

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chair), D Beynon, M Brewin, M Carboni, G French, M Hiddleston, S Knights, T Rolls; L Thomas (Clerk); Boro Cllr W Palmer

Apologies: Boro Cllrs T Shaw, M Taylor

1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

Boro Cllr Palmer advised that Shipbourne Parish Council had formulated an objection to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) proposal to place Plaxtol and Shipbourne parishes with Hadlow. The Chair advised that he had been working in collaboration with Shipbourne on Plaxtol Parish Council's own response to the Commission, supporting Shipbourne's proposal to include Offham parish within the current ward. Cllr Palmer advised that as a member of the Borough Council's General Purposes Committee she would support the proposal which would be submitted to that Committee at the same time as the Borough Council's own warding proposals.

With regard to the Local Plan, Boro Cllr Palmer advised that the Council was intending to complete the review of the call for sites before the end of the year, with Regulation 18 consultation in the spring. She confirmed that the failure of the Local Plan had resulted in a 21% increase in housing for the area, but that it was anticipated that this increase could be identified within the previous call for sites exercise.

Boro Cllr Palmer advised that a proposed increase in the brown bin subscription had been rejected.

2. Declarations of interest

In the interests of transparency, Cllr Carboni declared an interest in planning application TM/21/02939/TNCA, a neighbouring property. There is no DPI or Other Significant Interest in this case.

In the interests of transparency, Cllr French declared an interest in planning application TM/21/02805/TNCA, a neighbouring property. There is no DPI or Other Significant Interest in this case.

In the interests of transparency, Cllr Knights declared an interest in planning application TM/21/03126/FL, a neighbouring property. There is no DPI or Other Significant Interest in this case.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 1 November 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Council Matters

- (i) The Chair reported that Cllr Hiddleston had submitted his resignation wef 7 December 2021. The Chair and Councillors thanked Cllr Hiddleston for his contribution to the work of the Council during his term of office.
- (ii) It was confirmed that the meeting date for January 2022 had been moved to Tuesday, 4 January.
- (iii) The Chair advised that Cllr Rolls would be joining the Planning Group for the time being.

6. Correspondence

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.

7. Payments/Finance

(i) Budget 2022-2023. Councillors received a draft budget for consideration. Attention was drawn to the projected underspend on the Highways & Transport budget due to the changed plans to deal with parking issues and to the projected overspend on the Amenity Maintenance budget due to the increased spending approved by Council in August. It was noted that there had been a delay in the completion of the street light replacement programme due to an issue with supply, although it was hoped that this would still go ahead in-year. Councillors were also advised of a request from the Memorial Hall for assistance with EV charging points, if approved by KCC. Councillors approved an allocation of £2k. Other possible additional costs for 2021-22 included funding for the community cricket nets. It was noted that since the draft budget was prepared the allocation to the Energy budget for 2022-23 had been adjusted due to a 33% increase in Eon's electricity prices, which would also impact negatively on the current year's budget outturn. Projects for the coming year included improving play equipment at the Spoute Recreation Ground and funding for environmental initiatives.

Councillors were also advised that the current General Accountability Guide's guidance with regard to council reserves recommended a reserve between 25%-100% of budget with smaller councils closer to the upper end of the range. The Internal Auditor had agreed an increased reserve of 50%-70% of budget would be appropriate. Councillors approved this increase.

In view of the current financial climate, a 0% increase in precept was being recommended to Council for 2022-23. The tax base figure confirmed by TMBC indicated that a 0% increase resulted in a 0.4% real terms decrease (£0.33 per annum on a Band D property). A revised draft budget would be circulated and Councillors were requested to forward their observations as soon as practicable for an updated draft to be prepared for approval at the January meeting.

(ii) Cllr Beynon advised that there was a shortfall of c£6.6k (£5.5k ex VAT) in funds raised for the community cricket nets project, specifically in relation to groundworks. County Cllr Rayner had pledged a grant of £1.5k to the Parish Council for the groundworks. Councillors agreed that the Council would be prepared to undertake the groundworks subject to the receipt of a formal quotation from the supplier confirming the projected amount.

