

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Parish Church on Monday 7 November 2022 at 8pm.

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

Apologies: Boro Cllrs T Shaw, M Taylor

1. Matters raised by the public / County & Borough Councillors

Kent County Cllr Rayner advised that the full Council had agreed the proposed cuts to bus services from February 2023 at a saving of c£2 million. Support funding for bus services promised by Government earlier in the year was now in doubt. Individual bus operators would now have to decide which services would be cut. The Community Transport Grant would also be affected by budget cuts. KCC's budget deficit for the year would be substantial, with adult and children's services the most costly provision at about 2/3 of budget. More robust budget figures would be available at the end of the month. In response to a question, Cllr Rayner advised that any environmental targets KCC might have would be secondary to balancing the budget.

Boro Cllr Palmer advised that the Leader of TMBC had reported a disappointing level of responses across the Borough to the Regulation 18 consultation. A mailshot to bring the next consultation, Regulation 19, to better public attention was being considered.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Rayner and Palmer for their input.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 3 October 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Council Matters

Councillors received a list of proposed meeting dates for 2022, which were approved. It was noted that meetings on 3 January and 9 May would take place on Tuesdays. The Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for 24 April 2023.

6. Correspondence

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.

The Chair reported that he had responded to a letter from a parishioner regarding carbon reduction initiatives and that the Parish Council would be considering these issues in greater detail at the December meeting.

7. Payments/Finance

(i) Internal Auditor Report 2021-22. Councillors received the Internal Audit Report for 2021-22 and noted issues had been raised with regard to the level of reserves, the Clerk's annual appraisal and procurement of small items. These issues are being addressed and the Clerk will respond to the Internal Auditor accordingly. Councillors expressed their thanks to Marian Hemsted for her hard work and commitment to the audit.

Action:
Clerk

(ii) Councillors approved a £100 donation in response to a request from the Samaritans. Requests for additional funding from West Kent Mediation and Heart of Kent Hospice would be reconsidered towards the end of the financial year.

(iii) Councillors approved a quote of c£1,500 for repair/refurbishment work.

(iv) A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

Approval of the following payments was confirmed: £

N Power: street lighting September 2022	74.78
DefibWarehouse: replacement pads	61.14
Clerk salary & reimbursements September 2022	725.14

The following payments were approved: £

Parochial Church Council: meeting hire, November	36.00
Cllr Brewin: reimbursement printer cartridges	51.96
Landscape Services: grounds maintenance Jul-Sep	603.36
Memorial Hall: hall hire Jul-Sep	83.00
Streetlights: maintenance contract, 2 nd installment	298.93
Kent County Playing Fields Association: subscription	20.00
TW Counselling Centre: donation	100.00
Kenward Trust: donation	100.00
Npower: street lighting October 2022	81.60

8. Planning

(i) Cllr Brewin advised that a response had been made on behalf of the Parish Council to TMBC's Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. The response had concentrated on the Plan's failure to address lack of sustainability, infrastructure and climate change. Responses to the individual sites in and around the Plaxtol area, including the proposed Borough Green Gardens site, also concentrated on these issues. The Chair thanked Cllr Brewin and his team for their work in making a timely response to a complex document.

(ii) Cllr Carboni advised that KCC's Minerals & Waste Local Plan consultation contained minor changes and that he would make an appropriate response.

(iii) Planning applications.

Parish Council decisions

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

Mobile At Brookside Farm, Bourne Lane TM/22/02108/LDE

Lawful Development Certificate Existing: use of a building as an independent dwellinghouse and the use of the land as ancillary garden and parking area. Parish Council did not comment on this application as the mobile had been in situ since 2005.

Green Woodpecker Cottage, 10 St Hildas TM/22/02167/FL

Action:
Cllr
Carboni

Erection of two storey oak framed garage with workshop space following demolition of existing garage. **Objection.** The proposed new building would be considerably larger than the existing one and would be dominating and overbearing for the location.

Councillors considered the following applications:

Daltons Farm, The Street TM/22/02399/TNCA

Leylandii tree left hand side driveway : section fell to ground level. The tree is of low amenity value and has become too big for its surroundings. **No objection.**

Pennyhaugh Cottage, The Street TM/22/02360/TNCA

Mature Beech- Reduce crown to previous reduction points (15%) as a measure of maintenance for the tree and to keep it a suitable size for the surrounding area. Councillors agreed that a response should be made in line with the Tree Warden's report when it came available.

TMBC decisions

10 Bourne Vale TM/22/00395/FL

Double storey side extension, single storey rear extension, loft conversion and front porch. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

24 St Hildas, Plaxtol TM/22/01785/FL

Two storey front and single storey side extensions. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Former Agricultural Building East Of Cage House, Long Mill Lane TM/22/01820/FL

Demolition of the existing agricultural buildings and erection of a detached 3 bed dwelling. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

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. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

The Grange, Grange Hill TM/22/01746/FL, TM/22/01747/LB

Minor alterations to two rooms to the 19th Century stables to include an addition of a sympathetic stepped portico entrance doorway to the Gun room east elevation, with utilitarian fitted joinery and new conservation rooflight. New ancillary kitchen to the ground floor of the two-storey cottage with change to an existing door swing.

