



Hamsey Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 6.45pm – Beechwood Hall & Rural Park

Present : Cllr Tamsyn d’Arienzo, Cllr Carolyn Henry, Cllr Kate McBrown, Cllr Amanda Sanders, Cllr Minty Cadwallader, Cllr Robin Bates.

Natalie Kinch - Inclusion Officer

Marie Owen – Parish Clerk & RFO

There were no members of the public present

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

Cllr d’Arienzo welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

There were apologies from Cllr Neil Osborne and District Cllr Joa Saunders

3. Agreement to the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2023 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

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

6. Annual reports for year ending 31 March 2024

The annual reports of the 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 2024

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 6.50pm

For details of the attachments please see the website or request from the Parish Clerk at clerk@hamseyparish.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Report from East Sussex County Councillor Matthew Milligan May 2024

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

The updates from county are:

East Sussex County Council to restore heritage Sussex rail bridge

Campaigners have welcomed the news that the Church Road Bridge in Barcombe near Lewes has been saved. The bridge was built in the 19th century as part of the line connecting Lewes and East Grinstead but closed in the 1950s. National Highways had planned to fill it with concrete to improve its safety but has now deferred ownership to East Sussex County Council, who have said they will sympathetically restore it. Campaigners have maintained that the area is vital to the local ecosystem.

East Sussex County Council approves plan to distribute financial support to local residents

On 25 April 2024, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health agreed to approve a plan for the use of the funds East Sussex has been allocated as part of the Household Support Fund 2024. On 6 March 2024, national government announced that the Fund would be extended for a further six months, from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2024. East Sussex County Council has been allocated £3,896,783.88 for the six-month extension period.

Views sought to shape future Autism services

Autistic people and their support networks in East Sussex are being encouraged to share their views on the range of services, facilities, and opportunities available across the county. To mark World Autism Acceptance Week, which runs from 2 to 8 April, East Sussex County Council has launched a public consultation on behalf of the East Sussex Autism Partnership Board. This will help to develop an All Age Autism Action Plan which will support Autistic people of all age groups in East Sussex, from childhood to adulthood.

Autistic people who live and work in East Sussex are encouraged to have their say about their experiences of health and care services, as well as transport, housing and education, and the availability and scope of employment and volunteering opportunities.

Find out more and take part in the consultation by visiting the county council's [consultations website](#). Residents can also give their feedback via email at apb@eastsussex.gov.uk, over the phone by calling 07745 106 727, or by writing to Bernadette van Gaalen, Autism Project and Engagement Manager, East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE. Paper copies of the survey can also be requested via email or phone, and completed surveys can be returned using the pre-paid envelope provided.

South Downs National Park at forefront of wellbeing scheme

A new scheme has been launched to help more people from urban areas access the South Downs National Park. Health and wellbeing grants have been created for residents in parts of Sussex and Surrey who might not have visited before and who may struggle with transport costs. The scheme is run in partnership with Community Transport Sussex, which is able to provide a minibus service to and from the park.

New app to help residents prepare for the future

A new app designed to help residents lead a full and healthy life in older age has been officially launched. Residents are being encouraged to download the Life Transitions app to support them to prepare and plan for their future life, including events such as retirement, moving home, changes in health and mobility, finding new roles and purpose, becoming a carer, or experiencing bereavement. The app is part of a pilot scheme supported by UK Research and Innovation funding as part of the Healthy Ageing Challenge. It will help people think about what's important to them,

what resources they have, and what they will need to feel prepared for significant changes. It has been developed based on feedback from residents about the kind of help and support they might benefit from.

For support with the app, information about volunteering or getting support from a volunteer email LifeTransitions@eastsussex.gov.uk or call 07724 287034.

Sussex residents asked to get involved to help nature and wildlife

People are being asked to share their experiences and observations of nature and wildlife in Sussex as part of a nationwide initiative to address declining habitats and species. Residents are being asked for feedback about what aspects of nature and wildlife are important to them and what changes they have noticed locally, which will help inform Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The easiest way for residents to get involved is to complete the survey which asks questions about how and where they connect with nature, the habitats or species they value, any changes they've noticed, and any wider benefits they'd like to see in their local area. It should take around 5-10 minutes to complete.

