

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Monday 8 May 2017 at 8.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), M Anketell, M Brewin, J Cannon, M Carboni, J Denham, K Johnson, R Simpson; L Thomas (Clerk); 1 member of the public

Apologies: Boro Cllrs S Perry, T Shaw, M Taylor

1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

Mr Ron Williams was present to speak on planning application TM/17/00896/FL, which is his property. He advised that, although the property was situated in the Green Belt, the proposals to demolish existing disparate buildings and replace with a new dwelling and garage would result in an improved site with buildings of less volume. The site was screened from view and from the neighbours by a large native hedge. Advice had been sought from the planning authority and questions over access resolved. Mr Williams confirmed that he did not consider light pollution to be an issue.

The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his input.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 3 April 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Planning

This item was moved up the agenda for the benefit of the member of public present.

TMBC decisions

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

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey extension to rear.

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

Ivy Cottage, Roughway Lane TM/17/00604/FL

The demolition and rebuilding of existing house to incorporate extensions as approved under application TM/13/00838/FL. **Refused.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Trent Cottage, The Street TM/17/00453/FL

Two storey rear extension and a single storey rear extension. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Parish council decisions

Little Mead, Roughway Lane TM/17/00896/FL

Demolition of existing house and ancillary buildings. Construction of new house and detached garage. **No objection.**

1 Old Soar Cottages, Old Soar Road TM/17/00988/FL

Proposed cart barn to rear garden. **Objection.** The site is located in the Green Belt and within a conservation area. No special circumstances have been put forward to support additional development. The Council noted that an existent garage on the site was converted into habitable space in 2015.

5. Matters arising

Item 5: undergrounding of electricity cable. Cllr Brewin advised that UKPN had confirmed all cables were now underground. However, infrastructure works had yet to be completed and further work would be undertaken next month. Cllr Brewin was pursuing the issue with UKPN.

Action:
Cllr
Brewin

6. Correspondence

KCC

Highways: Pothole Blitz 2017; monthly bus updates, April 2017; Rural Bus Shelter Grant 2017.

TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee: meeting papers, 12.4.17.

Community Safety Partnership: CSP Newsletter, May/June 2017.

Leisure Services: letter of thanks for Y2 Crew donation.

Other

Campaign to Protect Rural England: Housing White Paper – Cllr Carboni advised that CPRE are pressing for the authority to amend Green Belt boundaries only where there are fully acceptable reasons; Broadwater Farm Local Plan development – Cllr Carboni advised that the latest proposals are for fewer houses and the extension of the Green Belt. CPRE is formulating a response; Countryside Voice, Spring 2017, Field Work, Spring 2017; CPRE lecture – The English Landscape, 24.5.17; Defra National Litter Strategy.

Gatwick Airport: Gatwick Airmail, Spring edition.

Groundwork: Kent & Medway Sheds Open Day, 2.6.17.

KALC: NALC bulletins on national developments, 31.3.17-28.4.17;

Village of the Year 2017; meeting papers, 11.5.17; Community

Learning Network event, 26.6.17; KFAS lecture – Death of

Municipal England, 20.5.17; Parish News, April 2017; Rural Policing

Update, 29.4.17; South-Eastern Rail Franchise consultation.

Kent Men of the Trees: programme of visits 2017.

Kent Showground: Kent County Show, 7-9 July 2017.

Kent Tree & Pond Partnership: training events, May 2017.

Kent Wildlife Trust: local meeting, 24.4.17; Wild Times, April 2017.

Kent County Playing Field Association: CPFA National Conference, 14.6.17.

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership: Environmental School Programme.

Porchlight: The Porchlight Post, Spring 2017.

South-East Water: Stakeholder Workshops, May 2017.

E-watch: Nos 1439-1446.

7. Payments/Finance

i) Hive Lotto. Cllr Anketell reported that the Parish Council was eligible to register for the TMBC lotto scheme as a way of fundraising. The weekly run lottery allowed ticket purchasers to specify which of the member groups should benefit from their purchase, the ticket income being divided 32% admin and prize money, 50% to the designated cause, 18% distributed across all member groups. Member groups would need to actively market their project to prospective

supporters. Councillors agreed that the Lotto could provide useful additional funding for projects such as the Spoute Recreation Ground refurbishment and agreed to register the Council. Cllr Anketell will take this forward.

ii) Amendment to Clerk's contract. Councillors formally approved the increase of contract hours from 40 to 50 per month which had been noted at the December meeting.

iii) Budget outturn. Councillors noted that there had been a budget surplus of c£8.5k which was largely due to the non-completion of the of the Spoute play area project. Funding had been carried over to 2017/18. An amendment to the figures was required in respect of the Memorial Hall plaque which had been wrongly assigned.

iv) Councillors approved a quote for £520 for repairs to the car park wall. It was agreed that an insurance claim would also be made. Councillors approved a £79pa subscription to Dropbox for cloud storage of Council documents.

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

The following receipts were noted:

	£
Fee for locating skip in car park	150.00
TMBC: precept 1 st instalment	19,114.50
Fairlawne Estate: contribution to access road repairs	500.00

The following payments were approved:

	£
Memorial Hall hire Jan-Mar 2017	38.00
Sutcliffe Play: see-saw installation Spoute Rec	2,375.40
Zurich Municipal: insurance 2017/2018	978.20
P Thomas: refreshment costs APM	34.12
Heart of Kent Hospice: donation	100.00
Clerk salary & reimbursements	618.82
Eon Energy: street lighting April 2017	87.59

8. Allotments

The Chairman advised that Fairlawne Estate had agreed to renew the allotment lease for a further 5 years with the period of notice of termination of the lease possibly reduced from 12 to 6 months. It was noted that the Parish Council would bear the cost of all renewal fees. Councillors expressed their thanks to Fairlawne Estate.

9. Recreation Grounds

Cllr Denham advised that the see-saw installation at the Spoute Recreation Ground was under way and that the new equipment would be operational by the coming weekend. Refurbishment work at the site had proved unsatisfactory and was to be rectified by the company responsible during May.

10. Basted Mill Public Open Space

Cllr Simpson reported that the AGM had been held on 19.4.17. Cllr Darby from Platt had been returned as Chair with himself as Vice-Chair. A strategic plan had now been formulated and a budget drawn up for the current financial year. The issue of the damage to the stone wall was outstanding with ongoing discussions regarding liability. The

future management of the site was under consideration with a possibility of TMBC withdrawing from the management committee.

11. Highways & Transport

It was reported that the A227 would be closed between Plaxtol Lane and High Cross Road for 4 nights from 14 June 2017 for resurfacing.

12. Memorial Hall

Cllr Thomas reported that the AGM had been held on 2.5.17. The Hall's funds were robust, although lettings needed to remain buoyant, with no major works currently planned. The purchase of a new fridge was under consideration.

13. Any Other Business

The Chairman advised that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Fermor. He expressed his thanks to Cllr Fermor for her work on the Council. The vacancy will be advertised.

It was noted that one crime had been reported: break in in Old Soar Road.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 5 June 2017 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 9.50pm