

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green on Monday 3 October 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

Councillors present: Mr B Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mrs L Clarke, Mr I Davies, Mr V Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mrs W Hinder, Mrs K Macklin, Mr R Martins, Mrs S Martins, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery, PCSO Adlington and 2 members of the public/press.

1. Apologies and absences

Mr D Hollands (holiday) and Cllr Radcliffe-Godfrey (work commitment). Borough Cllr D Butler and County Councillor Carter.

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5 September 2016

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

The meeting adjourned at 7.35 to allow a resident to speak on item 17.2 Grovewood Drive South. She has contacted County Councillor Carter about the poor crossing facilities and asked the parish council for its help to get the situation improved. Councillors spoke in support of the resident and it was **agreed** to defer the issue to the Environment Committee which was asked to contact County Councillor Carter and liaise with the resident who was encouraged to set up a petition. **Action: Environment Committee.**

A resident asked whether the parish council had heard of any planning application being put in for Sandling Village, it had not but would contact the resident if the situation changed. Meeting reconvened at 7.46 pm.

Item 5 was taken at this point in the meeting.

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes

4.1 Minute 2903/4.2 Sandling entrance. The results of the KCC investigation into the options is awaited. **Noted**

4.2 Minute 2903/4.3 Parish Tour. Rearrange for March 2017. **Noted**

4.3 Minute 2903/4.4 Parish Councillor Allowances. Response awaited from Helen Whately MP who has written to a minister. **Noted.**

4.4 Any other matters arising from the minutes which are not on the agenda. **None.**

5 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues

PCSO Adlington reported that it had been a fairly quiet time in the parish with some vehicle crime and theft. There were reports of nuisance vehicles in Walderslade Woods and they have been sighted by the PCSO who was attempting to trace them. Cllr Vic Davies raised the issue of Grovewood Drive South commuter car parking, PCSO Adlington had visited the area and vehicles were parked sensibly. The problem of burnt out cars on Harp Farm Road was being investigated. Cllr Dengate suggested that the parish council sponsor a body cam for PCSO Adlington. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting and PCSO Adlington was asked to investigate the possibility with the Police. **Action: PCSO Adlington and office.**

6 Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings Received and noted.

6.1 Environment Committee meeting 5 September 2016.

6.2 Environment Committee meeting 12 September 2016.

6.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting 13 September 2016.

7 Finance

7.1 Payments made out of meeting 30.08.2016- 26.09.2016. **Received and noted.**

7.2 Receipts for the period 30.08.2016- 26.09.2016. **Received and noted.**

7.3 Account balances 26.09.2016. **Received and noted.**

7.4 Payment of accounts. **Authorised.**

- 7.5 Alto Prepaid card. The refund from the card has been received. **Noted.**
 7.6 Completion of the Annual Return for 2015-16, Auditor's Report. **Received and noted.**

8 **Policies and Procedures**

Community Engagement Strategy (Review). After discussion members **agreed** that the current document, with some minor adjustments, should be an internal working document, and that a much shorter statement confirming the parish council's commitment should be produced. **Action: office for next meeting**

9 **Civic Regalia**

After discussion it was agreed that another company should be approached for a quotation, the word Chairman to be incorporated in the design. **Action: office.**

10 **Beechen Hall**

Cllr Vic Davies made a statement to members about the recent F&GPC decision not to release funds to extend the committee room. He identified the need to refurbish areas of the hall and to progress the replacement of the front doors with the creation of an air gap to conserve heat. Some discussion took place on the need to soundproof the committee room so that it was more useable. Cllr Vic Davies then asked members whether there was support for a resolution for the parish council meeting to revisit the F&GPC decision. Due to the support shown Cllr Vic Davies indicated that he would now submit a resolution to the November Parish Council meeting.

11 **Draft Budget 2017/2018**

11.1 Councillors are reminded that they should notify the parish office of any projects that they wish to have considered for the budget. **Noted.**

Cllr Ivor Davies proposed, seconded Cllr Dengate that a tree be planted in memory of Councillor Alan Springate. A possible position at Beechen Hall was identified. Cllr Harwood suggested a True Service tree (*Sorbus domestica*). It was **unanimously agreed** that Cllrs Ivor Davies and Harwood would liaise with the office to plant a tree this year. **Action: Cllrs Ivor Davies, Harwood and parish office.**

11.2 2017/2018 draft budget. **Received.**

12 **Reports from councillors/office**

KALC Maidstone 26 September Meeting draft minutes. KALC had highlighted at the meeting that Boxley Parish Council was one of only two parishes to be represented at the hearing, the parishes were thanked for this decision. The Chairman and Cllr Ivor Davies notified the meeting that they will be attending the opening session of the Public Inquiry.

13 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr Wendy Hinder notified the meeting that she had been receiving complaints about poor maintenance and the Environment Committee had scheduled an item at the next meeting to look at the issue. She and the Clerk would be attending the Gibraltar Farm Public Inquiry at Medway Council.

14 **Matters for Decision**

14.1 Terms of Reference and Reporting Procedure for Investments Working Group. **Agreed.**

14.2 Mayors reception at Maidstone Town Hall on Friday 14 October. Councillors were reminded to notify the Clerk of their attendance.

14.3 Annual Meeting of the KALC Sat 19 November 2016 at Ditton Community Centre. Attendees identified as Cllr B Hinder and Cllr I Davies. **Action: Cllrs B Hinder, Cllr I Davies and the office.**

14.4 Seat at Cossington Valley by proposed pond. Members welcomed the idea.

15 **The 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement -Technical Consultation Paper.**

After consideration members **agreed** a response to the consultation that supported the use of a referendum for the larger councils but not for smaller town and parish councils.

Action: Office.

16 **Correspondence
Received and noted.**

16.1 Thank you e-mail from Penenden Heath Bowls Club for the grant awarded.

16.2 Thank you letter from Sandling Village Hall for the grant awarded.

17 **Matters for Information**

17.1 Maidstone Local Plan Public Inquiry Programme. **Received and noted.**

17.2 Grovewood Drive North crossing facilities. The issue was deferred to the Environment Committee. **Action: Environment Committee.**

17.3 Festival of Weaving Fruit. Members were reminded of the event and encouraged to attend. **Action: All councillors.**

17.4 Cllr Ivor Davies drew member's attention to an article in the Downs Mail about the House of Commons debate, arranged by Helen Whately MP, on HGVs parking in residential areas an issue brought to her attention by the Environment Committee.

18 **Next Meeting**

7 November 2016 at the European School of Osteopathy, Boxley, ME14 3DZ commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.57 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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