

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK  
ON THURSDAY 14TH JUNE 2018**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair) Cllrs. Beck, Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fairweather, Fermor, Fletcher, Holmes, Smith, Swann, & Warne. Borough Cllr. Hannam.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Hall and Hartley, Borough Cllr. Dawlings.

Councillor Veitch welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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. She notified those present that the meeting was being recorded as a Clerk's aid. A member of the public declared they were also recording the meeting.

**30/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

**31/18: Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman advised that next week she and Cllr Fletcher plan to attend a presentation by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group on the development of local care hubs in West Kent, she would report back what they learn.

She also plans to attend the Armed Forces Day service in St Dunstan's on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July and hopes that some of her fellow councillors will be able to join her. She will also be attending the Annual Councillors Conference on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July is also the day of the judges' visit for South East in Bloom. She thanked Cranbrook in Bloom and all their helpers for making the town look so good, and hoped for every success in the judging.

Along with Cllr Fletcher, she had visited Buss Murton's office in Tunbridge Wells to progress the land transfer legal documents. A pack of information had been previously given to them so that the meeting could be an efficient use of the solicitor's time.

She had been unable to attend the Nuts In May event, but understood it to be a great success and much enjoyed, especially as the weather was glorious.

She had attended the Parish Chairmans meeting earlier this week and would circulate the minutes when available. We were informed that work on the old cinema site was due to start in 2019, that the work on the Crescent Road car park should complete in November, and that the work on the Cultural Hub is due to start early next year.

On Tuesday she had attended the formal opening of the Cranbrook School Sixth Form Centre. The unveiling of the plaque was done by the Princess Royal. The continuation of the school's 500<sup>th</sup> year celebrations will include a fete on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, to be held on Scott Field, with parking on Rammel Field. This will include dog shows, and will be open to everyone. Playlets will be done throughout the town, with one outside the Vestry Hall after the Farmers Market.

There will also be a Flower Festival being staged in St Dunstan's church which she was sure will be beautiful and well worth a visit. This runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June and includes music and refreshments. One display is being sponsored by the Parish Council, and if anyone would like to help with making it specific to us, please let the Clerks know as soon as possible.

Thoughts are being given to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of World War I in November. The activities centred around St Dunstan's Church are already in preparation, but she had suggestions that the Parish Council and the town should organise some additional events and celebrations. She will therefore contact members of the community to see what can be arranged. If any councillor wishes to take a lead role in this, or participate in any way, or suggest community members to contact, she would be very grateful. Traditionally Cranbrook and Sissinghurst have commemorated Remembrance Day separately, but perhaps there is an opportunity here for shared activities.

She recorded her thanks to Cllr. Beck and the Clerks for all their hard work in preparing the Parish Council for compliance with the new GDPR requirements including the Information Audit.

By now everyone should have received their copy of our successful Parish magazine, Parish Cake. She thanked Cllr. Clifford and his team for their hard work and expertise.

Reports from Committees

**32/18: Policy & Resources:**

Cllr. Swann referred to the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and invited questions. Cllr. Clifford queried the description of the contract for Coffee Shop Media in 14/18, but was assured by Cllr. Holmes that once returned by Coffee Shop Media, the contract would be put before Policy and Resources for consideration.

Cllr. Clifford also referred to 17/18 and reiterated his disappointment that Cllr. Swann had not approached him personally with his concerns on the content of the magazine. Cllr. Clifford advised that Cllr. Swann had given him a list of people that had raised concerns and he would be contacting them in the near future to discuss their concerns with them, after which he would consider his position as editor of the publication. Cllr. Smith commented that he had only ever received positive feedback on the magazine from residents. Cllr. Cook felt it unwise to give undue weight to the single issue, which in this case appeared to be the omission of an article that should or should not have been included in the latest edition, as it was not a reasonable sample of evidence. Cllr. Fermor suggested that the deadline for copy could be highlighted in future editions, along with the statement that a guarantee could not be given that all submissions would be published. Cllr Veitch commended the success of the magazine which was largely due to the expertise of the team, she reiterated that Cllr. Clifford had been delegated the responsibility of editorship of the publication.

Cllr. Swann proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed. Cllr. Clifford abstained from the vote and requested that his abstention be recorded.

**33/18: Planning and Preservation Management:**

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June. A Member pointed out that the address for application 18/01365/FULL had been omitted. The Clerk would rectify the error before posting on the website.

Cllr. Bunyan advised that she had attended the exhibition that Berkeley Homes had held in the Vestry Hall detailing their plans for Turnden. She had given them a copy of our Eco Design Guide but was not confident that they would use it. Cllr. Fletcher had also attended and thought the exhibition very interesting but could not envisage local people being able to afford the properties which was of concern. Cllr. Warne reported that the C.V.L.T were working extremely hard to address this issue and build community led affordable homes.

