

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Brewin, J Cannon, J Denham, B Pardesi, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk)

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

1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

None.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 5 February 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment: item 7, creation of major road network, amend 'M25 south west quadrant' to 'M25 south-east quadrant'.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Council Matters

Casual vacancy. The Chairman reminded Councillors of the continuing vacancy. Advertisements in the Herald, on the website and on Facebook had failed to elicit a response. He asked all Councillors to continue to make enquiries to identify possible candidates.

**Action:
All Cllrs**

6. Correspondence

KCC

Highways: monthly bus updates, January 2018.

TMBC

Environmental Projects Coordinator: Great British Spring Clean 2018; Kent Toad Patrol, details at [Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group](#).

Leisure Services: Easter holiday activities 2018.

Parish Partnership Panel: meeting papers, 15.2.18.

Other

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Inside Track, Issue 251, funding opportunities.

Age Concern, Malling: letter of thanks for donation.

Communicorp: Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 116, March 2018.

Campaign to Protect Rural England: local branch report.

KALC: Parishes in Bloom 2018; NALC bulleting on national developments 9.2.18-23.2.18; KFRS Flood Warden training; Parish News, February 2018; cold weather advice from Kent Resilience Team; review of local government ethical standards.

Kent Downs AONB: Landscape Management Plan, public consultation, details at kentdowns.org.uk.

Kent Men of the Trees: Trees in the Village Competition 2018.

Kent Wildlife Trust: local event 19.2.18.

South-East Water: draft Water Resources Management Plan 2020-2080.

Tunbridge Wells & District Samaritans: letter of thanks for donation. E-watch Nos 1526-1534.

7. Payments/Finance

i) Councillors were informed that notification had been received from Eon advising of increased energy charges from April 2018.

Advice from street lighting contractors was that Eon currently remained the best value for money.

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

The following receipts were noted:

Zurich Insurance: car park wall repair	£ 420.00
Bank interest	3.09

The following payments were approved:

Craigdene Ltd: playground inspection	£ 234.00
Plaxtol PCC: Herald contribution	1,000.00
Heart of Kent Hospice: donation	250.00
Clerk salary & reimbursements February 2018	618.88
Plaxtol PCC: churchyard maintenance	2,200.00
Eon Energy: street lighting February 2018	87.59

8. Planning

TMBC decisions

Little Mead, Roughway Lane TM/17/03370/FL

Division of existing house into two separate dwellings. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Parish council decisions

Basted Farm House, Basted Lane TM/18/00324/FL

Demolition of single storey side extension to the north end of the property and replacement with new extension. **No objection.**

The Retreat, Plaxtol Lane TM/18/00337/FL

Part ground floor and first floor front/side extension, porch enlargement, new roof covering with extended eaves projects and tile hanging at first floor level. **No objection**

Spoute House, Long Mill Lane TM/18/00351/LB

Listed Building Application: Replace chimney pots with pots more in keeping with the listed building. **No objection.**

9. Emergency Plan

Cllr Brewin advised that he had updated the Parish Emergency Plan. An amendment had been required in respect of the Golding Hop which was now a tea room and might therefore no longer be suitable as an evacuation assembly point. He had consulted the owners for their view and was awaiting a response. The Plan would be circulated in due course.

Action:
Cllr
Brewin

10. Meeting Feedback

Parish Partnership Panel, 15.2.18. Cllrs Simpson and Thomas had attended this meeting and reported on the following issues:

- a presentation from the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, who had advised that Council Tax was to include a £1 per month increase to fund additional police officers and call operators; online crime reporting was being trialled;
- that police had proposed to attend Parish Council meetings on a quarterly basis but that Plaxtol PC had expressed a preference for officers to be actively policing rather than attending meetings and requested that they attend only if there are local issues which need to be brought to the Council's attention;
- that local byelaws were superseded by Public Space Protection Orders for the life of that Protection Order. Byelaws would be reinstated when the Protection Order expired;
- that the leader of KCC had intervened to review the issue of subsidised bus routes.

11. Communications

The Clerk advised that the website was in need of simplifying and updating and that the designer had proposed to review the site at a cost of around £750. Councillors approved the update and proposed that a small working group be formed to facilitate the process.

**Action:
Clerk**

12. Allotments

It was reported that the lease and underlease had now been received from the solicitors and signed copies would be returned to them for completion.

13. Recreation Grounds

- i) Playground inspection. Cllr Denham reported that the playground inspection report had been received and that minor repairs were required to benches and wet pour surfaces. Strimmer damage to the wooden posts on the play equipment at the Winnie Bowes recreation ground had also been noted. Cllr Denham will investigate options for the wet pour cleaning and the Clerk will contact the maintenance contractors regarding the strimmer damage.
- ii) Project update. It was reported that the steering group had now established a Just Giving page for contributions to the fund and that they had secured a grant from the KCC member, Harry Rayner for £1,500. Further fund raising activities were being discussed. It had been noted from the questionnaire given to parents that signage was in need of improvement, with regard to both the location of the recreation ground and warning signs regarding the river. Cllrs Denham and Carboni will pursue this issue.

**Action:
Cllr
Denham,
Clerk**

**Action:
Cllrs
Denham,
Carboni**

14. Highways & Transport**Action:**

- i) JPCTCG, 1.2.18. It was reported that Philip Lightowler, Head of Public Transport for KCC, had attended the meeting and had confirmed that previously proposed savings of £4million on supported bus services had been reduced to £445k. Consultations were underway with the bus operators. Most services under review were not in this area. It was also noted that there is a new impetus to provision of J5 slips in view of the current review of major road networks. The local MP was lending support.
- ii) It was reported that the service on street light maintenance from the current contractors was unsatisfactory. A proposal had been received from an alternative provider, Streetlights, who serviced and was recommended by several of the parishes in the area. Councillors agreed to an initial one year contract at a cost of £487.50, which would include an annual inspection of the lights with additional repair costs.
- iii) Parking signs. The Chairman reported that quotes had now been received for parking signs for the bus routes. Councillors approved a quote from Royal British Legion Industries for 7 signs at a cost £405.75 ex VAT. It was planned to place signs at four pinch points on The Street, one at Spoute Island, and two at Dunks Green. The Chairman advised that Highways approval was being sought to locate some of the signs on existing Highways street signs and that residents' agreement had been received for other locations.

15. Battle's Over national tribute, 11.11.18

Councillors were reminded that the Parish Council had agreed with the pageantmaster to participate in the national tribute by lighting a beacon. It was agreed that Cllrs Brewin and Cannon would consider options for a beacon and for an event to mark the occasion and that interest from the wider community would also be sought.

**Action:
Cllr
Brewin,
Cllr
Cannon****16. Any Other Business**

- i) Cllr Denham reported that gritting of The Street had not been fully completed with KCC gritters terminating at The Papermakers Arms instead of continuing to the bottom of the road. An explanation would be sought from KCC Highways.
- ii) The Chairman expressed his thanks to SE Water's contractors for their helpful and speedy response to repairing and re-opening The Street following repairs to the burst water main caused by the freezing weather conditions.

**Action:
Clerk****17. Date of Next Meeting:****Tuesday 3 April at 8 pm. (NB please note day.)**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

