

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2017**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Hall, Hartley, Kemp and Smith. Borough Cllr. Dawlings and Borough and Kent County Cllr. Sean Holden.

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.

89/17: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th October be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

90/17: Chairman's Report:

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Fletcher for chairing October's Parish Council meeting in her absence.

She reported on her schedule of visits to all the local schools. She had visited Colliers Green and Sissinghurst, and had three other visits scheduled in the next two weeks. If there was a particular topic that any councillor would like her to raise with the headteachers, then please let her know via an email.

She stated that we are all aware that there is a considerable amount of contravention of parking regulations on the streets, contributing to danger for both pedestrians and other road users, she had raised this with the TWBC Parking manager, who had assured her that they visit two or three times a week on different days and at different times. There was no offer to visit more often.

The recent figures provided to the Sissinghurst Speed Watch group show that during the monitoring period an average of 10 cars an hour exceed the speed limit. When the volunteers are not visible one can only assume that it could be more. Since the group started monitoring the maximum speed recorded was 56mph, and even recently a figure of 50mph was noted. As previous statistics show that on average 75% of those that exceed the speed limits are locals. If anyone wishes to start a Cranbrook Speed Watch team, she advised them to leave their details with the Clerks.

The Remembrance Day services and parades are on Sunday. We will be represented at both the Sissinghurst and Cranbrook events and will lay wreaths. She hoped that many of the Councillors would also be in attendance. It looked as if we would have dry weather. The decorations in the Weald Information Centre of the knitted poppies are beautiful, she congratulated and thanked Nita Chandler, Lynn, Lori and Laura for putting the displays together.

She congratulated Cllr. Fairweather on his success in the starring role of the CODs production, and also our Deputy Clerk for her contribution to the musical's success.

Cllr. Veitch advised of some welcome progress with the discussions between TWBC and the Co-op about the rights of access to Wilkes Field. They have accepted the recommendation that access for both construction and afterwards will be via the Regal car park. They have stated in an email to TWBC that they are now happy to discuss Heads of Terms. However they now require that repairs to the Regal car park are undertaken before June 2018. To progress this we voted to accept the quote from a TWBC supplier for a survey and report on the condition of that car park. We expect that to be undertaken in the next few days.

She was expecting that draft Heads of Terms and various Memorandums of Understanding between TWBC, Co-op, Guy Johnson and ourselves, would be available for us to discuss at the December Parish Council meeting. She wanted to make Councillors aware that the current thinking by TWBC and Guy Johnson is that the Community Centre land would initially be transferred by Guy Johnson to TWBC. TWBC would take responsibility for delivering the project, and then transfer the building and land to the Parish Council for on-going management and maintenance. She asked Councillors to give this concept some thought before seeing the draft paperwork. It has several advantages, such as access to TWBC's procurement framework and project management expertise and removing any need for a claw-back clause. She would want to make absolutely certain that the land and building does come to us and that we have an active influence on the design of the Community Centre.

Reports from Committees:

91/17: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Goodchild gave a report of the meeting held on the 7th November and referred to the decisions made. Cllr. Veitch advised that the quote under item 64/17 would not include the additional £375 as specified. She also wished to clarify that under item 60/17, the solicitor at Buss Murton that she had initially approached, had advised her that he was not an expert in charities. Cllr. Goodchild proposed adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November, this was seconded by Cllr. Fletcher and agreed.

92/17: Planning & Preservation:

Cllr. Bunyan gave reports of the meetings held on the 17th October and 7th November. She highlighted the amendments to the road layout on the Brick Kiln application which appeared to make use of some of the land surrounding the War Memorials. Some concerns were raised, Members agreed that further investigations were necessary to establish exactly where the proposed road would go. Cllr. Swann raised a concern on the height of the houses being built in Angley Road and was advised that any suspected breaches in the planning regulations should be reported to the planning authority TWBC.

93/17: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford referred to the meeting held on 17th October and highlighted the decision to look into installing a safety handrail leading from the south door of St. Dunstan's Church. The Clerk reported that she had been advised that a faculty from the Church was required which would involve costs, a decision as to whether we proceed would be taken at the next Policy & Resources meeting in December. In response to Cllr. Swann, Cllr. Clifford confirmed that the work to the trees in St. Dunstan's Churchyard was being completed as per the recommendations in the tree safety report.

Cllr. Clifford proposed adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

94/17: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather advised the next meeting would be on Tuesday 28th November. Cllr. Swann highlighted the excellent work being carried out by the Kent High Weald Partnership in the Crane Valley Nature Reserve.

