

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL
ON THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2016**

The Chairman read out the following statement:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. She reminded members of the public that this is a Meeting to which the public are invited, but it is not a public meeting. She would close the meeting at the end of the main agenda to allow them to speak briefly if they choose. She reserved the right to ask for significant questions to be submitted in writing. The Chairman reminded members of the public not to disrupt the meeting and if they continued to do so after a request from herself as Chairman to desist, she had the power to ask them to leave. Having said that; she welcomed the interest from the members of public in our proceedings.

Dr. Joy Temple notified the Clerk that she would be recording the meeting.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bunyan, Cook, Goodchild, Fermor, Hartley, Kemp, Rook, Smith, Swann, Veitch & Warne. Kent County Cllr. & Borough Cllr. Holden. Borough Cllrs. Dawlings and Hannam.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Clifford, Fairweather, Hall, & Holmes.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

116: The Chairman, Cllr. B. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meetings held on the 8th and 15th September be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

CHAIRMANS REPORT:

117: The Chairman reported that Coral Kirkaldie our Clerk, is retiring, and will be leaving the Parish Council at Christmas. We wish her every enjoyment of her retirement. Her local knowledge and huge amount of experience will be a great loss to us all. However, the good news is that we are promoting Lori to Clerk, and after the four years she has spent with us, the Chairman was sure that she will prove to be an excellent Clerk. The advertisement for a new Deputy Clerk will be placed next week.

The Chairman reported that she had attended the Parish Chairmans meeting in Tunbridge Wells on 13th September, and the minutes have been circulated.

She had attended the Cranbrook in Bloom event on the 23rd September and with the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells (David Neve) had presented the prizes for the Allotment winners.

At the last meeting, we chose Carole Wanless to be the consultant to undertake a Fundraising Feasibility Study, and have given her a long list of names from which to choose a variety of people to interview on a totally confidential basis.

The Literature Festival and the Apple Fair were, she believed, great successes. She had attended the latter, but was away for the former.

She had also attended a meeting of the Cranbrook School 500th Committee on Tuesday with Cllr. Cook. She will be attending the St Dunstan's Tower Rededication service on Saturday.

After consultation with our solicitor, Ian Davison, the discussions on the land transfer contracts have been shelved until formal agreement to the access is received from the Co-op. She has written to the Chief Executive of the Co-op to expedite this after discussion with TWBC.

She believed that councillors would appreciate a briefing on the Community Land Trust activities. There may be an incorrect perception amongst the community that CLT is a Parish Council led initiative, which it is not. She suggested that January's Parish Council meeting might be a convenient opportunity, which would give the opportunity to invite TWBC representatives to attend. Please could the appropriate councillors involved discuss this suggestion with the Clerks, and then organise the presentation. Cllr. Kemp suggested that a briefing session with their technical adviser would be beneficial.

Cllr. Cook referred to the Chairman's meeting and to Cllr. Jukes recent comments that the civic amenity refuse vehicle service might disappear altogether; this did not appear to be reflected in the Minutes. Cllr. Veitch confirmed that at present it was continuing at a reduced frequency which parishes are paying for. Cllr. Bunyan clarified that Cllr. Jukes had said that it might disappear if KCC took over the service. Borough Cllr. Holden confirmed that if refuse collection would be devolved to KCC as well as disposal it might disappear.

The Chairman referred to the agenda item regarding the confidential item regarding the Vestry Hall Complex. Cllr. Clifford, the Chairman of Burials & Properties is not in attendance tonight and several Members are away at present. Mr & Mrs Beeken are also not able to attend this evening. The only information provided for Members was the drawing as circulated. This is a sensitive and important topic, and for these reasons she is deferring this agenda topic until the November meeting when Cllr. Clifford and other members can attend and more information can be provided by Cllrs. Hartley & Kemp for circulation prior to the meeting.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

118: Cllr. Goodchild referred to the report of the meeting held on the 11th October. He invited questions, no questions were raised and therefore he proposed adoption of the Report; this was seconded by Cllr. Swann and agreed.

PLANNING & PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

119: Cllr. Bunyan stated that one meeting had been held and the Minutes circulated. She referred to the application for 26 Hovendens where it is planned that a semi-detached now became a terrace of three. We had objected in the past and we had recommended refusal on this application. She invited questions. No questions were raised.

