

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Brewin, M Carboni, J Denham, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk); 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 Mark Thomas advised that, in view of changes in staffing and the loss of PCSOs in the Borough, he had been assigned to more parishes. Attendance at Parish Council meetings could therefore not be guaranteed, though he would attend as many as possible, and as need arose.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Thomas for attending the meeting and advised that new arrangements for police/parish contact were now being put in place. Regular attendance at parish council meetings would now be a matter for local arrangement, but PCSOs were being encouraged to maintain regular contact with parish clerks. [See item 9 below].

2. **Declarations of interest**

None.

3. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters arising**

Item 6: Kent Minerals & Waste local plan review. Cllr Carboni confirmed that he had responded positively to the consultation.

5. **Council Matters**

The Chairman reported that there had been a good response to the councillor recruitment event on 8 February. The level of expression of interest suggested a possible election in May, which was to be welcomed. He reminded Councillors wishing to re-stand for election that their nomination forms must be delivered to the Returning Officer at TMBC by appointment by 3 April 2019. A similar reminder had been sent to those who had expressed an interest in standing for office.

6. **Correspondence**

KCC

Children, Young People & Education: consultation on changes to Grange Park School, Borough Green.

Highways & Transport: monthly bus updates, February 2019.

TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee: agenda, 27.2.19.

Electoral Services: election nomination packs.
 Joint Transportation Board: agenda, 11.3.19.
 Parish Partnership Panel: minutes, 7.2.19.
 Planning Policy: Local Plan update, appointment of inspectors.
 Street Scene: new recycling and waste service, Urbaser introductory leaflet. Councillors were reminded that a representative of Urbaser would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 April 2019. Any problems should be reported to the waste team at tmbc.gov.uk/recycleforall or by phone to 01732 876147.

Other

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Inside Track, Issue 257, funding opportunities; Rural Kent newsletter, 12.2.19.
 Communicorp: Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 122, March 2019.
 Counselling Centre: letter of thanks for donation.
 Campaign to Protect Rural England: newsletter, 16.2.19.
 Highways England: works to M20, 11.2.19-11.3.19.
 KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments, 8.2.19-1.3.19; Counter Terrorism Policing bulletin, 25.1.19; National CSSC fraud alerts, 29.1.19-21.2.19; Newquay parking enforcement survey; Kent Resilience Forum Parish Pack; KALC News, February 2019.
 Kent Downs AONB: newsletter, March 2019.
 Kent Police: Community Safety Unit spring plan update.
 Kent Wildlife Trust: local events, February 2019; newsletters 7.2.19-19.2.19.
 Mayor's Office: Tree of Hope Afternoon Tea, 7.4.19, supporting children's healthcare needs. Details at treeofhopecc.eventbrite.co.uk.
 NALC: Local Council Review.
 National Allotment Society: notification of AGM, 8.6.19; Allotment & Leisure Gardner, Issue 1 2019.
 Plaxtol Church pastoral team: letter of thanks for donation.
 Tunbridge Wells & District Samaritans: letter of thanks for donation.
 E-watch nos. 1626-1636.

7. Payments/Finance

Councillors noted that the payment to Eon Energy for street lighting during January was £111.43 against the estimated cost of £102.86 following price increases at the end of January. Eon Energy payment for February is estimated at £122.89. Actual will be confirmed at the April meeting.

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

The following receipts were noted:	£
Bank interest	3.09
Spoute playground project balance of funds	56.12
Donation Spoute playground project	500.00
The following payments were approved:	£
KALC: Councillor recruitment flyers	3.61
Cllr Carboni: reimbursement recruitment event	27.50
Cllr Thomas: reimbursement recruitment event	50.50
Streetlights: replacement bracket lights	3,180.00

Clerk salary & reimbursements February 2019	630.81
Eon Energy: street lighting February 2019	122.89

8. Planning

Councillors noted that an appeal had been lodged against TMBC's refusal to permit development at Ringlestone, The Street, TM/18/02470/FL. The Parish Council had objected to this application. It was agreed that, should the appeal be successful, the precedent thus set regarding backland development could have far reaching and hugely detrimental effects on the distinctive nature of the pattern of settlement in Plaxtol village. Councillors therefore agreed that, exceptionally in this case, professional advice would be sought in formulating the Parish Council's response to the appeal, due by 22 March. It was agreed that Cllr Carboni would make enquiries to determine a suitable appointment.

