

## PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Monday 4 February 2019 at 8.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Brewin, M Carboni, J Denham, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk); Kent County Cllr Harry Rayner; PCSO Mark Thomas

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Cannon, K Johnson; Boro Cllrs S Perry, T Shaw, M Taylor

### 1. **Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors**

PCSO Thomas advised that there had been a series of outbuilding burglaries in the lead up to Christmas. He had now been issued with a 4x4 vehicle which assisted greatly in checking farmland. The Chairman thanked PCSO Thomas for his report and his work in the community.

County Cllr Rayner advised that he had lodged an appeal against the decision to terminate the 404 bus service at Ightham Mote, thus leaving Plaxtol parishioners with no direct transport route to Sevenoaks. The decision would be considered by Scrutiny Committee and back to Cabinet for a final decision on 14 February.

Cllr Rayner also reported that he had appealed a decision to reduce the library service at Borough Green from 42 to 28 hours per week. The local parishes were keen on helping to fund longer opening hours and make full use of the plant and Boro Cllr Taylor had written to KCC to this effect.

Cllr Rayner advised that a festival at Wrotham was being planned for late September.

### 2. **Declarations of interest**

None.

### 3. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. **Matters arising**

None.

### 5. **Council Matters**

i) Recruitment Event, 8.2.19. The Chairman reported that a number of expressions of interest in serving on the Parish Council had been received from parishioners. All had been invited to attend a meeting at the Memorial Hall on 8 February, where they could meet and question serving Councillors and obtain more information. With elections imminent, it was agreed there was insufficient time for a co-option process to take place. Interested parties would be offered guidance if necessary on the completion of election nomination forms. The Chairman hoped as many Councillors as possible would be able to attend the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

ii) Parish Council elections, May 2019. Councillors were advised that nomination packs were now ready from TMBC, along with the election timetable. It was noted that the deadline for applications was 3 April 2019.

## 6. Correspondence

### KCC

Environment & Planning: Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan review.  
Cllr Carboni will consider a response.

Highways & Transport: Kent bus feedback portal, a new service enabling direct feedback from the public on bus services, details at [kent.gov.uk/busfeedback](http://kent.gov.uk/busfeedback); monthly bus updates, January 2019.

### TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee: Agenda 23.1.19.

Community Safety Partnership: newsletter, Jan/Feb 2019.

Electoral Services: notification of election, 2019.

Joint Transportation Board: meeting papers, 26.11.19.

Parish Partnership Panel: meeting papers, 15.11.19, 7.2.19.

Planning Policy: notification of submission of Local Plan.

### Other

Age Concern: letter of thanks for donation.

Applause Rural Touring: newsletter, 31.1.19.

Bluebird Care: community grant scheme, 2019.

Communicorp: Clerks & Councils Direct, January 2019.

CPRE: Oast to Coast, Winter 2018; local events, 2019; campaigns updates, 12.1.19-2.2.19; Star Count campaign 2019.

KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments: 18.1.19-1.2.19; KALC training events; Counter Terrorism Policing bulletins, 7.1.19-23.1.19; NALC open letter; NALC Points of Light publication; Lord Lieutenant's Annual Civic Service invitation; ethical standards in local government, report; KCC public health press release, cold weather warning; South & South-East in Bloom, 2019; Kent Resilience Forum, business continuity check list, household emergency plan.

Kent Downs AONB: newsletter, 31.1.19.

Kent Police: West Kent Mind services; DAVSS male victims poster.

Kent Wildlife Trust: newsletter, 8.1.19.

Lost Words Kent: letter of thanks for donation.

Plaxtol Primary School: letter of thanks for donation.

Royal British Legion: letter of thanks for donation.

Speedwatch Kent: Your Speed, newsletter, December 2018.

Victim Support: letter of thanks for donation.

Wheels to Work, Kent: charity transport scheme, details at [w2wkent.co.uk](http://w2wkent.co.uk).

E-watch nos 1616-1625.

**Action:**  
**Cllr**  
**Carboni**

## 7. Payments/Finance

i) Councillors approved the renewal of the grounds maintenance contract with Landscape Services for 2019 at a cost of £2,011.

ii) Receipts & Payments. A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

It was noted that the UKPN charge for power related works to the replacement column at Kingscote had risen from the estimated £800 to £2,706. This was mainly due to the need for traffic management by means of a road closure, and a reconnection charge. The bill had been queried with UKPN, but they had advised that they are governed by the New Roads and Streetworks Act with regard to traffic management. UKPN will be consulted regarding the necessary traffic management for the replacement of the other columns prior to installation to ensure a minimum of disruption. It was agreed that Cllr Simpson would investigate possible grants and other forms of funding should the cost need to be spread more widely than originally planned.

