

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST 2018**

PRESENT: Cllr. Fletcher (in the Chair) Cllrs. Beck, Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fermor, Hartley (in part), Hall (in part) Holmes, Swann and Warne. County and Borough Cllr. Holden.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Fairweather, Smith, and Veitch. Borough Cllrs. Dawlings and Hannam.

Councillor Fletcher 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.

Cllrs. Beck, Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fermor, Fletcher, Holmes, Swann and Warne declared they had been lobbied by Cllr. Hartley on the motion to save the tree in the Regal Car Park.

70/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

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

71/18: Cranbrook Waiting Restrictions – TWBC proposals.

The Chairman introduced Jane Fineman – Head of Finance and Procurement and Terry Martin - Traffic Technician from TWBC and welcomed them to the meeting. Mrs. Fineman handed out a Powerpoint presentation and explained the background, the options available and the costs involved. She explained that when the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1994 had changed the signing and lining requirements, Cranbrook's had not been changed and so had not been properly enforced since then which allowed inappropriate and inconsiderate parking in the town. This does need to be addressed. Following on from the presentation by Bryn Kemp at the July Parish Council meeting an amended map had been drafted and further information on the sizes and the quantity of signs required had been circulated to all Councillors. TWBC are suggesting they would like to change the times for the restrictions in the High Street from 8.30am to 6.30pm to 8am to 6pm, this minor amendment would not only allow the signs to be six inches narrower but would also homogenise the times across the borough. In response to Cllr. Fermor, it was confirmed that restrictions are necessary for reasons of safety and to allow access for buses, lorries and emergency vehicles, KCC would not support the removal of all restrictions. Cllr. Hall raised concern regarding attaching signs to buildings particularly in Stone Street where the majority are listed. Mrs Fineman confirmed that signs could not be sited on a building without the owner's consent and that most would be sited on lamp posts. If we were to opt for the primrose lines as opposed to the restricted parking zones, they would still need to remove five old signs as they are no longer compliant and put up twelve new, to allow for enforcement. A recurring issue is that when service repairs are carried out not all contractors are good at replacing the primrose lines when completing patch repairs. Some concerns were raised on the detail of some of the restrictions. Mrs. Fineman would appreciate our input to address any local anomalies that could arise. If we were to opt for the restricted parking zone option for an experimental period of eighteen months then we would be expected to make a commitment to the trial for that length of time. However if we did consider after that length of time that it was not the best option then we could go for the primrose lines. In response to Cllr. Warne we were advised that success would be measured by our feedback.

Cllr. Fletcher read out a statement from Peter Allen – Secretary of CCAAC stating their preference for primrose lines. Cllr. Fletcher reminded Members that we had previously agreed that other relevant organisations and as many parishioners as possible would be consulted and the Environmental Management Committee would manage and collate all the information before any decision was made. Mrs Fineman and Mr. Martin were thanked by Members and County Cllr. Holden for the work they had already put into the proposal and the comprehensive presentation delivered.

72/18: Radiata Pine – Regal Car Park

Motion: “We, the five councillors listed below wish to propose that the pine tree in the Regal Car Park, that appears to be subject to an imminent felling order, be saved from felling and that the Parish Council keeps it under observation until such time as any further action may be needed”

Cllrs. Fermor, Hall, Hartley, Kemp and Warne.

The Chairman advised that the Clerk had received written notification of a motion to reverse a decision ratified at the last Full Council meeting. He explained the democratic process involved and highlighted the importance of Members reading the minutes when they are issued.

Cllr. Fletcher referred to the advice we had received from Living Forest and the Tree Officer at Tunbridge Wells, Dan Docker who had stated that in his opinion the tree was not at imminent risk of falling down but was weaker than a healthy tree and would have a limited life expectancy. Cllr. Holmes was concerned that as the Committee had perceived the tree to be a health and safety risk, then regardless of any subsequent decision, if any damage or injury was caused, our position in regard to our public liability insurance could be considered vulnerable. Members fully discussed whether the tree should remain or be felled. 5 Members voted in favour of the motion to retain the tree, 4 voted for it to be felled, two members abstained from the vote, therefore the motion was carried. Cllr. Swann did request that a quote be obtained to repair the path to reduce the trip hazard.

