

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2018**

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Cook, Fletcher, Goodchild, Holmes, Swann and Warne. Borough Cllr. Hannam.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Clifford, Fairweather, Fermor, Hall, Kemp, Smith and Borough Cllr. Dawlings.

The following statement was read out:

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.

118/17: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th December be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Goodchild and agreed.

119/17: Precept Approval:

The Chairman invited Cllr. Swann to present how the precept figure had been calculated. He reminded members that they had received the individual budget figures for each Committee as they were approved. He went on to explain that although the increases totaled £18,100, through adjustments and efficiency savings elsewhere, it would only be necessary to increase the precept overall by £8,000, which relates to an increase of £1.45 on a Band D property per year.

Cllr. Swann then proposed that the precept as set out in the document filed with these Minutes be agreed – the amount being £333,200 for year 2018/2019. This was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed unanimously. In response to Cllr. Fletcher, the Clerk advised that the budgets for 2018/19 were on our website. Cllr. Veitch congratulated Cllr. Swann on his presentation and how easy he had made it for everyone to understand. Cllr. Cook extended his thanks for the help Cllr. Swann gives every Committee in preparing their individual budgets. It was agreed that Cllr. Swann would discuss with Cllr. Clifford how our finances could be presented in an article for Parish Cake.

120/17: Nomination for KALC Community Award:

The Chairman reminded Members that we had previously adopted the scheme and that we now had to decide who we would like to nominate for the award. After a full discussion, Cllr. Veitch proposed that Philip Mummery be our first nomination for this prestigious award, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

121/17: Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that as a result of queries she had raised in the TWBC Civic Centre Business Plan; in particular the £40,000 per annum savings from the Weald Information Centre, she had been invited with Cllr. Fletcher to a meeting with Paul Taylor and Nicky Carter. They had been informed that the savings were calculated from expected efficiency savings across all Gateways not just the Weald Information Centre. They had also been assured that the emphasis would be to strengthen the Weald Information services in Cranbrook rather than weaken them.

The survey on the condition of the Regal car park was scheduled for Sunday 28th January. The formal report would identify any urgent works required.

She also advised that today she had left her home of twenty four years and had moved to a temporary address in Sandhurst. Her landline would no longer be available but she was happy for any Member to contact on her mobile or via email which would remain unchanged.

She referred to the Parish Chairman's meeting notes that had been circulated and invited questions. Cllr. Swann queried the item on discussions into the new refuse and recycling contract which the Borough are due to put out to tender. He raised concerns that the ambiguities in our contract with Biffa needed to be resolved. Cllr. Veitch suggested that she and Cllr. Swann request a meeting with Gary Stevenson – Head of Environmental and Street Scene Services at TWBC, to clarify what our contract should include in relation to the car parks. Cllr. Hannam advised that he had made a request that the civic amenity vehicle should return to its original schedule, as in his opinion the current schedule was not sufficient to be effective, he is yet to hear if his request has been successful. In reference to charging for the garden waste, Cllr. Cook queried if it would be possible for some parishioners to share a bin, Cllr. Veitch offered to take this suggestion to Gary Stevenson.

She concluded her report by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Reports from Committees:

122/17: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Goodchild gave a report of the meeting held on 9th January and invited questions. None were raised. He proposed adoption of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed. Cllr. Swann congratulated the Clerks on the recent audit report from KCC.

123/17: Planning & Preservation:

Cllr. Bunyan gave a report of the meeting held on 19th December and invited questions. Cllr. Fletcher referred to the application in Dr. Hopes Road and the angst that had been generated from it. He believed the parking assessment conducted on behalf of the applicant was flawed. The kerbside parking opportunities identified in the report were not feasible in his opinion as it would cause obstruction issues. He had, himself surveyed the area at 4 o'clock one morning and had only been able to identify 3 available spaces. The argument that the garages were not being used was also not acceptable as the rents had recently been raised to £40 per week which was unaffordable to most. He felt the NDP should encourage protection of the existing neighbourhood as well as identifying areas for new growth. He asked the planning committee to look hard at all applications for infills and perhaps consider restricting our recommendations for approval to single storey buildings. Cllr. Bunyan advised that she had been informed that Borough Cllr. Sean Holden had already 'called in' the application for consideration by TWBC's planning committee.

124/17: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Bunyan advised that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 16th January.

125/17: Environmental Management:

In the absence of Cllr. Fairweather, the Clerk reiterated his plea for a volunteer to organise the Cranbrook litter pick in February. Cllr. Veitch's offer to do so was gratefully accepted.