**Action:**  
**Cllr**  
**Simpson**

Councillors noted that the budgeted amount to assist in maintenance of the churchyard was £2,200 but that expenses incurred thus far were in the region of £2,600. An additional £100 was approved to help meet these costs.

The following receipts were noted:	£
HMRC: VAT refund 2017/18	3,933.17
Plaxtol Spoute project: transfer of funds	2,000.00
The following payments were approved:	£
Memorial Hall: hall hire April, Jul-Dec 2018	172.00
RBLI: 'No dogs' sign Spoute recreation ground	79.28
P P Broad: hedge cutting 2018	180.00
Craigdene Ltd: playground inspection 2018/19	196.00
H&E Tree Services Ltd: allotment hedges	144.00
Samaritans, TW district: donation	100.00
The Counselling Centre, TW: donation	100.00
UKPN: power works to street light, Kingscote	2,706.00
PPCC: church hire, May meeting 2018	36.00
PPCC: church yard maintenance, 2018/19	2,300.00
Clerk salary and reimbursements January 2019	650.79
EON Energy: street lighting January 2019	102.86

## 8. Planning

### KCC

Cllr Carboni advised that notification had been received of changes to planning permissions at Stangate Gas Utilisation Plant and for the erection of a gas metering kiosk building. Neither application was contentious.

### TMBC decisions

The Coach House, Paxton Farm, Tonbridge Road TM/18/02887/FL  
Erection of two storey extension to east side and refurbishment of property. Granted permission. Parish Council had not objected to this application.

High Hope, The Street TM/18/01760/FL, TM/18/01761/LB

Single storey rear extension (to be considered in association with application 3 Shields Cottages application TM/18/01757/FL). **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Ivy Cottage, Roughway Lane TM/18/02945/FL

Single storey rear extension. Granted permission. Parish Council had not objected to this application.

3 Shields Cottages, The Street TM/18/01757/FL, TM/18/01758/LB

Single storey rear extension (To be considered in association with application High Hopes application 18/01760/FL). **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Wickenden Farm, The Street TM/18/02792/FL, TM/18/02793/LB

Install an oil tank, install a boiler with enclosure and build an internal wall to create a utility room. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Councillors noted for the record that the following planning applications had been given approval, but had been missed in the notification process: Daltons Farm, TM/17/01202/TNCA; Golding Hop cold store, TM/17/03118/FL; Golding Orchard, TM/16/02875/TNCA; The Ingle, TM/17/03326/TNCA; Lavender Cottage, TM/16/03233/TNCA; Old Orchard, TM/17/03313/TNCA; Ruffetts, TM/03327/TNCA; Tree House, TM/004411/TNCA.

The Parish Council had not objected to any of these applications.

### **Parish council decisions**

Daltons Farm, The Street TM/19/00137/TNCA

T1 - Silver birch to section fell to ground level. T2-T6 - 5 x White Poplar trees rear right hand boundary to reduce height by 40%. The Tree Warden supports this application. **No objection.**

The Grange, Grange Hill TM18/02953/LB

Listed Building Application: Redecoration and upgrading of entrance hall; landing; drawing room, and master bedroom suite. **No objection.**

Little Mount, The Street TM/19/00094/TNCA

T1 Goat willow front boundary pollard 4.5 metres from ground to restrict root growth and prevent damage to neighbouring property. The Tree Warden supports this application. **No objection.**

Plaxtol Church, Church Hill TM/19/00063/TNCA.

