

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018**

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fairweather, Fermor, Fletcher, Hall, Hartley, Holmes, Smith, Swann and Warne.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Kemp and Borough Cllr. Hannam.

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.

134/17: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th January be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

135/17: Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that she and Cllr Fletcher had met with a resident of Colliers Green who had advised that the broadband speed was so low in Colliers Green that the children cannot do their homework. She has coordinated about 45 households who are happy to take part in a BT Community Fibre Partnership. They are hoping to string fibre-to-premises broadband from Colliers Green School up to Pinnock Lane. The £95k project is to be funded with grants and household contributions. We wish them every success with this project.

Cllr. Veitch advised that she had contacted an officer from the Community Safety Unit of Kent Police regarding the issue of vehicles mounting the pavement in Stone Street. He then visited Cranbrook to see the situation himself, and had sent an email with some suggestions. He commented that several passers-by spoke to him, and were pleased to see him taking an interest. This has been passed to Environmental Management Committee for consideration.

KCC have postponed their consultation on the bus services consultation. The amount of suggested cuts has been reduced, although KCC will have to save that money in other ways. She did not have any more details at present.

She and the clerks had attended the KALC Data Protection Seminar. There are some resultant actions, in order that we are fully prepared for the new legal requirements. This includes an Information Audit and new policies for Data Privacy and Data Retention. In informal discussions with other Parish Chairman at that seminar it seems a possibility that the TWBC Data Protection Officer will not have the time to help the Parishes bring their procedures up to date and conduct ongoing management. Instead we will have discussions about the practicalities of bringing in outside specialist help, shared across the TWBC parishes.

Her visit to HWA was postponed at request of the school, and has been rescheduled for March.

She has a meeting with David Jukes scheduled for later in February to review progress with the negotiations in regard to the Community Centre. The survey report on the condition of the Regal car park together with estimates from a quantity surveyor was expected to be available tomorrow.

At the last Parish Council meeting it was suggested that our Lloyds Bank branch in Cranbrook was under threat. She had spoken to a representative from the branch who had said that Lloyds has strong central location and a very strong presence in Cranbrook due to the closure of the HSBC and Barclay's branches. Businesses still need to access their cash, which they do via the branch. The new Lloyds Mobile Banking van is based here at Cranbrook, and they have taken on an additional two members of staff to support the mobile banking. There is nothing to indicate closure of the Lloyds branch in the foreseeable future.

The resignation of Peter Goodchild from the Parish Council has resulted in a Casual Vacancy. There has been no call for a public election to fill this, and so the vacancy has been advertised following due process. We have had some expressions of interest, and are planning to schedule a co-option at the March Parish Council meeting.

136/17: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Swann gave a report of the meeting held on 6th February and invited questions, none were raised. Cllr. Fairweather proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Fletcher and agreed. Cllr. Cook referred to item 105/17 and congratulated Cllr. Clifford on the expansion of the next edition of Parish Cake and for securing sufficient advertising to cover the cost. Cllr. Clifford reiterated that the success of the magazine was a team effort.

137/17: Planning & Preservation:

Cllr. Bunyan gave a report of the meetings held on 16th January and 6th February and invited questions. In response to Cllr. Swann, Cllr. Smith advised that a meeting was scheduled in the near future with the developer and agent for the land behind St. George's Institute. He would update Members in due course. Cllr. Bunyan advised that the application for Gate Farm that had due to be discussed by TWBC Planning Committee next week had been withdrawn.

138/17: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford referred to the minutes of the meeting held 16th January and in particular item 26/17, the safety handrail in St. Dunstan's Church. The Clerk confirmed that a planning application and a faculty from the church were required. Work to secure these was ongoing. A parishioner had pledged a substantial donation to help with the cost. Cllr. Clifford also referred to the item on the Cranbrook War Memorial and the agreement to improve the landscaping in the area. In response to Cllr. Fermor, Cllr. Clifford hoped that some suggestions for utilising the red telephone boxes would be brought forward by Cllr. Hall at their next meeting. Cllr. Cook proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

139/17: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather advised the next meeting was scheduled for 13th March.

140/17: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne updated Members on the Landscape Character workshop introduced by David Scully that had been held the previous evening in the Vestry Hall. Plenty of information had been obtained that now had to be collated to provide supporting evidence for the landscape policies. She referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January and with a minor correction on a spelling of a name she proposed adoption, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

Cllr. Warne referred to the extra meeting of the steering group that she had called on the 5th February to discuss the draft AECOM report from Jesse Honey. The only sites that he had assessed were either in the limits to build or adjacent to previous allocations. Cllr. Fairweather raised concern at some inaccuracies within the report. Members were advised to email Cllr. Warne and copy in the Deputy Clerk with any inaccuracies identified so the document can be corrected.

