

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Tuesday 3 April 2018 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Brewin, J Cannon, K Johnson, B Pardesi, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk); County Cllr H Rayner; Boro Cllr M Taylor; PCSO M Thomas

Apologies: Cllrs M Carboni, J Denham; Boro Cllrs S Perry, T Shaw

1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

i) Cllrs Rayner and Taylor were present to discuss the Local Plan and the timetable for its submission for inspection and consultation. They advised that the Plan was not due to come before TMBC members until June, which was close to the submission deadline, and that Members would have a short period of time (5 days) in which to scrutinise the detail. Part of the draft Plan was the inclusion of a proposal to build 4,000 houses between Dark Hill and Nepicar in Borough Green (Borough Green Gardens). The justification for building on green belt land was the provision of a relief road for Borough Green, without which the development could not go ahead. The provision of a relief road would involve building on the former Ightham sandpit which was reported to be severely contaminated due to the dumping of noxious waste during an unmonitored back filling operation. Remediation of the land before road building or housing development would be essential. The Local Plan, however, made no allowance for remediating the site, which would be a substantial and costly process. Cllr Taylor was submitting a full report of the contamination to TMBC and would be meeting with Senior Planning Policy Officer, Ian Bailey, on 11 April to discuss its contents and ensure its inclusion with the Local Plan when it comes forward for consideration. He was seeking support from the local parishes and the Parish Alliance for this course of action. He was also requesting that an early extraordinary meeting be called by TMBC to give Members sufficient time to discuss the Plan and supporting documentation in detail. Given the tight schedule for consideration and adoption being proposed by the Borough Council, there was considerable pressure on Members to approve the draft without full consideration to avoid incurring penalties.

The Chairman advised Cllr Taylor that the meeting could not discuss the Ightham report since Parish Councillors had not had time to consider its contents and it was not an item on the agenda. The Chairman agreed to circulate the report to Parish Councillors for their general comments before the 11 April meeting.

ii) Cllr Rayner advised the decision regarding changes to bus services had been deferred and that consultation on the new proposed changes would be later in the year.

iii) PCSO Mark Thomas reported that he had advised the owner of the two vehicles registered as SORN and parked at Hyders Forge to remove them and that this had now been done. He confirmed that police were aware of an abandoned car in Hurst Wood and that this was being recovered by the landowner.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Thomas for his assistance in dealing with vehicle issues.

Action:
Cllr
Thomas;
all Cllrs

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Correspondence

KCC

Highways: monthly bus updates, February, March 2018.

TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee: meeting papers, 11.4.18.

Community Safety Partnership: Newsletter, March/April 2018.

GIS Manager: address clarification and changes.

Joint Transportation Board: meeting papers, 12.3.18.

Other

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Village Hall Convention, 14.4.18; Food, Farming & the Environment, Defra consultation event, 23.4.18.

Heart of Kent Hospice: letter of thanks for donation.

KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments, 2.3.18-16.3.18; KCC pothole blitz; Kent Police Rural Liaison Team Report, March 2018; MoHCLG consultation, NPPF and Developer Contributions. Cllrs Brewin, Cannon, Carboni will consider a response; Kent Resource Partnership, Waste Management Strategy.

Kent Men of the Trees: trip to Herefordshire, October 2018.

Kent Wildlife Trust: Newsletter, March 2018; local group events, 19.3.18, 1.4.18; Wild Kent, Spring 2018.

Kenward Trust: Kenward News, March 2018.

South-East Water: workshop on their role in a changing society, 28.3.18.

E-watch nos 1535-1542.

Action:
Cllrs
Brewin,
Cannon,
Carboni

6. Payments/Finance

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members. Councillors noted that the Eon Energy for February 2018 had been adjusted from estimated £87.59 to actual £81.74

The following payments were approved:

	£
TMBC car park rates 2018-19	201.60
RBLI Ltd: bus route signs	533.28
BMPOS: annual contribution	337.50
Communicorp: Clerks & Councils Direct subscription	96.00
ACRK: annual subscription	50.00
CPRE: annual subscription	50.00
TMBC: Y2Crew summer scheme donation	100.00
Clerk salary & reimbursements March 2018	692.75
Eon Energy: street lighting March 2018	90.51

7. Planning

TMBC decisions

Upper Manor Farm, Old Soar Road TM/18/00029/FL

Re-cladding of existing portal frame farm building to form 2x garages and 2x open stores. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Parish council decisions

Councillors noted that planning application TM/18/00553/FL, Plaxtol Village Stores, had been put 'on hold' by TMBC pending further information. Council will consequently be considering this application at a later date.

