

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The European School of Osteopathy, Boxley Friday 6 November 2015 commencing at 6.07 pm.

Councillors present: Mr I Davies (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr V Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mr B Hinder, Mrs W Hinder, Mrs K Macklin, Mr P Sullivan, Mrs A Spain and Mrs M Waller together with Mrs Helen Whately MP, the Clerk, Borough Councillor D Butler and two members of the press/public.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Helen Whately MP. He then paid a short tribute to the late Councillor Alan Springate, who had passed away suddenly on 7 October, reminding members of all that he had done for the community and his contribution to the work of the Council. A minute's silence was then observed.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr Hinchliffe (previous commitment), Cllr Hollands (previous commitment), Cllr Smith (absent), County Councillor Paul Carter (KCC commitment) and PCSO M Adlington.

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None submitted.

3. Helen Whately MP

Mrs Whately, having been invited by the Chairman to address members, gave a brief resumé of issues she was dealing with that directly affected the parish. These included Operation Stack and the need to provide more lorry parks to avoid closing the M20 and concomitant gridlocking; housing; development at junction 8; and health and hospital facilities. She then invited questions and discussion evolved on the following:

- HGV on-road parking and the fact that foreign lorry drivers often did not pay fines or tolls.
- MBC limiting consultation on the Local Plan to four weeks instead of the normal six.
- Development of green field sites in preference to brownfield sites.
- Traffic congestion especially at junction 3 of the M2 (Bluebell Hill/Walderslade Woods Road).
- Sustainable homes. Due to regulation changes houses being built now are less eco-friendly than 5 years ago.
- Local infrastructure and services not being able to cope with new developments.

Mrs Whately expressed interest in all the concerns raised and asked for details of unused brownfield sites. She said she would investigate and respond to the council on the possibility of criminalising traffic fines and the downgrading of the standards for sustainable housing.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Whately for making time in her busy schedule to attend the meeting before she left at 7.00 pm for another appointment.

A five minute comfort break was taken with the meeting reconvening at 7.06 pm.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 October 2015

The minutes of the meetings were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising From the Minutes

- 5.1 Minute 2796/4.1 Boxley Warren Awards for All application. The Awards For All grant application was now ready for submission. **Noted.** Cllr Harwood informed members that when the cats eyes were installed there would also be a massive clearance of flytipping and a litter pick of the area.
- 5.2 Minute 2796/4.2 Boxley Warren/Pilgrims Way. Cllr Bob Hinder notified members that he had raised the issue of the entrance design at the Maidstone Joint Transport Board meeting and has been in discussion with KCC about it. **Noted.** The Chairman, Cllr Bob Hinder and the Clerk to liaise about a letter to KCC (cc Cllr Harwood) to take matters forward. **Action: Cllr Ivor Davies, Cllr Bob Hinder and the Clerk.**
- 5.3 Any other matters arising from the minutes which are not on the agenda. None.

6. Report from the PCSO and Police Issues

Crime statistics. **Received** and **noted**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.15 to allow a member of the public to inform the meeting that the Sandling Residents Association was being wound up. Meeting reconvened at 7.16 pm.

7. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

Received and **noted**.

- 7.1 Environment Committee meeting 5 October 2015.
- 7.2 Environment Committee meeting 12 October 2015. Item 11.1 the word 'midday' was amended to 'midnight'.
- 7.3 Estates Committee 13 October 2015.

8. Finance

- 8.1 Payments made out of meeting 07.10.15 – 23.10.15. **Noted**.
 - 8.1.1 The Cooperative Bank. **Noted**.
 - 8.1.2 HSBC. **Noted**.
- 8.2 Receipts for the period 29.09.15 – 23.10.15.
 - 8.2.1 The Cooperative Bank. **Noted**.
 - 8.2.2 HSBC. **Noted**.
- 8.3 Account balances as at 29.10.15. **Noted**.
- 8.4 Payment of accounts 01.10.15 – 31.10.15. **Noted**.
- 8.5 Members were reminded that they should not sign blank cheques or authorisation letters, the need to check invoices against cheques and authorisations when signing and that cheque stubs need to be initialled by both signatories. They also needed to keep their register of interests updated. **Noted**.

9 Policies and Procedures

- 9.1 'Freedom of Information' and 'Records Management' had been reviewed by the Clerk as part of housekeeping and, with some minor refreshment, are still fit for purpose. The document now states that FoI requests must be in writing. **Noted**.

10. Reports from councillors/office

Received and **noted**.

- 10.1 Attendance at Lordswood Urban Extension Public Inquiry. Cllr Wendy Hinder gave a brief report on the inquiry and the Chairman commented that on the final day the Planning Inspector had complimented the parish council on its contribution.
- 10.2 Attendance at Maidstone Planning Committee: 22 Goldstone Walk. Cllr Dengate stated that he had put key points to the MBC Planning Committee and that a resident had also attended to speak against the development but unfortunately it was approved.

11. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Wendy Hinder's written report covering the Public Inquiry and the Sanding Traffic Restriction Order was **received** and **noted**.

Cllr Butler notified members that he had visited the KIMS site and had learnt that 30% of attendees were from the NHS. Unfortunately there was already a shortage of parking space so they were looking to expand to an adjacent site. The CEO was willing to attend schools to speak about employment opportunities at the hospital.

Cllr Macklin asked a question about the change of contractor operating the Museum of Kent Life.

12. Matters for Decision

- 12.1 KCC consultation on its use of the Maidstone Gateway facility. The suggested response was **approved**. **Action: Office**.
- 12.2 KALC AGM Sat 21 November at Ditton 9.30 – 15.45. The Chairman is attending and any other interested councillor is to contact the Clerk. **Action: Councillors**.
- 12.3 KCC consultation on draft budget. Members **agreed** a response that the proposed

small increase without the need for a referendum was their preferred option.

Action: Office.

- 12.4 Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard. MKD/Kent Orchards for Everyone Project suggested that a grant application be made to Tesco for education work and also a sculptural slide. Members **agreed** in principle.

13. **Correspondence**

Received and noted.

- 13.1 Thank you letter from British Legion for purchase of poppy wreath.
 13.2 Thank you for donation letter from Heart of Kent Hospice for donation.
 13.3 Thank you letter from Medway Education Business Partnership for supporting students with work placements.

14. **Matters for Information**

- 14.1 Remembrance Service St Mary and All Saints Church, Boxley Sun 8 November.
 14.2 Kent Wildlife Trust October E-Newsletter 2015.
 14.3 The parish councillor vacancy has been advertised on noticeboards.

15. **Draft Budget 2016/2017**

Members were invited to submit projects for consideration for the draft budget.

16. **Next Meeting**

7 December at St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green ME14 5TZ commencing at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman.....Date.....