

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6 November 2017 at European School of Osteopathy, Boxley commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr B Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr I Davies, Mr V Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mrs W Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery, Borough Councillor Derek Butler and 11 members of the public/press.

The Chairman welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

Prior to commencing the formal meeting the presentation of the Ann Spain MBE Allotment Cup for the best allotment plus two runners up rosettes were made by Mrs Spain to Lesley Shaw/Gill Watson, Sara Simpson (2nd place) and James Murray (3rd place).

The Chairman presented small commemorative cups to Councillors Vic Davies, Tony Harwood and Maureen Waller to mark and thank them for their 25 years service to the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk Pauline Bowdery was also presented with a cup and thanked for her 20 years service.

Members observed one minute's silence in memory of ex-parish councillor Geoff Smith who had recently died.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr Clarke (family commitments) Cllrs Constable, Hayday and Macklin (work commitments) and County Cllr Paul Carter (previous engagement).

The Clerk notified members that as Cllr Radclyffe-Godfrey had not attended for 6 consecutive months and as apologies for absent had not been submitted or accepted in that period a casual vacancy would be notified to Maidstone Borough Council. **Noted.**

Action: Clerk.

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2 October 2017

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

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes

4.1 Minute 3028/4.1 Honour Boards. Work will be completed as soon as the opportunity arises. **Noted.**

4.2 Minute 3028/4.3 HGV signage. The sign has been purchased and is awaiting installation by KCC, the Clerk was asked to check when the sign would be erected.

Action: Clerk.

4.3 Minute 3028/4.4 Parish Tour 11 November 2017. Members were reminded that the tour started from Beechen Hall. **Noted.**

4.4 Minute 3028/4.5. Local Nature Reserve Grove Green.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.54pm to allow 2 members of the public to update members on the setting up of a volunteer group to work in the areas identified for a LNR. 26 local residents had expressed an interest and a litter picking task day had been arranged with MBC and volunteers. It was suggested that the volunteers now needed a name. The Chairman thanked the two residents for their hard work and initiative in galvanizing local residents. The meeting reconvened at 8.04pm.

The agenda report was **received and noted**. Members were notified that the newly formed volunteer group would be approaching the parish council about being recognised as a parish council sponsored volunteer group. **Noted.**

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

5. Crime Report and Police Issues

Crime statistics. **Received** and **noted**. Police Crime Commissioners Meet and Greet Meeting 18 January 2018 10am-12pm. **Noted.**

6. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

- 6.1 Environment Committee meeting 9 October 2017. **Received** and **noted**.
- 6.2 Estates Committee meeting 10 October 2017. **Received** and **noted**.

7. **Finance**

- 7.1 Payments made out of meeting 26.09.17-26.10.17. **Received** and **noted**.
- 7.2 Receipts for the period 26.09.17-26.10.17. **Received** and **noted**.
- 7.3 Account balances. **Received** and **noted**.

8. **Policies and Procedures**

- 8.1 Community Engagement Strategy /Protocol for attending PC and Committee Meetings. Cllr Dengate would forward a few minor comments on wording etc. **Approved**.
Action: Cllr Dengate and Clerk.

9. **Reports from councillors/office**

- 9.1 Old Chalk New Downs 15 October 2017. Cllr Bob Hinder's written report was **received** and **noted**.

10. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr Wendy Hinder's report on UK Power Networks and KCC tree maintenance was **received** and **noted**. She reported MBC's Parks and Leisure Officers were being asked to reinvestigate the recommended closure of non-strategically important play areas. Cllr Hinder had argued against the closure of the small areas and was particularly concerned about the loss of equipment at the Franklin Drive Open Space.

Cllr Butler raised concern about the Government's wish to see a 40% increase in housing development. Borough Councillors Butler, Wendy Hinder and Harwood all agreed that the local infrastructure could not cope with all the proposed development and there was concern that the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106's would be inadequate.

Cllr Butler reported that the Leeds/Langley Bypass meeting had been well attended but that many residents were angry at the proposals. The Chairman reported that the meeting had ended with MBC and KCC at loggerheads.

11. **Budget**

Draft Budget 2018/2019. Members were reminded to submit any suggestions or projects to the parish office/committees **noted**. **Action: All councillors.**

12. **Matters for Decision**

- 12.1 KALC Crime Prevention and Safety Conference 2017 Thursday 7 December 2017. **Noted**.
- 12.2 KALC AGM. Details would be sent to the parish representatives. **Noted**.

13. **Correspondence**

- 13.1 Invitation to Maidstone & District Neighbourhood Watch AGM at Kent Police College, Sutton Road Wed 29 November 2017. **Noted**.
- 13.2 MBC annual Volunteer Litter Pickers Lunch 1 December 2017. The invitation has been supplied to all known volunteer litter pickers. **Noted**.

14. **Matters for Information**

- 14.1 CPRE Kent Voice Autumn/Winter issue.
- 14.2 Kent County Council is consulting on its draft budget strategy for 2018/19 and the associated council tax proposals. This consultation closes on 3rd December.
- 14.3 MBC recommendation on closure of play areas. The Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee had requested further information before taking a decision. **Noted**.
- 14.4 Community workers starting work in the parish 8 November 2017. Councillors to notify parish office of any work needed. **Noted**. **Action: Parish Councillors.**

15. **Next Meeting**

4 December 2017 at St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green, ME14 5TZ commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.31 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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