

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK  
ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair) Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fletcher, Hartley, Holmes, Swann, and Warne.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Beck, Fairweather, Fermor, Hall, Kemp and Smith. Borough Cllr. Dawlings

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.

**189/18: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Cllr. Veitch referred to the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and proposed adoption as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Warne and agreed.

**190/18: Road Transport Plan:**

Cllr. Swann had collated all the responses received from Councillors and produced a list giving the top five priorities to be forwarded to KCC Highways Department. Cllr. Veitch thanked all Councillors for putting forward the ideas.

These were as follows:

1. Speed limit A229 30mph from Hartley to Wilsley Pound Roundabout and to continue a 40mph to Bumbles Garden Centre.
2. Resurfacing High Street.
3. Top of Swattenden Lane sides of road breaking away. Whitewell Lane and Quaker Lane edges breaking away.
4. Cycle way to Staplehurst Station already thoughts to make one from Cranbrook to Sissinghurst.
5. Stone Street – Traffic flow control to reduce instances of vehicles mounting the pavement which is very well used by pedestrians and children walking to school.

Other items of general maintenance were noted which would be reported on the KCC Portal i.e. all traffic signs need cleaning, white lines need repainting, green pavement at Sissinghurst needs weed killing and hedge cutting back.

Cllr. Swann reported that the Give Way Sign at Wilsley Green needed to be more prominent also the new housing advertising signs are a big distraction to drivers here and at other places and needed to be removed. Cllr. Veitch would look into the legalities of these signs.

The pavement on the north side of The Street in Sissinghurst requires repairs to the brickwork and cast iron bollards.

Other schemes to be considered were removal of speed reduction humps, where it is safe to do so and the installation of village gates on all entrances to Sissinghurst and also at Hartley.

Pedestrian crossings should be installed in Stone Street, bottom of Waterloo Road, Wilsley Pound and in Common Road Sissinghurst and going forward be installed near any new large housing development.

The NDP Access and Movement Group to consider the above items and also a scheme put forward by Cllr. Smith for pedestrian/shared space in the centre of town with different parking arrangements that would allow for community events such as a town market.

**191/18: Chairman's Report:**

Cllr. Veitch began by saying that all Councillors had been forwarded a document on the Seven Principles of Public Life purely for information.

The Chairman commented that discussion had also taken place regarding plans in place should a senior member of the royal family pass away. The details could be found on the government website under Operation London Bridge and she noted that TWBC had plans in place. Cllr. Veitch said it was not her intention to do anything else at the moment. Cllr. Clifford indicated that he would gather some information together as it was best to be a little prepared.

Cllr. Veitch announced the sad news of the death of Jane Nettle. She had written a letter of condolence to her husband expressing the Parish Council's condolences on her sudden early death. She was a great force in the Sissinghurst community, involved in many things, for example the playground equipment and Speed Watch, to name just two. She will be greatly missed.

Cllr. Veitch attended a KALC training course on Charities and the Law. The issued notes are with the Clerk if anyone wants to see them. She found it an interesting session.

The Chairman and Cllr. Fletcher attended a meeting with the manager of the Co-Op store. The current plans for its internal renovation include a major reduction of the shelf space, but without a reduction in the product range, with the exception of the white goods. The deli and bakery are expected to stay. The remaining area is to be let out on concession, but one is not yet identified. The toilet is to be moved so that it can be linked to main services and also be monitored to prevent vandalism. The work is expected to be undertaken in July.

The Chairman updated the members of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Tuesday on various topics, and she will take any questions on those under that heading.

Cllr. Veitch had yet to receive a date this year for an opportunity to meet the Cranbrook School members of the Youth Council.

Reports from Committees:

**192/18: Policy & Resources:**

Cllr. Swann gave a report of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr. Holmes highlighted item 116/18 referring to Parish Cake and that unrecoverable debt relating to advertising is to be written off.

Cllr. Swann proposed adoption of the Minutes after several minor amendments were made seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

**193/18: Planning & Preservation Management:**

Cllr. Bunyan gave a report of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February and invited questions. On the planning application regarding Le Jardin Restaurant the demolition of the former public house/restaurant and flat and the erection of one dwelling was refused by the Committee. The Committee were of the opinion that the site is suitable for higher density e.g. row of terraced properties. The emerging NDP has identified a need for smaller units in the location of this site close to the centre of Cranbrook. An application regarding Santolina, The Common, Sissinghurst had come before the Committee which had been recommended for approval. The Clerk had advised the applicants of Santolina to contact their Borough Councillors if they wished to have it called in to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Planning Committee.

Cllr. Warne commented that she was very pleased that the barn conversion at Coursehorn Lane was to create four dwellings which was in line with the emerging NDP identified need.

**194/18: Burials & Properties:**

Cllr. Holmes gave outline details of the meeting which took place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. Discussion took place on possible uses of the space which will become available when Tunbridge Wells Borough Council vacate the Weald Information Centre. It was generally felt that a use to benefit the community should be considered. Cllr. Veitch stated that any suggestions and ideas would be welcome. Cllr. Holmes proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

**195/18: Environmental Management:**

Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting was scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March. Although no date had been set for the next litter pick it was hopefully going to take place in the next couple of months.

**196/18: Neighbourhood Plan:**

Cllr. Warne gave a report of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr. Veitch requested a small addition to the minutes for the purpose of clarification, which was agreed.

