

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs M Anketell, J Cannon, 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 6 February 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Item 5: Public Space Protection Orders consultation. Cllr Brewin confirmed that TMBC's proposals provided for all open spaces within the Borough, with extra protection for specific TMBC owned areas. The position regarding Parish Council owned or managed areas was being investigated.

**Action:
Cllr
Brewin**

5. Correspondence

TMBC

Community Safety Partnership: Newsletter, March/April 2017.

Parish Partnership Panel: meeting papers, 16.2.17.

Area 2 Planning Committee: meeting papers 1.3.17.

Joint Transportation Board: meeting papers 13.3.17.

Other

Miss E Webb: letter regarding the proposed parking restrictions in Plaxtol village. Cllr Carboni will reply.

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Village Hall Convention, 8.4.17.

DaVinci School: information evenings.

KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments; Rural Affairs

Conference, 9.3.17; Kent Estates Partnership Board membership;

Parish News, February 2017; Planning Conference, 23.3.17; Better

Broadband Subsidy Scheme details; DCLG consultation – fixing our broken housing market; KALC membership survey 2017 – the Chairman and Clerk will respond.

**Action:
Cllr
Carboni**

**Action:
Cllr
Thomas;
Clerk**

Kent Downs AONB: Spring Update, February 2017.

Kent Men of the Trees: Trees in the Village Competition 2017. Cllr Johnson will consider entry.

**Action:
Cllr
Johnson**

Kent Tree & Pond Partnership: Tree & Pond Warden courses, February, March 2017.

Kent Wildlife Trust: Wild Times, February 2017.

National Allotment Society: Allotment & Leisure Gardner, Issue 1, 2017.

Plantlife: National Plant Monitoring Scheme.
Ewatch nos 1423-1430.

6. Payments/Finance

i) Councillors noted that the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2017/2018 had been notified as £7.57 per head of electorate, c£6.5k total.

ii) Councillors expressed their thanks to Plaxtol Cricket Club for their contribution to the repairs to the access to the Winnie Bowes Recreation Ground and cricket field.

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

The following receipts were noted:

	£
HMRC: VAT refund 2015/2016	1,863.03
Plaxtol Cricket Club: contribution to WB access	500.00

The following payments were approved:

	£
H&E Tree Services: annual tree maintenance	1,032.00
Clerk pay & re-imbursements February 2017	620.53
PPCC: churchyard maintenance	2,200.00
Eon Energy: street lighting February 2017	74.74

7. Planning

It was noted that the Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed) (TM/16/2928/LDP) in respect of the Golding Hop's change of use to a tea room had been certified as lawful.

It was noted that planning application TM/16/03772/PDVAR, Cherry Orchard, Long Mill Lane, had been withdrawn.

TMBC decisions

Kingscote, Tree Lane TM/17/00161/TNCA

Reduce Yew tree by 50%. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Spring Cottage, Long Mill Lane TM/16/03731/FL

Single storey rear extension. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Parish Council decisions

Grasmere Cottage, Church Hill TM/17/00383/FL

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey extension to rear. **No objection.**

4 Browns Cottages, Roughway Lane TM/17/00147/FL

Demolition of an existing garage outbuilding within the curtilage of an existing dwelling house and the construction of a replacement garage outbuilding with integrated office, WC, utility, store and first floor multi-purpose room. **Objection.** The application is a reworking of a proposal for which planning permission was refused on grounds of size and bulk yet the present proposal is for an even bigger building in the same unsuitable location. The Parish Council considers the Planning Officer's previous objections to be pertinent to this application also, and considers the proposal, by virtue of its size, to be overdevelopment within the Green Belt and to be out of character with, and to fail to preserve, the nature of the neighbouring cottages.

Hop Pickers Yard, Winfield Lane TM/17/00436/TNCA

T1 Eucalyptus to section fell. **No objection.**

Plaxtol County Primary School, School Lane TM/17/00448/TNCA

T1 Crab Apple- section fell- overhanging the swimming pool and dropping foliage and fruit into the swimming pool causing damage and T2 Multi Stemmed Ash- section fell- this tree is self seeded and situated poorly. **No objection.**

Tree House, Yopps Green TM/17/00411/TNCA

T1, Cercis siliquastrum - Reduce by 30%, T2, Holly - reduce by 50% and T3, Holly - reduce by 50%. **No objection.**

8. Meeting Feedback

i) Parish Partnership Panel, 16.2.17. Cllrs Simpson and Thomas had attended and reported on the following issues:

- that Southern Water had reported that the generator fault at the pumping station at Basted had been rectified;
- that KALC was revising the Parish Charter with TMBC for adoption in June;
- that it had been agreed that a Parish Council representative could continue to attend planning site visits in the role of observer, but would not be allowed to contribute to proceedings; members of the public would be excluded;
- that further restructuring of Kent Police was to take place with an increase in responsibilities for PCSOs;
- that Council Tax would increase by 3.99% to include a social care levy.

ii) Parish Alliance, 24.2.17. Cllrs Brewin and Simpson had attended this meeting and reported on the following issues:

- that the Local Plan submission from Ightham had not had Parish Council support and was being withdrawn;
- that KCC, TMBC and Environmental Health had been contacted for action regarding the quantity of dust blowing in Borough Green from PFA storage at the Celcon site;
- that Borough Green and Platt Parish Councils had commissioned a traffic analysis in connection with the Borough Green Gardens planning proposals;
- that Platt Parish Council was seeking a new highways entrance to its industrial estate;
- that the closure of the Nat West bank in Borough Green would go ahead;
- that the issue of overcrowding on the 220 bus would be pursued regarding a possibly KCC subsidy.

iii) KALC information meeting 28.2.17. Cllr Thomas had attended this meeting and reported on the following issues:

- the possible creation of unitary authorities in Kent;
- the financial penalties faced by Borough Councils appealing against planning decisions under the terms of the NPPF;
- the need for neighbouring parishes to work together in the future to deliver devolved services.

9. Allotments

The Chairman reported that he had approached Fairlawne Estate regarding the possibility of renewal of the allotment lease as no other suitable available land had been found locally.

10. Recreation Grounds

Cllr Denham reported that of the two quotes received for maintenance work to the play equipment, Barge was the most favourable. A third quote was awaited.

Cllr Denham also advised that she had now received three quotes for the installation of a see-saw at the Spoute Recreation Ground.

Councillors approved a quote of £3,563 from Sutcliffe Play for a 4-seater see-saw and thanked Cllr Denham for her work.

Action:
Cllr
Denham

11. Basted Mill Public Open Space

Cllr Simpson reported on a meeting of the management committee on 23.2.17. He advised that the financial position was sound, but that the agreed budget for 2017/2018 would be likely to draw upon the reserves of £21k. The damaged wall on Mill Lane remained subject to enquiries as to legal responsibility for the repair, but a replacement wall was unlikely because of cost. The possibility of a boundary fence was being investigated. The weir gate from the pond to the stream was also in need of repair. A tree management plan had been approved in the budget.

12. Highways & Transport

i) The Chairman advised that the NuVenture Bus Company were not intending to introduce a double-decker vehicle on the 220 School service despite complaints of undue standing requirement for many children, but that the possibility of support from KCC was to be investigated.

ii) It was reported that Bourne Lane would be closed from 27.3.17 for up to 5 days for SE Water to make a connection.

13. Any Other Business

i) Cllr Brewin reported that UKPN were currently negotiating land access and were expecting the switch over to underground cables to be completed in April.

ii) Councillors were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 24 April.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 3 April at 8 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

