

## PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on 4 October 2020 at 8.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs P Thomas (Chair), D Beynon, M Brewin, J Budworth, G French,; L Thomas (Clerk); Boro Cllr W Palmer; Kent County Cllr H Rayner

**Apologies:** Cllrs M Carboni, M Hiddleston, S Knights, T Rolls; Boro Cllrs T Shaw, M Taylor

### 1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

Boro Cllr Palmer reported that KALC now had 2 representatives with voting rights at Joint Transportation Board. She advised that Sarah Barker had had to resign as Chair of the Area KALC Committee as Kings Hill Parish Council, of which she was a member, had chosen not to renew their KALC membership. Cllr Palmer advised that Local Plan was now in disarray although the intention was to have a replacement plan approved by 2023, despite issues regarding the timing of call for sites and Regulation 18 & 19 consultations. There were also problematic issues regarding Tunbridge Wells' plans to build close to the Borough boundary at Tudeley. TMBC were pursuing the Borough Green Gardens planning option despite not having involved local stakeholders in any discussions regarding future planning on the site. Issues such as the timing of continuing mineral extraction rights had not been addressed. Borough Green Parish Council would be challenging this development.

County Cllr Rayner reported that KCC had continuing budget challenges. The Council had agreed to accept more unaccompanied child migrants on the understanding that the cost to the local tax payer is significantly reduced. Cllr Rayner advised that Wrotham Parish Council had met with TMBC's 'engagement' team on the issue of the proposed Borough Green Gardens, but had offered no views on the proposal. The original requirement to build the 'relief road' once c400 houses had been built was under review.

The Chair thanked both Councillors for their contributions.

### 2. Declarations of interest

None.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### 4. Matters arising

None.

### 5. Council Matters

(i) Councillors received a list of proposed meeting dates for 2022, which were approved.

(ii) It was agreed that the Finance Group would consider the issues concerning the provision of IT support to Councillors, initially with a survey to assess need. The outcome of the survey, with Finance Group recommendations, would be presented at the November meeting.

The Chair would prepare a paper on communication with parishioners via social media for the same meeting.

**Action:**  
Cllrs  
Beynon,  
Carboni,  
Knights,  
Thomas

## 6. Correspondence

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.

## 7. Payments/Finance

(i) Councillors received the Internal Audit Report for 2020-21 and noted that an issue had been raised with regard to the Clerk's annual appraisal, which had not taken place during 2020 due to Covid issues. Appraisal for 2021 would be arranged. Councillors expressed their thanks to Marian Hemsted for her hard work and commitment to the audit.

(ii) Councillors noted that the latest Governance and Accountability regulations had recommended that the current 3-yearly review of the appointment of the Internal Auditor be undertaken annually. The Internal Auditor had been consulted regarding this recommendation and had agreed that a full review on an annual basis was not necessary for a small council. Councillors agreed that a light touch review should be undertaken at the time of the Annual Return, with a full review every 3 years.

(iii) Receipts & Payments. Councillors noted the actual contribution towards the cost of the replacement defibrillator battery was £138. Councillors were advised of a rise in energy price for street lighting 22.1p to 25.4p per kWh wef 1 September 2021. A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

The following receipts were noted:

	£
TMBC precept 2 <sup>nd</sup> installment	25,231.00

The following payments were approved:

	£
P Gingell: repair work Spoute Rec, GML	150.00
J Riches: additional web hosting fee	149.95
Communicorp: Clerks & Councils Direct additional sub	8.00
SLCC annual membership	144.00
Plaxtol Primary School: hedge trimming	200.00
Shipbourne PC: defibrillator battery costs	138.00
Clerk salary & reimbursements September 2021	742.93
Eon Energy: street lighting September 2021	67.56

## 8. Planning

(i) The Chair advised that he and 4 fellow Councillors had attended a meeting with TMBC in conjunction with Platt Parish Council regarding the Borough Green Gardens proposal. The meeting was part of a series of 'engagement' meetings for TMBC to outline their intentions. The meeting had provided some useful information. It is TMBC's intention to consult fully in due course.

(ii) Planning applications.

### Parish Council decisions

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

Land East Of Little Allens, Allens Lane TM/21/02074/FL

Erection of dwelling, resubmission of approved planning permission TM/20/02929/FL. **No objection.**

Councillors considered the following applications:

Apple Tree Cottage, Plaxtol Lane TM/21/02191/LDP

Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: stationing of a mobile home in residential garden to provide ancillary accommodation. Councillors agreed to seek guidance from TMBC regarding the status of Lawful Development applications within a Conservation Area. It was noted that location of the site within the Conservation Area had been omitted from the application.

Club Cottage, Plaxtol Lane TM/21/02381/TNCA

Remove 3 dead Conifer trees which provide shielding for oil tank. Replace with 3 Conifer trees. Councillors agreed to respond in line with the Tree Warden's recommendations on receipt of his report.

The Former Rectory, The Street TM/21/02060/FL

Erection of a garden shed and green house. **No objection.**

Little Mount, The Street TM/21/02432/TNCA

Goat willow front boundary next to gate - pollard to reduce height and spread for tree health and in keeping with surroundings. Councillors agreed to respond in line with the Tree Warden's recommendations on receipt of his report.