BURIAL GROUNDS & PROPERTIES COMMITTEE:

120: In the absence of Cllr. Clifford, Cllr. Bunyan stated that the next meeting is scheduled for the 25th October in the Addison VC Room at 5.15 pm.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE:

121: In the absence of Cllr. Holmes, Cllr. Warne had nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

122: Cllr. Rook referred to the report of the meeting held on the 13th September when former parish councillor Jeremy Boxall had visited and gave an update on his work on cycle ways and we will support his efforts to push it onwards. The Rospa Report with regard to the play equipment had been satisfactory. Responding to a question from Cllr. Warne on whether cycle ways are part of the highway, Cllr. Rook confirmed that we have footpaths and bridleways and there are maps in the Parish Office but we do not have any adopted cycle ways in our area. Cllr. Rook informed Members that the Winter Strategy would continue as it did last year. Litter continues to be a problem. Cllr. Fermor enquired whether the take your litter home with you signs had been printed. Cllr. Rook confirmed this was a work in progress. Cllr. Warne mentioned the graffiti on the play equipment on the Ball Field. The Clerk confirmed that this had been swiftly dealt with. Cllr. Rook then proposed adoption of the Report. This was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

123: Cllr. Warne referred to the report of the meeting held on the 5th October when Claire Tester from the High Weald AONB had visited. She tabled maps which related to route ways, ancient woodlands etc. Claire has offered to help with the maps. Three members of the public were invited and two more from Cranbrook and one from Sissinghurst would be invited to the next meeting. Cllr. Bunyan suggested Jeremy Boxall. Cllr. Warne stated that the next task was to draw up a list of priorities which she will discuss with Cllr. Swann with regard to any budget implications. She confirmed to Cllr. Veitch that Claire Tester would not be charging for her time. She is not a consultant. More quotes will be invited from consultants with regarding to the preparation of an NDP. She confirmed to Cllr. Rook that she had found the workshop at Goudhurst very good and had met David Scully TWBC Landscape Officer who talked about how you assess the landscape. We can do our own Landscape Character Assessment. Responding to Cllr. Swann, she confirmed that extending the area of the AONB was not raised. Other items raised at the NDP Meeting were that any members should uphold a code of conduct. Some Plans had broken down because of a conflict of interest. More admin support is needed which will have an implication on the budget.

Cllr. Kemp referred to the meeting held on the 15th September when discussions took place on the two consultants presentations held at the Sissinghurst meeting. We had listened to the views of the new public members on the committee. It is a work in progress. Cllr. Warne reported that she is going to Chelmsford to talk to Angela Koch. Cllr. Warne then proposed adoption of both of the Reports. This was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

CRANBROOK CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

124: Cllr. Swann referred to the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th September and referred specifically to the comments regarding The Crown becoming a Costa Coffee which was regretted.

Cllr. Cook queried under 1B whether CCAAC are actively involved in the Conservation Area Management Plan. Cllr. Swann confirmed that a lot of the work has already been done. He also confirmed to Cllr. Warne that she would be welcome to attend the next meeting.

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:

125: Cllr. Veitch stated that the KALC AGM is on Saturday 19th November at Ditton Community Centre. If Members have any ideas for customised training sessions that they think would be useful for either the Parish Council, or for the TWBC area in general please let her know. This is covered in item 5 of the minutes. She will pass on any views to Christopher Woodley.

There is a Joint Transport Board meeting on Monday and if anyone has any concerns please let Cllr. Dawlings know. Cllr. Warne wished to raise the issue of speeding outside of Colliers Green Primary School. It should be a 20 mph limit. Cllr. Swann wished the resurfacing at the top end of Swattenden Lane to be reported. Cllr. Warne confirmed that Tilsden Lane had now been resurfaced.

CLERKS REPORT:

126: The Clerk reported that unfortunately due to a regular spate of vandalism the Cranbrook Public Toilets have been boarded up. Cllr. Warne stated that the mosaic bench had also been vandalised. There was also a car fire in Carriers Road which had damaged the Cobblers Shop.

CORRESPONDENCE:

127: A letter had been received from Tunbridge Wells & District Citizens Advice thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £1,750 which they confirmed would be ring-fenced for the Cranbrook branch, which they consider to be an essential element of their borough-wide service.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

128: Cllr. Rook informed Members that he would be attending the KCC Seminar at the Mercure Hotel, Pembury to represent the Council. He would also be attending the KALC Allotments Training at Faversham.