Bartons Farm, Yopps Green TM/18/00489/TNCA

Tulip Tree (T1): Fell to ground level as tree is irreversibly under attack from Armillaria (Honey Fungus) and Innonotus and is dying. Magnolia Tree (T2): Remove low westerly bough that is encroaching on wall to avoid damage to wall. Remove to base of bough at trunk Cherry Tree (T3) circa 60 y.o: Tree is in poor health and apical bough is dead. Reduce crown and pollard to circa 25ft. Remove dead apical bough and bough overhanging electricity supply. Pollard to below weakened fork to uncompromised fork below bough (to be removed) overhanging electricity line Leylandii hedge (T4-T12) comprising 9 trees (planted in 2011): Planted in close proximity to wall (circa 1m) in 2011. Fell to ground to avoid undermining of wall and remove roots. Replant with 9 native trees at northern curtilage of property (replanting at exact location not possible due to proximity to wall). The Tree Warden reported that all the work proposed was required. Councillors noted that the application had been amended re T3 and that the proposal was now to fell the cherry tree, which is in decline, and replant. **No objection** to any aspect of the application.

Wealden House, Church Hill TM/18/00719/TNCA

T 1 Crimson King- remove, this tree is in major decline and may fall on the owners family whilst they are in the garden. The Tree Warden reported that the tree was dying and needed to be removed. **No objection.**

8. Emergency Plan

It was noted that the review of the Emergency Plan had been completed and the updated Plan posted on the website. The Chairman advised all Councillors to ensure they had access to a printed copy.

9. Recreation Grounds

It was reported that the Sevenoaks Lions Club had agreed a donation of £2,000 towards the Spoute climbing frame. The fundraising group are seeking a further £6.5k to reach their target. Councillors expressed their appreciation to the Sevenoaks Lions Club for their support.

10. Highways & Transport

i) It was noted that, following a request for information regarding gritting on The Street during the cold weather, KCC Highways had advised that due to the extreme conditions only primary gritting routes had been treated. The Street is a secondary gritting route so gritting had not been scheduled. However, some hand-salting had been carried out in higher priority areas where shops/amenities were located, including the top of The Street. Resources were otherwise expended on primary and trunk routes only.

ii) It was reported that the bus route signs were being ordered from Royal British Legion Industries, who would also install them on a date to be arranged.

iii) It was noted that KCC were planning a new pothole blitz in April. Faults can be reported direct to KCC at www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults.

iv) Cllr Johnson advised that KCC's proposed changes to bus routes in the area was now limited to the 404 which would be refocused on Edenbridge to Sevenoaks, dropping the Plaxtol limb of the service. Changes were also being put in place by Go Coach to the 220 school bus service, with new services beginning at the start of next term. This would include a new school bus route to Tunbridge Wells starting at Plaxtol, which would help mitigate the overcrowding experienced on the current service.

v) Cllr Thomas confirmed that as reported the two vehicles registered as SORN and parked outside Hyders Forge had now been removed.

11. Memorial Hall

Meeting 27.3.18. Cllr Johnson reported that Hall finances were healthy and that internal and external decoration plus repair to the committee room heater was planned for this year. Free wifi connection with Gigaclear had also been negotiated. The issue of multiple parking at the cottage had now been resolved. He advised that the Chair would be standing down at the AGM and recruitment of a replacement and of ordinary committee members was an issue.

12. Battle's Over national tribute

Cllr Brewin advised that the History Group had offered to place a display in the church, subject to permission. Interest for support had been offered by the Men's Society once plans are firmer. Cllr Cannon had investigated the provision of a permanent custom-made beacon, but it was felt that the cost was prohibitive. Possible beacon locations plus programmes/activities for the day were to be considered further.

Action:
Cllrs
Brewin,
Cannon

13. Any Other Business

i) Cllr Simpson advised that he was awaiting response from SLCC regarding the Clerk job evaluation.

ii) Cllr Johnson advised that Council had received an invitation to take part in the 2018 Trees in the Village Competition but that, as previously agreed, the parish would not be entering again until 2020, three years from the last entry in 2017.

14. Dates of Next Meetings:

i) Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 23 April 2018, 7.30pm

ii) Annual Meeting, Tuesday 8 May 2018, 8.00pm (**please note day**)

iii) Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 8 May 2018, 8.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm