

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM SISSINGHURST ON THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Cllr. Fletcher (in the Chair) Cllrs. Beck, Bunyan, Clifford, Fermor, Holmes, and Warne.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Cook, Fairweather, Hartley, Hall, Smith, Swann and Veitch. County and Borough Cllr. Holden, 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.

87/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Fletcher proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19th August be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Holmes and agreed.

88/18: Visit from Philip Barnes – General Manager, Sissinghurst Castle Estate:

Cllr. Fletcher introduced Philip Barnes to the meeting. Mr. Barnes began by giving a short precis of his previous employment with the National Trust. He had now been at Sissinghurst for six months and he felt very privileged to be a custodian of Sissinghurst Castle Estate. He explained that he had always been passionate about gardening from a very young age and he was now in his dream job. He gave details of the proposed plans for improving the whole experience for visitors to the estate. These included improvements to the car park, toilet block, restaurant and shop. His team are also working on promoting the nature habitat and making the vegetable garden more of a focal point, also promoting the point that many of the vegetables used in the restaurant come from the estate garden. Dan Pearson was also helping to recreate the Delos Mediterranean Garden giving it a different dimension. He then pointed out that it was his intention to strengthen community ties between the estate and local residents and was very complimentary regarding the four hundred volunteers who already helped with the upkeep of the estate. The National Trust were also going to use the present Oast House and turn this in to a visitor experience area. The average time a visitor stayed at the garden was three to four hours.

Mr. Barnes then answered questions from councillors and members of the public. These included the size of coaches visiting the estate, traffic movement and possible improvement to the moat. Mr. Barnes finished his talk by saying that he would welcome any discussion with members of the local community. Cllr. Holmes asked if he could have a meeting to discuss possible tourism aspects which was agreed.

Cllr. Fletcher thanked Mr. Barnes for his very informative talk which was endorsed by all present.

89/18: Model Standing Order Amendment: Cllr. Fletcher proposed to make the amendments suggested by NALC which had previously been circulated, seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and unanimously agreed.

90/18: Cheques for Payment:

Cheques for September were signed for payment as per the list filed with these minutes. It was proposed by Cllr. Fletcher, seconded by Cllr. Clifford and agreed unanimously.

These included:	Policy and Resources	13,485.60
	Burial and Properties	1,201.74
	Environmental Management	675.75
	Economic and Community	<u>360.00</u>

TOTAL: £15,723.09

91/18: Chairman's Report:

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

The weather for the Sissinghurst August Bank Holiday Fete was kind and the event gave a lot of enjoyment to residents and visitors. She thanked everyone who made it such a success, including nine councillors who took active and important roles. She congratulated all the team who made the Fete such a fantastic success.

The Sissinghurst Flower Festival and Cranbrook Literature Festival events are imminent, although the Literature Quiz has unfortunately had to be cancelled.

The Chairman is working with representatives of St Dunstan's Church and the British Legion to make sure that the 100 years since the ending of World War 1 is suitably commemorated. Details can be found in the September issue of Parish Cake, which, yet again, is an excellent read. The Vestry Hall will hold various displays of memorabilia and art and if there is anyone who would like to provide a display, please get in contact. We are also looking for those of you who can knit or crochet to make poppies for magnificent displays. Patterns are available from the Clerks. Also available for the Parish Office are raffle tickets for a beautiful handmade quilt, made by Ann Cook which is adorned with poppies.

She had meetings with TWBC about their plans for the changes to their service provision in the Weald Information Centre when she highlighted the disadvantages.

The new waste disposal contract is to come into effect from April 2019. The good news is that glass will be collected from your door. The bad news is that residents will have to pay £52 per year if they choose to continue with the collection of green waste. We do not yet know the plans for the CAV (refuse lorry), although she understands that it will not collect green waste.

Cllr. Hannam has informed us of his intention not to seek re-election for the Borough Council next May. She expressed her thanks to him for all he has done for Sissinghurst and Frittenden, including his stance on the garden waste and the Civic Centre.

Work progresses on the draft legal documents for the Rights of Access and land transfers for the Community Centre.

She finished off her reported by thanking Lori and Lynn, our dedicated and hardworking Clerks, for working on the Saturday before their holidays, in order that the paperwork for this meeting and the Policy and Resources meeting was available and issued on time.