129: Cllr. Cook reminded everyone that this Saturday was the Discovery Day at St. Dunstan's together with the Rededication of the Tower. Cllr. Swann confirmed that the Tower would be open from 10 am to 4 pm.

130: Cllr. Fermor asked whether Cllr. Holden had made any headway with getting rid of all the prolific signs along the highway including school open days etc.

131: Cllr. Warne referring to the recent spate of vandalism and graffiti and asked whether the youth club was still running out of the scout hut. Cllr. Holden agreed to investigate.

132: Cllr. Kemp stated that the first public meeting for the Crane Valley Land Trust is on Saturday 15th October at 6 pm in the Vestry Hall.

133: Cllr. Cook referred to the recent spate of "clown" activities which seems a national problem. Sitings have been flagged up in the Frythe and Angley Road. Cllr. Veitch stated that the PCSO would be made aware.

134. Cllr. Holden had no knowledge of the youth club and he was not even sure whether the Cruizer bus still visited locations but he would investigate. With regard to pot holes he raised it with the Highways Manager and they have to look at whether they are safety critical. He asked Members to forward any issues directly to him and he would then raise them with Kent Highways. With regard to devolution it was all about sending down Government powers but without tax payer's powers it cannot be real devolution. TWBC and KCC are looking at re-evaluating their services such as waste collection and disposal. It needs someone on the ground looking at the problems and it would be good if the parishes could deal with issues which they could identify and overcome with more budget and more support. With regard to the civic amenity refuse vehicle and the issue of double taxation, the solution could be for a recycling centre. The Mountfield tip at Battle is a good example. Other parishes think it is a good idea. He has asked David Jukes to consider this, possibly jointly with Maidstone. With regard to Colliers Green Primary School, the 20 mph limit has been looked at before. There could be a problem with average speeds. The average speed on the A229 is 43 mph. The JTB meetings seem to be all about Tunbridge Wells Fest. Parishes are being asked to put funds towards 20 mph schemes.

Cllr. Swann asked whether the Wilsley Green scheme is the final version. Cllr. Holden confirmed that due to safety reasons the new bollard is being removed and there will just be the road markings. Cllr. Holden responding to Cllr. Swann, stated that the Rugby Club sign should have been reinstated. Cllr. Swann then made Cllr. Holden aware that some of the signage has been put in the wrong place.

Responding to the question from Cllr. Fermor on the verge signs, he confirmed that the Highways Steward had been tasked with taking some of these down. Some are on private land and these cannot be removed but could come under the remit of the planners. There is an informal agreement that any signs advertising such things as the Apple Fayre or other community event is tolerated for a short time.

135: Cllr. Dawlings stated that TWBC Planning Committee had made the wrong decision on the Rifle Range. He noted another wrong recommendation which is Hartley Lands which is recommended for approval. He would be writing to the Head of Planning. Rural speeding and the renewal of the refuse contract which is due in 2018 is under discussion. He thinks the new contract should include glass collection and more recyclables. With regard to TWBC funding – there is a four year funding programme. The revenue support grant is disappearing and after 2020 TWBC may go into negative funding and need to make annual savings.

136: Cllr. Hannam mentioned the Fracking Policy. Overview & Scrutiny had rejected his policy. They wanted to be more positive than negative and did not support the neutral policy that he had put forward. Hard numbers are being sought on how much of the tax income comes from each area and how much of that amount is spent on that area. It should balance. He was looking forward to meeting the Sissinghurst Parish Members to discuss the issue of the speeding in Common Road and a 20 mph limit outside the school. Cllr. Holden reminded Members on the review of speed limits on the A229, the 50 would go to 40, the 60 to 50 then it would go to 30 from the A229 down Common Road.

The Chairman then closed the meeting to allow members of the public to speak.

Cllr. Veitch advised a member of the public who was concerned on the closure of the public toilets that there were toilets in the Co-op Store.

A Sissinghurst Speedwatch volunteer stated that they were supported by the police who were going round the villages doing speed checks. One motorist was clocked at 47 mph in the 30 limit and given a ticket. Seven others were given warnings. She felt strongly that some of the problem was that the road signs were tatty and markings were faint. Signage is poor. She thanked everyone for their support and was surprised that Cranbrook stores the equipment yet does not have a Speedwatch team. The equipment is rather ancient and is shared by four villages. Cllr. Holden reminded everyone that the police attendance came out of the Rural Speeding Group meetings with Helen Grant MP. He advised the parishioner that he could look at his funding to replace equipment.