

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2020.**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Hall. Borough Cllr. Dawlings. Kent County Cllr. & Borough Cllr. Holden.

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.

122/19: Minutes of the Previous Meeting to be confirmed:

Cllr. Fletcher proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2019 be adopted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed. Cllrs. Clifford and Fermor abstained from the vote.

123/19: Visit by Tim Fagg and James Fraser – Cranbrook Sports Club:

Tim Fagg introduced himself as Chairman of Cranbrook Sports Club and James Fraser as Chairman of Development. They gave an interesting and informative presentation on the current status of the new clubhouse project. It is hoped the new facilities will provide sporting and social amenities for their members and the wider community. The proposal is for the construction of a two storey structure capable of comfortably seating 150 people, with a glass first storey frontage and balcony facing the cricket square. The bottom storey containing toilets and changing facilities has been designed to be fully compliant with current safeguarding regulations. The funding process for the build was outlined including S106 applications and expected grant awards.

In response to Cllr. Clifford, ample car parking facilities, competitive hire rates, social memberships and the fact that it would be open seven days a week would all make the clubhouse a desirable asset for the community.

In response to Cllr. Beck, it was hoped to start construction in 2021, there is already a preferred builder in place with construction expecting to take 40-45 weeks.

In response to Cllr. Fletcher, football clubs could make use of changing facilities however at the moment there is insufficient space to accommodate pitches.

A question was raised regarding the disused tennis courts at the Weald Sports Centre, it was suggested that Cranbrook Sports Club speak to William Benson - TWBC Chief Executive as it was thought TWBC was keen for someone to lead on using the redundant facilities.

In response to Cllr. Pethurst regarding a recent survey the Sports Club had undertaken, only a quarter of the responses came from Cranbrook residents, the remainder had come from the wider community.

The Chairman thanked Tim Fagg and James Fraser for attending, they expressed their thanks for being given the opportunity to speak to Members.

124/19: Precept Demand:

Cllr. Beck stated that all Members had received the agreed budget figures which had resulted in an increase of 4.82% in the precept. He invited questions. Cllr. Smith felt that the figure was unacceptable because the percentage increase exceeded inflation. Cllr. Beck explained the increase had been necessary, due to the imminent withdrawal of TWBC from the Weald Information Centre, which would mean we would cease to receive their contribution to running costs. It had also been identified that an additional member of staff in the office was necessary to cope with an increasing workload.

Cllr. Beck proposed that the precept be set at £356,300, this was seconded by Cllr. Fletcher and agreed. Two Members voted against the proposal.

125/19: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Fletcher advised that following a letter received by Parish Cake, we had been checking the legalities around appointing an Honorary Mayor. As no legislation exists to prevent this and Phil Mummery had offered to fund the purchase of suitable regalia, it would appear as an agenda item at next month's meeting.

There was still as yet, no news from the Co-Op regarding the signing of the legal documents.

The Chairman stated that during the relevant committee meetings, we had discussed converting parts of the Ball Field and areas of the Cemeteries as wilding. He was pleased to report that during a conversation prior to tonight's meeting, Cllr. Holden had offered £1000 towards the purchase of trees.

He also reported that he had heard that a vacant shop in the High Street was going to become a computer repair shop.

Reports from Committees:

126/19: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Beck referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January and invited questions, as none were raised, he proposed adoption of the minutes. This was seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed.

127/19: Planning & Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 17th December and invited questions, as none were raised, she asked Cllr. Smith to comment on the meeting held on 7th January. He highlighted the application 19/03359/OUT, land east of Oak Tree Farm, which was recommended for refusal, mainly due to the lack of master planning with adjacent sites.

128/19: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford advised the next meeting was scheduled for 21st January.

129/19: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather advised the next meeting was scheduled for 17th March.

130/19: Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Cllr. Warne gave a precis of the meeting held on 17th December, highlighting the decision to go ahead with the NDP without allocations and to have enhanced site specific policies for sites allocated in the Draft Local Plan.

In response to Cllr. Bunyan, she confirmed that the acronym SAAG referred to the Site Assessment Advisory Group. Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Pethurst and agreed.