95/17: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne reported that there had been two meetings and the group were working towards the public exhibitions in November. These would be held in the Vestry Hall on 22/23rd and then move to St George's Institute for a further two days. The exhibition will move to Cranbrook Library following the Sissinghurst event and remain there for a further 2 weeks. Parishioners will be shown maps of the area highlighting the sites identified for possible development and invited to comment on them. Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed. She then proposed adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November which was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

96/17: CCAAC:

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next meeting was scheduled for 22nd November.

97/17: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch referred to the Parish News which had been circulated via email. She advised that no date had been set for the next Parish Chairman's meeting.

98/17: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that he had attended a meeting on 31st October at which the group were looking at initiatives to promote the parish. One of the suggestions was to take out a full page advertisement in the Wealden Advertiser covering the four major attractions in the town. Creating a promotional film for posting on You Tube was also being considered.

The Friends of St. Dunstan's were launching an appeal to raise funds for improvements to the fabric of the building.

The group were pleased to see the initial success of Larkin's Alehouse which appears to be very popular.

Cllr. Holmes referred to the relaunch of the Cranbrook Business Association on Monday 13th November and encouraged fellow councillors to attend and support the event.

99/17: Clerks Report:

The Deputy Clerk gave a report on the crime statistics she had received from P.C.S.O Lee Jules for the months of September and October. It was confirmed that incidents of fly tipping on private land are not recorded by any authority.

100/17: Correspondence:

A letter of thanks had been received from the Chief Officer of the Citizens Advice Bureau, thanking the Council for the recent grant of £1850.

101/17: Items for Information:

a) Cllr. Veitch wished to record thanks to the parishioner that had donated a framed notice of The Weald of Kent Rifle Volunteer Ball which was held in the Vestry Hall on 1st January 1866. It would remain on display in the Council Chamber. She also raised the following items for information:

Sissinghurst Primary School had informed us that there is a vacancy on their Governing Body for a Local Authority governor. This role must be filled by someone independent of the school, who has not worked in a local school in the past two years. If anyone is interested they should contact the school or Mrs Amanda Goodchild (Chair of Governors).

The Rev Ann Pollington had informed her of a vacancy to fill the role of Church Treasurer. Anyone interested should contact the vicar.

The Kent County Council Draft Budget Strategy is open for consultation until 3rd December 2017, should anyone wish to read and comment on it.

Wednesday 15th November is the Thanksgiving service for Cllr. Ron Weeden, at 2.30pm at St. Dunstan's Church.

The Council's RIBA Stage 3 Reports relating to the proposed Civic Centre, Offices and new Theatre have now been published and you can find links to download them on TWBC's website. Covering reports and appendices relating to the delivery of the project, which will be going before the Cabinet Advisory Boards, have also been published and can be found online. The final Road Show event will be taking place on Saturday 11th November, 9am – 6pm at Royal Victoria Place, Tunbridge Wells.

The Cranbrook Art Show is on tonight, Friday and Saturday. It is always worth visiting and buying art for yourself or as a present for others

b) Cllr. Warne stated her desire to see an updated Welcome Pack produced, in the light of all the new developments being considered.

Report from Borough Cllr. Hannam:

Cllr. Hannam spoke of the Civic Centre development and what he saw as the propaganda campaign to convince everyone that it was a wonderful thing. He shared the financial figures for the project which are now in the public domain. He advised that the final decision would be made by TWBC on 6th December, he would be voting against it. In response to Cllr. Cook, he confirmed that the vote would be recorded. In response to Cllr. Fletcher he advised that there was a shortage of office space in Tunbridge Wells, partly due to much of it being converted to residential and that the Council were confident all available space could be let.

The current proposals for the land at the rear of The Street in Sissinghurst have been withdrawn. They had been rejected by Kent County Council on traffic management grounds.

He reported that work on the Local Plan is ongoing, the number of homes we are expected to build, is ever increasing. He referred to the Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan, which he understands has failed because an insufficient housing provision had been identified.

Report from Borough Cllr. Dawlings:

In the absence Cllr. Dawlings, Cllr. Veitch read out a summary of his report which included an extensive update on the planned Civic Complex.

Information was given on the new waste collection contract which is due to start in March 2019. The Council are considering introducing kerbside glass collections in addition to charging for the collection of garden waste.

He reported that the planning application for a new clubhouse at Cranbrook Rugby Club had now been submitted and should be determined by January 2018. It will have facilities available for community use. He is assisting with fundraising for the project and it was hoped they would be able to secure funding from the RFU and Sports England, although planning approval must be obtained prior to any grant application being considered.

The meeting was closed

The Chairman invited comments from the public.

A member of the public referred to an item that was discussed at a Full Council meeting in July 2016. The Chairman advised the parishioner that as the item was confidential it would be inappropriate for her to comment.

A member of the public referred to the Borough's plans for the Civic Centre, offices and new theatre and raised concern regarding the overall cost.