

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Monday 6 February 2017 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Anketell, M Brewin, J Cannon, M Carboni, J Denham, D Fermor, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr 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 9 January 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Item 6: Kent Minerals & Waste site plans. Cllr Carboni confirmed that he had responded to this consultation in general support of the proposals.

5. Correspondence

KCC

Highways: concrete bus stop pole replacement programme; December, January monthly bus updates.

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership: volunteer programmes.

TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee: meeting papers 25.1.17.

Environmental Projects Co-ordinator: Great British Spring Clean. More details at www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk.

Safer & Stronger Communities: Public Space Protection Orders, public consultation. Cllrs Brewin, Cannon, Fermor will consider a response.

Details from www.tmbc.gov.uk/pspo.

Other

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Inside Track, Issue 243, funding opportunities; Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project.

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

Campaign to Protect Rural England: Board Meeting papers, 27.1.17.

Gatwick Airport: Noise Management Board public meeting, 31.1.17.

KALC: KFRS Fire Hydrant review meetings; Area Meeting papers, 12.1.17; Neighbourhood Planning workshop 22.2.17; NALC bulletins on national developments, 13.1.17, 27.1.17; rural policing update, 30.1.17; How to Keep it Local, Locality guide; KCC Kent Drug & Alcohol Strategy 2017-2022 public consultation – details at consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/KentDrugandAlcoholStrategy/consultationHome.

Lord Lieutenant's Office: Civic Service invitation, 14.3.17.

National Allotment Society: notification of AGM, 1.4.17.

**Action:
Cllrs
Brewin,
Cannon,
Fermor**

E-watch nos 1411-1422.

6. Payments/Finance

Councillors noted that TMBC had advised that they would not be contributing to the maintenance of churchyards in the future. Discussions with the Rural Deans were continuing on the provision of burial spaces within the Borough.

It was noted that PKF Littlejohn would remain as the appointed auditor for the Parish Council.

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members. Councillors were advised that the access to the Winnie Bowes recreation ground had now been repaired at a cost of £2,800 ex VAT. Penfold Driveways had effected the repair on the recommendation of Fairlawne Estate and had offered a much reduced cost provided that the work could go ahead immediately. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had approved the work, which had been outstanding from the playground inspection reports. The Chairman was in discussion with other organisations regarding contributions to the cost.

The following payments were approved:	£
National Allotment Society: annual membership	66.00
Plaxtol Primary School: hedge cutting	200.00
Commercial Services Ltd: grounds maintenance	574.49
Broad Signs: Memorial Hall plaque	366.00
Plaxtol Playtime: donation	500.00
Penfold Driveways: Winnie Bowes access repair	3,360.00
Clerk pay and re-imbursments January 2017	496.25
Eon Energy: street lighting January 2017	82.75

7. Planning

TMBC decisions

3 St Hildas TM/16/03394/FL

Subdivision of the existing plot, demolition of existing garage and outbuildings, with construction of a new 4 bedroom dwelling with new vehicle access onto The Street. **Refused**. Parish Council had **objected** to this application.

Wealden House, Long Mill Lane TM/16/03417/FL

Part 1, part 2 storey rear extension with roof terrace; loft conversion including new dormers to front and rear elevation roof slopes. New windows, new external tile hanging and internal alterations (minor amendments to approved scheme TM/16/01248/FL). **Granted permission**. Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Woodruff, Basted Lane TM/16/03474/FL

Proposed garage extension and internal alterations. **Granted permission**. Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Parish council decisions

Chance Cottage, Long Mill Lane TM/16/03766/FL

Two storey rear extension. **No objection**.

The Granary, Broadfield Farm, Old Soar Road TM/17/00150/FL

Demolition of existing garage building and erection of extension to dwelling including garage (renewal of planning permission TM/14/00693/FL). **No objection**.

Kingscote, Tree Lane TM/17/00161/TNCA

Reduce Yew tree by 50%. **No objection**.

