

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2018**

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair) Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fairweather, Fermor, Fletcher, Hartley, Holmes, Swann & Warne. Borough Cllr. Dawlings and KCC and Borough Cllr. Holden.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Beck, Hall and Smith, Borough Cllr. Hannam.

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.

50/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

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

51/18: Cranbrook Waiting Restrictions – TWBC proposals.

The Chairman introduced Bryn Kemp – Temporary Senior Engineer from TWBC parking department and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Kemp explained that Cllr. Holden had requested that consideration should be given to replacing the current wide, bright yellow lines with narrower primrose lines in the conservation area. This had been taken forward by Lead Engineer Nick Baldwin to come up with a solution. The current condition of lining in the town makes enforcement extremely difficult in some cases. Two possible options were being considered by TWBC and at the request of Cllr. Holden, the Parish Council were to be consulted on which they felt most preferable. Both options would cost a similar amount. One option would be to replace all the current lines with a conservation type which had been the original request and would entail burning off the current lines which would cause some damage to the road surface before repainting with narrower paler lines. The other option could be a temporary experiment initially and would involve covering the current yellow lines completely with a bitumen style paint and using appropriate signage attached to existing street furniture as opposed to any linage. This would require a temporary traffic order, lasting approximately eighteen months. There would be additional loading bays provided as part of this option and a slight variation in the positioning of the bus stops. Mr. Kemp provided drawings of where the signage would need to go and mock up photographs of what impact the signage would have visually. If this scheme were to prove successful then a permanent traffic order could be obtained and the lines permanently removed. If the scheme was not successful then conservation lines could be introduced. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the loading bays are normally restricted to commercial vehicles. Members expressed a need for the exact size of the signage, Mr. Kemp agreed to check the dimensions and the necessary distance between them and inform the Clerk. Neither option covered the entire Conservation Area but it was hoped that the area could be extended in the future when funds were available. Cllr. Bunyan raised concern that extending the loading bays at the bottom of the High Street, may cause an issue for buses entering the High Street from Stone Street. Mr. Kemp reiterated that this was why a temporary traffic order would be obtained as it would allow for amendments to be made if issues were highlighted. In response to Cllr. Veitch, Mr. Kemp advised that he had not expected a decision immediately and was happy to leave the plans with the Parish Council to allow them time to consult with parishioners and organisations such as the Business Association and Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

Cllr. Veitch proposed that all relevant organisations are consulted and the information is collated and managed by the Environmental Management Committee, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

Cllr. Veitch thanked Mr. Kemp for attending and advised that we would respond with our preference as soon as possible.

52/18: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Veitch reported that since the June Parish Council meeting we have had the Sissinghurst Flower Show and the Cranbrook Garden Safari, and the Flower Festival in St Dunstan's. All were a great success and enjoyed by many.

Four Parish Councillors had attended the Armed Forces Services Day in St Dunstan's, with Cllr. Cook giving a thought provoking sermon.

The judges for South East Bloom visited on Tuesday of this week, and she hoped that they were impressed by all that has been done in the town.

She had attended the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group session in Tonbridge. The handouts are with the Clerks if anyone wishes to see them. The concept is that new medical centres would be created to treat people on a day basis, to relieve the pressure on the hospitals. No beds would be available. These centres would act as a sort of gateway to both social and medical care. There was no indication given of potential sites for these centres, and no time scales.

She had been approached by David Riddick to see if the Parish Council would act as a co-ordinator for community events on the afternoon of Sunday 11th November, the 100th anniversary of WWI. An initial meeting has resulted in the ideas of displays in St Dunstan's by various organisations, and the opening of the Vestry Hall for refreshments and displays of memorabilia. Cllr Clifford is considering a special publication. She would very much welcome some help with this, or for someone to take over the role of co-ordinator.

Cllr. Veitch advised that she had been invited to visit TWBC to see Paul Taylor, Director of Change & Communities. At that meeting she was presented with TWBC's proposed new model of provision of services in the Weald Information Centre, which they believed would provide a better more efficient service based on the evidence that they have collected. It was noted that the evidence was collected in February which is historically a quiet time. All councillors had been provided with hard copies of the details on a separate sheet. She expressed numerous arguments against this new model, but without any success, so has therefore asked Cllr. Holden to reinforce those arguments with the TWBC Cabinet. Cllr. Holden advised that he had requested that no decision on the proposal was taken until he and Cllr. Dawlings had chance to discuss the implications with the Leader of the Council. He would also invite Cllr. Hannam to attend. He felt the proposal contravened numerous points in the Tunbridge Wells Five Year Plan. Members requested that through the Clerk other Parishes in the rural area were advised of the proposal.

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Parish Council should not support any proposal from TWBC that results in a reduction of service at the Weald Information Centre, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

The first draft of the legal documents that relate to the granting of the Rights of Access from the Regal Car Park onto Wilkes Field have been received. Along with Cllrs. Fletcher and Swann, she had met with Buss Murton yesterday to discuss these.

At the Policy and Resources committee meeting on Tuesday she had raised a need to establish a small working group to discuss the various drafts of these legal documents, before a final draft version is brought to the Parish Council for consideration. This seems to be the most efficient way of using both Parish Council time and solicitors' time.

As an observer, she had attended by invitation, a meeting of the Paddock Wood Community Centre group. They have the advantage of a field that they already own, which is flat.

As we are losing our Deputy Clerk, Laura Larkin, next Friday, the position has been advertised in the Wealden Advertiser, and various websites, with a closing date for nominations tomorrow. We are very sorry to see Laura go, but wish her every success in her new venture and give her grateful thanks for all the hard work, patience and humour in the eighteen months she has been with us.

Cllr. Veitch referred to the Parish Chairman's meeting notes and invited question, none were raised.

Reports from Committees

53/18: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Swann referred to the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th July and invited questions. In reference to the item concerning 'going paperless', Cllr. Cook queried that if paperwork were emailed to councillors as opposed to being supplied in hard copy and then printed out by councillors, it was no more environmentally friendly than the present system; the cost would also be transferred from the Parish Council to Members. It was agreed that more research was required, the Clerks were making initial enquires with other parishes on their systems. At Cllr. Swann's request, it was also agreed that the Clerk would amend the minutes to reflect that Mike Palmby was a HR Consultant rather than a Management Consultant as stated in the minutes. With this minor amendment agreed, Cllr. Swann proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 10th July, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

54/18: Planning and Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 19th June and 3rd July and invited questions. Cllr. Fletcher commented that if a refusal was being recommended, if the points against the application were grouped into categories they may have a stronger impact. Cllr. Bunyan thought it was a good suggestion and agreed to look at devising a list of headings under which points of refusal could be listed.

55/18: Burials & Properties:

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

56/18: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather summarised the minutes of the meeting held 26th June, itemising the expenditure agreed at that meeting. Cllr. Fermor referred to the item on the Cranbrook litter pick and advised that she had not received the email requesting a volunteer organiser. Cllr. Fairweather proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Swann and agreed.

57/18: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne referred to the minutes of the 25th June. She advised that we were still awaiting the notes from TWBC on the workshops held at the end of May. She advised that the public consultation held over three days in June had been very successful, the feedback received was in the process of being collated.

There had been an additional Steering Group meeting held on the 9th July, to discuss the AECOM Housing Needs Assessment that had been received recently. The minutes of that meeting have not yet been circulated so will not be proposed for adoption this evening.

Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 25th June, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed. Cllr. Bunyan commended Cllr. Warne on her hard work during the exhibition in June.

Reports from Delegates:

58/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next meeting was on 25th July, she and Cllr. Swann would take a copy of the plans on the Cranbrook waiting restrictions and ask for the committee's opinion.

59/18: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch advised that an issue had arisen in circulating the latest newsletter as the file was too large to email. It was agreed that the Clerks would circulate the username and password for the KALC website to allow members to view the newsletter. A hard copy was also available in the office.

60/18: Elizabeth Wood Charity:

Cllr. Cook reported that the charity continues to award grants to an encouraging number of applicants.