The survey can be found [here](#) and will close on 30 June. For more information about the strategies and how local people can get involved, visit www.sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk.

Community groups urged to apply for Crowdfunder campaign

Projects enhancing the lives of residents are invited to apply to the Crowdfund East Sussex campaign, which will match fund public donations from the county council's Community Wellbeing Fund up to a total of £25,000. Projects that promote cultural vitality, economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability across East Sussex are encouraged to apply and up to 10 projects will be chosen to receive a share of the match funding. Applications for Crowdfund East Sussex 2024 opened on 29 April and will close at midnight on 23 May. The fundraising campaign will start on 27 May.

More information about the council's Community Wellbeing Fund and the Crowdfunder campaign, including how to apply, can be found at [here](#).

Annual Reports of Councillors

Tamsyn d'Arienzo – Chair, Hamsey Parish Council

I would like to thank the HPC Team for being so dedicated to our community. This past year has been a test of us all on one or two issues- but everyone has pulled together and responded with maturity to overcome what was thrown at us and get back to doing what we do best- using our networks and a healthy dose of initiative, to enable improvements to our parish.

Marie, It is amazing how well you have taken the Parish Clerk role and made it your own. Your accounting proficiency, smart and pragmatic approach to solving problems, and dry humour seem to be the perfect recipe for surviving the trials and tribulations of the Parish Clerk role. Thank you in particular for so gracefully managing my whirlwind approach to just about everything.

Natalie, you do so much behind the scenes, providing writing support to several councillors at once as well as keeping track of what has happened historically on the council to help support with the queries of today and tomorrow. Helping at events, the sleigh, always being the backbone- but out of the limelight. We see you, and we thank you.

Carrie, with amazing tenacity to juggle life, work and Council. You have a gift for seeing the bigger picture and you're unafraid of taking action when required. Your knack for strategy, policy and training is priceless- and your vision for the hall, the younger community, the events, is amazing. I know that Beechwood Hall especially is in safe hands with you, thank you.

Minty, such a intuitive, innovative and colourful person who so easily connects with and understands People. Taking on Planning when most people would run a mile, and jumping on opportunities when they arrive. Another able juggler of everyone’s needs; thank you.

Kate, you’ve been constant, also not in the limelight, but quietly continue to report issues to Highways and Police in the background with the support of Natalie. You’re approachable by many and often feed things back to the council, so thanks on behalf of those residents, too.

Amanda, quietly getting on with projects and making them your own, working well with Kate and Natalie too. Council benefits from your wisdom and considered, fair approach with your ability to see things from other people’s perspectives. Nobody is invisible to you. Thank you for running with everything despite not having as much support and guidance as I would like to have offered.

Neil, you were already involved with the wonderful Hamsey Sleigh, and I’m excited to watch how parish events unfold with your ideas. I have been so impressed with how you’ve coped with so many parish council aspects which are new to you, from online training, to emails, to not talking in meetings! You’ve brought a welcome energy and comradery, thank you.

Robin, you’ve just arrived but jumped right in. Your tech skills, communications and organisation are going to be hugely beneficial, and your humour and people centric approach is priceless, thank you.

I will leave you all with a famous piece of advice; an oldie but a goodie. I hope you find the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference. And good luck!

Cllr Carolyn Henry

April 2023-March 24

Areas of responsibility	Activities
Beechwood Hall	<p>I continue to be the Safeguarding trustee of the hall and have attended regular online training sessions to keep up my skills in Safeguarding. I have trained new councillors and the trustees of the hall.</p> <p>I have supported the budgeting and financial oversight of the hall to ensure financial sustainability. I have also supported on projects through the hall and park.</p> <p>I have taken a bigger role in the management of the contractors who run the hall, including onboarding new contractors, doing appraisals and general support as needed.</p>
Social media	<p>I have created the social media strategy and action plan. This needs to be populated with people to action the plan. The work experience placement has been gathering content to support the launch.</p>
Community Events	<p>I have coordinated various events throughout the year which have been supported by so many other people and couldn’t run without the amazing volunteering spirit. This includes Christmas festivities, another theatre event, Nearly new sale and the Easter Event which raised £304 for the Hamsey school PTA and received great feedback.</p> <p>There are more great things to come that I am working on such as the Community Event in August and the theatre in October 2024.</p>
Meet Up with Mini’s	<p>I have moved to a reduced schedule of seasonal events and holiday events.</p>