126/17: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne advised that the Group had been looking at the feedback from the public exhibitions. The results of the dots on maps exercise had been collated and was on the website. The information collated from the postcards had been fed back to the task groups and there are some workshops scheduled for next week to work on policy development. She has a meeting with Nick Taylor and Louise Burgess – H.W.A. scheduled for 23rd January.

Jesse Honey - AECOM technical support, has produced a draft report on the site assessments which needs to be commented on by the end of the month. A timeline has also been produced for the group to work to over the coming months. She invited questions. Cllr. Swann raised a concern that not all the people that had indicated they would like to be involved had been contacted, he himself, had said he would like to be involved in the Town Centre Group but had not been invited to any meetings. Cllr. Warne was aware that had been an issue and was doing her best to resolve it.

Cllr. Bunyan and Veitch thanked Cllr. Warne for all the work she has put in and doubted that we would have got where we have without her dedication and enthusiasm.

Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December, seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

127/17: CCAAC:

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 24th January.

128/17: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch had nothing to report.

129/17: Reports from Delegates:

500 Committee - Cllr. Cook

Cranbrook School has started its programme of events with a schedule of interesting monthly Monday afternoon talks.

Cranbrook Tourism Group – Cllr. Holmes

The recent meeting had seen the attendance of Rev. Ann Pollington, Vicar of St. Dunstan's, who had shared the plans for raising funds to help with the running costs of the Church.

The Group were continuing their work on finding material to fill a full page advertisement in the Wealden Ad and on a promotional film for the area.

Cranbrook Museum – Cllr. Holmes

The museum would be supporting the Kent Big Weekend event in March. The possibility of becoming involved in English Tourism Week was also discussed, however this was not met with a great deal of enthusiasm as the process of connecting the various activities was extremely complicated and it was scheduled for the week immediately prior to Kent's Big Weekend.

Transport Accessibility Group - Cllr. Holmes

Cllr. Holmes referred to the media speculation that KCC were to savagely cut the subsidised bus services. He informed members that Kent County Cllr. Sean Holden had received a letter from KCC leader Paul Carter which reports on the accepted proposal to go out to public consultation regarding any reduction in service which Cllr. Holmes was hopeful this Council would take part in.

Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group - Cllr. Holmes.

The next meeting was scheduled for 27th February.

Cllr. Bunyan thanked Cllr. Holmes for all his work in representing the Parish Council with other organisations, which was echoed by all Members.

Cranbrook and District Age Concern - Cllr. Warne

Cllr. Warne advised that David and Roni Summers were in the process of consulting with Trustees on the best way forward for the organisation.

130/17: Clerk's Report:

There were no issues to report.

131/17: Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report.

132/17: Items for Information:

a) Cllr. Bunyan advised that on the 17th January, the government is increasing planning fees by 20%.

b) Cllr. Cook welcomed the imminent opening of two new businesses in the Town, Arthur's and Cloudberry's and the opening of the Sunshine Café at the primary school.

c) In welcoming the government's proposals to reduce the use of disposable coffee cups, Cllr. Bunyan and Cook would like to discuss adopting a policy for this, Cllr. Veitch suggested that Environmental Management could make it an agenda item for its next meeting.

d) Cllr. Holmes informed Members that there was a concert at St. Dunstan's Church on Sunday 21st January at 7.30pm, featuring folk band the Nine Barrows. It was also hoped that folk band Fairport Convention would be performing in Cranbrook later this year. He also wanted to encourage everyone to take part in the 100 Club to help the PCC raise funds.

e) Cllr. Swann advised that The Friends of St. Dunstan's were holding their Annual Quiz Night on Saturday 3rd February in the Vestry Hall.

f) Cllr. Goodchild informed members that due to increasing involvement with an organisation called Emmanuel Press that he and wife Kay would be leaving their home in Cranbrook on 27th February to join a small team of volunteers in South Africa. Although it would initially be for five to six months, the expectation was that it may continue beyond that, so tonight he was tendering his resignation to make way for a new person as he felt it would be inappropriate for him to continue to serve as a Parish Councillor because he could not be in two places at once. He read a passage from his resignation letter which told of his desire to place on record how good it had been to be part of a caring and active parish council and how one day he may return and put himself forward to serve once again.

It was with a heavy heart that the Chairman accepted Cllr. Goodchild's resignation, she wished him well and wanted to thank him for all the good work he had put in since joining the Council in 2011.

133/17: Report from Borough Cllr. Hannam:

Cllr. Hannam advised that the consultation on potential sites for a new garden village had come to an end at December, he had not been told officially of the result as yet. He concluded by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

The meeting was closed