

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on 6 September 2021 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chairman), D Beynon, M Brewin, J Budworth, M Carboni, G French, M Hiddleston, S Knights, T Rolls; L Thomas (Clerk); Boro Cllrs W Palmer; Kent County Cllr H Rayner

Apologies: Boro Cllrs T Shaw, M Taylor

1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

Boro Cllr Palmer reported that the waste contract remained problematic with the brown bin service still suspended and the Saturday freighter service postponed indefinitely. She advised that the A25 had re-opened.

County Cllr Rayner reported that funding was being made available for bus service improvements, including the re-instatement of previously terminated routes, such as that currently ending at Ightham Mote, if desired. He advised that the Joint Transportation Board would be meeting at the end of the month and an application for any initiative, such as yellow lines to control parking, could be submitted to the Board on the understanding that any proposal would take some time to process. Cllr Rayner reported that the development proposal at Borough Green Gardens was still under consideration by TMBC, but was subject to a legal challenge as the site was on Green Belt land and was being considered as a preferred site without the required comparisons with other possible sites.

The Chair thanked both Councillors for their contributions.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 2 August 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Item 10: Cllr Budworth queried whether any action had been taken in respect of communications issues and was advised that this item would be included in the October agenda.

5. Council Matters

(i) The Chair welcomed Cllr Rolls to his first meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Rolls would initially join the Recreation & Open Spaces and Parish Enhancement groups.

(ii) Councillors considered the revised Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation, which were unanimously approved. Both documents will be reviewed in 2022.

6. Correspondence

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.
Councillors agreed to pursue the offer from Citizens Advice regarding the provision of an energy advice session. Cllrs Carboni, Knights and Thomas will pursue this initiative.

Action:
Cllrs
Carboni,
Knights,
Thomas

7. Payments/Finance

(i) Annual Return 2020-21. It was reported that the annual limited assurance review had been satisfactorily completed.

(ii) Councillors considered a quote from H&E Tree Services for annual tree maintenance. Cllr Knights had attended the tree inspection in her role as a Tree Warden and advised that the work schedule had met with approval. Some replanting at the Garrett orchard and at the Spoute was also under consideration. The quote for £1,464 (inc VAT) was approved.

(iii) Cllrs Knights and Thomas reported that a schedule of maintenance tasks had been agreed and put in train. Some tasks were related to issues raised in the playground inspection. The removal and disposal of a bench considered beyond repair at the Spoute Recreation Ground was approved.

Cllr Knights reported that, despite various expressions of interest, only one firm quotation (£5.5k) to replace the fence at the Spoute Recreation Ground had been received. Scrub clearance prior to installation would amount to a further £348. Councillors agreed to pursue other possible contacts before making a final decision.

Action:
Cllrs
Beynon,
Knights

(iv) Receipts & Payments. Councillors noted that a request for a financial contribution towards hedge trimming costs on School Lane had been received from Plaxtol Primary School. Councillors approved a donation of £200. A request had also been received from Shipbourne Parish Council for a contribution towards the replacement of the battery in the defibrillator located at the Kentish Rifleman. Both parish councils had funded the replacement in the past. Councillor approved to pay half the cost, £115.

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

The following payments were approved:	£
PKF Littlejohn LLP: audit fee 2020-21	360.00
KCPFA: subscription 2021	20.00
Fairlawne Estate: annual rent Winnie Bowes rec	1.00
NALC: Councillor training; Cllr Knights	51.71
Clerk salary & reimbursements, August 2021	713.14
Eon Energy: street lighting August 2021	58.79
Bank Service Charges	18.00

8. Planning

Councillors noted an appeal had been lodged against TMBC's refusal to permit planning application TM/20/01470/FL, land n-w of Winfield Barn (appeal reference APP/H2265/W/21/3272325).

Parish Council decisions

Councillors noted that responses in respect of the following had been made to TMBC since the 2 August meeting:

Land South West Of Claygate House, Winfield Lane TM/21/01856/FL

Conversion of existing redundant building to a single dwelling, revision to that submitted under reference TM/21/00147/FL. Parish Council **objected** to this application on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt, structural soundness of the existing structure, environmental concerns regarding contamination. Parish Council had requested that the application be called in to Area 2 Committee should the Planning Officer be minded to approve it.

Forge Cottage, The Street TM/21/02029/TNCA

T1 Magnolia Tree : reduce by 2 to 3 metres and prune to shape to maintain the health of the tree and keep it suitable for surroundings T2 Cherry Tree: reduce by 1 metre and prune to shape to maintain the health of the tree T3 Sycamore Tree : section fell to ground level to make way for an extension to be built, the tree is of low amenity value covered in ivy. The Tree Warden had approved the application. **No objection.**

Councillors considered the following applications:

Bartons Farm, Yopps Green TM/21/02008/RD

Details of condition 3 (watching brief) pursuant to planning permission TM/20/01707/FL (Create a separate unit of residential accommodation. Removal of modern link and swimming pool. Construction of link/extension, associated landscaping works (revisions to scheme approved under TM/19/01077/FL)). **No objection.**

Bartons Farm, Yopps Green TM/21/02009/LRD

Details of condition 3 (roof details) and 5 (materials) pursuant to planning permission TM/20/01708/LB (Listed Building Application: Create a separate unit of residential accommodation. Removal of modern link and swimming pool. Construction of link/extension, associated landscaping works (revisions to approved scheme under TM/19/01077/FL)). **No objection.**

