

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Brewin, J Cannon, K Johnson, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs M Carboni, J Denham, B Pardesi; 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 2 October 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

i) Item 6: Broadband Universal Service Order consultation. Cllr Brewin had responded broadly in favour with the proposals. The response is available on the Parish Council website.

ii) Item 6: DCLG planning consultation. It was noted that TMBC's response had been circulated to Parish Councils. Cllr Carboni had responded to DCLG generally in support of TMBC's response. He had also responded to NALC's request for comments to inform its own response to the consultation.

5. Council Matters

i) Casual Vacancy. The Chairman advised that there was a casual vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Anketell. TMBC will be notified of the vacancy, following which a statutory period during which electors can call an election will be posted. If no election is called, the Council will be free to co-opt.

ii) DCLG consultation on strengthening standards for Councillors and Mayors. The Chairman advised that DCLG was seeking to extend the rules governing exclusion from serving on a parish council. Cllr Brewin will consider a response.

**Action:
Cllr
Brewin**

6. Correspondence

KCC

Highways: monthly bus updates, August, September 2017.

TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee: meeting papers 8.11.17.

Planning Policy: TMBC response to planning consultation.

Other

Parishioner correspondence: query re planning permission for development work at the Village Stores. The Chairman is dealing with the enquiry.

Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Inside Track, Issue 249, funding opportunities; West Kent Community Led Housing Hub.

Communicorp: Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 114, November 2017.

Campaign to Protect Rural England: Kent Voice, Autumn/Winter 2017; notification of AGM, 17.11.17.

Gatwick Airport: Discover Gatwick event, 21.11.17.

KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments, 15.9.17-27.10.17; Kent & Medway Funding Fair, 18.10.17; notification of AGM, 18.11.17; Community Awards Scheme 2018; SE Water annual stakeholder workshops; Parish News, October 2017; KCC draft budget strategy. This consultation is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/budget; Boundary Commission for England, review of parliamentary constituencies. Details at www.bce2018.org.uk/; Plunkett Foundation Inspiring Rural Communities conference 6.12.17; Crime Prevention conference, 7.12.17; KALC response to DCLG planning consultation; NALC news release re local council tax support grant and referendum principles for local councils.

Kent County Playing Fields Association: Newsletter, October 2017.

Kent Men of the Trees: visits & events.

Kent Wildlife Trust: Wild Times, October 2017.

Porchlight: Porchlight Post, Autumn/Winter 2017.

Victim Support: letter of thanks for donation.

E-watch: nos 1491-1500.

7. Payments/Finance

- i) Councillors approved a formal Letter of Engagement for the internal auditor to conclude the internal audit review process.
- ii) Cllr Simpson advised that the Internal Audit report for 2016/17 had now been received. This would be circulated to Councillors for consideration at the December meeting.
- iii) Councillors noted that NALC had advised that referendum principles in respect of precept setting would not be introduced for Parish Councils for 2018/19.
- iv) Councillors approved a request from a householder to place a skip in the car park from 7.11.17 to 23.11.17 at a charge of £50 per week.
- v) A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members. Councillors noted that funds of £1,560 had been lodged with the Council's solicitors in respect of Fairlawne's legal fees and a payment on account in respect of the Council's legal fees for the renewal of the allotment lease. It is not anticipated that there will be a major increase, if any, in this cost.

The following receipts were noted:

Hive Lotto	£ 26.50
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The following payments were approved:

Warners LLP: allotment lease legal fees	£ 1,560.00
Imperative Training Ltd: replacement defib pads	62.39
Kent Wildlife Trust: annual membership 2017/18	50.00

Kenward Trust: donation	100.00
Clerk salary & reimbursements October 2017	612.10
Memorial Hall hire charges July-Sept 2017	57.00
Eon Energy: street lighting October 2017	90.51

8. Planning

Councillors noted that the appeal against TMBC's refusal to grant planning permission for application TM/17/00604/FL, Ivy Cottage, Roughway, had been allowed. Parish Council had not objected to the application.

TMBC decisions

Aberdeen House, The Street TM/17/02637/TNCA

T1 Goat Willow to pollard to 8ft. **No objection.** Councillors noted that the Parish Council had returned an interim response of no objection to this application in line with the Tree Warden's report.

The Former Rectory, The Street TM/17/02422/TNCA

T1 - Silver Birch: fell to ground level to enable re-landscaping and re-planting and T2 - Sycamore: fell to ground level to enable re-landscaping and re-planting. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to the felling of T1, but had **objected** to the felling of T2.

Ringlestone, The Street TM/17/02409/FL

Demolish the conservatory, plant room and side extension and erect a two storey side extension with two storey bay window and single storey rear extension with roof light Detached double garage; construction of orangery to South-West elevation; porch to South-East elevation; amended windows to first floor, removal of 2 canopies to North-West and North-East elevations; garage conversion; new chimney to North-East elevation.

Granted permission. Parish Council had not objected to this application.