73/18: Chairman’s Report:

In the absence of Cllr. Veitch, Cllr. Fletcher read out her report.

She and the Vice-Chairman had conducted the formal interviews of the short-listed candidates for Deputy Clerk. She was sure that everyone would welcome Lynn Thirkell as our new Deputy Clerk, who joined us on Monday and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

A card has been sent to Cllr Jukes expressing condolences on the death of his wife.

She has nominated Cranbrook in Bloom for the Tunbridge Wells Love where you live awards.

She has chaired the WWI 100 Anniversary committee meetings, and the notes are with the Clerk if anyone wishes to see them. The intention is to have displays in St Dunstan’s and in the Vestry Hall, with tea and refreshments available. A concert organised by the British Legion is scheduled for Saturday 3rd November and she believed that additional displays would be in the museum. A raffle is planned of a handmade quilt generously donated by Mrs Ann Cook. The Art Show finishes on Saturday 10th November, and the organisers have given permission for us to use their display boards. Displays will be transferred to the church on the Sunday evening, as the Vestry Hall is hired out on the Monday morning. Knitters are required to help make as many knitted poppies as possible, patterns are available from the Weald Information Centre.

The draft documents relating to the Rights of Access to Wilkes Field during construction and on a permanent basis have been circulated to the other parties’ solicitors for comment.

Mike McGeary (Democratic Services Officer at TWBC) is retiring at the end of the month. She has sent personal good wishes for his retirement. If anyone else wishes to do so, Katie Neve has asked that they be sent to her, so that they can be collated and presented to him.

Philip Barnes, the General Manager at Sissinghurst Castle has accepted an invitation to speak at our September Parish Council, which will be held in Sissinghurst.

Reports from Committees

74/18: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Swann referred to the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th August and invited questions. Cllr. Cook referred to the item on the hire of a water cooler for the Council Chamber and suggested that to be environmentally friendly, Members should take their own drinking vessels rather than rely on recyclable cups. Cllr. Swann proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

75/18: Planning and Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 17th July and 7th August and invited questions. She highlighted the application on Church House Oast in Sissinghurst and updated Members that Cllr. Dawlings had 'called in' the application, she also referred to the application on Golford Cottage Farm for which we had recommended refusal.

76/18: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July, highlighting the allocation of responsibilities and the resolutions made. He apologised to County Cllr. Holden that the Silent Soldiers that we had purchased by way of a grant from his Members Fund, showed Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council as sponsoring them, we were looking at ways to rectify this. In response to Cllr. Fermor's query on red telephone boxes, Cllr. Clifford hoped to have some proposals for their use that the Committee can consider shortly. He proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

77/18: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fletcher advised the next meeting was scheduled for 25th September.

78/18: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne referred to the notes of the meeting on 9th July. Sarah Lewis – Housing Register and Development Manager for TWBC had attended and been extremely helpful with the definitions of affordable housing and the different forms it can take which will help us to devise what is included in our housing policies. In response to Cllr. Hall, Cllr. Warne advised she is yet to follow up on the TWBC assessment for Gypsy/Traveller needs in the Borough and Parish. Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the notes of the meeting held on 9th July, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

Cllr. Warne gave a thorough report of the meeting held on 23rd July and highlighted the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Housing Needs Assessment report from AECOM and the TWBC Housing Needs Survey, which was now available on their website. Both documents will be compared to see how they would affect our policies. She advised we were still awaiting the notes from the site allocation workshops in May and a draft Memorandum of Understanding on the site allocations from TWBC. The 3 day June exhibition was attended by over 200 visitors and included the summary policy document of the draft policies which is available on the NDP website along with the posters from the exhibition. It was agreed that the summary policy document would be circulated to all Members and our Borough Councillors to allow for them to make comment as there is still time to do so. The workshops held this morning had begun to work through the comments received to date, to add to or amend the draft policies.

It was agreed there was an enormous amount of potential development currently being considered for this Parish. Discussions on how to advise Parishioners of ongoing developments being considered was discussed.

Cllr. Hall thought the number of houses allocated to the borough was likely to be revised downwards due to the government's projections on the effects of Brexit and the requirement for fewer houses to be built. It could be an opportunity to renegotiate with officers the numbers allocated to Cranbrook and Sissinghurst.