	The Easter session combined with the PTA was a great success. I will start planning a few specials in the second half of the year. I am working with local mums to see if a regular session can start up again.
GDPR	No updates
Emergency Planning	No updates
Projects	I have been campaigning for a safe crossing for school children, which has received a lot of support from the community and various people but the ESCC has been highly resistant to providing support. The campaign continues.

Plans are to take a more active role in the running of Beechwood as Tamsyn will be stepping down from the Chairperson role. I will support in the coordination of the contractors and ensure the financial sustainability and good management of the hall.

I will keep campaigning for the safer school crossing.

I look forward to bringing the community together at various events and aim to target all ages and interests in the activities. I am working with other local parents to see if we can make meet up with Mini's more sustainable as it is difficult for 1 person to keep running solo and the interest is very varied. I am also planning on coordinating with the school PTA to support the fundraising as well as fundraising for the hall and future activities.

Speech to Tamsyn on behalf of the HPC

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence, and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.”

After 10 years of service to the people of Hamsey Parish, the time has come for our wise, kind and inspiring chairperson Tamsyn to step down. I can say with confidence that so many that have worked with Tamsyn throughout this time have personally benefited from the collaborations with her and our whole community will feel the impact for years to come.

All of us walk past the PhoneBooks regularly and see it as a symbol of sharing, a gesture of goodwill, as well as having a focal point to exchange information. This was Tamsyn's first project as a Parish Councillor and shows the lasting impact even a spatially small project can have and also the values that she has stuck by through her tenure.

It's not only the Phone box that has changed in the last 10 years. From covid, to the cost of living crisis, various politics to changing landscapes there has been so much to lead us through. So many of us are new to the community throughout this time, moving here due the positive impression and obvious sense of community. Where there could have been divides, Tamsyn has inspired togetherness and forged relationships which have grown to friendships and inspired more people to give back to the community to the benefit of all. Not to mention all the new younger population who will grow up benefiting from the work that Tamsyn has led, that is nearly all the children at Hamsey Primary and younger!

Those who are lucky to have lived in the community longer, will have had the privilege for Tamsyn's full stint. To name a few, Judith, a Monday group member, wrote to appreciate the support given and the engagement with the activities. Many use the facilities at Beechwood which have been continually improved, with small details that have big impact, including the beautiful new signage and branding. The variety of tasks managed and the in-depth knowledge of the local area and residents is impressive and will be hard to repeat.

When asked what she will miss about being on the Parish council she said 'To connect people and bring ideas to life.' This sums up her achievements and as Marie noted, that most will never know the full detail or breadth, but we can all appreciate her achievements for things to come. Thank you Tamsyn, from the current Parish Council and on behalf of the whole community.

Financial details for year ending 31st March 2024

Detailed below is the expenditure and income for the period 1st April 2023 –31st March 2024 Year End

Expenditure	£	Notes
Audit	748.00	
Capital Expenses	14,713.93	
Grants	2,017.80	
Grounds maintenance	2,035.64	
Office expenses/administration	10,799.23	Includes clerk's salary
Other expenses	2,469.34	
Premises	16,858.33	Includes insurance premium
Subscriptions	798.65	
Total	50,440.92	

Income	£	Notes
Precept	18,215.00	
Lottery Grant	-	
VAT reclaim	8,004.97	
CIL payment	-	
Other payments	386.60	
Total	26,606.13	

Balance per bank statement as at 31th March 2024	£
Unity Trust - current account	11,678.06
Unity Trust - savings account	12,444.63
Total	24,122.69