2 Shields Cottages, The Street TM/17/02361/TNCA

Dying tree- fell to ground level. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

The Studio At Little Allens, Allens Lane TM/17/02065/FL

Variation of condition 2 (showroom visits) of TM/09/00337/FL (conversion of half of 4 car garage block to studio/showroom) to allow showroom to be used by alternative business. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Tree Cottage, Yopps Green TM/17/02595/TNCA

T1 Elder to sever vine & ivy to remove as much vine as possible and crown reduce whole crown by approximately 1-2m. G1 Cornus & Hawthorn to reduce tops by 2m and lightly trim face. T2 Damson to crown reduce whole crown by approximately 1m. T3 Holly to trim side & top. T4 Cornus to trim top. T5 Crab Apple to crown reduce whole crown by approximately 1-2 and sever vine. G2 Roadside shrubs to trim back. **No objection.** Councillors noted that the Parish Council had returned an interim response of no objection to this application in line with the Tree Warden's report.

Parish council decisions

Bewley Lane House, Bewley Lane TM/17/02679/FL

Construction of a garden room extension. **No objection.**

Chapel House, School Lane TM/17/02828/TNCA

Cut back overhanging branches of Yew tree. Tree Warden recommends approval. **No objection.**

9. Meeting Feedback

KALC 12.10.17. Cllr Thomas had attended this meeting and reported on the following issues:

- progress of the Parish Charter [see item 10];
- that the Kent Police & Crime panel minutes are now available online;
- the KALC training programme;
- that the KCC bus subsidy is under review and that some subsidies will be lost.

10. Parish Charter

The Chairman advised that the draft had been amended in line with comments from the parishes recorded at the KALC meeting in October. TMBC were in discussion regarding the final draft, which would be submitted to Parish Partnership Panel for ratification in the new year.

11. Community Safety

The Chairman advised that the defibrillator located at The Plough in Basted had become waterlogged and so had been removed. Sevenoaks Community First Responders had offered a replacement cabinet and had advised that the defibrillator should ideally be located where the most 'at risk' population congregates rather than by even geographical spread and that the landlord of The Papermakers Arms had agreed that the defibrillator could be located there. Councillors approved the relocation.

12. Environment

Cllr Johnson advised that a report had now been received from Kent Men of the Trees in respect of the Trees in the Village competition 2017, and that Plaxtol had been placed in the 'Highly Commended' group. Councillors agreed that suggestions for maintenance work and for replanting would be pursued.

13. Recreation Grounds

i) Spoute Recreation Ground project. It was reported that three quotes for the installation of gym equipment had now been received. In the absence of Cllrs Carboni and Denham who are managing this aspect of the project, it was agreed to hold this item over till the December meeting.

Councillors agreed that the playground project group could promote Hive Lotto as a means of securing funding support. Payments received via the Lotto would be earmarked for the project until its completion.

ii) Councillors approved a request by a parishioner to use the recreation grounds for group circuit training. There was some discussion of whether a fee should be levied for users who were charging groups for boot camps and circuit training. Councillors agreed that while such groups were being run for the benefit of parishioners, and provided they did not become too large, a fee would not be charged. This will be kept under review.

iii) It was reported that the Kent Downs AONB Kent Orchards for Everyone project was supporting a little owls conservation project at

the GML. Nest boxes were to be installed for monitoring and survey purposes.

14. **Basted Mill Public Open Space**

Cllr Johnson had attended the meeting on 12.10.17 and reported on the following issues:

- that tree work and grass maintenance programmes had been approved;
- that consideration was being given to obtaining competitive quotes for the repair of the wall, to be forwarded to TMBC;
- that maintenance work on the weir was required and that the landowner was liable for this cost.

15. **Highways & Transport**

i) Parish Seminar 23.10.17. Cllr Carboni submitted a report on the following issues:

- reduction in the highways budget with savings needed in 2018/19 and further substantial savings in 2019/20. Parishes may need to take on some services currently offered by KCC;
- subsidies for bus services to be cut beginning in September 2018;
- online reporting for pot holes has proved the most effective way of tackling the issue;
- the organisation of community transport seminars;
- road drain clearance on A and B roads to happen once a year with other issues dealt with on a report basis.

ii) Tracker Survey 2017. This item was held over to the December meeting.

iii) It was noted that the list of traffic signs requiring repair/replacement which had been forwarded to KCC highways had been actioned. Two outstanding issues, a missing sign at Sheet Hill and replacement signage on the A227, remained but were being processed. Thanks were expressed to the Highway Steward for his help with processing repairs. A further issue regarding the renewal of white lines at the junction of Plaxtol Lane with the A227 was also being processed and completion was expected by the end of January.

iv) Community Transport seminar, 2.11.17. Cllr Thomas had attended this seminar which had provided an insight into the processes involved in providing community transport. Although cuts in bus services were not directly discussed, it was expected that totally subsidised routes such as the 404 Plaxtol to Sevenoaks service could be at risk. Cllr Johnson will liaise with bus companies to keep the situation under review.

v) Obstructive parking. The Chairman advised that several instances of inconsiderate parking which had blocked bus routes had been reported. Buses had experienced considerable delays. A request for yellow lines or other parking restrictions to be introduced had been received from a parishioner. Councillors expressed their concern that there was a real risk of losing the bus services through Plaxtol village because of careless parking and agreed to commission the parking sub

**Action:
Cllr
Johnson**

group to investigate deterrents such as yellow lines or signs. The Kent member would be approached to assist with funding.

16. Any Other Business

None.

17. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 4 December 2017 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 10pm