

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Monday 5 February 2018 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Brewin, J Cannon, M Carboni, J Denham, B Pardesi, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk); 2 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr K Johnson; Boro Cllrs S Perry, T Shaw, M Taylor

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

Two members of the public were present to express their support for the Village Stores and their concern regarding current issues surrounding the installation of external chiller fans. They wished it to be noted that the future of the shop is a primary concern for the Parish.

The Chairman thanked them for their input.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Pardesi declared a DPI in item 5 as this relates to her business. In the interests of transparency, Cllr Cannon declared an interest in planning application TM/18/00029/FL, Upper Manor Farm, Old Soar Road. There is no DPI or Other Significant Interest in this case.

3. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 8 January 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters arising**

item 6: Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan. Cllr Carboni advised that the plan would have no local impact and, after discussion with Boro Cllr Taylor, no response from Plaxtol would be necessary.

5. **Parish Plan**

Assets of Community Value – Plaxtol Village Stores.

The Chairman moved this item up the agenda for the benefit of the members of the public present.

Cllr Pardesi withdrew for this item.

The Chairman advised that retrospective planning permission for the installation of 3 external chiller fans was being sought. The first application had been withdrawn following letters of objection to TMBC, centring mainly on noise levels and access. The leaseholder at the Village Stores was seeking expert advice on solutions, including possible relocation and would be submitting a second planning application when a suitable solution was found. The Parish Council was offering support as appropriate as the Village Stores is an Asset of Community Value and as such needs to be protected as far as is possible. All involved were aware of the need for swift action and it was to be hoped that all parishioners would assist in finding a satisfactory solution.

6. Council Matters

- i) General Data Protection Regulations. The Clerk advised that she had attended a KALC workshop on the new regulations which were due to become law in May 2019. Although it was recognised that the amount of personal data the Council holds is minimal, there were a number of issues which the Parish Council would need to address, including electronic storage of data, the publication of a privacy policy and privacy notices, and the appointment of a Data Protection Officer. NALC would be providing models and toolkits in due course which the Council would be able to adapt to its purposes.
- ii) Clerk job evaluation. Cllr Simpson reported that he and Cllr Carboni would be carrying out a job evaluation for the Clerk's post. Job description and evaluation needed to be formalised, which could either be agreed in-house, or by external independent evaluation if necessary. The latter would incur a cost of £150 and Cllr Simpson was seeking approval for this expenditure if required. Councillors approved the expenditure.

Action:
Cllr
Simpson,
Cllr
Carboni

7. Correspondence

KCC

Highways: monthly bus updates.

Consultations

TMBC Technical Services: Off-street Parking Charges consultations.

The Chair reported that he had requested an extension to the consultation period which, at 3 weeks, was short for many parishes. The request had been declined. It was agreed that Plaxtol Parish Council would not be making a response.

Department for Transport: consultation on the creation of Major Road Network. Cllr Carboni reported that he had made a positive response to this consultation, and had supported that 'regionally based' initiatives provided these extended to local areas. The proposals also concentrated on the Lower Thames Crossing and M25 south-west quadrant which had presented an opportunity to include support for the inclusion of J5 slips in any future strategic plan.

Kent Police: Draft funding proposals 2018-2019.

KCC: improving access to Tonbridge Station. Details at consultations.kent.gov.uk.

Other

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Community Led Housing information event, 9.3.18.

Banijay UK: Big Things, TV public art project.

Bluebird Care: Community Grant Scheme 2018.

Campaign to Protect Rural England: Countryside Voice, Winter 2017; Planning Explained; Field Work, Winter 2017.

Gatwick Airport: invitation to discover Gatwick, 21.2.18.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People: Great British Dog Walk, 21.3.18.

KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments: 12.1.18-26.1.18;

NALC review of park homes consultation; update on KCC Household Waste Recycling Centre policies; volunteer panel members, schools admission appeals; Kent Community

speedwatch; Kent Carers Matter campaign; KFRS volunteer recruitment; Annual Planning Conference, 16.3.18; Flood Warden training, 12.3.18.

Kent Police: Rural Liaison Team report, January 2018.

Kent Tree & Pond Wardens: training events.

Kent Wildlife Trust: local event, 15.1.18; newsletter, January 2018.

T&M Citizens Advice Bureau: letter of thanks for donation.

E-watch Nos 1517-1525.

8. Payments/Finance

- i) Councillors considered a request for further funding from the Heart of Kent Hospice. It was noted that £100 had been donated in May 2017. An additional donation of £250 was approved.
- ii) It was noted that interim expenditure of £468 for the installation of grass matting with the new gym equipment at the Spoute Recreation Ground had been approved by Cllrs Denham and Simpson.
- iii) A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

The following receipts were noted:

	£
Watson: fee for skip in car park	100.00
HMRC: VAT refund 2016/17	1,862.14

The following payments were approved:

	£
Caloo Ltd: gym equipment Spoute Rec	5,961.60
P Broad: hedge cutting	174.00
Memorial Hall: hire charges Oct-Dec 2017	57.00
Plaxtol PCC: meeting hire 8.1.18	36.00
Kent Men of the Trees: subscription	25.00
Kent Tree Wardens: donation	100.00
Tunbridge Wells & District Samaritans: donation	75.00
Clerk salary & reimbursements January 2018	633.08
Eon Energy: street lighting January 2018	90.51

9. Planning

Parish council 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. **No objection.**

10. Emergency Plan

Cllr Brewin reported that the Parish Emergency Plan was in the process of being updated and would be available for approval at the next meeting.

11. Recreation Grounds

Cllrs Carboni and Denham reported that the project group had held a meeting to establish the choice of climbing frame and to consider fund raising ideas. They would be meeting with the Chairs of the steering group in the near future for an update on progress and to see what support is currently needed.

Cllr Denham reported the successful installation of the gym equipment at the Spoute Recreation Ground complete with grass

matting. Feedback from parishioners had been positive. Councillors thanked Cllr Denham for her work on this aspect of the project and for having negotiated a bargain price with the supplier. It was noted that the playground inspection was due to take place on Thursday 8 February.

12. Basted Mill Public Open Space

Cllr Simpson had attended the meeting on 25 January 2018. He reported that winter storm damage to trees had been less than anticipated and that finances were in a reasonably healthy position. Ongoing issues were damage to the weir, and damage to the boundary wall. Discussion were continuing between Crest Nicholson and the Environment Agency to ascertain responsibility for the weir. Further quotes for wall repair were being sought, with the possibility of grant funding also being available.

13. Highways & Transport

Cllr Carboni reported that he had received quotes for parking signs at pinch points on the bus routes. The next step was to decide the exact wording on the signs and the best locations. Householders' permission for installation would be obtained where relevant.

14. Memorial Hall

Cllr Denham had attended the meeting of 16 January 2018. She reported that Hall finances remained healthy. Some work to solve a condensation issue was required in the cottage and maintenance and redecoration work to the Hall was scheduled. Talks were in train with Gigaclear to negotiate a better deal for wifi provision.

15. Any Other Business

It was reported that the street light outside Kingscote was not working. The Clerk confirmed that the contractors had been advised and repair was awaited.

16. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 8 March 2018 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 9pm