

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015

PRESENT: Cllr. Goodchild (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford, Holmes, Rook, and Swann.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Veitch

Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying:

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.

Cllr. Swann declared an interest in 23/15 as a neighbouring allotment tenant and took no part in the discussion or voting.

**20/15:** Cllr. Swann and Goodchild confirmed that they had carried out the internal check of the accounts for July and everything was in order.

**21/15:** A list of payments made after the July meeting, is filed with these minutes.

**22/15:** Cheques for August were signed for payment as per the list filed with these minutes. It was proposed by Cllr. Goodchild, seconded by Cllr. Rook and agreed to authorise payment of the cheques as presented.

These included:

Policy and Resources	11,158.81
Burial and Properties	9,029.53
Environmental Management	19,015.81
Planning and Preservation	<u>1,900.80</u>
Total	£41,104.95

The Clerk confirmed that we continue to be reimbursed by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for payments regarding the dust mat, cleaning and electricity for the Information Centre.

**23/15:** Allotment Rules:

The Clerk tabled a written request from an allotment tenant to erect a 3m x 2m x 2m polytunnel on his plot numbered 11C. The request was to site it on the boundary edge next to his shed where cultivation is problematic as the tall hedge leaves the area in permanent shade. After a full discussion Cllr. Rook proposed that the request be declined on the grounds that the structure was too large, polytunnels had not been allowed before and Members did not wish to set a precedent for these type of structures, this was seconded by Cllr. Clifford and agreed.

**24/15: Restructure of Committees:**

Cllr. Holmes reported that he had started a draft paper on the restructuring of the Committees which he had discussed with the Clerk this morning. He had begun by looking at all the Parish Council Minutes from the last two years and examining all the activities put before the Council in that time. He had attempted to organise these activities into groups and allocate them under different headings, he is leaving the document with the Clerk for further comment, and it is a work in progress. Cllr. Clifford stated that he felt his Committee, Burials and Properties had some spare capacity. In response to Cllr. Swann, Cllr. Holmes admitted that he would not have undertaken the task had the Minutes been audio recorded as it would have taken much longer and been too arduous. Cllr. Swann thanked Cllr. Holmes for the work he had completed to date.

**25/15: Promotion of Parish Council**

A discussion took place surrounding the promotion of the Parish Council and its connection with the promotion of the Parish itself. Cllr. Rook stated that he had met with Rod Dann, Curator of the Museum to see how the Museum could work with the Council and vice versa. They had discussed the idea of an audio visual experience in the Museum similar to the experience at Bletchley Park. Cllr. Holmes reported that the Tourism Group were hoping to become more active in promoting Cranbrook as a visitor attraction. Cllr. Clifford stated that promotion of the Parish Council was entirely separate from the promotion of the Town. Cllr. Clifford felt there were key issues that needed thought in promoting the Parish Council and the Town such as:

- Why do we need to?
- What are the advantages?
- Media Briefings – giving background information.
- The Parish Council's profile in the Community.

Members accepted his offer to draft a document which would list all the issues for consideration. Cllr. Clifford stated that he would bring this forward to the October meeting. Cllr. Rook felt that the local attractions such as the Museum, the Windmill, the Church and organisations like Cranbrook in Bloom should be working closely together in promotion of the Town. Cllr. Holmes felt this was one of the benefits of the Tourism Group as all the organisations had representatives that attended the Group's meetings. Tom Dawlings - Chairman of the Tourism Group had spoken to the editor of the publication 'Local' who was happy to accept any suitable article promoting Cranbrook. He was also hoping to increase exposure of Cranbrook on the tourism page of the TWBC website. Cllr. Swann reminded Members that if Committees were to engage in projects to promote Cranbrook that this should be considered when discussing the budgets for next year so funds could be considered.

**26/15: Items for Information:**

a) Cllr. Bunyan referred to the CCAAC Minutes, which brought up the issue of the dangerous paving in the High Street. The Clerk confirmed that she was chasing KCC on this. Cllr. Bunyan reported that she had spoken to Conservation Officer Mark Stephenson who had hinted there may be some money available under the Conservation Area Enhancement budget to improve the situation in Stone Street with regard to a possible scheme involving build-outs. TWBC had also mentioned the possibility of forming a Conservation Area Group to include Cranbrook, Frittenden, Sissinghurst, and Goudhurst.

- b) Cllr. Bunyan informed the Committee that she had spoken to David Hicken with regard to our recommendation to refuse the Cob Nut Close application. He had advised her that they were going to request their application be downgraded to outline permission and that he was keen to speak to us and discuss what we would consider as suitable development as they were very keen to obtain support from the Parish.
- c) Cllr. Rook gave an update on the gift of land to St. George's Institute in respect of their refurbishment. He informed the Committee that he had attended a meeting at Buss Murton with the Clerk. A discrepancy had been discovered with the plans which could not be verified as the Trust were not able to locate the original deeds. Cllr. Rook stated that we could do no more at this time as the Parish Council were not in the position to spend ratepayers money in the pursuance of documents relating to a property not in the Parish Council's portfolio. Cllr. Clifford stated that the Charity Commission would have these documents as the legal owners of the land as the Trustees were just the Management Committee. So the Solicitors acting for St. Georges would need to contact the Charity Commission.
- d) Cllr. Holmes stated that he was delighted to see 'Findings' was once again a commercial premises, and the addition of the Bramley and Teal next to Stationery Express. He had also been pleased to hear that Banghams had been sold subject to contract.
- e) Cllr. Holmes made reference to the Parish Council 'About Us' publication which needed updating, Members accepted his offer to complete the revision.