

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2018**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Kemp

The Chairman 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. Fairweather, Hartley and Warne declared an interest on the item relating to site allocations which would be discussed under the Neighbourhood Plan.

150/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Veitch referred to the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th November and proposed adoption as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Baughen – Head of Planning at TWBC to the meeting. With the agreement of the Chairmen of the relevant Committees, Cllr. Veitch agreed to amend the order of business.

151/18: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne gave a report of the meeting held on 26th November. She advised Members that a public engagement event had been held at Colliers Green Primary School to advise local residents of the work of the NDP to date and how the potential option of a new settlement at that location had arisen. She had received a lot of positive feedback from the event and thanked her fellow councillors and members of the steering group for their support during the event.

Cllr. Warne drew attention to item 2 on the Minutes of the NDP meeting and the motion carried to seek authorisation for the Steering Group to undertake the site allocations for the Neighbourhood Plan. With the help of Richard Eastman she had created a list of advantages and disadvantages of taking on this task which had been circulated to all Members. Stephen Baughen had also created a list from TWBC's perspective. The major disadvantages of the Steering Group undertaking the site allocations would be the workload and that the Parish Council would be in the front line for any criticism arising from the sites selected. Mr. Baughen stated that TWBC had already undertaken a huge amount of the necessary evidence base, the strategic flood risk assessment and transport modelling were the only major things outstanding. He reiterated that the Local Plan must meet a viability assessment. They had conducted a series of workshops with all the parish councils and neighbourhood development groups which had proved incredibly helpful in shaping the policies. The NDP and TWBC agree on 70-80% of the allocations however there are three that remain contentious, one in Cranbrook and two in Sissinghurst. Because of strict time schedules TWBC will need to undertake the site allocations anyway as they cannot risk them not being completed in time.

He also suggested there was a third option of the Borough completing the allocations now but allowing the Neighbourhood Plan to take on any additional allocations at the point of the five year review of the Local Plan. He raised concern that if different sites were allocated then developers would take advantage. A Local Plan will fail the examination stage if insufficient sites are allocated. TWBC are intending to allocate 10% more than is required as not all sites will be deliverable. He confirmed that if the Parish Council votes in favour of the Steering Group undertaking the allocations on their behalf, TWBC will support the decision. Members were reminded that in adopting the minutes of the meeting they were ratifying the decision that the steering group would undertake the site allocations. Cllr. Cook proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 27th November, this was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed, three Members declined to vote due to their declaration of interest.

152/18: Cranbrook Waiting Restrictions:

Cllr. Fairweather explained the three options that had been presented to us by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Consultations had been undertaken at Sissinghurst Fete and at various events and times in Cranbrook. He thanked Cllr. Hall for the effort she had put in collecting responses from parishioners. Borough Cllr. Holden who had been instrumental in persuading TWBC to ask for our recommendation said his preference was to have the Restricted Parking Zone with no lines. Cllr. Fairweather referred to a document he had produced that had been given to all Members totalling the responses received. With this in mind he proposed that TWBC be advised that the Parish Council recommended the option of primrose yellow lines, as the option that the majority had preferred, this was seconded by Cllr. Hall and agreed. Members also expressed a wish that the scheme should maximize on street parking and the loading bay outside the George Hotel should be extended further towards Wilkes Butchers, the Clerk would ensure TWBC received this additional request.

153/18: Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that although Remembrance Sunday already seems a long time ago, she wanted to thank everyone who contributed to making the day so very memorable, including the schools, the museum, and so many others. The service in St. Dunstan's was well attended, with standing room only. The parade up to the War Memorial had more participants and observers than usual, and the weather was kind. Ms Bancroft did an excellent job of piping in the day at 6.00am with 30-40 listeners, and also at the end of the evening service, also well attended by about 80 people. The exhibition in the Vestry Hall attracted many visitors, with perhaps an average of 20-30 people there at any one time. She believed that social media considered that we had made a suitable commemoration of this important event. An email from David Hazlewood advised that close to £10,000 had been raised for the Poppy Appeal with the raffle of the beautiful quilt handmade by Ann Cook raising nearly £600.

She hoped that with Cllr. Clifford's expertise we can put together a pamphlet recording the day's events.

On Tuesday she attended the Parish Chairman's meeting and would circulate copies of the slides shown once received.

There was an update on the Civic Centre project, now called the Calverley Square project. It is expected that construction will begin in October 2019, and be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

During the item on KCC highways she raised the issue of the bus premiums paid to KCC by developers. It was suggested that every Parish Council should have a Road Transport Plan, updated and provided to KCC annually, giving the parish's prioritised list of projects. A topic for our next Policy & Resources committee meeting.

The new waste contract comes into place 30th March, but everything will be as now until 30th September. New black bins for garden waste will be emptied from 11th November. Existing brown bins will be used for glass and other recyclables and the green box for paper as before. The Civic Amenity Vehicle schedule will be decided in the New Year. It will be the same operatives emptying the bins.

The new Christmas Market, supported by the Parish Council and councillors, was held last week in the car park of the White Horse. A great effort for a first time, she looked forward to many more markets.

As a result of questions from parishioners she had taken advantage of the free legal advice available from TWBC and KALC on the inter-relationships between the Parish Council, the NDP Steering Group and the CVLT and incorporated it into a single document which she had provided to the two chairmen. If anyone else wanted a copy they should let her know.

Some good news – she learnt that a government grant of £50K has been awarded to us for the cost of project management on the Community Centre project. The Paddock Wood and Southborough Community Centre projects received similar amounts.

Finally she thanked everyone for all their hard work this year and reminded them that drinks and nibbles would be available at the end of the meeting.