Replacement of softwood parquet flooring with hardwood parquet flooring. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

The Oast House, The Street TM/22/02061/TNCA

T 1- Holly tree - section fell, leaving stump as low as possible (tree in decline) T 2- Conifer - section fell, leaving stump as low as possible (causing damage to drive way). **No objection.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Salmons Farm, Long Mill Lane TM/22/01860/FL

Erection of a traditional style greenhouse. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

Stable House, Allens Lane TM/22/01858/FL

Erection of double garage. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

St Michaels Cottage, The Street TM/22/00878/FL

Loft conversion and installation of dormer to rear elevation. **Granted permission.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

9. Meeting Feedback

KALC, 13.10.22. The Chair advised that the meeting had consisted mainly of a presentation and Q&A session on the Local Plan from the Leader of TMBC, Matt Boughton, who advised that TMBC were still lobbying Government for a

reduction in housing numbers. This was followed by the AGM and the appointment of officers.

Parish Partnership Panel, 3.11.22. The Chair advised that the meeting had focussed on a discussion with the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding strategic issues. He advised that the 101 call service was under review to improve efficiency and that the future focus would be on more neighbourhood policing.

10. Environment

(i) It was confirmed that the Citizens Advice energy advice sessions would be held at the Papermakers Arms on Monday 28 November at 11am. The session would consist of an information talk and Q&A session. There would also be opportunities for individual (one to one) advice to be given. The event will be promoted via posters, the website and Facebook pages.

(ii) It was confirmed that the litter picking event would go ahead on Saturday 26 November. TMBC would be providing equipment and would arrange for rubbish to be collected. The event would close with refreshments at the Parish Church. The Council agreed a donation of £50 to cover the costs. Details would be published on the website and Facebook pages.

11. Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces

Cllr Knights advised that a recent inspection of the river and river bank through the Spoute Recreation Ground had revealed the need for maintenance work to improve the health of the river bank and flow of the river. Councillors agreed that a sum would be set aside for this work in next year's budget.

12. Highways & Transport

(i) Cllr Carboni advised that street cleaning had not been satisfactorily completed but that TMBC were not proposing further cleansing work at this stage. Parishioners who are concerned about the lack of cleaning are advised to contact TMBC direct.

(ii) Cllr Rolls advised that the proposed cuts to bus services had been approved by KCC. A meeting would be set up with other affected parishes once the bus operators had considered their options and the full implications of the cuts are known.

(iii) Cllr Knights advised that emergency work to St Hildas bus stop had been undertaken to remove vegetation which was impeding vehicle sight lines.

Consideration would be given to the removal of a laurel, which was creating difficulties for bus drivers in seeing the bus stop.

(iv) It was reported that an unnotified emergency closure had taken place in School Lane on 19 October, impacting the school and nursery. KCC Highways had been contacted regarding the difficulties short notice closures create with a view to amending their processes so that affected parishioners could be informed and updated, especially where unexpected closures affect school buses or the school run.

Action:
Cllr Rolls

13. Memorial Hall

Cllr French advised that the Memorial Hall committee had signalled the impact of energy price increases on the Hall, with a possible increase in hire charges to compensate. The front doors to the Hall also needed to be replaced at a considerable sum. Councillors agreed to consider a contribution towards the cost of replacing the doors.

14. Any Other Business

None.

15. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 5 December at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Subject to approval

Appendix 1

Correspondence List 7 November 2022

KCC

Highways Forward works programme

TMBC

Committee meetings papers October, November

Sport Development Officer Active Kent & Medway financial sustainability workshop

Strategic Planning Traffic surveys, October 2022

Other

Parishioner letter Carbon reduction initiatives

Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct, November 2022

CPRE Newsletters/Campaign updates: 10.10.22 - 28.10.22

Notification of AGM, 4.11.22

Kent Countryside Voice, Autumn-Winter 2022

KALC Finance Conference, 19.10.22

KCC Environment Briefing, Jul-Aug 2022

KALC News, September 2022

KCC Parish Seminars

Kent's Plan Bee summit, 22.11.22

Plan Bee newsletter, September 2022

Firestoppers toolkit

KALC Training & Events

Local Government bulletins: 14.10.22 - 28.10.22

KALC AGM, 19.11.22

Safety & online safety webinars for Cllrs

NALC 2022 elections report

Civility & Respect Pledge

KCPFA AGM 12.10.22

Kent Downs AONB Newsletters: 3.10.22 - 31.10.22

Kent Wildlife Trust Newsletters: 21.10.22, 31.10.22

NALC CEO bulletins on national developments: 30.9.22 - 4.11.22

Newsletters: 5.10.22, 2.11.22

NALC Training & Events

White Ribbon day videos

Newsletter, 27.10.22

National Allotment Society Notification of AGM, 10.6.23

Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 4

E-watch Nos 2013 - 2023

Consultations

KCC Kent Country Parks Strategy 2023-28

Kent Police Appointment of Chief Constable and Crime Survey

Kent Highways Public satisfaction survey