

PLAXTOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on 6 November 2023 at 8pm.

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

Apologies: Cllr M Brewin; Boro Cllrs S Crisp, J Lark

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

Boro Cllr Lark provided an update on the implementation of the new IT system at TMBC.

County Cllr Rayner advised that KCC were pursuing legal avenues with regard to the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children for which they were responsible and which had an unsustainable effect on the Council's finances. Other local authorities had not been taking adequate responsibility for appropriate numbers and the arrangements with the Home Office had been found to be unlawful. Cllr Rayner also reported that KCC were seeking to increase levels of Government funding, and that although there were savings to be found from the creation of a unitary authority, such a process was unlikely to be pursued prior to the next election. He advised that Operation Brock had worked successfully during the summer but that the new entry and exit system to the EU scheduled to come into force next summer would cause more paperwork and impact on traffic build up. Cllr Rayner advised that KCC were considering long term sustainable changes to transporting SEND children to education and that the transport need continues to grow, increasing demand on the budget. With the need to reduce next year's budget, bus services and subsidies and household waste recycling centres could also be under review. In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Rayner advised that he would support the introduction of signage to the Memorial Hall, school and nursery.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Brewin absence received as above and approved.

3. **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Carboni declared an interest in planning application 23/02085/TNCA, his property.

4. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 2 October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **Matters arising**

None.

6. Council Matters

Cllr Carboni advised that it had been necessary to postpone until January the ward social event planned for 9 November. The date was yet to be confirmed.

Action:
Cllr
Carboni

7. Correspondence

A list of correspondence is at Appendix 1.

8. Payments/Finance

Action:

(i) Councillors received the Internal Auditor Report for 2022-23 and noted that issues had been raised with regard to IT support review and level of reserves. The Clerk will respond to the Internal Auditor. It was noted that the Internal Audit Review was due in the current year and is being carried out by Cllrs Crane and Rolls. Queries raised by Councillors on aspects of process would also be followed up in that review. Councillors expressed their thanks to Marian Hemsted for her hard work and commitment to the audit.

(ii) Councillors approved a donation of £145 to Plaxtol Primary School for repairs to a damaged wall.

(iii) Receipts & payments. Councillors approved quotes from H&E Tree Services for £1,760 annual tree maintenance, £620 bramble clearance and strimming at the Garrett Memorial orchard, £200 maintenance of the St Hilda's footpath and bus stop.

A financial statement and bank reconciliation was distributed to members.

Approval of the following payments was confirmed:

	£
Npower: street lighting September 2023	104.50
Clerk salary & reimbursements October 2023	1,154.65

The following payments were approved:

	£
Mazars LLP: audit fee	378.00
Plaxtol Primary School: wall repairs	145.00
KCPFA: annual subscription	20.00
Streetlights: maintenance contract 2 nd installment	313.87
Wicksteed: replacement swing seat	112.54

9. Planning

(i) Cllr Carboni advised that little progress had been made with obtaining drainage maps for Bourne Vale. He had written to MP Tom Tugendhat to ask for his assistance. It was likely that the Bourne Vale planning application would be heard at Area Committee on 6 December. It was agreed that Cllr Brewin would attend this committee to support the Parish Council's objection to the application. Cllr Carboni would update the residents and maintain contact with them.

Action:
Cllrs
Brewin,
Carboni

(ii) It was reported that TMBC's planning processes had changed as a result of the implementation of their new IT system. List B notification of planning applications would be replaced by individual notification of each application direct to parishes. The 21-day response periods would also be individually timed from the date of notification. Borough Councillors' call-in periods would be timed from the date of a weekly list compiled specifically for that purpose. It was noted that the new system was likely to result in less response time for the Parish Council than had previously been the case. Councillors were also advised

that TMBC would no longer consult on applications for works to trees, although such applications would continue to be listed and thereby available for comment should the Council so wish. It was noted that the implementation of the new system had resulted in delays to validation and determination of applications and that the Director of Planning would be available at the upcoming Parish Partnership Panel meeting to respond to queries.

(iii) Planning applications.

Councillors noted that the appeal against TMBC's refusal to allow TM/22/01353/FL, Woodruff, Basted Lane, had been upheld.