A summary of initial assessment of site suitability within the report had been added to with the comments from the steering group and attached to the draft minutes of the meeting of 5th February. Cllrs. Warne and Smith had attended a meeting with Kelvin Hinton, Deborah Dixon and Ellen Gilbert to discuss the progression of the TWBC Local Plan. They had wanted us to clarify if we were prepared to undertake our own site assessments for the NDP. The steering group had voted in favour of that proposal during the meeting of the 5th February.

A full discussion followed on the summary report and possible locations to accommodate the housing numbers we are expected to take. Cllr. Hall advised Members that information she had gained from sitting on the Planning Policy working group had led her to believe that the figures we would be expected to take would be far in excess of what had been muted to date. She also advised that land within the A.O.N.B was afforded the same protection as National Parks unless exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated. Sevenoaks Borough Council had agreed they would not build on any of their A.O.N.B or greenbelt land and have limited the houses they intend to build to 6,000, whereas TWBC are suggesting that this borough should be able to meet the government target of 14,000.

Cllr. Warne referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February. Cllr. Smith felt that further discussion was necessary before the minutes could be adopted as it would ratify the decision that the NDP would undertake the site assessments on behalf of the Parish Council. As yet we do not know how many numbers we will need to take. Although we may agree in principle to take on the site assessments we should defer that decision until we know the precise numbers involved. The Clerk advised that the minutes could be approved for accuracy but not adopted, so the resolution to undertake the site assessments could be withdrawn until more information was available. Members discussed at length undertaking the site allocations ourselves but felt more time and information was needed before an informed decision could be made. In response to Cllr. Hartley, Cllr. Warne confirmed additional funding would be available if we were to undertake the site assessments ourselves.

Cllr. Veitch proposed the minutes of the meeting held 5th February be approved for accuracy only and that the decision to undertake the site allocations ourselves be deferred until the Full Council meeting in March, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr. Hall seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed that Cllr. Warne be delegated the authority to correct inaccuracies and update the AECOM report prior to sending it back to them to complete a further draft.

Cllrs. Veitch, Warne, Clifford and Fermor will discuss how best to communicate the work of the NDP for an article in the summer edition of Parish Cake.

Cllr. Veitch reiterated her previous comment that the NDP would not be at the stage it was, without the commitment and enthusiasm of Cllr. Warne. Cllr. Warne thanked the Deputy Clerk for all the assistance she has given to the Committee.

141/17: CCAAC:

Cllr. Bunyan advised of a few corrections to the draft minutes that had been circulated, which were noted by Members.

142/17: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch advised the next Parish Chairman's meeting would be held here on Wednesday 21st February.

143/17: Reports from Delegates:

500 Committee - Cllr. Cook

Cllr. Cook reported that the most recent talk ‘The Piers Sellers Memorial Lecture’ had been extremely successful, the next one was entitled ‘Everest and the 1996 Storm’.

Katherine Elizabeth Wood Charity – Cllr. Cook.

Cllr. Cook advised that the charity continues to provide financial support to good causes.

Cranbrook Tourism Group – Cllr. Holmes

The next meeting was scheduled for 7th March.

Cranbrook Museum – Cllr. Holmes

The next meeting was scheduled for 13th February.

Transport Accessibility Group - Cllr. Holmes

The next meeting was scheduled for 23rd February.

Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group - Cllr. Holmes.

The next meeting was scheduled for 27th February.

Cranbrook Business Association – Cllr. Fletcher.

Cllr. Fletcher advised they were running training for heart defibrillation on Monday, taking place at the Fire Station

144/17: Clerk’s Report:

There were no issues to report.

145/17: Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report.

146/17: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fletcher reported that he had scheduled a meeting next week with Chargemaster in connection with installing charge points for electric vehicles in Jockey Lane car park.

Cllr. Veitch reminded Members that the litter pick in Sissinghurst would be in the morning of 17th February and at 2pm by the recycling bins for Cranbrook. Costa Coffee were donating a small drink and a discount on a cake for those participating in the Cranbrook event.

Cllr. Veitch reported that the referendum for the Hawkhurst NDP was being held today.

Cllr. Veitch advised everyone that the Telephone Preference Service could be applied to mobiles.

Cllr. Swann referred to the ‘About Us’ publication and urged Members to read it and report any inaccuracies to the Clerks for correction.

147/17: Report from Borough Cllr. Hall

Cllr. Hall reported that after a great deal of pressure from herself and Cllr. Hannam, the provision of the civic amenity vehicle had been included for consideration, in the tender in the new TWBC waste contract to be awarded in 2019.

The meeting was closed