Cllr. Warne proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

Reports from Delegates:

79/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next meeting was on 26th September.

80/18: KALC:

There were no issues to report.

81/18: Transport Accessibility Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that unfortunately none of the group's delegates had been able to attend the KCC Big Conversation event held at the High Weald Academy. He had responded to the questionnaire and would send a copy of those responses to the Clerk for filing. The event was not just about bus services, all forms of transport were being discussed. It was an opportunity to formulate ideas for feeder services into the bus network, one suggestion being 'post buses' a sharing of the bus service with Royal Mail. The group's next meeting is scheduled for 14th September.

82/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

Cllr. Holmes passed on thanks from the group to the Parish Council for the use of the Council Chamber for their AGM. At their next meeting, they will be discussing their input into Horsmonden's Nostalgia Day in October.

83/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes referred to the full page advert in the current edition of the Wealden Advertiser featuring Cranbrook's four main attractions. The feature is planned for two further editions. The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd August.

84/18: Cranbrook Museum:

Cllr. Holmes reported he had attended the meeting held on 31st July. The museum committee had expressed objection to being referred to as a satellite by TWBC. They had agreed to a request from Cllr. Veitch to help with the WWI exhibition in the Vestry Hall, as part of the anniversary commemorations. They had also expressed thanks to the Cranbrook Tourism Group and in particular Cllr. Dawlings for securing their inclusion in the full page feature advertisement in the Wealden Advertiser.

85/18: Katharine Elizabeth Wood Charity:

Cllr. Cook reported that the charity continues to receive increasingly more varied and interesting applications.

86/18: Clerk's Report:

There were no issues to report.

87/18: Correspondence:

A letter had been received from the Friends of Cranbrook Primary School and the Headteacher thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £220 that had recently been awarded.

88/18: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fairweather had reported via email that organisational changes at Milkfest should make for less disruption to local residents this year.

Cllr. Fletcher noted that the Tanyard Dental Practice building was being advertised for sale.

Cllr. Fletcher had attended the Cranbrook in Bloom judging day for Britain in Bloom, results are expected at the end of September.

Cllr. Hall reported that Stephen Baughen who had been interim Head of Planning at TWBC had now been given the position permanently.

Cllr. Clifford referred to a recent flyer promoting the Cranbrook Literature Festival and congratulated Christine Newman and her team on an excellent line up.

Cllr. Holmes reported that he had heard a buyer had been found for Chaney's Bakery and that it was to continue as a bakers, which was good news.

In response to Cllr. Beck, the Clerks confirmed that the White Horse Public House had now reopened.

Cllr. Swann congratulated the Cranbrook Tourism Group on their advertisement in the Wealden Advertiser, he had received a lot of positive comments on the feature.

89/18: Reports from County & Borough Councillors:

a) Cllr. Holden advised that Leader of the Council, David Jukes had a meeting planned with Paul Taylor to discuss the proposals to change the provision of services at the Weald Information Centre. As Sissinghurst Castle Gardens is the largest single tourist attraction in the borough, a tourist office is essential.

He reiterated that 'KCC's Big Conversation' consultation is not just about buses but all rural transport assets and how we use them.

He advised he would be chairing a county pollinator action group that is currently being set up. He had explained to the judges on the Britain in Bloom judging day that as part of a pollinator action plan the roadside verges had been cut less frequently to allow the roadside flowers to release their seeds.

He reported that the cost of building the new primary school in Benenden would be underwritten by the government, so work is due to start very soon.

He advised of a grant of £1500 he had given to Cranbrook Literary Festival to help with the cost of speakers for the event.

b) Cllr. Fletcher read out a report from Cllr. Dawlings highlighting some planning issues including the unanimous approval at the Planning Committee of the Angley Stud which promises to be a top class equestrian centre, very good news for Cranbrook.

He also referred to his involvement on the Britain in Bloom judging day. Cranbrook is one of seven small towns selected for the competition so congratulations are due to Cranbrook in Bloom regardless of the outcome.

He also mentioned the advertisements in the Wealden Advertiser promoting Cranbrook attractions, the publication for September would focus on promoting the Apple Fair and the museum's end of WWI exhibition. Although the Parish Council has agreed to fund the cost of the adverts, he has asked TWBC to contribute towards the cost too.

The meeting was closed.