Action:
Cllr
Carboni

TMBC 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%. **No objection.**

Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Little Damas, Yopps Green TM/18/02742/FL, TM/18/02473/LB

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of new part 1, part 2 storey rear extension, new porch, alterations to historic addition including a new pitched roof and door/window opening alterations, provision of a flue liner to the existing brick chimney and internal alterations. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

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. **No objection.**

Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Old Graingers, Plaxtol Lane TM/18/02098/LB

Listed Building Application: Removal of wall between existing kitchen and dining room. **Granted listed building consent.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

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. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Parish council decisions

Cartref, 9 Bourne Vale TM19/00213/FL

Section 73 variation to condition 2 of TM/17/01689/FL to allow render to all 3 sides of the extension. One letter of objection had been received.

Councillors agreed that, as this was a retrospective application, a site visit should be undertaken to view the effect of the rendering. A decision would then be reached via email for a timely response to be made to TMBC.

Fern Bank, Roughway Lane TM/19/00340/FL

Side and rear extension. **No objection.**

Malling Well House, The Street TM19/00271/TNCA

T1 Five Hazel Stumps- remove to create space for further planting of fruit trees and vegetable patch and T2 Hawthorn – coppice. **No objection.**

Walnut Tree Cottage, Long Mill Lane TM/19/00359/FL,

TM/19/00360/LB

Proposed replacement garage and replacement rear single storey extension. Works to roof, windows and walls to restore the property to a stabilised structural and breathable condition, lowering of floor to kitchen. Other minor works internally. French drain to perimeter of cottage walls. **No objection.**

9. Meeting Feedback

i) Parish Partnership Panel, 7.2.19. Cllrs Simpson and Thomas had attended this meeting which had discussed the following issues:

- the upcoming Borough and Parish elections in May;
- Brexit preparedness and the work of KCC and the Kent Resilience Forum;
- new waste contractor Urbaser from 1 March; new service arrangements would begin in September 2019, including a new opt-in garden waste scheme;
- the transfer of existing public conveniences to local parish councils;
- the submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate;
- the consultation on local library provision, with the offer from local parishes to contribute to costs;
- update on local police initiatives.

ii) Chairman's meeting with local Police, 22.2.19. The Chairman reported that, as part of the KALC enquiry into parish satisfaction regarding interaction with their PCSOs, he had met with Inspector Rothwell of the Community Safety Unit to discuss contact processes. It had been agreed that PCSOs should make regular contact with Parish Offices and Clerks and that a monthly update on local crime or other issues would be produced by PCSOs for Parish Councils. KALC would be asking Parish Clerks to get in touch with their PCSOs to make initial contact. It had been agreed that PCSO attendance at Parish Council meetings would be a matter for local agreement.

10. Community Services

The Chairman reported that it had been brought to his attention that the surgery in Borough Green would no longer be offering a prescription collection service from the Village Stores for prescriptions requiring payment. The Chairman is pursuing this issue with the practice.

Action:
Cllr
Thomas

11. Basted Mill Public Open Space

Cllr Simpson reminded Councillors that at last month's meeting the issue of the Parish Council's continued membership of the Basted Mill Public Open Space management committee had been discussed. It was considered that there was a small but significant financial risk to the Council should a major repair or maintenance issue arise. As requested, TMBC had been approached for an assurance of indemnity should exceptional expenditure arise which wiped out the BMPOS reserves and required the Parish Council to contribute to any necessary excess. A response was still awaited. Cllr Simpson advised that, under the terms of the constitution, a decision to quit the management committee would require 12 months notice and would need to be given before the 31 March. It was agreed that Cllr Simpson would seek an answer from TMBC before the next BMPOS meeting, on 28 March, and that a decision based on TMBC's response would be sought from Councillors via email in order that the notice requirements could be met should the Council choose to withdraw.

Action:
Cllr
Simpson

12. Highways & Transport

It was reported that Roughway Lane would be closed from 25 March 2019 for up to 5 days for a new water main connection to be made.

13. Any Other Business

- i) It was reported that the stile at Yopps Green, MR329, was in need of repair.
- ii) Councillors were advised that the white lines at the junction of The Street and Church Hill had been replenished as requested by Council.

14. Date of Next Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, Monday 1 April 2019 at 8 pm.
Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 15 April 2019, 7.30 for 8pm.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

