerk at clerk@hamsey.net

Appendix 1

Report from East Sussex County Councillor Matthew Milligan May 2023

During April I continued to regularly report potholes and other road defects and undertook various casework from local residents.

I attended a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel where we received updates from the children's homes in East Sussex and reviewed the data from the past 12 months regarding our looked after children in the County.

The new Highways contractor, Balfour Beatty, took over on the 1st May. I am currently awaiting a meeting with the new team, I have also been assured that parish councils will be communicated with more effectively than was the case previously.

As always if you would like to contact me to report any concerns or anything else please do email me at cllr.matthew.milligan@eastsussex.gov.uk

Annual Reports of Councillors

Tamsyn d'Arienzo – Chair, Hamsey Parish Council

After an eventful May election which resulted in three Hamsey Parish residents being newly elected as district councillors, Hamsey parish Council has some changes to announce too.

We congratulate Councillors Joa Saunders (Cooksbridge), Mark Slater (Hamsey) and Daniel Stewart-Roberts (Mount Harry, for Plumpton) for election into their new roles on the District Council. We look forward to working closely together.

We welcome new councillors Amanda Saunders, Lindsey Bell, Minty Cadwallader and Millie Darling to the council, all of whom are already making excellent contributions, and asking all the right questions. I am pleased to say that we welcome back councillors Carolyn Henry and Kate McBrown, as well as our hard working Inclusion Officer Natalie Kinch. Our super efficient Parish Clerk Marie Owen took over from Kevin last year. Marie has hit the ground running in her new role and you would not imagine she has only been with us a little while. So you will see why I am unapologetic for naming our WhatsApp chat HPC Dream Team.

Councillors Carolyn Henry and Kate McBrown together with Natalie Kinch and Parish Clerk Marie have been working hard to pull together events for everyone to enjoy, and have been a joy to work with on our continuous pursuit of improving the smooth runnings of hall, park and (renewed) playgrounds as well as the varied and sometimes random days in the life of a parish council. Thank you!

We have to say goodbye to some brilliant councillors and all round wonderful human beings: Caroline Croft, Jim Redwood, Lindy McKendrick and Dan Pearson. We sincerely wish these great individuals all the very best for their (still busy) futures! Without exception, these members of the team contributed so much, and the community will reap the benefits of the work they did for many years. Kevin Kingston, our Parish Clerk, left for health reasons. It was a shock, and Kevin was as sorry to go as we were to lose him. I'm happy to report that Kevin is still in touch and doing well. Newsletter editor Sally Miller finally passed on the baton after 3 years of inspired, funny and

important updates in The Hamsey News. We wish to thank them all for their greatly appreciated contributions.

We began this council year planning Jubilee celebrations at Beechwood Hall to celebrate our Queen's 70 years of service, and have rounded the year adapting our national anthem to 'God save our gracious King'. What a lot of hymn books to Tipp-Ex! But in all seriousness it has been a fine balance to follow protocol whilst getting behind patriotic residents who wanted all-out celebrations for the coronation, as well as those who don't really buy into the monarchy beyond watching on the television. This would have been a perfect opportunity for an events team to step forward, or even a few individuals, although Beechwood Hall was booked out by the time the date was announced.

We have booked out the last available whole Saturday left for this summer, and are open to event plans. So add 26th August to your diaries, and get in touch if you have a good idea of how we should celebrate as a community over that bank holiday weekend.

Projects! Current works bubbling behind the scenes include:

1. Phone Books area restoration at Cooksbridge. We hope to be able to share digital designs from Plumpton College soon, which will be shared via hamsey.net email list, and Facebook Hamsey Community Group. If you are not on Facebook, do sign up for email alerts at www.hamsey.net so you don't miss out on communications that way.
2. Changing Spaces disabled toilet and changing facility in the park, and accessible playground equipment for Beechwood Hall (Funding is proving trickier for these).
3. Active Travel route from South Chailey, through to Cooksbridge via Bevernbridge, and then on towards Lewes- somehow. Consultants from Cycleways charity Sustrans are currently carrying out a feasibility study of potential routes.

Some extra thank yous to our fantastic volunteers who look out for others:

Robert Baughan	For such insightful and well evidenced Rail reports, as well as leading on the Rail Committee and protecting our hourly rail service.
Cooksbridge Station Partnership	Nurturing our station grounds and fighting for a great train service.
Judith Bastide and helpers of The Monday Afternoon Club	For looking after our elder folk and providing such a well loved group.
The Monday Group	For keeping our rights of way accessible with finger posts, stiles and clearance work.
Hamsey Christmas Sleigh Crew	For spreading delight, and for a lot of laughs along the way.