131/19: Reports from Delegates:

a) Appointment of Katharine Elizabeth Woods Delegate:

Cllr. Fletcher stated this was a very important charity that supports young people in training. It gives substantial help to 2 - 3 students a year. Cllr. Hatcher expressed an interest in becoming the delegate. The Clerk would forward him details of how much time was required to fulfil the role of delegate, for his consideration.

b) CCAAC:

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next meeting is scheduled for 22nd January at 5.30pm.

Cllr. Fletcher read out the following reports as provided by our representative Graham Holmes.

b) Cranbrook Tourism Group:

The next meeting of the Group will take place on the 15th January at The Hive commencing at 10.00am. Cllr. Hatcher advised he would be unable to attend because of the time meetings are scheduled, however if that could be changed which he believed was up for discussion at this meeting then he would be keen to be involved. Cllr. Fletcher offered to attend on this occasion to see if any decision to amend the time of meetings is agreed.

c) Transport Accessibility Group:

The next meeting is due to be held in Hawkhurst on the 21st February at 11.00am

d) Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:

The next meeting is due to be held in Goudhurst on the 28th January at 1.30pm.

e) Age Concern:

Cllr. Warne advised the next meeting was scheduled for 12th February.

132/19: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk had received a list from the local PCSO of recent crime that had occurred in the Parish which she summarised. She was happy to share with Members on request.

She also reported that we had received formal notification that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council were exercising the break clause in the Weald Information Centre Agreement, meaning the licence would end on 25th March 2020.

133/19: Correspondence:

The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from ex-Chairman Bridget Veitch expressing her thanks for the framed picture of Cranbrook recently presented to her.

134/19: Reports from Borough Councillors:

Cllr. Warne reported on the last Borough meeting at which several motions were passed including one regarding the Code of Conduct. There has been a working party set up to review the constitution and see if any improvements can be made to the current procedure regarding complaints against councillors. Cllr. Clifford advised he had requested a private meeting with Cllr. Quigley to discuss this.

Cllr. Fairweather reported that the 'bin fiasco' continues. Tonbridge and Malling Council, joint partners in the contract have informed Urbaser officially that financial penalties will be evoked. The Borough Council are trying extremely hard to resolve the issue.

He also reported that a motion put forward by himself and Cllr. Hall to write to all national supermarkets with stores in the Borough and ask them to dispense with all plastic packaging as soon as is possible, was successful. A letter was sent out on Monday.

Report from Cllr. Dawlings:

Cllr. Fletcher summarised an email report from Cllr. Dawlings in which he referred to the progress of the Benenden NDP and how TWBC is working through the comments made in response to consultation on its Draft Local Plan. Apparently Sevenoaks and Wealden District Councils will have to rewrite their Local Plans, as their drafts were rejected by the Examiner for not delivering their Objectively Assessed Housing Need.

He also referred to the Berkeley Homes presentation on Turnden which he attended and concluded that good connectivity for pedestrians, bikes, buggies, etc from the Brick Kiln and Corn Hall sites to the centre of Cranbrook was really important. TWBC would help get the different developers together to work on this and he suggested this should be pursued. From the discussions he has had at TWBC, the pressure nationally for more homes is so great that development at Turnden will inevitably be approved by the Government Inspector on appeal, so he thought the focus should be on trying to make the three Crane Valley sites fit into Cranbrook and provide the most suitable housing mix and design. Cllr. Fletcher stated that he had written to Stephen Baughen - TWBC Head of Planning, asking that developers be forced to masterplan the area because of flooding concerns.

135/19: Items for Information:

a) Cllr. Pethurst encouraged all Members to feed their thoughts on affordable housing to the Planning Committee so the Parish Council can send a response to the KCC Select Committee for consideration.

b) Cllr. Hartley advised Members that a meeting at TWBC with English Heritage and the owners of Providence Chapel was being scheduled for late February.

c) Cllr. Clifford advised that Parish Cake had received six letters supporting the appointment of Phil Mummery as Honorary Mayor of Cranbrook.

The meeting was closed.

Questions from the Public:

A Parishioner asked about public toilet provision in the future and was advised that several solutions are being actively considered at the current time.

Following a question regarding the development of Wilkes Field, it was confirmed that the section being transferred to the Parish Council would not be part of the land being marketed by Savills.