

## PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Monday 1 August 2022 at 8pm.

**Present:** Cllrs D Beynon (Chair), M Brewin, M Carboni, M Crane, G French, S Knights, T Rolls, M Wood; L Thomas (Clerk); Kent County Cllr H Rayner; Boro Cllrs W Palmer, M Taylor; 5 members of the public

**Apologies:** Boro Cllr T Shaw

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

Boro Cllr James Lark, current Councillor for Medway, was present to introduce himself as a prospective candidate for the future Bourne Ward (effective 2023). Other members of the public were present to enquire into the situation regarding bus route cuts. The Chair invited the County and Borough Councillors to respond. Cllr Rayner advised that the application process for school bus passes had now closed; officials would use this data to interpret the requirement for buses and routes. The 222 would now be starting in Wrotham and would run to Tunbridge Wells, not stopping in Tonbridge. This was an issue for local children as the buses would be full by the time they reached Plaxtol. He advised that the local campaigning thus far had been effective in bringing issues to KCC Councillors' attention. A member of the public advised that a petition had now reached 900 signatures and would be forwarded to KCC in due course. Boro Cllr Taylor advised that the Parish Alliance had considered providing some funding to ensure continuation of the bus services, but that the cuts were likely to be too expensive for such a move to be financially realistic. Boro Cllr Palmer advised that, of the various letters written to Lady Vere, Minister for Roads, Buses and Places at the Department for Transport, a response had been received by Ightham Parish Council to the effect that KCC had a duty to use government subsidies for the development of the transport infrastructure and green travel. Boro Cllr Palmer advised that those who had not applied for bus passes because of the uncertainty of the situation should do so, so that KCC would have a full picture of the demand. The cost was refundable. She suggested that both TMBC and TWBC should be pursuing with KCC the issue of the environmental impact of increased traffic by the removal of bus services. Boro Cllr Palmer also advised that the withdrawal of the bulky freight service had yet to be approved by Cabinet. The effect of withdrawal on fly tipping had been queried.

County and Borough Councillors advised that the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation would come into effect in September. The Borough Green Gardens development was still under consideration but there were issues regarding the site in respect of mineral extraction, the construction of the access road and infrastructure, especially water and power.

The Chair thanked Councillors and members of the public for their contributions.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None.

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4. Bus Services**

This item was moved up the agenda to complete the discussion on bus services. Cllr Rolls advised that the issue had been highly emotional but that the community had organised to register their protest, which had included a petition and media interviews. He expressed thanks to all those involved and to the Chair for his series of letters to KCC and Lady Vere. The effects of the protest had been felt at KCC. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr Rolls should continue to liaise regarding possible further action.

**Action:**  
Cllrs  
Beynon,  
Rolls

**5. Matters arising**

Item 6: street trading consultation. Cllr Crane had concluded that certain Parish events (eg the annual Duck Race) could be impacted by the proposals. It was agreed that Cllr Crane should make a response and request that regular Parish charity events should be added to TMBC's list of exempt events. It was confirmed that the local organisations had been made aware of the consultation.

**Action:**  
Cllr Crane

**6. Council Matters**

Casual vacancy. Councillors received an application for co-option from Ms S Petter. Councillors unanimously approved the co-option of Ms Petter wef the September meeting, 5.9.22.

**7. Correspondence**

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.

**8. Payments/Finance**

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members. Councillors noted that Cllrs Beynon and Crane had approved the printing of bus service leaflets for distribution to parishioners and that the late invoice for installation of bus route signs referred to activity at the beginning of the year.

Approval of the following payments was confirmed:	£
Npower: street lighting July 2022	70.77
Clerk salary & reimbursements July 2022	738.63
The following payments were approved:	£
Kallkwik: bus service leaflets	124.00
Andy Ayres: bus route signs installation	275.00
Landscape Services: grounds maintenance Apr-Jun	1,090.56

**9. Planning**

(i) Councillors were advised that Area 2 Planning Committee would be meeting on 10.8.22 and that it was likely that planning application

TM/21/01856/FL, land south-west of Claygate House, would be considered. The Parish Council had objected to this application and had requested call-in to Area 2 Planning Committee. It was agreed that Cllrs Brewin and Carboni would attend this meeting if the application was on the agenda.

**Action:**  
Cllrs  
Brewin,  
Carboni

(ii) Planning applications

#### **Parish Council decisions**

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

Old Soar Manor, Old Soar Road TM/22/01455/FL, TM/22/01456/LB

Single story extension and internal alterations. These include ground, first and second floors. Replacement vehicular entrance gates. The Parish Council had **no objection** in principle to these applications provided TMBC take into consideration comments raised regarding effects on the listed status of the building.

Councillors considered the following applications:

Golding Farm Cottage, Crowhurst Lane TM/22/01599/FL, TM/22/01600/LB

Proposed re-modeling of the existing annexe to include demolition of the existing first floor and insert a new single storey link addition to connect it to the main house. **No objection.**

Pennyhaugh Cottage, The Street TM/22/01538/TNCA

Beech tree on the boundary between Pennyhaugh Cottage and Rosebank: reduce height by 2 to 2.5 metres and sides by 1 to 1.5 metres. **No objection.**

#### **TMBC decisions**

Apple Tree Cottage, Plaxtol Lane TM/22/01081/LDE

Lawful Development Certificate Existing: stationing of a twin unit mobile home in residential garden to provide ancillary accommodation. **Certified.** Parish Council had not objected to this application but had expressed concerns regarding the issue of emergency services access as raised by KFRS.

