

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Monday 23 April 2018 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllr P Thomas (Chairman), 5 Parish Councillors; KCC Cllr H Rayner; Boro Cllr T Shaw; L Thomas (Clerk); 9 members of the public

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Chair's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed thanks to the Clerk and to the Internal Auditor, Marian Hemsted, for their work during the year. He also thanked Borough Councillors Mike Taylor and Tim Shaw for their help during the year, and County Councillor Harry Rayner for his support and advice.

3. Kent County Councillor's Report

Cllr Rayner introduced himself to the meeting and advised that his work at KCC involved the regeneration of communities and planning for future County level requirements such as schools, colleges, mineral working. He advised that a new recycling and waste service was being negotiated to co-ordinate work across districts and that kerbside collections would change as a result. KCC would be consulting on this initiative. Other recycling initiatives in materials such as wood, cardboard, scrap metal were also under way. The county's plastic waste was no longer being transported overseas. In answer to questions from the floor, Cllr Rayner confirmed that the County was seeking to recycle as much plastic as possible, some would continue to go for incineration and some was being exported for use in cement manufacture. He confirmed that there were no current Kent initiatives to encourage reduced public consumption of plastic and that such initiatives would need to come from central government.

3. Chairman's Review of the Year

The Chairman thanked his co-Councillors for their work during the year. He reported on progress against 2017-18 priorities.

- Budget – precept raised by 55% as a result of the withdrawal of the Financial Arrangement by TMBC. Tight budgeting had resulted in a 0% raise for the forthcoming year, 2018/19.
- Development of relationships with other councils, KCC, TMBC, other parishes, through KALC and the 6 Parish Alliance. The big issue was the likely inclusion in the Local Plan of 3,000+ houses in Borough Green, on Green Belt land within an AONB. Amongst other protests, the issue of contamination of the site had been raised and it was possible that the Parish might be asked for support for minerals tests in the future.
- Parking. Signs were to be placed at pinch points in Plaxtol and Dunks Green to remind parishioners to park considerately on the bus route. In response to a question from the floor about the provision of yellow lines, the Chairman confirmed that other strategies were being pursued first.

- Southern-water Basted pumping station. Problems with the pumping station had been caused by lack of maintenance and neglect on the part of TMBC. It was confirmed that the sewage infrastructure was struggling to handle current housing stock and that the additional housing proposed at Borough Green was not currently supported by upgrades to the sewage infrastructure. The Parish Council would be pursuing this issue during the coming year.
- Parish Environment issues: renewal of the allotment lease from Fairlawne Estate for a further five years; a full programme of repairs at the recreation grounds, new play and adult gym equipment at the Spoute Recreation Ground, matched funding provided for the Spoute Playground Project; a new entrance had been created to the GML from The Street to improve access; a new lighting contractor was assessing the street lighting stock; a gritter bin for the car park had been purchased. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Denham for her work on the GML project with Kent Downs AONB.
- Other issues included J5 slips, which was now receiving the support of the local MP; the threat to local bus services which would be the subject of an upcoming consultation. The Parish Council would be pursuing these issues.

The Chairman then outlined the Council's ongoing priorities for 2018/19 to include:

- continuing to work closely with all agencies regarding the Local Plan and the need to protect the Green Belt and AONB whilst identifying future housing needs;
- further develop a parking strategy for Plaxtol and Dunks Green;
- engage in consultation with KCC re the future of the bus services;
- continue to support the Spoute project;
- revamp the Parish website.

4. Any Other Business

A vote of thanks was given to the Parish Council and Chairman, the Clerk and the Borough Councillors for their work during the year.

5. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 15 April 2019 at 8 pm.