TMBC decisions

Broadfield Farm Cottage, Old Soar Road TM/18/01499/FL, TM/18/01500/LB

Rear two storey extension and ground floor conservatory forming a kitchen, dining room and first floor ensuite bathroom. **Granted permission.**

Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Golding Orchard, The Street TM/21/01838/TNCA

Dying Willow tree - section fell as the tree is dying and needs to be removed before it becomes dangerous. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Rose And Crown Cottage, Sheet Hill TM/21/00623/FL

Conversion and extension of a detached workshop building within the grounds of Rose and Crown Cottage, to form new self contained dwelling, with garden and parking, retaining existing access to Sheet Hill. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

7 St Hildas, Plaxto TM/21/01400/FL

Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front elevation extension to existing single storey porch. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Woodruff, Mill Lane TM/21/01651/FL

Erection of single storey side extension with glazing and bi fold doors to be used as dining/entertaining space (as alternative to larger outbuilding granted a Certificate of Lawfulness under reference TM/21/00467/LDP that would be used for the same purpose) **Refused.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

9. Meeting Feedback

(i) KALC, 25.8.21. Cllr Thomas had attended this meeting and advised that it had consisted mainly of a discussion on how the group should inform and interact with the proposed new Parish Partnership Panel.

(ii) Parish Partnership Panel, 2.9.21. Cllr Thomas had attended this meeting and advised on the following issues:

- following changes at TMBC, a new Chair of PPP, Roger Dalton;
- presentation on the new TMBC website;
- KCC budget consultation;
- KCC consultation on the continuation of appointments to visit household waste sites;
- review into the operation of PPP, a number of options to be considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee resulting in a revised panel. Parishes were requested to submit their views to inform the discussion.

10. Community Affairs

(i) Assets of Community Value. Cllr Carboni advised that the forms had been completed and were awaiting processing by TMBC.

(ii) Local Government Boundary Commission England (LGBCE). The Chair advised that TMBC's consultation with the parishes on the boundary review had been poor and that TMBC had submitted its response without consulting the parishes or inviting their participation. TMBC's current proposal would remove Plaxtol Parish from its historical and current connections with Platt and Borough Green parishes, to be placed in a new Ward with Hadlow & West Peckham. Plaxtol PC had submitted its own response which had been acknowledged by LGBCE. LGBCE would be publishing a draft proposal in October for further consultation.

11. Environment

Councillors considered a proposal for the installation of an electric vehicle charging point in the Parish car park. Under a KCC scheme, the proposal was considering applications to locate the charging point in one of two possible sites: Memorial Hall car park; Parish car park. There were advantages and disadvantages to both locations including access, proximity of school and nursery, power supply, space. Approval had been given by the Memorial Hall Committee for an application to go ahead for the Hall car park. Applications would be subject to site survey. Councillors expressed general support for environmental initiatives of this kind and agreed to await the result of the site survey, retaining the right to make the final decision following that outcome.

12. Recreation Grounds

Councillors received a proposal from a young parishioner for the installation of an outdoor ping pong table at the Spoute Recreation Ground. It was agreed that there was little provision for older children in the recreation grounds and that the possibilities should be explored, initially via a survey to determine what kind of equipment would be preferred. Cllrs Budworth and Rolls agreed to take this initiative forward.

Action:
Cllrs
Budworth,
Rolls

13. Highways & Transport

Cllr Thomas reported that South-East water had investigated the leak at the Spoute and were effecting repairs. The issue had currently been resolved, but would be kept under review.

14. Any Other Business

It was noted that the Friends of Plaxtol Church were organising a barn dance in October and that the School fireworks would take place on 13 November.

15. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 4 October 2021 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Appendix 1

Correspondence List 6 September 2021

TMBC

Area 2 Planning Committee	Meeting papers, 11.8.21
Parish Partnership Panel	Meeting papers, 2.9.21
Community Safety Partnership	Newsletter, Summer 2021
Street Scene	Waste weekly update briefings, 6.8.21 - 3.9.21
Leisure Services	Music at Malling programme September 2021

Other

ACRK	Inside Track, August 2021 ACRE rural re-population KCC C-19 community venue reopening grants
Bluebird Care	Community Care Grant 2021
Citizens Advice	Energy advice sessions
Communicorp	Clerks & Councils Direct, issue 137, September 2021
CPRE	Newsletter, 12.8.21 - 14.8.21 Countryside Voices, Summer 2021 Fieldwork, Summer 2021
KALC	Local Government Bulletins: 27.7.21 - 3.9.21 KALC News: July, August 2021 Kent Police & Crime Commissioner newsletter, August 2021 Training/events, September 2021 CEO bulletin, August 2021 KCC Vision Zero launch event, 15.9.21 Men's Shed Conference, 8.10.21
Kent Men of the Trees	Arbor, Summer 2021
Kent Wildlife Trust	Newsletter: 6.8.21 Wilder Kent, Summer 2021
NALC	CEO bulletins on national developments: 6.8.21 - 3.9.21 Newsletters: 4.8, 31.8.21 Online events Local Council Review, Issue 3, 2021
NAS	Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 3 2021 Newsletter
S-E Water	Newsletter, Autumn 2021
E-watch	Nos 1890 - 1899
Consultations	
KALC	Cabinet Office: National Resilience Strategy call for evidence
KCC	Household Waste booking system
Gatwick Airport	Northern Runway consultation