**34/18: Burials & Properties:**

Cllr. Clifford advised that the next meeting was a site meeting and was scheduled for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**35/18: Environmental Management:**

Cllr. Fairweather advised that their next meeting was also a site meeting and was scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**36/18: Neighbourhood Plan:**

Cllr. Warne referred to the minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> May and gave a report of the meeting. She highlighted the forthcoming public exhibition being held on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June in St. George's Institute, Sissinghurst and 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> in the Vestry Hall Cranbrook. She felt that the recent Berkeley Homes exhibition had made residents more aware of the need to engage with the NDP. Several members expressed concern that the developments being proposed for this area were too expensive for local people to afford. Cllr. Smith's opinion was that the Government's objective was to build extensively to cause a property crash which would result in lower house prices.

Cllr. Warne also referred to the dark skies monitoring used to measure light pollution that the Steering Group were undertaking and informed members there was no longer an obligation to provide streetlights on new developments. She proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> May, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

As the meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> June contained a confidential item, it was agreed to defer adoption of those minutes until all other agenda items had been discussed.

Reports from Delegates:

**37/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:**

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and invited questions. Cllr. Clifford referred to the item on Providence Chapel and was surprised at the statement that there was no immediate risk of further damage to the chapel as he had received reports that 'bits' were falling off and it was a danger to those living nearby.

Cllr. Fermor requested that the community orchard should be referred to as that, and not the community garden as it was referred to in the minutes. Cllr. Bunyan agreed to take that back to the committee.

**38/18: KALC:**

Cllr. Veitch advised that she had attended the KALC Area Committee meeting in May and she would circulate the minutes when they were available. She had requested that the errors in the previous minutes were corrected. She also referred to the newsletter that had been circulated and invited questions, none were raised.

**39/18: Cranbrook School 500 Committee:**

Cllr Cook reported that he had attended the recent meeting with Cllr. Veitch and that all the remaining plans for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary are looking very good, the lectures and talks still to come look interesting.

**40/18: Elizabeth Wood Charity:**

Cllr. Cook reported that the charity continues to award grants to those in need. He will be writing a piece on all the local charities for the next edition of Parish Cake.

**41/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:**

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting was scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**42/18: Transport Accessibility Group:**

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> June. He did have some news that members may find interesting. Due to a S106 agreement in Hawkhurst and as a result of monies being allocated for improvements to the bus services, from 8<sup>th</sup> July, there would be three additional early morning services, two from Sandhurst to Staplehurst and one from Staplehurst to Sandhurst, there would also be two additional late evening services from Sandhurst to Maidstone and some tweaks to the off peak services leaving Maidstone. He also mentioned that Arriva were introducing a twilight campaign with reduced fares on some services which they hoped would entice usage. There was no update as yet from Arriva on the Sissinghurst S106 agreement for improvement to bus services.

**43/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:**

Cllr. Holmes advised that the A.G.M was schedule for 17<sup>th</sup> July, here in the Council Chamber. The group would be attending the Horsmonden Heritage Day in October.to inform people of the work the group does.

**44/18: Cranbrook Museum:**

Cllr. Holmes reported that he had attended a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and reminded Members that the museum would be open on Sundays during July and August and were participating in the Cranbrook Literature Festival in September. He advised that previously funding for the museum had come from the TWBC community grant scheme, however it will now be funded from the Tunbridge Wells museum budget.

**45/18: Clerk's Report:**

There were no issues to report.

**46/18: Correspondence:**

A letter had been received from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £300 that had recently been awarded.

A thank you card from ex Madam Mayor, Julia Soyke for the invitation to our Annual Parish Meeting in April was read out.

A card from Phillip Mummery was also read out, thanking the Parish Council for nominating him for the KALC Community Award, he was incredibly pleased to have received it.

**47/18: Items for Information:**

Cllr. Veitch advised of a KCC public meeting on the future of rural bus services was being held at the High Weald Academy on 17<sup>th</sup> July between 7pm – 9pm.

Cllr. Smith asked for volunteers to come forward for the Sissinghurst Fete.

Cllr. Bunyan reminded members of the Sissinghurst Flower Show being held this Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm in Sissinghurst Primary School.

Cllr. Swann reminded members of the Festival of Flowers being held in St. Dunstan's between 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June, the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells and the Bishop would both be attending. He also mentioned that the Garden Safari was this Sunday, his garden had been entered and anyone wishing to visit would be warmly welcomed. Cllr. Fermor advised that her garden had also been included.

**48/18: Reports from Borough Councillors:**

In the absence of Cllr. Dawlings, Cllr. Veitch read out the report he had emailed which referred to the positive feedback he had received from TWBC on the workshops with the NDP.

He has been working closely with TWBC's Local Plan team to argue against the housing numbers being sought for the rural area.

He had met with Berkeley Homes and was impressed by their approach to engage with the community.