Reports from Committees

92/18: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Fletcher proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th September be approved as a correct record, seconded by Cllr. Clifford and unanimously agreed.

93/18: Planning and Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held 28th August. She confirmed that the Parish Council were now in receipt of the Berkeley Homes application, also Lambert and Foster would be attending the next meeting regarding the site next to St. Georges Institute Hall in Sissinghurst.

94/18: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford reported that a large chestnut tree needed to be felled as it was dead. Quotes were being researched to replace this with more suitable trees with the help of the Tree Warden, Cllr. Fermor. Cllr. Fletcher said he knew someone who might take this tree down free of charge as they had a use for the wood. The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 30th October 2018.

95/18 Environmental Management:

The next meeting of the Environmental Management is scheduled to take place on 25th September at 6pm.

96/18: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 20th August be adopted as a true record, seconded by Cllr. Holmes and unanimously agreed. She went on to explain that at the present time TWBC were holding up the process as no decision on who would produce the site allocation document had been made. She is still waiting for a memorandum of understanding on this issue from TWBC. Cllr. Warne then went on to say that she had attended a very interesting and informative meeting in London arranged by Dods Parliamentary Communications on Neighbourhood Planning: Policy and Practice. She learnt that there may be other funding available for technical packages to help go forward. Cllr. Clifford commended Cllr. Warne and the very dedicated members of the committee for all their hard work, this was endorsed by all present.

Reports from Delegates:

97/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:

Cllr. Bunyan advised nothing to report, the next meeting is scheduled for 26th September.

98/18: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch attended a recent meeting of KALC and the following points were raised:
Speed Watch – police figures show that after receipt of a warning letter, the motorists tend not to offend for at least a month. KCC are asking for £1k per dwelling from developers to subsidise the bus services. This implies that less money will be available to the parish from S106 grants.

99/18: Transport Accessibility Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that one of the triumphs of the group was that the Cranbrook connection with Hastings on a Sunday was restored. This then enabled passengers to continue on to Maidstone. However, they will find out at the end of September whether this would be continued as it is not confirmed yet.

100/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

Cllr. Holmes explained that work still in progress and that they will be at Horsmonden Nostalgia Day on 6th October where interactive information will be available.

101/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes informed all present that the second full page advert had already appeared in the Wealden Advertiser and they were currently working on the third presentation to promote Cranbrook Apple Carnival. They were also involved in producing a promotional film of the area.

102/18: Cranbrook Museum:

Cllr. Holmes reported that the next meeting was due to take place on 2nd October. Please make contact if you would like any points raised.

103/18: Cranbrook Age Concern

Cllr. Warne confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 24th October.

104/18: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk was very pleased to report that the External Auditor has completed their review of our Annual Governance and Accountability Return and there were no issues raised. Notice of conclusion of the audit will be published online and on the noticeboard in due course.

105/18: Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report.

106/18: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fletcher reported that the theme this year for the Apple Carnival is 'day of the dead' and hopefully people will dress up.

Cllr. Fletcher informed all present that as there was a 75% grant available at the present time for electric car chargers in the Tanyard and he was applying for it.

Cllr. Bunyan pointed out that Sissinghurst Flower Show was taking place this Saturday 15th September.

107/18: Reports from County & Borough Councillors:

Cllr. Fletcher read out a report from Cllr. Dawlings which mainly dealt with the green waste collection cost and the fact that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Ashford Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Councils are pressing KCC to provide a small local recycling centre for this area.

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited questions from the floor.

A local resident raised several issues covering the Radiata pine in the car park, the public toilet and cost of green waste removal. Cllr. Holmes commented that several Borough Councillors were lobbying KCC to provide a small recycling site in the Eastern area of the Borough. Cllr. Fletcher said that the toilet block was part of the legal package being drawn up with regard to the Community Centre.

A member of the public asked if any progress had been made regarding the access on to the site for the new Community Centre. Cllr. Fletcher replied that this is going forward and the legal papers are in the process of being drawn up for the Parish Council to consider.

A member of the public raised his concerns about the build quality of the houses now being erected and the sale prices which in his view were very high. Cllr. Fletcher replied that this was outside the Parish Council remit, but understood points raised.