Action:
All Cllrs

(iii) Councillors received a request for funding from the Hospice in the Weald. A section 137 donation of £250 was approved.

(iv) A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members. Councillors noted that the actual payment for the October energy supply was £67.57 against an estimated £67.55.

The following payments were approved:	£
Signs Scott Ltd: no parking signs	394.80
UTECH Solutions: IT support	36.00
TW Counselling Centre: donation	100.00
West Kent Mediation: donation	100.00
Clerk salary & re-imburements	713.14
PWLB: car park loan 2 nd installment	1,013.11
Eon Energy: street lighting November 2021	65.38
Bank Service Charges	18.00

8. Planning

(i) Cllr Carboni recommended that, given the uncertainty around the development of the Local Plan and the Parish Council's mixed experience with housing needs surveys of the kind offered by ACRK, action on the housing survey should be deferred till October 2022 when progress on the Local Plan would be clearer. Councillors agreed the recommendation.

(ii) Planning applications

Parish Council decisions

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

Caterways Cottage, Old Soar Road TM/21/02419/FL

Erection of a detached Oak framed garage. **No objection.**

The Cottage, The Street TM/21/02805/TNCA

Works to remove a Copper Beech. The Tree Warden reported that the tree had grown too large for its situation and was too close to the neighbouring property, with the potential to cause damage. A reduction in size would alter the aspect and was unlikely to address the issues raised by the size and location of the tree. **No objection.**

Kirby Cottage, The Street TM/21/02891/LDP

Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: use an existing outbuilding within the curtilage of Kirby Cottage as a personal training studio. **No objection.**

Little Damas, Yopps Green TM/21/02515/FL

Demolition of existing garage and shed and replacement oak framed triple garage and new driveway. Installation of 9m X 4.5m outdoor swimming pool, electric gates and rag stone wall. The Parish Council had **no objection** in principle to the application, but requested that the Planning Officer take into consideration the neighbours' concerns regarding protection of the trees.

Mankash, Tree Lane TM/21/02744/FL

Two storey rear extension incorporating two side dormer windows and first floor Juliet balcony. Conversion of integral garage with addition of a bay window to side. New entrance porch. **No objection.**

Cllr Brewin advised that the following applications had been received too close to the meeting date for a view to be formulated. Councillors would be advised of recommended responses during the coming week for return to TMBC by the relevant response dates:

Hatchets, Grange Hill TM/21/03039/FL

Demolition of existing utility building, alterations and erection of a single storey extension.

Little Mount, The Street TM21/03061/TNCA

Goat Willow to section fell to ground level and grind stump, replanting with a slow growing species, revision to previously approved 21/02432/TNCA.

Periwick Place, The Street TM/21/02939/TNCA

T1 Remove diseased Horse Chestnut and T2 Alder to reduce by 30%.

Reed House, The Street TM/21/03074/PIP

Permission in principle for 1 dwelling.

20 St Hildas, Plaxtol TM/21/03126/FL

Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension. New front porch.

Summer Court, School Lane TM/21/03056/TNCA

Reduce Oak by 1-2 metres to maintain size in relation to surroundings.

Weavers Cottage, Sheet Hill TM/21/02927/FL

Full and partial demolition of three outbuildings and erection of single storey oak framed freestanding incidental outbuilding for home gym and home office use.

TMBC decisions

Bartons Farm, Yopps Green TM/21/02538/TNCA

Ash Tree (T1) to fell to ground and replant with native tree. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Newlands, The Street TM/21/01643/FL

Two new first floor windows to the side elevation. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

The Cottage, The Street TM/21/02805/TNCA

Works to remove a Copper Beech. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

9. Meeting Feedback

KALC AGM, 13.11.21. Cllr Thomas had attended this virtual meeting. He advised that the AGM is primarily a business meeting, including election of officers and presentation of accounts. There had been a topical presentation at the start of the meeting by the Centre for Sustainable Energy; a motion from Deal Town Council to campaign for the registration and regulation of Airbnb was accepted.