He advised that 5 companies had tendered for TWBC's refuse contract which is in the process of being evaluated by officers. He expected that with more recycling (kerbside collections of glass) that costs would increase. He remains wholly opposed to the introduction of a garden waste charge and takes every opportunity to encourage TWBC to keep pressing KCC to deliver a recycling centre which is convenient for this part of the Borough.

As he has stated before, he has supported TWBC's plans for a new theatre and the development of a new office block in the entrance to Calverley Grounds which he believes is to be referred to as Calverley Square. His assessment is that this is important for TWBC's funding. Instead of receiving a Revenue Support Grant from Government, TWBC (shared with KCC) are permitted to retain all new business rates which will become an increasingly significant source of revenue. Private sector investments being made in Tunbridge Wells are, therefore, important and he highlighted the acquisition of Royal Victoria Place by British Land - the acquisition cost was around £100mn and a like amount will be invested to upgrade the shopping centre. British Land are one of the biggest retail operators in the country and see Tunbridge Wells as a key centre. That should be good for the funding of TWBC and also good for us as it will help to fund services provided throughout the Borough.

In regard to Cranbrook Rugby/Cricket Club, he reported that the old cricket pavilion has been knocked down. The focus was now on fundraising for the planned new clubhouse which he is actively involved in.

Borough Cllr. Hannam advised that the contractor for the new civic centre project, had been decided but no announcement had been made as yet. In regard to business rates, they would be a central part of the councils plan for bringing in revenue in the future, however they had recently lost a hearing regarding the Tunbridge Wells Hospital which will cost the council £1.7m in lost business rate revenue.

In his capacity as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he has asked for more evidence on flytipping in the eastern side of the borough following the reduction of the civic amenity service. Other P.C's has reported an increase in flytipping so he has asked for the statistics to include waste dumped on private land as well as public land. It has been reported to him that some landowners are allowing this unauthorised activity in exchange for payment. He hopes that he can collect sufficient evidence to argue the return of the civic amenity vehicle to its previous schedule. It has been included as an option in the refuse contract but should that not be feasible he will continue to press KCC for a recycling site in this end of the borough, but he is not confident that will be achieved. In response to Cllr. Clifford he was not able to confirm the location of any new garden village being considered.

The meeting was closed to allow parishioners to ask questions.

A parishioner asked what the Parish Council were doing about the condition of the public toilets in Crane Lane. She was advised that they were still the responsibility of TWBC at the moment.

Another parishioner asked for clarification on the legislation surrounding the failure to attend meetings. She also asked if there were any plans to reintroduce the Welcome Packs to new residents. Cllr. Holmes advised that he was currently looking into how they would be distributed, he hoped to secure sponsorship from a local business to pay for the cost of reprinting. Cllr. Clifford suggested they could be given to the marketing suites of the new developments along with a copy of Parish Cake.

A further question was directed at Borough Cllr. Hannam in regard to the building of a new theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

The meeting was reopened:

**49/18: Report of the NDP meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> June for adoption:**

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the public, including the press be excluded from the remainder of the of this meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

Cllr. Warne advised that at the request of TWBC the information that has been discussed at the recent workshops regarding housing numbers and site allocations in the draft Local Plan would be commercially sensitive so should remain confidential at this moment in time. The numbers being discussed are recorded in the confidential minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. She advised that initially we had started by taking a hard line with TWBC and requesting evidence to support the numbers they were suggesting, which were a higher proportion of the total share than the previous Local Plan. Their reasoning behind the increase was the lack of a five year land supply, which would risk developers winning at the appeal stage, which had already happened in this parish. Cllr. Smith confirmed contrary to what we had originally thought, the numbers allocated would be irrespective of any local Housing Needs Assessment results which we had thought would be the driver behind the numbers allocated.

In response to Cllr. Holmes, Cllr. Warne confirmed that in order for TWBC to future proof the plan and ensure they will continue to have a five year land supply, they would consider the option of a ‘garden village’ to be delivered towards the end of this plan period and possibly into the next.

Cllr. Smith reiterated his view that time was of the essence, the NDP needs to be finalised and moved to the referendum stage as quickly as possible to avoid developers taking advantage of the current situation. Cllr. Smith confirmed that we had requested reassurance from TWBC that the allocations would be fairly distributed and just because some areas of the borough had not put any sites forward, it should not exclude them from taking any allocations.

Cllr. Warne explained that TWBC are looking for a Memorandum of Understanding from us on how the allocating process will work; it is not possible to have both the Local Plan and the NDP as allocating documents. They are looking to the Local Plan being the allocating document so it will have policies relating to each of the sites being allocated, but will cross reference with the policies in the NDP which will have much more detail.

Cllr. Warne proposed that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> June be adopted, including the resolution that the NDP continue the positive engagement with TWBC planning policy department. The NDP looked forward to seeing the notes from the workshop meetings and would like to be in receipt of a draft memorandum of understanding before the discussions continue. This was seconded by Cllr. Clifford and agreed.