T1 Buxus- tidy, T2 Irish Yew- trim, T3 Lawson Cypress- remove 3 lower branches and trim, T4 Yew- remove lower branches and trim, T5 Irish Yew- trim, T6 Yew- trim lower branches, T7 Irish Yew- trim, 8- Irish Yew- Trim, T9 Lawsons Cypress- trim lower branches, T10 Irish Yew- lift and sever Ivy, T11 Irish Yew- trim Ivy using hedge cutter, T12 Irish Yew- trim Ivy using hedge cutter, T15 Yew- remove adjacent Hazel, T17 Irish Yew- trim clump of Ivy, T18 Irish Yew- trim, T20 Yew- crown lift, T21 Weeping Ash- sever Ivy and remove major deadwood, T22 Lawsons Cypress and Elder Berries- remove Elder Berries, leaving stump as low as possible and crown lift Lawsons Cypress, T23 Irish Yew- sever Ivy, T24 Irish Yew- sever Ivy, T25 Irish Yew- minor trim, T27 Lawsons Cypress- trim, T28 Red Oak- crown lift, T29 Holly- trim, T30 Irish Yew- remove low laterals and crown lift, T31 Irish Yew- trim and crown lift, T32 Irish Yew- trim and crown lift, T33 Irish Yew- trim and crown lift, T34 Yew- reduce lower crown, T35 Mulberry- trim lower branches, T36 Horse Chestnut- remove Ivy and remove dead branch, T37 Yew- trim and re-shape. Lower crown to be reduced, upper crown to remain as is and remove small tree growing on side of church. The Tree Warden supports this application. **No objection.**

## **9. Meeting Feedback**

i) KALC, 10.1.19. Cllrs Simpson and Thomas had attended this meeting. Cllr Thomas advised that a presentation on GDPR had been well received. Other items included the launch of the new website and KALC's materials on standing in local elections, available at [kentalc.gov.uk](http://kentalc.gov.uk).

ii) Meeting with Kent Police, 24.1.19. Cllr Thomas had attended this meeting of KALC Area Committee Chairs with the Police & Crime

Commissioner and Assistant Chief Constable. He reported on the following issues:

- that there had been a 50% reduction in police officers in some areas;
- that a third of police time was currently taken up with mental health issues;
- that there had been a rise in violent crime due to a rise in domestic abuse;
- that Kent Police had recruited 200 additional officers;
- that extra police would be drafted in from around the current to help deal with transport issues following Brexit;
- that response time to 999 and 101 calls had improved;
- that local relationships with PCSOs were varied.

Cllr Thomas will meet with the Area Community Safety Unit Inspector to discuss contact with PCSOs.

**Action:**  
**Cllr**  
**Thomas**

#### **10. Recreation Grounds**

i) Spoute project update. Cllr Carboni reported that the project organisers had considered and met with various providers, and had achieved reduced quotes for new play equipment. The preferred option was a proposal from Sovereign, but there was a small shortfall in funding, c£300. Councillors agreed that additional funding would be provided and that the option with Sovereign should be investigated further. Councillors expressed their congratulations and thanks to the organisers for their hard work.

ii) Cllr Denham reported that the playground inspection for 2018/19 had been carried out. Repair and cleaning work to the wet pour surfaces would be required during the year and quotes for this work would be sought in the spring. It was noted that the bin at the entrance to the recreation ground needed to be relocated. Cllr Brewin agreed to investigate this further.

**Action:**  
**Cllrs**  
**Brewin,**  
**Denham**

#### **11. Basted Mill Public Open Space**

Meeting 24.1.19. Cllr Simpson had attended this meeting and reported that the wall on Mill Lane had now been repaired by a local craftsman at a cost of £3.5k, which was considerably less than had originally been anticipated. The situation regarding repairs to the weir was ongoing. Financial reserves were in a reasonable state at c£25k, but the committee was awaiting tree damage reports. Cllr Simpson had advised the committee that Plaxtol Parish Council was considering its continued membership and would be making a decision at its March meeting. In the meantime, he would pursue a question raised by Cllr Johnson regarding possible indemnity against risk being provided by TMBC.

**Action:**  
**Cllr**  
**Simpson**

#### **12. Highways & Transport**

i) Plaxtol Spoute sign. Councillors agreed that the sign recovered by a parishioner should be erected on Spoute Island, facing Long Mill Lane and Brook Lane.

ii) It was reported that Brook Lane had been closed on 4 February for repair work and that The Street would be closed from 18 February for up to 5 days for a cable to be laid by UKPN.

**13. Any Other Business**

i) It was noted that the allotment holders were planning a bonfire on the weekend of 16/17 March.

ii) Councillors were advised that following, a meeting with the web designer, the upgrade was underway. It was noted that the current site, although running, had some faults following changes implemented by the host.

iii) It was noted that a request had been received from a parishioner requesting that the immediately local neighbours should be advised when events were due to take place at the Garratt Memorial Land.

iv) It was noted that a planned power cut was due to be carried out on Dux Hill and Grange Hill on 8 February. Residents had been informed.

**14. Date of Next Meeting:**

Monday 4 March at 8 pm.

The meeting closed at 10pm