10. Young People

Cllr Rolls advised that there had been a disappointing response to the survey on extra provision at the Spoute Recreation Ground and additional youth facilities and that the data was inconclusive. It was agreed that the views of young people would be sought by their peers via face to face contact at events planned for 2022. Councillors thanked the young parishioner who had first brought these issues to the attention of the Council. The Chair will write to thank him personally.

Action:
Cllr
Thomas

11. Communications

Cllr Beynon advised that the Council's facebook page had been set up and invited Councillors to visit the page and give feedback.

Action:
All Cllrs

12. Community Affairs

The Chair confirmed that Cllr Bate from Shipbourne Parish Council had drafted a response to the LGBCE consultation objecting to the proposed Bourne ward which placed Shipbourne and Plaxtol in an unworkable relationship with Hadlow. He thanked Cllr Bate for her hard work, especially on electoral numbers and variances. Councillors received a draft response to the LGBCE from the Chair which also objected to the LGBCE's proposals and which supported Shipbourne's response and proposal that the current warding arrangements of Borough Green & Long Mill could remain viable with the addition of Offham parish. Both Shipbourne and Plaxtol's responses to the consultation had been forwarded to the Leader of the Borough Council prior to the consideration of the Borough Council's own submission by General Purposes Committee on 7 December. It was hoped that both parishes' objections would be considered by that committee. Councillors approved the draft response, which will be forwarded to the LGBCE.

Action:
Cllr
Thomas

13. Recreation Grounds

(i) Cllr Knights confirmed that five access gates from gardens into the Spoute Recreation Ground had been identified. This created an issue for the Council regarding its need to ensure the integrity of the ground and be able to close it if necessary. There was also an issue regarding the possible establishing of rights of way if the situation was not addressed. Cllr Knights will investigate the possibility of licensing access.

Action:
Cllr
Knights

(ii) Cllr Knights advised that a further quotation for replacement fencing at the Spoute Recreation Ground had been received from Landscape Service, £2,857. Whilst this was a competitive quote, the details were inaccurate; Cllr Knights would resolve this with the supplier. A further quote was in the pipeline, which she would also pursue.

Action:
Cllr
Knights

14. Highways & Transport

Cllr Carboni advised that, whilst drivers appeared to be observing the no parking signs in The Street, the outcome had been to move the parking further down the highway, blocking residences. A further no parking sign had been commissioned to extend the restricted zone. Cllrs Beynon and Carboni had approved expenditure for the sign, £123.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Knights advised that the refurbishment of the wooden signposts was scheduled for 13 December.

16. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Appendix 1

Correspondence List 6 December 2021

From

KCC

Highways & Transport National Bus Strategy update

TMBC

November/December Committee meeting papers
 Community Safety Partnership Newsletter, Winter 2021
 Housing Severe Weather Emergency Protocol 2021; SWEP activation
 Street Scene, Leisure & Tech Services Waste weekly update briefings: 5.11.21 - 3.12.21
 Transfer of Leybourne Lakes Country Park management

Other

ACRK Annual Meeting, 9.12.21; Rural Touring presentation, 1.12.21

Communicorp Clerks & Councils direct, Issue 138, November 2021

CPRE Campaigns update; 6.11.21; AGM 19.11.22

KALC KALC News, October 2021

LG Bulletins: 29.10.21 - 29.11.21

Jubilee Beacons update

KCC Contain Management Outbreak Fund

KALC events

National CSSC alerts & bulletins: 15.11.21, 19.11.21

Climate Change presentation (from AGM)

Community Awards Scheme 2022

CEO bulletin, November 2021

Kent Men of the Trees

Arbor, Winter 2021

Kent Police

Rural Task Force Report, October 2021; Rural Matters, Summer 2021

Kent Wildlife Trust

Newsletter: 5.11, 12.11.21; Chough appeal

NALC

CEO bulletins on national developments: 29.10.21 - 3.12.21

Newsletters: 10.11.21 - 1.12.21

NALC events

Resources for Young People

National Allotment Society

Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 4 2021; notification of AGM, 18.6.21

E-watch

Nos 1918 - 1926

Consultations

KALC

Defra: Environmental Permitting Regulations

TMBC Licensing Services

Statement of Principles for Gambling Act (Policy)