Cob Orchard, Tree Lane TM/22/01233/TNCA

All Conifers on property to be felled to ground level and to fell a Elaeagnus and Viburnum on front left boundary of drive way. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Mankash, Tree Lane TM/22/01232/TNCA

Groups of conifers on front left boundary and rear left boundary of property, to fell conifers to ground level due to loss of light and size protruding the building. **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

St Michaels Cottage, The Street TM/22/01053/FL

Single storey rear extension with covered terrace area and conversion, alteration and extension of garage. New front entrance and open porch, alterations to door/window openings and revised site entrance and new gates (Revision to TM/20/02436/FL). **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

## **10. Parish Plan**

(i) Cllr Carboni advised that he had received quotes for the installation of various types of play equipment at the Spoute Recreation Ground and would be using these to form the basis of the Parish Infrastructure Statement, to be returned that week.

**Action:**  
Cllr  
Carboni

(ii) Cllr Carboni reported that, following a query from a parishioner, he had confirmed with TMBC that applications for the installation of energy efficient technology in a Conservation Area would be considered on a case by case basis

and that pre-application advice should be sought from the planning authority. It was agreed that the Parish Design Statement should be updated to give guidance in the area. Cllr Carboni will put this into effect.

**Action:**  
Cllr  
Carboni

### 11. Meeting Feedback

KALC, 21.7.22. Cllr Carboni had attended this meeting and reported on the following issues:

- police reported that the area had the lowest victim based crime in Kent; that the ‘Best Bar None’ campaign identifying, in the interests of safety and security, well run pubs, clubs and bars had been launched; the set up of the engagement tool, My Community Voice, accessible at [www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk](http://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk);
- update on cuts in funding to bus services;
- request from the meeting that TMBC give more attention to water infrastructure in the Local Plan;
- upcoming Regulation 18 consultation and responses;
- impact of the cancellation of the Saturday freighter bulky waste collections;
- parish climate strategies, carbon footprint calculators and initiative from South East Energy Projects.

### 12. Environment

Cllr Knights advised that she had been notified that Shipbourne PC had become involved with environmentally friendly initiatives, including the use of KALC’s carbon footprint calculator to assess their carbon footprint, creating a climate strategy, and the South East New Energy project (SENE) for initial surveys to identify potential energy projects. Cllr Wood advised that he had been in touch with Octopus regarding the provision of wind powered energy. Councillors agreed that Cllrs Knights and Woods should take the SENE and Octopus initiatives forward and liaise with Shipbourne PC regarding their action to date and future possible joint initiatives.

**Action:**  
Cllrs  
Knights,  
Wood

### 13. Recreation Grounds

(i) It was reported that a number of suggestions had been received in response to the Facebook survey on play equipment for the Spoute Recreation Ground, including monkey bars, cycle track, basketball court/hoop, sensory equipment. It was agreed that young people would be also be surveyed at the Duck Race in September before reaching a final decision.

(ii) Councillors received a request from the Friends of Plaxtol Church for permission to use the Spoute Recreation Ground for the annual Duck Race, held over from May. Councillors approved the request subject to the usual provision of insurance cover and risk assessment.

**Action:**  
Cllr Rolls

### 14. Highways & Transport

(i) Cllr Rolls advised that the number of emergency road closures was causing extreme difficulty because of the diversion of the school buses without notice,

leaving school children unable to get to school. It was agreed that the Chair should write to KCC to request improved processes and communication.

(ii) Cllr Carboni reported that TMBC had advised that road sweeping was scheduled to take place every 6 months in the Parish, but that areas in particular need could be processed outside of this schedule if notified. Cllr Carboni had notified TMBC of 4/5 areas needing urgent attention and was awaiting dates. Councillors expressed their thanks to Boro Cllr Palmer for assisting with this issue.

**Action:**  
**Cllr**  
**Beynon**

**15. Any Other Business**

(i) Cllr Carboni advised that a new litter bin had been placed on Church Hill, just below the bus stop and that the provision of another at the PROW along Plaxtol Lane was being investigated.

(ii) Instances of anti-social behaviour at the cricket ground and Winnie Bowes Recreation Ground had been reported, which it was hoped had now been resolved. A request had been made to the PCSO for more frequent visits for the time being.

**16. Date of Next Meeting:**

Monday 5 September 2022 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

## Appendix 1

### Correspondence List 1 August 2022

#### TMBC

Committee meetings papers July 2022  
Housing Services SWEP alerts

#### Other

Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct, July 2022  
CPRE Campaign update: 9.7  
English Woodlands Jubilee tree planting  
KALC Kent Resilience Forum: Operation Brock reinstatement  
Kent Resilience Forum: travel update  
Playground inspection training  
Great Big Green Week  
T&M Climate Change Forum meeting notes, 14.7.22  
Kent Downs AONB Newsletter: 27.7.22  
Kent Wildlife Trust Newsletters: 11.7.22 - 19.7.22  
Wilder Kent, Summer 2022  
Kenward Trust Newsletter: July 2022  
NALC CEO bulletins on national developments: 8.7.22 - 29.7.22  
Newsletters: 6.7.22 - 27.7.22  
NALC Events  
Star Council Awards 2022  
National Allotment Society Newsletter: 27.7.22  
National Highways M20 moveable barrier update  
West Kent Mediation Letter of thanks for donation  
E-watch Nos 1988 - 1995

#### Consultations

KALC Transport for the South East Strategic Investment Plan  
NALC: Short Term Holiday Lets - impact  
NALC survey on loneliness, cost of living  
KCC Budget consultation 2023-24