

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at European School of Osteopathy, Boxley Village on Monday 3 September 2018 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Mr V Davies (Chairman), Mrs A Brindle, Ms L Clarke, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr T Harwood, Mr G Hayday, Mr D Hollands, Mrs K Macklin, Mr P Dengate, Mr P Sullivan and Mr J Willmott together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery, PCSO M Adlington and 13 members of the public/press.

1. **Apologies and absences**
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None received.
3. **Chairman's Announcements**
None received.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 16 July 2018**
The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.
5. **Co-option to Parish Council Vacancy (South Wards)**
Deferred until October meeting. **Noted.**

The Chairman took item 7 at this point in the meeting.

The Chairman took the adjournment at this point in the meeting.

6. **Matters Arising From the Minutes**
 - 6.1 Minute 3140/6.1 Honour Boards. Both boards have arrived and will be erected after the building work at the hall has been completed. **Noted.**
 - 6.2 Minute 3140/6.2 Franklin Drive Play Area. Installation of the play equipment and the repair of the fence has been completed. Some minor work is required, to be undertaken by MBC, some trimming back of overhead branches by the swings and replacement swing seats. **Noted.**
 - 6.3 Minute 3140/6.3 OneDrive. Work outstanding. **Noted.**
 - 6.4 Minute 3140/6.4 End of World War 1 commemorative plaque. MBC has still not given permission for the erection of the plaque at Grove Green. The Chairman asked Cllr Harwood if he would contact the officer for the parish council. **Action: Cllr Harwood.**
 - 6.5 Minute 3140/6.5 Stem School Public Inquiry. Sec of State decision due 24 September 2018. **Noted.**
 - 6.6 Minute 3141 Adjournment. Old Chatham Road. The work has been completed but the installation of an addition bollard, by the bus stop, is being arranged as a foreign HGV squeezed along this area to park on the footway on the pedestrian and cycling side of the new work. **Noted.**
 - 6.7 Minute 3143/15 Coppicing at Wents and Five Acres Woods. Cllr Harwood reported that MBC was in discussion with a company to undertake the work. **Noted.**
 - 6.8 Minute 3143/18.1 Bulky Refuse Freighter Service. The response from the Head of Environment and Public Realm was **received** and **noted**. Members expressed disappointment that the service was not being reinstated and felt that the explanation was unsatisfactory. It was **agreed** to defer the issue to the Environment Committee and to supply a copy of the response to Maidstone Committee of KALC with
 - 6.9 Minute 3143/18.1 The Greensand Ridge. The request for it to be made into an AONB has been forwarded to Rob Jarman Head of Planning and Development. **Noted.**
 - 6.10 Any other matters arising from the minutes which are not on the agenda.
- 7 **Crime Report and Police Issues**
Crime report 23rd June 2018 – 23 August 2018. None posted. **Noted.**
PCSO Adlington notified members that he would be using a speed gun in the parish in the

near future. He had also been dealing with some anti-social behavior issues at Gleamingwood Drive. Possible drug use had been reported near the open space at Impton Lane and his visits had not uncovered any evidence, but he would be keeping an eye on the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.44 pm to allow members of the public to speak. Three issues were raised

- Parking, Sandling Village.
- Hedge landscapes, Sandling Village.
- Submission of Weaving Heath for Voluntary Village Green Status.

Discussions took place between residents and Parish Councillors on the issues and various actions were identified for the Clerk and parish office to undertake. The meeting reconvened at 8.10 pm.

8. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

- 8.1 Environment Committee 9 July 2018. **Received and noted.**
- 8.2 F&GPC 10 July 2018. **Received and noted.**
- 8.3 Environment Committee 13 August 2018. **Received and noted.**
- 8.4 Estates Committee 2018. **Received and noted.**

9. Finance

- 9.1 Payments made out of meeting 09.07.18 – 28.08.18. **Received and noted.**
- 9.2 Receipts for the period 09.07.18 – 28.08.18. **Received and noted.** The office to work towards only using codes for hall hire receipts. **Action: office.**
- 9.3 Account balances. **Received and noted.**
- 9.4 Members are reminded that they should not sign blank cheques or authorisation letters, they need to check invoices against cheques and authorisations when signing and cheques stubs need to be initialled by both signatories. **Noted.**
- 9.5 Approval to amend signatory Mandates for any bank account e.g. Unity Trust Bank held by the parish council to take into account changes to Parish Councillor membership. The Chairman proposed that **the request be approved. Agreed.**

10 Policies and Procedures

- 10.1 The Clerk has undertaken a review of the Complaints Policy and the Draft Minutes on website Policy and they are considered still fit for purpose. **Noted**
- 10.2 Land and Building Purchase Policy (review). **Approved as still fit for purpose.**

11 Call for Evidence Rural Economy

Members **agreed** that the parish council's response would highlight that the rural economy was held back by;

- Poor/inadequate highway infrastructure.
- Poor/inadequate public transport.
- Slow broadband speeds.

Development on agricultural land reduced local employment opportunities and adversely impacted on the country's ability to grow enough food. **Action: parish office.**

12 GDPR

The building works at the hall had resulted in work not being undertaken but it was hoped to get back on schedule in the near future.

13 Draft Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005

The Draft Statement of Principles were supported. **Action: parish office.**

14 Taxi Emission Policy MBC Consultation

After lengthy discussion members **agreed** (2 against with 1 abstention) that the response would be.

The parish council agrees with the proposals but it was considered that MBC needed to act more urgently and have a shorter lead in time. Maidstone Borough has poor air quality and particulate pollution problems were increasing daily so the planned 15 years for action needed to be drastically reduced. MBC also needs to enforce its current air

pollution regulations including the requirement for taxi drivers to turn off their engines when waiting for fares etc. **Action: Clerk.**

15. **Reports from councillors/office**

The report on recent student work experience placements was **received** and **noted**.

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

CLlr Bob Hinder's report was **received** and **noted**.

CLlr Wendy Hinder's report was **received** and **noted**.

17. **Matters for Decision**

17.1 Event Announcement: Chairmanship Conference 2018, 13 December 2018. **Noted**

17.2 Annual Finance Conference 2018, 18 October 2018. The Clerk was booked to attend. **Noted**

17.3 War Memorial, additional names, WW1 Commemorative Plaque Grove Green, Beechen Hall Extension. After consideration members decided that the Chairman of the Parish Council would be asked to 'unveil' the new names and commemorative plaques/plinths at the War Memorial and Grove Green. It was **noted** that Armistice Day fell on a Sunday and whilst members did not wish to see a religious ceremony two churches (St Mary and All Saints and Grove Green Church) would be invited to attend. **Action: Assistant Clerk.**

The Mayor to be approached to undertake the official opening of the extension at Beechen Hall. **Action: Assistant Clerk.**

17.4 Weaving Heath Village Green Status. CLlr Brindle, seconded by CLlr Harwood, proposed that **Maidstone Borough Council is contacted to request that it voluntarily submits Weaving Heath for Village Green status. Unanimously agreed. Action: Clerk.**

18. **Correspondence**

None submitted.

19. **Matters for Information**

19.1 Change to Environment Committee meeting date from 10 to 17 September. **Noted.**

19.2 Countryside Voice Summer 2018.

19.3 KWT Magazine Summer 2018.

19.4 Fruitful Gleaning Orchards Conference Wed 26 September 2018 at Bradbourne House East Malling.

19.5 Theft from Beechen Hall Walderslade Woodlands Group , heavy duty metal ramps. The matter has been reported to the Police along with vehicle registration number. **Noted.**

20. **Items for Next Agenda**

Councillors' reports and requests for items to be included on the agenda to be submitted no later than 24 September 2018. **Noted.**

21. **Next Meeting**

Monday 1 October 2018 at St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green ME14 5TZ.

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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