

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 2019**

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair) Cllrs. Beck, Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fairweather, Fermor, Holmes, Kemp and Warne.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Fletcher, Hartley, Smith and Swann.

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.

227/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Veitch referred to the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th March 2019 and proposed adoption as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

228/18: Chairman's Report:

The Chairman stated that this was the last Parish Council meeting of this Council's term of office. She explained that as there had been an exact number of nominations for the number of seats for both wards, we had a non-contested election. We had been advised that this would not affect our quality status.

She thanked all those who were able and willing to continue into the next four years, and welcomed the newcomers. She hoped that everyone would enjoy the next four years.

It did mean that this was the last meeting for Cllr Kemp (after 4 years), Cllr Cook (after 12 years), Cllr Holmes (after 18 years) and Cllr Swann (after 24 years). She thanked them for the many years of commitment and service to the Parish Council and the Community.

She thought that after a break they may wish to return to the council, in which case, they should let us know so that we can advise them of any vacancies.

She reminded everyone of the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April, to be held in the Vestry Hall.

She had met with the members of the Youth Council at Cranbrook School, and hoped that we could find several opportunities to involve and educate them in the workings of local government. In response to a question from Cllr. Clifford she confirmed that it would be a youth council rather than a youth parish council.

The Chairman and Cllr. Warne had met with Bob Heapy of Town and Country Housing Association and learnt that they will soon be announcing a new business arrangement with the Peabody Estate, who are looking to invest money for affordable housing in areas outside London. Contact with the CVLT was recommended.

Congratulations to the Larkins Ale House who have won Mid Kent & Maidstone CAMRA pub of the year and Cider Pub of the year.

Our caretakers, Mr and Mrs Beeken, have now served for 40 years, and we will be expressing our thanks to them with a card and flowers.

Reports from Committees:

229/18: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Beck gave a report of the meeting held on 9th April. Cllr. Clifford referred to a typographical error in item 150/18 which was corrected. Cllr. Veitch also highlighted item 147/18 an update on the Community Centre and advised the information was not correct, there are still some very minor issues to be agreed and the contracts have not yet been sent to the Co-Op for signing.

Cllr. Beck proposed adoption of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed. He then referred to a crime prevention meeting that had been mentioned in the items for information. It had been a well-attended meeting particularly as it was called at short notice. He had chaired the meeting as a resident of the parish but not as a councillor. There were several suggestions made at the meeting which would be followed up. Cllrs. Veitch and Fairweather would discuss what support the Parish Council could offer.

The Clerk explained that the next Policy & Resources meeting could not be held on the usual date because of the election, it had been rescheduled to allow for the finance and bank reconciliations to be undertaken before the new council comes into office. With this in mind Cllr. Veitch proposed that authority be delegated to the Policy & Resources Committee to approve payments made after the April meeting and cheques for payment in May at their meeting scheduled for 1st May, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

230/18: Planning & Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 19th March and 2nd April and highlighted the application for 44 new homes on which the Parish Council recommended refusal. She also referred to another application which they also recommended refusal because of the proposed height of the dwellings. She invited questions, none were raised. Cllr. Veitch referred to the item on the yellow directional housing location signs and was pleased to report that they have been removed from the j/w Angley Road and Waterloo Road following her report of them on the KCC website.

231/18: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford had nothing to report.

232/18: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather referred to the minutes of the meeting held 19th March and highlighted the spending agreed by the Committee. He also referred to some additional spending that he had authorised that had arisen from a meeting with Cllrs. Veitch, Swann, Kent High Weald Project and Cranbrook in Bloom for up to £150 for improvements in the Regal Car Park. He expressed thanks to the Councillors and members of the Community that had helped in the recent litter picks. An increase in fly-tipping had been noted during this exercise. He also referred to the decision which had been seconded by Cllr. Fermor in her role as tree officer; to fell the radiata pine in the Regal Car Park in the light of recent observations that had noted some significant movement. Professional advice would be sought on a suitable replacement.

