

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

PRESENT: Cllr. Fletcher (in the Chair) Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford, Fairweather, Fermor, Gilbert, Hartley, Hatcher, Kings, Pethurst, Smith and Warne.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Beck, Hall and Veitch,

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. He notified those present that the meeting was being recorded as a Clerk's aid.

36/19: Minutes of the Previous Meeting to be confirmed:

Cllr. Fletcher proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th June 2019 be adopted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed.

37/19: General Power of Competence:

The Clerk answered several questions regarding the GPC. In answer to a question by Cllr. Clifford the Clerk explained that this would not increase the work load, it enables the Parish Council more freedom of spending within current legislation.

Cllr. Fletcher proposed that Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council resolves from 11 July 2019 until the next relevant Annual Meeting for the Council that in meeting the criteria for eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011, to adopt the General Power of Competence, seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed.

38/19: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Fletcher, in the absence of the Chairman, read out her report which included the following items.

The Crime stoppers meeting on 19th June was well attended, with nearly 50 people there. It was unfortunate that several found it difficult to hear what was being said. The police inspector and Crime stoppers chairman, and the speed watch liaison officer took a large number of questions. Councillors had been given a copy of her personal notes from the meeting.

Cllr. Clifford made the suggestion of a Roll of Honour for our worthy, but sadly departed, citizens. Many of these made vital contributions to the parish and community during their life, and these should not go undocumented. Cllr. Clifford and the Chairman met with Mike Huxley at the museum and suggested to him that this could be a website and an important resource, linking into the genealogy work that the museum does. The museum receive requests from around the world and are given donations for the information that they supply. The suggestion was met with considerable interest, and so we are hopeful that something will come of it.

Cllr. Veitch congratulated Cranbrook in Bloom and all the garden owners for a successful Garden Safari. She also wished Cranbrook in Bloom every success in the South East in Bloom, judging took place on 4th July and also for Britain in Bloom, when the judges would be visiting on 29th July.

Cllr. Veitch attended the Parish Chairmans Meeting on 25th June. The presentations included items on Tourism, Rural Broadband, Civic Amenity Vehicle, Civic Centre, Culture and Learning Hub and Local Plan.

- The most frequent questions to the Tunbridge Wells Information Centre are on walks, eating and drinking, accommodations and rainy day activities.
- They had been informed that Colliers Green would be getting high speed broadband very soon. Maps of the borough showing the variations in signals were very interesting.
- The cost of the Civic Amenity Vehicle would remain the same, even though the service has been reduced.
- Regulation 18 consultations of the Local Plan will be September/October this year.
- Cllr. Veitch undertook to circulate the minutes once received.

The Armed Forces Day Service in St. Dunstan's Church on Sunday 30th June was well attended and she thoroughly enjoyed the sermon given by the forces chaplain, who brought along his equipment for us all to lift and marvel at.

Cllr. Veitch attended the first of the Wellbeing Walks which take place every Tuesday morning 9.20am outside the Congregational Church. This was a gentle walk, suitable to those who needed more exercise and was very enjoyable.

Reports from Committees:

39/19: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Fletcher said that he had been in touch with Buss Murton concerning the transfer of part of Wilkes field and there was one outstanding issue on the contracts so not in our ownership yet. He had proposed at the Policy & Resources meeting that in order to enable completion of a new build by autumn 2021, the planning process needs to restart. The Parish Council has been asked for a contribution of £1,750 + VAT to the GPs to scope the size of a potential new medical centre. As an undertaking had been given not to spend additional monies until the legal contracts had been finalised, it was agreed that this decision should be approved by Full Council.

Cllr. Fairweather was still of the view that no spending should take place prior to the legal documents being finalised.

Cllr. Fletcher answered numerous questions from fellow councillors regarding the above proposal. He explained that for some time he had been liaising with local GPs regarding the provision of a medical centre on one of the floors and he felt that this may be an excellent way forward and make the scheme affordable. Some councillors were surprised that the Parish Council had been discussing such a partnership and Cllr. Fletcher explained that this was the first opportunity to pass on this information.

Cllr. Warne suggested setting up a Committee to look at this project and it was explained that the Community Centre Board was already in place which consisted of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Officers, Borough Cllr

Dawlings, Kent County Council and David Rivers. Cllr. Fletcher explained that the last two meetings had been cancelled, however Cllr. Veitch gave updates regularly in her Chairman's Report.

Cllr. Hartley was firmly of the view that they should pay for the scoping report themselves and this was endorsed by Cllr. Smith as the Parish Council had no duty to provide a medical centre it should be down to them to undertake this and see if it can fit in with what the Parish Council requires. Cllr. Hartley was against sharing a building and felt that the Parish Council could build a single storey building and perhaps add another floor when more money was available, he was against being told by a third party what we can or cannot have.

Cllr. Pethurst expressed concern that the Parish Council would be relying on space dictated by West Kent CCG/NHS.

Cllr. Bunyan expressed the view that the ground floor would be a lovely area looking over the orange land. The Parish Council would have a blank floor space and it could be expanded or reduced as necessary it did not have to be the same size as the floor above. She felt it would be ludicrous not to take up this offer, this was endorsed by Cllr. Gilbert who stated that when a scoping report is received, at least there would be some plans to look at.

After a great deal of debate Cllr. Fletcher proposed that the contribution of £1,750 + VAT to scope the size of the new building as referred to in the minutes of the Policy & Resources is approved, seconded by Cllr. Bunyan. This was approved 6 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

Cllr. Fletcher stated that he had taken on board views given and would provide further information as soon as possible.

Cllr. Fermor thanked Cllr. Fletcher for all his hard work regarding this matter.

Cllr. Fletcher proposed adoption of the minutes which took place on 9th July, seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and after Minute 25/19 was amended to read King George VI Field, they were approved as a correct record.

40/19: Planning & Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd July and highlighted several applications. Cllr. Clifford enquired if a response had been forwarded to correspondence received from DHA Planning Ltd regarding land at Hartley Road. Cllr. Bunyan confirmed that no comment had been forwarded although it was suggested to them to look at previous recommendation of a master plan for the area.

41/19: Burials & Properties:

Brian Clifford advised the next meeting was scheduled for 23rd July.

42/19: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather reported on the meeting which took place on 25th June 2019 the only financial expenditure was to approve the replacement of a vandalised lantern in Campion Crescent totaling £325.00 + VAT. Cllr. Fairweather proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed.

43/19: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne reported on the meeting held on 24th June, good progress was being made and it was hoped that the Regulation 14 Consultation period would start from the middle of August until the second week in October. The Communications team were working hard to get all the advertising in place. She hoped to have the full draft document back from FERIA Urbanism in the next couple of weeks so that this could be circulated via email to the Full Council prior to the next meeting on 8th August.

Cllr. Pethurst reiterated the fact that this was a draft document and everyone was entitled to make comments during the consultation period.

Cllr. Warne agreed to go through the draft document with any Councillors if they so desired.

Cllr. Warne highlighted the fact that the housing allocation had been significantly reduced as it had been agreed by Cheryl Beattie (AECOM) and endorsed by Stephen Baughen TWBC that evidence established in the AECOM Housing Needs Assessment document (July 2018) for demand for housing between 2017-2033 being 610 could be used. This means that all the development approved since 2017 can be taken off the housing needs figure, e.g. Brick Kiln Farm.

In answer to a query from Cllr. Bunyan she confirmed that the NDP Steering Group would not be allocating any land for business/industrial use, however there are policies supporting economic growth.

Cllr. Warne asked for volunteers to help with forthcoming exhibitions which would be appreciated.

Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the minutes was seconded by Cllr. Pethurst and agreed.

44/19: Reports from Delegates:**a) CCAAC:**

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next was scheduled for 24th July.

b) Age Concern:

Cllr. Warne had attended AGM on 19th June, however nothing to report.

c) Cranbrook Tourism Group:

A written report supplied by Mr. Holmes was read out by the Chairman regarding a meeting which took place on 10th July.

TWBC "Local" magazine next issue due out in September will include reminders about what Cranbrook and Sissinghurst has to offer the visitor.

A second full page advertisement will appear in the Wealden Advertiser promoting all the latest activities subject to information being supplied by the affiliated groups.

The Group were disappointed that no Parish Councillor had offered to attend its meetings and provide a direct link with the Council. Although Cllr. Hatcher had shown an interest to attend, due to the timing of the meetings this was not possible at the present time.

Sissinghurst Castle National Trust are about to appoint a new member of staff who will have responsibility for community engagement. The Tourism Group have already indicated that an early meeting would be desirable.

d) Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

As Cllr. Hartley was unable to attend the meeting in May and also the forthcoming meeting on 16th July, Mr. Holmes had been delegated with the responsibility to represent and report back to the Parish Council.

45/19: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk read out the June report received from PCSO Lee Jules. There had been 8 cases of criminal damage/thefts in the area.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Youths congregating outside Rope Walk, being noisy and drinking
- Youths climbing on scaffolding in Stone Street
- Off road motorbike in Angley Wood

Items of good work:

- Cranbrook Primary School – youths have been identified for the damage cause on the school grounds. A community resolution has taken place and youths responsible have been dealt with by the police.
- Community event held on 6th July outside the Co- Op Cranbrook with North West Crime Prevention Panel.

46/19: Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report.

47/19: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fletcher advised that an invitation had been extended to all Councillors to have a look at The Hive in Stone Street, a new business venture.

Cllr. Fletcher reported that the pond in Carriers Road by the museum had been affected by an over flowing sewer, caused by a fatberg. It would take a week to clear out the pond, however it would be refilled as soon as possible.

Cllr. Fletcher also informed the Committee that stock proof fencing had been erected in the Crane Valley to keep stock out by the High Weald Project.

Cllr. Fletcher had attended a parking seminar which was very interesting and he would produce a short paper to be circulated.

Cllr. Fermor reported that the Crime Commissioner was holding a Coffee Morning on 26th

July 10am – 12noon. Please do attend if possible this should be very interesting.

Cllr. Bunyan reported that the next meeting of the Planning and Preservation Committee due to take place on 16th July, had been cancelled due to lack of applications.

Cllr. Hartley stated that he had been contacted regarding traffic in Stone Street a pedestrian had been clipped by a vehicles mirror.

Cllr. Clifford reported that the copy deadline for The Cake was 26th July. Please put forward any articles which might be interesting to the Parishioners.

48/19: Reports from Borough & County Councillors:

Borough Cllr. Fairweather updated the Committee on the Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th June by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council regarding the future of the Calverley Road Project.

Borough Cllr. Warne had attended a Planning Policy Working Group which was very interesting and included briefings on Local Plan progress. A new village is planned in the Tudely area with new roads and cycle routes.

The meeting was closed

A local resident in attendance was very interested to hear about possibility of Medical Centre together with the Community Centre and asked that NHS be on ground floor. She also reported that the vegetation had been cut back by KCC on the public right of way between Angley Road and Wheatfield Way.

A Sissinghurst resident thanked KCC for resurfacing The Street, however the road level needs looking at further.