

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 November 2021, at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, ME5 9RU at 7.30 pm**

Present: Mr C Sheppard - Chairman, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr B Hinder, Mrs P Huntingford, Mr P Dengate, Mrs K Macklin, D Hollands, M Beckwith and Mr P Sullivan, together with the Clerk Mrs D Baylis and one member of the public.

### **1. Apologies and absences**

H Monk, J Willmott, L Clarke, V Davies, A Brindle.

### **2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

None

### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 11 October 2021**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

4.1 Any other matters arising from the minutes. **None**

### **5. Crime Report and Police Issues**

Noted.

### **6. Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting**

A member of the public had come to discuss issues with the roads around the STEM school on New Cut Road. He worked for the school group that also includes Invicta and Valley Park Schools. He explained that although they were trying to encourage walking it was not proving very successful. They were also sending out frequent reminders about considerate parking. Parents were using the STEM school drop off area to drop off children attending the other 2 schools. There was also a lot of parking in Grovewood Drive South. He asked if the PC could help get double yellow lines installed. Cllr Sheppard explained that this had been mentioned during a meeting with KCC Highways and dismissed, as it just moves the problems elsewhere. The MOP said that there were no warning signs on the road that informed vehicles that they were approaching a school. The Clerk was asked to report this to KCC as a fault. The issue of getting the speed limit reduced from 40-30MPH was also raised. It was explained that whilst this is possible it is a long process. The MOP also raised the fact that currently the school had only 2 year groups but this would increase over time. The capacity of the school is 1,200 pupils and it currently has about 300 so problems with the roads will only get worse. Cllr Dengate said that this was one of the reasons BPC had objected to the planning application. Cllr Hinder said that one of the problems was that the Joint Transport Board of Maidstone Borough Council had not met since January due to issues with finding a big enough space for a meeting. Another major problem is that New Cut Road is a designated diversion route when the M20 is shut. The MOP was advised to contact MP Helen Whately as she championed the schools and ask her for help. If BPC were copied in they would be able to contribute towards the cost of any work required.

### **7. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

**Received** and **Noted** the following draft minutes.

7.1 Environment Committee Meetings 11 and 18 October 2021.

7.2 Estates Committee 25 October 2021.

### **8. Finance**

8.1 Payments made out of meeting 01.10.21 – 25.10.21. **Noted**

8.2 Receipts for the period. 01.10.21 – 25.10.21. **Noted**

8.3 Account balances report **Noted**. The Clerk gave a verbal update to report that the Enabling Fund for Walderslade Woodlands had been paid into the Barclays account.

### **9. Parish Councillor Allowances**

This was deferred to the next F&GP meeting to be discussed with the Budget and more

history on previous years. It was agreed to keep the ruling that only one additional allowance could be claimed.

## **10. Policies and Procedures**

### **9.1 Financial Regulations**

These were approved with the following amendments:

The requirement for 2 Councillor Audits/year would stay. Cllr M Beckwith would do the next audit. There will be an annual review of the bank account mandates.

### **9.2 Financial Transactions Procedures**

These were agreed with the amendments proposed.

## **11. KALC Award Nominations**

These should be submitted to the Clerk.

## **12. Monthly Website update**

Noted. Cllr I Davies asked that the 'BPC Announcement' be taken down from the 'Lidsing' button as it was out of date.

## **13. Reports from Councillors/Office**

The Clerk had attended the KALC Annual Finance Conference. She reported the recommendation that Councillors had dedicated email addresses provided for them to comply with GDPR. This was discussed and it was decided to keep things as they were as the cost was too much. Cllr Dengate proposed and it was agreed that Councillors should sign a GDPR statement on acceptance of office.

Cllr Hinder thanked all those who helped with the memorial events on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

## **14. Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

None.

## **15. Grant Applications**

None on this Agenda.

## **16. Walderslade Woodlands**

Cllrs Sheppard, Huntingford and Sullivan had attended the Tree Inspection Course. Cllr Huntingford said that she was worried about the amount of liability the Council had taken on as the woods were not in good condition and needed a great deal of work. It was questioned if an outside manager was needed instead of relying solely on volunteers. Cllr Dengate suggested that volunteer groups could be used such as older Scouts and Guides or the Community Payback team.

## **17. Investment of Walderslade Woodlands Enabling Fund**

The Clerk reported that the CCLA Investment Group had given a talk on Investment at the recent KALC Finance Conference. They manage funds for Charities, religious organisations and Parish Councils and are the company KALC invests in. Their property fund returns an average of 4%. Cllr Dengate had questions on FCA approval and the security of the investment. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting or presentation with the company.

## **18. Cluster Meetings**

The next meeting was at the end of November. Cllr Hinder reported that so far no one had raised any matters they would like discussed at the meeting.

## **19. Matters for Decision**

19.1 It was proposed by Cllr Dengate, seconded by Cllr Huntingford and all agreed that the decision made out of meeting to install the Tommy as a permanent feature at the war memorial in Boxley Village was ratified.

19.2 The Clerk was asked to call a meeting of the working group this week with the invitation to attend going to all Councillors. The Clerk was asked to draft a template response for the website for residents to use.

**20. Correspondence**

**None.**

**21. Matters for Information**

**None.**

**22. Items for Next Agenda**

To be received by the Clerk on or before the 1 December 2021. **Noted.**

**23. Next Meeting**

6 December 2021.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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