Reports from Committees:

154/18: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Swann gave a report of the meeting held 11th December, he referred to the discussions on the budgets and was hopeful that although there would be a slight increase in the amount of precept demanded, due to an increase in the tax base there would be no increase in what residents pay for the Parish Precept. This would be discussed fully at the next Full Council meeting. Cllr. Bunyan congratulated Cllr. Fletcher for securing a substantial grant to install EV charge points. Cllr. Swann proposed adoption of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

155/18: Planning & Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November and 4th December and invited questions. None were raised.

156/18: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford advised the next meeting was scheduled for 22nd January. In consultation with the Parish Warden and Cllr. Fermor, four trees would be planted at Golford Cemetery provided anonymously by a Cranbrook resident. Cllr. Veitch offered to write a letter of thanks.

In response to Cllr. Cook, the Clerk advised that planning permission for the safety handrail had been granted and the faculty also approved. She was awaiting an installation schedule from Cranbrook Iron.

157/18: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather gave a report of the meeting held on 27th November and highlighted the decision to accept a quote for the Regal Car Park repairs. Because the quote exceeded £10,000 he wanted to ensure that Members understood that in adopting the Minutes, they were ratifying the Committee's decision. In response to Cllr. Holmes, Cllr. Veitch confirmed the successful contractor had been recommended by TWBC having carried out work of a similar nature for them. Cllr. Fairweather proposed adoption of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed.

Reports from Delegates:

158/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:

Cllr. Bunyan advised that their last meeting had mostly been taken up by discussing the Cranbrook waiting restrictions and had declared their preference of primrose lines as opposed to any additional signage. Cllr. Holmes referred to 'Matters Arising 1(c)' and stated he was yet to receive any contact regarding the commemoration plaques but would be happy to discuss the project with CCAAC.

159/18: KALC:

Cllr. Fletcher advised that all the other parishes doing NDPs in the borough apart from Matfield and Brenchley had asked TWBC to undertake their site allocations. He also reported that crime in the rural area was discussed, particularly drug related crime. Cllr. Veitch reiterated that all crime should be reported to the police.

160/18: Cranbrook Museum:

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting was scheduled for 8th January. He also tabled a very interesting book the museum had produced entitled "Glimpses of Cranbrook" written by Mike Huxley, which was on sale at Pages Newsagents for £5.

161/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting was scheduled for 15th January. He also reported that a leaflet containing maps and a history of the line had been produced. He hoped to make some available in the Weald Information Centre shortly.

162/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting is scheduled for 16th January.

163/18: Transport Accessibility Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that he had attended the meeting held on 7th December. He had learnt from KCC that just before the contract with Renown was due to run out they had entered into administration so Ham's had stepped in and agreed to continue the service. Discussions were ongoing in the hope that a new contract could be negotiated.

The KCC representative also touched on the Big Conversation consultation which had produced a favoured option of taxi buses feeding into a central hub. Tenterden had been selected for the pilot.

He had also questioned Arriva regarding the S106 monies allocated from the development in Sissinghurst, but they knew nothing about it yet.

Stagecoach announced the 349 Service, which operates from Cranbrook to Hastings will continue through the winter into the summer months as the loadings are favourable.

164/18: Clerk's Report:

There were no issues to report.

165/18: Correspondence:

A letter had been received from the Dence and Weller Charity thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £150 that had recently been awarded.

166/18: Items for Information:

Cllr. Veitch informed of a KCC Libraries, Registration and Archive Draft Strategy that was being circulated for consultation in which it is proposed that Cranbrook Library reduce their opening hours to 28 per week. She encouraged all Members to respond personally to the consultation and will include it as an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss the Parish Council response.

Cllr. Veitch advised that a large projector screen had now been purchased, paid for from her Chairman's allowance.

Cllr. Clifford commented on how festive both Cranbrook and Sissinghurst centres were looking with the Christmas trees and lights.

Cllr. Swann stated that the Choral Society were performing their Christmas Concert in St. Dunstan's on Saturday evening at 6pm.

Cllr. Smith advised of the St. George's Village Drinks Evening tomorrow, from 7.30pm – 9pm, everyone was welcome.

167/18: Reports from Borough and County Councillors:

Report from Cllr. Dawlings:

The Planning Committee had unanimously approved the Turnden application this evening.

The business plan for the new development at Cranbrook Sports Club is nearing completion and they are about to start applying for public funds to all sources that have been identified. The important focus is on this being a 52 week a year operation (and not just a rugby club), the extensive junior programme encouraging young people to play rugby and cricket, the ladies team which is doing so well this season and the wider use of the Tomlin Ground as a meeting point for a triathlon club, exercise classes and a netball club. A point to keep emphasising is that this is a community facility and a community club. The City Lunch in November was enjoyable and successful and there were 140 members and guests at the Christmas Lunch at the club last Saturday.

He reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plan in Benenden and the TWBC Local Plan continues to be a huge focus.

Central Government used to help with the funding of what were centrally assessed to be good local causes through grants for particular purposes. These were rolled into the Revenue Support Grant which for TWBC has been reduced to zero. With no revenue to distribute, TWBC have been exploring with operations that used to benefit in this way different means of funding. The TW Lotto is helping some of these good causes to some extent but the increased revenue now being generated from new business rates, which the Council is now able to retain is being used to help fund the Citizen Advice Bureau.

The meeting was closed.

A member of the public asked the Parish Council to consider helping financially with the rewiring project of St. Dunstan's Church. The Clerk advised that the Local Government Act of 1894 prohibits parish council's spending money for the upkeep or maintenance of Church buildings.

Another member of the public congratulated all Members for their contribution which he felt should be recognised.