The Armstrongs and Paul Wren for storing the sleigh all year, and to Nick Harvey	For storing and transporting the Hamsey Christmas Sleigh.
Pete and the Hamsey Litter Pickers	For clearing the place up so well.
Sarah Hughes	For her amazing help with wildflowers at Beechwood Hall and around the parish.
Friends of Hamsey Church	Keeping our 1,000 year old church going, connecting families to lost graves, taking turns letting visitors in and locking up.
Sustainable Hamsey	Giving local biodiversity a helping hand and tackling the climate emergency on a local level.
20's Plenty campaigners	Working to reduce the impact of a busy road through our community.
My predecessors inc Jenni T. and Sue R. especially, and also some of our longer standing residents.	For graciously taking time out for me when I come to call. Jenni T. and Sue R. especially, but also some of our longer standing residents.
All the residents who came out to plant the trees by the tennis court, or pick up litter, cut back trees, mow their verges, look out for neighbours, help each other out.	All those who help in the most brilliant ways but wish to remain unnamed. Thank you.

All of the above people and more spend their time improving where we live. They are unpaid, mostly time-poor, yet keep up the good work because they care. Thanks a million!

On finances: Hamsey Parish Council continues to reduce precepts (local council tax) in order to help keep costs low for our residents whilst other bills are rising. Local groups may apply for small grants towards projects or activities which will benefit the whole community. Contact clerk@hamsey.net with any ideas.

Councillor Tamsyn d'Arienzo

Cllr Kate McBrown

Yet another year has passed and we're seeing lots of changes. Kevin our previous Clerk left due to ill health and we welcomed Marie our new Clerk. Four of our Councillors decided not

to restand with the May 2023 elections and will be missed, however good news we have managed to fill their spaces with four new local residents. Welcome on board!

I've continued to liaise with East Sussex Highways regarding any concerns and issues to report throughout our Parish. We have a new contact; Judy Deane, Senior Stakeholder Liaison Officer, that I have been corresponding with and logging any issues such as damaged signs, flooding and numerous potholes. A date for the annual SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways tbc. I'm really keen to carry on with this role for the coming year.

We had Rose Stainer, PCSO for the Parish attend Beechwood Hall with the Community Enforcement Van on 22nd March 2023 but unfortunately we had no attendees on the day. Perhaps if another suitable date can be found then Rose can bring the van to the Station car park which is more a better visible and central location. Please feel free to email me in confidence with any Neighbourhood/ Policing issues you require support with and I can put your in touch with Rose.

I'm have been officially welcomed in to the fold of the Cooksbridge Station Partnership along with Natalie Kinch our Inclusion Officer and attend the Rail meetings.

I am pleased to announce that the play park project at Malthouse Way is officially completed! After 2.5 years the refurbishment is done and the new equipment has been installed. Hopefully it'll be enjoyed by many a little one for years to come.

I look forward to carrying on working alongside our Chair on the projects for Accessibility play equipment at Beechwood Hall and potential funding for Changing Spaces.

Councillor Henry

The last year has been a busy year for the Parish council and it has been a pleasure to be part of a team that has built a strong sense of community and support for all those that live in the Parish. The range of issues that are discussed are so diverse and each year I am part of the council I realise the importance and integral part it plays to advocate of the community as a whole as well as individual members needs at all levels.

My personal highlights have been:

1. Organising the community theatre - we had a packed hall and lots of different people attending. It received great feedback and was a quality enjoyable performance. We have asked the same group back again due to the success.
2. Setting up and running Meet Up With Minis. Each month there has been between 10-22 children attend and parents/caregivers are supporting each other as well as lots of children enjoying playing together. I have received lots of toy donations and support to set up and tidy so it's been a real community effort. I am pleased we could keep it low cost (£1) so it is accessible to all.
3. Beechwood Hall working group member- it has been a pleasure to be part of this working

group to support community events and get processes and procedures in place to ensure the smooth running of the hall as well as keep it financially viable for a long time to come.

In addition I have enjoyed being part of the rail committee which is a vital part to keeping the rail services and people connected through transport. I also supported other councillors on different projects where possible/useful.

The end of this period has brought a big change in councillors so while I am sad to see colleagues and friends leave I am looking forward to working with so many new people. The fresh and different perspectives is what will keep the council energised and representative of the community.

I would like to thank our Chairperson for leading through inspiring and motivating through being such a strong role model. I would also like to thank our Clerk for keeping us organised which is not an easy task with such varying schedules of all councillors.

Councillor Henry

2022/23 end of year financial summary
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EXPENDITURE

Cost Centre	£	Notes
Audit	580.00	
Capital Expenses	28,910.02	Inc Malthouse Way Playground
Grants	1,405.00	
Grounds Maintenance	1,905.48	
Office Expenses	9,841.76	Incl Salaries
Premises	3,469.28	Incl insurance premium
Subscriptions	723.78	
Other Expenses	3,995.52	
TOTAL	50,830.84	

INCOME

	£	Notes
Precept	18,215.00	Precept
VAT Return	3,516.94	
National Lottery Funding	9,373.00	For Malthouse Way Playground
CIL payment	27,000.00	CIL payment for Malthouse Way Playground
Other payments	1,553.73	
TOTAL	59,658.67	

Balance per bank statement as at 31 March 2023	£
Unity Trust - current account	35,749.01
Unity Trust - savings account	12,123.73