61/18: Transport Accessibility Group

Cllr. Holmes reported that he had been unable to attend their last meeting on 22nd June and had yet to receive the minutes. The new timetable for the No. 5 is now in operation and is advertised on our website. The KCC Big Conversation, a consultation on all modes of transport that had been scheduled for 11th July at the High Weald Academy was postponed until 24th July 7 – 9pm. The group were sending three delegates.

62/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 17th July in the Council Chamber, it would start with the A.G.M. and continue with a regular committee meeting.

63/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes updated members on the progress of the full page feature in the Wealden Advertiser on Cranbrook's four main attractions. He thanked the Policy and Resources committee for the recent financial support pledged to the group. The group are working on a 'mission statement' for our website. He would be writing an article for Parish Cake expressing the virtues of volunteers. The next meeting was scheduled for 24th August.

64/18: Cranbrook Museum:

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting was scheduled for 31st July.

65/18: Age Concern:

Cllr. Warne reported that she attended the A.G.M on 27th June. A new Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary had been elected. She had also been made a trustee of the organisation. She also reported that work with the Tenterden Hub was progressing.

66/18: Clerk's Report:

There were no issues to report.

67/18: Correspondence:

A letter had been received from the Weald Branch of the Kent Beekeepers Association thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £500 that had recently been awarded.

68/18: Items for Information:

Cllr. Veitch reminded members that the closing date for the 'Love Where you Live Awards' nominations was 28th July, any suggestions for nominees would be gratefully received.

Cllr. Veitch advised that the minutes from the Literature Festival Committee meetings are available in the office should anyone wish to read them.

Cllr. Cook reported that sadly he had received news that Dr. Trayling had passed away recently.

Cllr. Fairweather, advised that if the Parish Council wished to have a stall at the forthcoming Sissinghurst Fete on 27th August, then a space would be made available for them. It was also suggested that the plans for the TWBC proposals for the waiting restrictions in Cranbrook could be displayed.

Cllr. Holmes referred to an item he had seen on BBC South East about Kent grammar schools collectively bidding for funding to expand, Cranbrook School was one that was mentioned.

Cllr. Swann reported that approximately 2000 people visited the Church over the three days of the Flower Festival. The Church is becoming a central focal point for the community organising many events, one of which is a regular coffee morning on Saturdays.

69/18: Reports from County & Borough Councillors:

a) Cllr. Holden referred to an email that he had circulated to all Members complaining to the Head of Planning at TWBC, regarding an application that he had previously 'called in' which was withdrawn, subsequently resubmitted and approved without further reference to him. He felt a change to the current procedure was necessary to prevent a reoccurrence.

Cllr. Holden also referred to the public consultation the 'Big Conversation' which was being undertaken to evaluate all forms of rural transport. KCC are looking to reduce the subsidies given to bus companies, he gave an example of a huge subsidy of £18.50 per passenger on one local route.

In support of his campaign for bees, he advised that he had seconded a motion for a pollenating strategy for Kent; tomorrow at the Environment Committee he will move that a working group is set up, to progress this which he hopes to chair.

He is also hoping to chair a working group on reducing the amount of lorries using the rural road network in Kent.

He reported on the Silent Soldier Statues that he had supported using his Members Grant Fund. He had also given a £6000 grant to Cranbrook Primary school to improve its library facilities and £1500 to Cranbrook Literature Festival for their forthcoming event.

b) Cllr. Dawlings referred to the recent change in personnel at TWBC planning department hoping that efficiency would improve as the new Head of Planning became established in the role. He referred to an earlier discussion on traffic issues in Stone Street and suggested that when the traffic lights are not working in central Hawkhurst, the traffic flows beautifully, so in his opinion they are not always the best solution.

The meeting was closed to allow parishioners to ask questions.

A parishioner reported that she was lobbying TWBC to improve the public toilet facilities in Cranbrook and was also in discussion with KCC in regard to the footpath between Angley Road and Wheatfield Way.

A member of the public referred to the excellent short film promoting Cranbrook Goes Nuts in May, which was available to view on our website.