Parish Council decisions

Councillors considered the following application:

Plaxtol Vineyard, The Street 23/02085/TNCA

1x Alder (corner of house) - reduce by 30%. The Parish Council has **no objection** to this application, provided the Tree Warden approves. Councillors noted that under the new process a reply would not be necessary unless the Tree Warden objects.

TMBC decisions

The Grange, Grange Hill TM/23/01043/FL, TM/23/01044/LB

Replacement of timber door leaf to architectural bronze glazed door within existing frame and architrave; Existing kitchen door carefully removed and stored on site with door frame and architrave retained; Enlarged structural opening to the kitchen and scullery to create a snug and better connection with the kitchen; Lower the sill to rear window in scullery and replace existing window with curved head double French doors; New sympathetic and contemporary single storey rear extension with corner closing architectural bronze glazed doors. Raise rear ground floor external terrace floor with minor alterations to external steps and piers. Minor remodel to the main western entrance approach to provide level access with localised alterations to the landscaping. **Granted permission.**

Land East Of Old Allens, Allens Lane TM/23/01760/RD

Details of condition 5 (paddock fencing) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/23/01063/FL (Realignment of access track and associated works). **Satisfies requirements.** Parish Council had not objected to this application.

10. Parish Plan

Assets of Community Value. Cllr Carboni advised that the valuation of the Papermakers Arms had been received and that the Community Benefit Society was investigating next steps. It was noted that the last round of the Community Ownership Fund was due to open in the near future. Cllr Carboni also advised that legal advice was being sought from NALC on the status of the shop currently known as Potterarti, which was listed as an asset of community value and was on the market.

11. Meeting Feedback

(i) KALC, 28.9.23. Cllr Beynon advised on the following issues:

- the launch of a new KALC website which will be an information hub and will reduce the flow of emails;
- TMBC climate change forum, which is an open forum;
- bus services;
- the use of s106 monies for highways improvements.

(ii) It was noted that the Parish Partnership Panel meeting scheduled for 2.11.23 had been deferred to 9.11.23 due to adverse weather conditions.

12. Environment

Cllr Wood report that he had attended a wind turbine event which had advised on current issues for wind energy including funding and difficulties with the planning system and connectivity. He advised that communication with SENE had been problematic but that he would contact them to consider their report and ascertain future steps. A Plaxtol open community meeting via Zoom had been arranged for Monday 13 November to gather information and discuss climate change issues and initiatives at the domestic and local level. Contact had also been made with parishioners with expertise and experience in these areas.

**Action:
Cllr Wood**

13. Recreation Grounds

(i) Spoute Recreation Ground. Cllr Beynon advised that an estimate of c£60k had been received for the provision of a new sports area. Councillors agreed to proceed with the new proposals subject to clarity on funding and funding streams. Cllr Catt provided images of possible community shelters. It was agreed that a feasibility study should be undertaken with regard to location and design.

**Action:
Cllrs
Beynon,
Catt**

(ii) Cllr Beynon reported the planning for a replacement boundary fence at the Winnie Bowes Recreation Ground, including a request from the Cricket Club for a donation towards funding the boundary fence between the recreation and cricket grounds. Councillors agreed in principle to replacing the fence dependant on monetary issues at budget setting and renewal of the lease.

14. Any Other Business

None.

15. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 4 December 2023 at 8 pm

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Appendix 1

Correspondence List 6 November 2023

KCC	
Highways & Transport	Community Transport Grant Scheme
TMBC	
Committee meetings papers	October, November
Housing	Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) period & notifications
Other	
Climate Guide	Carbon Literacy Action Day, 4.12.23
CPRE	Campaign update: 23.10.23
	Kent Countryside Voice, Autumn/Winter 2023-24
	Countryside Voices, Autumn/Winter 2023
KALC	KALC News, October 2023
	Training & Events
	Notice of AGM, 18.11.23
	Community Energy South, wind energy event
Kent Downs AONB	Newsletter: 27.10.23
Kent Wildlife Trust	Newsletters: 9.10.23 - 2.11.23
	Wilder Kent, Winter 2023
NALC	CEO bulletins on national developments: 5.10.23 - 2.11.23
	Newsletters: 4.10.23 - 1.11.23
	Training & Events
	White Ribbon Day
NAS	Newsletter: 31.10.23
	Notification of AGM, 5.12.23
E-watch	Nos 2118 - 2127
Consultations	
TMBC	Climate Change Forum Survey
KCC	High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-29
KCC - Active Travel	Kent Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan