

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs P Thomas (Chair), D Beynon, M Carboni, S Knights, T Rolls; L Thomas (Clerk);
Boro Cllr M Taylor

Apologies: Cllrs M Brewin, G French; Boro Cllrs W Palmer, T Shaw
(Cllrs Brewin and French joined the meeting via Zoom)

1. Matters raised by the public / Borough Councillors

Boro Cllr Taylor advised that the Chief Planning Officer at TMBC had resigned, which would have an impact on timetable for the Local Plan. He advised that the planning application for the proposed Moto lorry park was in train and that Wrotham and Borough Green had objected to the proposals.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Carboni declared an interest in planning application TM/21/03308/TNCA, his property.

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.

In the interests of transparency, Cllr Thomas declared an interest in planning application TM/21/03074/PIP, the property of a close personal friend. There is no DPI or Other Significant Interest in this case.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Council Matters

(i) Casual vacancy. Councillors were advised that no election had been called in respect of the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Budworth and that the Council was now free to co-opt. The vacancy would be advertised in the Plaxtol Herald and on the website.

(ii) Cllr Beynon presented a proposal for a process for dealing with IT support for Councillors, which was approved.

(iii) Cllr Carboni advised that revisions to the Kent Code of Conduct had now been made by TMBC, which were being submitted through that Council's approval processes for adoption. Revisions to the Code in respect of Parish Councils were minimal. It was agreed that the Parish Council would retain the Kent Code and adopt the revised Code once approved formally by TMBC.

**Action:
Clerk**

(iv) Councillors agreed that given the continuing high level of covid infection rates, the February meeting would be suspended. Necessary business would be actioned under the Scheme of Delegation.

6. Correspondence

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.

Cllr Carboni will respond to the KCC minerals and waste review.

Action:
Cllr
Carboni

7. Payments/Finance

(i) Budget 2022-2023. Councillors received an updated draft budget. It was noted that adjustments agreed at the December meeting would impact negatively on the approved level of Council reserves and that consequently an increase in the precept was being recommended. Councillors approved a revised budget of £61,252 with a precept of £52,985, which was a 5% increase on 2021-22 resulting in a 4.6% real terms change (£3.92 per annum for a Band D property).

(ii) A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members. Councillors noted that an interim payment had been approved in respect of Gingell & Sons for repair work carried out to two wooden signposts in December. The payee had requested payment before Christmas, which was approved by Cllrs Carboni, Knights and Thomas. Councillors noted that the payment for the survey fee had been approved by Cllrs Carboni and Thomas. Councillors noted that a price increase had been notified for energy supply and that the sum for approval for the December supply was an estimate.

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| The following receipts were noted: | £ |
| PLOTS: allotment rent | 120.00 |
| The following payments were approved: | £ |
| H&E Tree Services: annual tree maintenance | 1,464.00 |
| Cllr A Rolls: reimbursement survey fee | 99.00 |
| Parochial Church Council: Herald donation | 1,250.00 |
| Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge: donation | 200.00 |
| KSS Air Ambulance: donation | 600.00 |
| Hospice in the Weald: donation | 250.00 |
| Clerk salary & reimbursements December 2021 | 741.64 |
| Npower: street lighting December 2021 | 89.85 |

8. Planning

Councillors noted that the appeal (reference APP/H2265/W/21/3272325) in respect of TMBC's refusal to allow planning application TM/20/01470/FL, land north-west of Winfield Barn, had been allowed. The Parish Council had not objected to the original application.

Parish Council decisions

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

Hatchets, Grange Hill TM/21/03039/FL

Demolition of existing utility building, alterations and erection of a single storey extension. **No objection.**

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. The Tree Warden advised that the position of the tree was likely to be problematic, even if reduced in size, and might have been causing some damage to the neighbouring property. **No objection.**

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

T1 Remove diseased Horse Chestnut and T2 Alder to reduce by 30%. The Tree Warden advised that the tree is fairly old and has been diseased for some time. The bark is also in poor condition and some of the branches interfere with neighbouring telephone wires. **No objection.**

Plaxtol Cricket Club, School Lane TM/21/03134/FL

Construction of two All Weather Cricket Practice Nets. The facility will comprise an all weather base, metal cage and netting and will not be enclosed by any building. **No objection.**

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

Permission in principle for 1 dwelling. The Parish Council noted the location in the Green Belt and the possible impact on the street scene.

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

Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension. New front porch. **No objection.**

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

Reduce Oak by 1-2 metres to maintain size in relation to surroundings. The Tree Warden advised that the tree needed regular maintenance to preserve its looks and shape, as well as ensuring the upper branches did not interfere with the local power lines running alongside. **No objection.**

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. **No objection.**

Councillors considered the following applications:

Plaxtol Vineyard, The Street TM/21/03308/TNCA

T2 Alder to reduce by 30%. Councillors agreed that a response would be made in line with the Tree Warden's recommendation when it was received.

TMBC decisionsCaterways Cottage, Old Soar Road TM/21/02419/FL

Erection of a detached Oak framed garage. **Refused.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Land South West Of Claygate House, Winfield Lane TM/21/02553/LDE

Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Storage of cars for banger racing purposes. **Refused.** Parish Council had **objected** to this application.

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. **Certified.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

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. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

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

Reduce Oak by 1-2 metres to maintain size in relation to surroundings. **No objection.**
Parish Council had not objected to this application.

9. Communications

Cllr Beynon confirmed that the Council Facebook page was now live. Posting with content of interest to parishioners would be restricted to the Clerk and Vice-Chair.

10. Community Affairs

It was agreed that energy advice sessions could be of use to many parishioners given the current and projected increases in energy prices and that Cllr Knights would contact the CAB to progress their offer of information sessions.

**Action:
Cllr
Knights**

11. Recreation Grounds

The Chair reported that there had been an attempted theft of the field gate at the Winnie Bowes Recreation Ground. An attempt to take the gate off at its hinges had been abandoned and the gate was now in need of re-installation and repair. An offer had been received to effect repairs to make the ground secure during the coming week.

12. Highways & Transport

It was noted that following the resignation of Cllr Hiddleston the Parish Council no longer had representation on JPCTCG. It was agreed that Councillors with responsibility for Highways & Transport would undertake this liaison for the time being.

13. Any Other Business

It was noted that following repainting the door on the phone box needed to be eased and that the broken pane of glass needed to be replaced. The phone box paint would be recovered from the painter.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 7 March 2022 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Appendix 1

Correspondence List 4 January 2022

TMBC

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Committee meetings papers | December/January |
| Housing | SWEP alerts |
| Leisure Services | Candlemas at Tonbridge Castle |
| Planning Policy | Call for sites launch |
| Street Scene, Leisure & Tech Services | Waste weekly update briefings: 13.12.21, 17.12.21 |

Other

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| ACRK | Covid Plan B guidance for village halls and updates |
| CPRE | Countryside Voices, Winter 2021 |
| | Campaign updates/Newsletters: 6.12.21, 21.12.21 |
| Gatwick Airport | Newsletter, December 2021 |
| KALC | LG Bulletins: 8.12.21 - 20.12.21 |
| | KALC News, November/December 2021 |
| | KALC carbon footprint calculator |
| Kent Police | Scam warnings |
| Kent Wildlife Trust | Wilder Kent, Winter 2021 |
| | Newsletter: 9.12.21, 24.12.21 |
| NALC | CEO bulletins on national developments: 10.12.21, 17.12.21 |
| | Newsletters: 8.12.21, 15.12.21 |
| | NALC Events |
| E-watch | Nos 1927 -1933 |
| Consultations | |
| Planning | Minerals & Waste Local Plan review |