A meeting had recently taken place with Borough Cllr. Dawlings to discuss the lack of support from the Borough Planning Department which was very positive.

Cllr. Warne was very pleased to be able to report that the AECOM Housing Needs Survey had at last been received.

Cllr. Warne reported that all the Draft Policies were on the NDP web site and she encouraged Councillors to have a look at them and let her know their comments.

The next public engagement would be the Regulation 14 Draft Consultation.

The Site Assessment Workshops are scheduled to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March in the Council Chamber from 9am – 5pm.

It was agreed to record appreciation to Liz Daley for keeping the Parish Council so well informed on meetings taking place with Persimmon.

Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the Minutes seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

Reports from Delegates:

**197/18: Age Concern:**

Cllr. Warne advised the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**198/18: Katharine Elizabeth Wood Charity:**

Cllr. Cook reported that the charity continue to meet and support worthy recipients.

**199/18: Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee:**

All Members had received a copy of the CCAAC Meeting held on 23 January 2019, the contents of which were noted. Cllr. Swann mentioned the hedge in front of Shepherds needed cutting back. The Deputy Clerk informed him this could be reported direct on the KCC Portal. Cllr. Holmes had suggested that contact be made direct to the Borough Council regarding the Heritage Plaques as they had been responsible for sourcing and paying for the previous plaques.

Cllr. Bunyan advised the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**200/18: Transport Accessibility Group:**

Cllr. Holmes advised the meeting scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> February was cancelled due to the inclement weather and this has been rearranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**201/18: Cranbrook Museum:**

Cllr. Holmes reported that a meeting had been held on Tuesday and he had been informed that the offer to purchase a watercolour by F.W Hardy, one of the Cranbrook Colony artists had been accepted by the vendor. The Kent Big Weekend is scheduled to take place on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March and the Museum would be opening for this event.

**202/18: Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:**

Cllr. Holmes advised of a meeting which had taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> January and commented that there was still no representative from Horsmonden Parish Council. High Weald Landscape Trail was hoping to arrange some walks in the summer months and he was hoping to arrange some guided walks through Badgers Oak Tunnel. The Group are giving a presentation to Frittenden History Society on 28<sup>th</sup> March which should be very interesting, should anyone wish to attend. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**203/18: Cranbrook Tourism Group:**

Cllr. Holmes advised a meeting had been held on 16<sup>th</sup> January and the promotional film was still work in progress. Cllr. Dawlings had obtained an offer from the Borough to pay for the third full page advert which was greatly appreciated. The Borough had agreed for a regular tourism article to be included in the Local quarterly magazine. Cllr. Clifford asked that liaison take place between himself and Cllr. Holmes as he did not want similar articles to appear in Parish Cake. The next meeting is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**204/18: KALC:**

Nothing to report.

**205/18: Clerk's Report:**

There were no issues to report.

**206/18: Correspondence:**

The Chairman read out a letter which had been received from the CAB thanking the Parish Council for their generous support and agreeing to attend and give a short talk at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

**207/18: Items for Information:**

The Borough Council was hoping to undertake the installation of the new primrose yellow lines in February.

Cllr. Clifford informed members that the website numbers seemed to be increasing which is excellent and it had been agreed to have the Nuts in May and TWBC film promoting Cranbrook included in a prominent place.

Cllr. Fletcher reported that UK Power Network were undertaking the power supply work next week for Jockey Lane Car Park and the electric charging points should be installed by the end of March.

Cllr. Swann reported on a scheme which was to be launched called 'Wellbeing in the Weald'. This would enable GPs to prescribe non-pharmacological interventions such as walking groups, men's choir etc. It was hoped to launch the project in the form of a 'Wellbeing in the Weald Fair' on National Social Prescribing Day on 14 March. Cllr. Fletcher commented that he had attended a meeting at the Congregational Chapel where there were at least 60 residents present, where a great need for a new community building was expressed.

**208/18: Reports from Borough and County Councillors:**

Report from Cllr. Dawlings:

In his absence, Cllr. Veitch read his report, in which he stated that the new waste collection contractor will take over at the end of March. Initially there will be no change in waste collection arrangements. Changes will be planned to be introduced in the late summer and there will be extensive communication on these. Although not part of the new contract but important for residents in the eastern part of the Borough, is establishing a recycling centre around this area. This is a KCC responsibility however Tunbridge Wells, Ashford and Maidstone Borough Councils are collectively lobbying KCC to provide a new site.

He reported that TWBC had agreed to fund the cost of an advert promoting Tourism in the Wealden Ad.

Regarding the new clubhouse at the Tomlin Ground, firms have been invited to tender for a building a new clubhouse.

He also reported that TWBC would be proposing a balanced budget for 2019-20. TWBC would receive no Revenue Support Grant from Government but the possibility of a negative Revenue Support Grant being imposed had been withdrawn.

The meeting was closed.

The Chairman answered a couple of questions from a local resident regarding the Public Convenience in Crane Lane and progress of the Community Centre. It was noted that the toilets would be handed over at the same time as all the other legal documents relating to the new Community Centre, until that time the Parish Council were not in a position to undertake any work on improving the facility. Cllr. Veitch went on to say that she was hoping to report positive news very shortly regarding the Community Centre.