In response to Cllr. Warne, Cllr. Fermor stated there were no other trees that were of concern at the present time. Cllr. Fairweather proposed adoption of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

233/18: Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Cllr. Warne gave a report of the meeting held on 25th March. A meeting had been held with Stephen Baughen – Head of Planning to discuss how the NDP and Local Plan can move forward and manage the relationship between the development of the Local Plan and the NDP as both were undertaking site assessments within the parish. She thanked Borough Cllr. Dawlings and AECOM for their involvement in helping this process. She reported that 28 sites had been put forward for additional technical support from AECOM to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments, which would take a number of weeks and would delay the Regulation 14 draft being presented for consultation. She would liaise with the Deputy Clerk to amend the Vestry Hall booking if necessary. Cllr. Cook expressed his appreciation to Members of the Parish Council and the Steering Group that have allowed significant progress to be made. Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

Reports from Delegates:

234/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March which had been circulated to Members and highlighted some of the discussions had. She responded to several queries from Members. She did say that CCAAC was ‘shrinking’ and would be looking for more representatives. Cllr. Veitch thought that the new councillors present, may wish to consider what organisations they would like to be involved with.

235/18: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch had nothing to report and reiterated that the Clerks continue to circulate the bulletins we receive.

236/18: Transport Accessibility Group:

Cllr. Holmes was pleased to report that issues relating to the acceptance of senior citizen bus passes on the No. 297 nine thirty service to Tunbridge Wells. He had received confirmation from KCC that passes would now be accepted, an updated timetable will be issued to reflect this. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th April.

237/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that the group last met on 2nd April. The presentation to the Frittenden History Society was well received. It had covered the history of hop growing and picking, the influence of the railway and concluded with two short films. The next event will be the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Walking Festival on 18th September. This will be a circular walk around Goudhurst visiting parts of the old railway. The group will be doing another presentation at the Horsmonden Nostalgia Day on the 26th September. Their next meeting is scheduled for 21st May.

238/18: Cranbrook Museum:

Cllr. Holmes reported that the F.D Hardy watercolour that was partially financed through a grant from the Parish Council was now on display. The museum had also participated in ‘Kent’s Big Weekend’ on the 6th and 7th April. The next meeting was scheduled for 7th May.

239/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes reported that the group were very encouraged by the favourable reaction to its feature in the TWBC Local magazine, more are being planned to showcase Cranbrook. The promotional film is making some progress with Cranbrook School who are keen to involve their students. Cllr. Tom Dawlings, with valuable assistance from Cllr. Clifford and Mrs Ann Clinton-Booth, a local TV producer are progressing ideas. The aim of the short film will be to promote what Cranbrook has to offer. The group will also be seeking a commitment from this Council to provide financial assistance from the tourism budget for the continuation of the Wealden Advertiser promotion. Costs are expected to remain the same as before i.e. £360 per issue. The next meeting is scheduled for 15th May.

Cllr. Holmes finished his reports by stating that he had enjoyed being a delegate to the many organisations and would be prepared to continue on those that did not insist upon him being a parish councillor. He will liaise with the Clerk on which organisations we would need to seek a replacement delegate for. Cllr. Veitch thanked him for his efforts and for attending so many meetings on behalf of the Council.

240/18: Clerk's Report:

There were no issues to report

241/18: Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Hospice in the Weald thanking the Parish Council for the recent donation of £100. A letter had also been received from the Churchwarden, Major David Riddick expressing thanks and admiration for the erection of the new handrail in St. Dunstan's Churchyard.

242/18: Items for Information:

Cllr. Warne advised there were still a few tickets left for the COD's Anna Karenina on both the Friday and Saturday shows.

Cllr. Cook advised of the upcoming Festival of St. Dunstan's which would feature numerous events all of which he highly commended, if people could find the time to go.

Cllr. Clifford advised that he and Cllr. Fermor are working on the next edition of Parish Cake, copy date is 20th April. Cllr. Fermor had worked hard to secure an interview with PCC Matthew Scott which would appear in the next edition.

Cllr. Beck advised the next Town Market would be on Saturday 11th May.

Cllr. Veitch advised that PCSO Lee Jules would be outside the Co-Op 12th April from 10.00am – 12.00 to give advice on crime prevention and anti-social behaviour.

243/18: Reports from Borough & County Councillors:

No reports had been received.

The meeting was closed.

A question was raised regarding the total number of new housing the Parish was expected to take in the next five years and whether discussions were being had with TWBC on improvements to infrastructure to cope with all the new housing.

Cllr. Warne advised that the numbers are not yet in the public domain. In terms of infrastructure, any improvements would have to be met by developer contributions.

Another parishioner referred to the recent application to erect advertising boards on the Wilsley Pound Roundabout, as a way of funding their maintenance. The parishioner then referred to the occasion when KCC refused an application to site the Sissinghurst Penny Farthing on the roundabout for reasons of it being a distraction to drivers and felt that advertising boards would be infinitely more distracting. It was also pointed out that Cranbrook in Bloom maintain the roundabout at no cost to KCC, so recouping maintenance costs at this location would not be necessary.