#### **TMBC decisions**

14 The Street TM/21/01785/FL

Convert the integral garage into a kitchen/utility area to increase the ground floor living area. The property benefits from a driveway immediately in front of the garage which is used for parking, replace the existing up and over steel garage doors with side hinged steel insulated garage doors with enhanced security features. Replace the existing french doors and kitchen window with bi-fold doors and replace the existing rear door to the garage with a sash window in line with existing windows in the property. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Fir Tree Cottage, Yopps Green TM/21/01098/FL

Conversion of the existing garage and first floor extension providing annex accommodation. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had **objected** to this application.

Fir Tree Cottage, Yopps Green TM/21/01134/FL

Demolition of existing rear extension and pergola structure; and construction of a single storey rear extension. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had **objected** to this application.

#### **9. Young People**

Cllr Budworth advised that c30 responses had been received to an informal survey in favour of the provision of an outdoor ping pong table at the Spoute Recreation Ground. Provision of a basketball hoop had also been suggested. It was noted that contact had also been made with the Council by external groups seeking to support youth facilities, including the possibility of clubs, within the Parish. It was agreed that Cllrs Budworth and Rolls would take these issues forward, initially with a wider survey among young people as to what kind of provision they would prefer.

**Action:**  
**Cllrs**  
**Budworth,**  
**Rolls**

#### **10. Community Affairs**

(i) LGBCE ward boundary review. The Chair reported that, following initial submissions to the Boundary Commission, Shipbourne Parish Council had resolved to make a formal request at the next consultation phase that, because of strong historical and contemporary community links, the parishes of Shipbourne and Plaxtol should not be divided in any ward boundary change. The Chair proposed that Plaxtol Parish Council make the same request. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Brewin and unanimously agreed. A further request to the Commission to remain in a ward with Borough Green and Platt would be made by both parishes. The second phase of the consultation was due to start on 5 October.

(ii) Cllr French advised that the programme of events for the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee included a national proclamation during the day on the first bank holiday, Thursday 2 June, with a beacon lighting ceremony at 9pm. Discussions were in train with parish organisations regarding a 'street' party on Sunday 5 June, in line with the national event. Consideration was being given to holding this in the School grounds. The Cricket Club also offered use of its grounds and facilities. Councillors agreed that the provision of a beacon would be pursued and that financial support for the events would be agreed.

**Action:**  
**Cllr Thomas**

**Action:**  
**Cllr French**

**11. Recreation Grounds**

It was reported that two further quotes were being sought for the replacement of the fence at the Spoute Recreation Ground.

**12. Highways & Transport**

(i) It was reported that Cllr Carboni had received two comparable quotes for the new bus route signs, restricting parking, to be installed below the Papermakers Arms on The Street. Councillors agreed that the installation should go ahead with the most expedient provider.

**Action:  
Cllr Carboni**

(ii) JPCTCG meeting, 16.9.21. The Chair advised that Cllr Hiddleston had provided a report on this meeting, summarising the following issues:

- report by David Brazier, Cabinet Member for KCC Highways & Transport;
- MOTO lorry park proposal at Wrotham and concerns regarding the location in Green Belt and AONB and additional traffic generation;
- Vision Zero initiative to reduce road traffic accidents;
- active travel and bus strategies;
- Parish Councils' highways plans.

**13. Public Rights of Way**

Cllr French advised that the collapsed stile on MR338, reported by a parishioner, had now been removed by the landowner. A replacement would be installed in due course.

**14. Any Other Business**

It was reported that ownership of the red phone box at the Spoute had now been transferred to the Parish Council.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:**

Monday 1 November at 8 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

## Appendix 1

### Correspondence List 4 October 2021

#### KCC

Strategic Commissioning Funding to support self-isolation

#### TMBC

Audit Committee Meeting papers, 27.9.21

Community Safety Partnership Newsletter, Autumn 2021

General Purposes Committee Meeting papers, 5.10.21

Joint Standards Committee Meeting papers, 11.10.21

Leisure Services Candlemas at Tonbridge Castle

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting papers, 7.10.21

Safer Communities Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting, 22.9.21

Community payback scheme

Street Scene, Leisure & Tech

Services

Waste weekly update briefings: 10.9.21 - 1.10.21

#### Other

ACRK

Village Hall Photography competition

Oast to Coast, Summer 2021

Advice on keeping hall safe this winter

Climate & Ecology Bill support

CEE Bill Alliance

Newsletters, Campaign updates: 18.9.21 - 1.10.21

CPRE

KCC Covid safe training

KALC

LG Bulletins: 7.9.21 - 1.10.21

Training/events

Kent Plan Bee August Newsletter

KCC Member Environment Briefing, September 2021

KP&CC newsletter: violence against women & girls survey

Queen's Green Canopy project

KRF: Flood Warden training, 6.10, 9.11.21

CEO bulletin, September 2021

KCC Public Health: Covid controls advice & training

Kent Reconnect Locality Grant

Kent Police & CC newsletter

KCPFA

AGM, 7.10.21

Kent Police

Rural Matters, Autumn 2021

Rural Task Force Report, August 2021

Road Safety Week 15-21 November 2021

Kent Police Crime Commissioner

Police & Crime Plan Survey

Kent Wildlife Trust

Newsletters: 10.9, 28.9.21

CEO bulletins on national developments: 10.9.20 - 1.10.21

NALC

Newsletters: 8.9, 29.9.21

Star Council Award ceremony, 8.10.21

NALC events

Leadership elections

Points of Light

West Kent YMCA

Youth services in West Kent

E-watch

Nos 1900 - 1909

**Consultations**

KCC  
KCC

Domestic Abuse consultation  
Adult Social Care Strategy