8. Parish Plan

i) Assets of Community Value. The Chairman reported that the sale of the Papermakers Arms had been agreed with the current landlord and that contracts had been exchanged. Although the moratorium period had not yet expired, the legislation allowed for sale provided an asset is sold as a continuing business. If completion did not take place, the community bid would be reactivated. All expenses incurred to date had been absorbed by the steering group.

The Chairman also reported that the butcher's shop was currently being refurbished for let as a florist's.

ii) Car parking working group. Cllr Carboni reported that Boro Cllr Taylor had been approached to facilitate the introduction of parking restrictions by means of yellow lines on the blind left hand bend on The Street and opposite the car park.

Councillors agreed to delay the repair to the car park wall pending completion of the building works to a neighbouring property. Councillors also noted that the car park was being used to park a skip on a regular basis in connection with that build and agreed that the householder should be charged accordingly.

9. Meeting Feedback

KALC, 12.1.17. The Chairman reported that neither he nor Cllr Simpson had attended the meeting due to adverse weather conditions. He reported that the meeting had discussed the closure of the Nat West bank in Borough Green and the issue of member planning site visits, which were now to exclude the public, but which it had been agreed a Parish Council representative could attend. The issue was to be further discussed at Parish Partnership Panel.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending a KALC information event on 28 February 2017 regarding current discussions on the devolution of powers and different models of Local Government at principal authority level across Kent and Medway. At this stage, attendance was being limited to one representative per KALC membership.

Action:
Cllr
Thomas

10. Community Safety

i) Volunteer Community Support Warden Scheme. Cllrs Cannon and Fermor advised that they had been unable to ascertain any interest in the scheme from neighbouring parishes. The Community Warden for the area had accepted an invitation to speak to the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April about her work.

ii) Fire hydrant monitoring. Cllrs Anketell and Brewin had attended a briefing on the role of the community in monitoring fire hydrants, which are the responsibility of the water company. It was reported that hydrants in rural areas need more frequent monitoring than those in urban areas and that consequently volunteers were being sought from communities to advise when maintenance issues arose. A monitoring exercise of the 30 hydrants in the parish was to be carried out over the next two months, after which volunteers would be sought for ongoing monitoring.

11. Recreation Grounds

Cllr Denham reported that she had received two quotes for repairs, including repainting, to the play areas and was seeking a third. Quotes for the installation of a see-saw at the Spoute Recreation Ground were also in progress. To avoid delay, it was agreed that Cllr Denham would make a recommendation to Councillors when all the quotes had been received and that Councillors would give approval to action both repairs and installation by email.

Action:
Cllr
Denham

Cllr Denham also reported that there had been an unavoidable delay to the installation of the new entrance at the GML, but that this would be going ahead with the help of volunteers from the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, who would be assisting with hedging.

12. Highways & Transport

i) Freight Action Plan consultation. Cllr Brewin advised that there were five strands to the plan including lorry parking and initiatives to keep HGVs on the major road network and that KCC was aiming to reduce the impact of freight traffic on local communities. A draft response had been circulated for Council approval. It was noted that the Parish Alliance had raised the issues of J5 slips and of air pollution and poor air quality in Borough Green and Platt and that these issues had been included in the Parish Council response.

ii) Bus services. The Chairman advised that several residents had complained about the 220 schools bus service, which was currently running a single decker bus resulting in standing room only for Plaxtol children for an hour's journey to school. An unsatisfactory response to complaints had been received from KCC and the Chairman had now referred the issue to County Cllr Dagger, who had agreed to pursue the issue with the Head of Transport at KCC. The matter had also been taken up by Boro Cllr Taylor and the Parish Alliance.

13. Memorial Hall

The Chairman reported that all issues with the Memorial Hall were satisfactory. The AGM would be held on 2 May 2017. Councillors requested that the issue of poor heating be raised with Hall committee.

Action:
Cllr
Thomas

14. Any Other Business

i) Cllr Cannon reported that she would be raising the issue of a large water-filled pothole on The Hurst with Highways.

ii) Cllrs Simpson and Brewin are to attend the meeting of the Parish Alliance on 24 February 2017.

15. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 6 March 2017 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

