

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2019**

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair) Cllrs. Beck, Bunyan, Fermor, Fletcher, Gilbert, Hall, Hatcher, Kings, Pethurst, Smith and Warne. Borough Cllr. Dawlings and Borough County Cllr. Holden.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Clifford, Fairweather and Hartley.

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.

24/19: Minutes of the Previous Meeting to be confirmed:

The Chairman, Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th May be adopted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

25/19: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Veitch congratulated Parish Cake Team for yet another successful issue this month.

She hoped everyone enjoyed the joyous Nuts in May event. An estimated two thousand people attended, many from outside the parish. It was a hugely successful event thanks to Cranbrook in Bloom and all its volunteers. She only wished that more of our local shops had been open to benefit from the trade.

She also thanked those who organised the Cranbrook Fun Day last weekend although she had been unable to attend herself.

She did attend the preview of Cranbrook Museum's latest exhibition and encouraged others to visit our local attractions, taking their visitors with them. Children would enjoy the Wheels of Time event, with its associated badges and lanyard. There are fifty museums around Kent participating in the scheme, which she highly recommended.

A CrimeStoppers meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday 19th June starting at 7.00pm in the Vestry Hall.

There was a moment last week when she thought the legals had been all agreed for the Community Centre documents, but a few queries remained but we are very close!

The annual Armed Forces Day Service will be held at St Dunstan's Church on Sunday 30th June. In this special anniversary year of 75 years since D Day, she hoped that many would be able to attend.

Reports from Committees:

26/19: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Beck referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June and invited questions.

Cllr. Warne referred to item 9/19 which approved expenditure of up to £2,000 to obtain a valuation and appoint a skilled negotiator to enter into formal negotiations for the purchase of the Tanyard Dental Surgery. She asked what the Procurement Strategy was for the Parish Council. Cllr. Veitch responded that there was no strategy in place at the current time. Cllr. Smith asked why we would want it. There was then a full discussion and all questions were answered. It was reiterated that any decision to purchase would be brought to Full Council once a price had been negotiated.

Cllr. Beck proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed.

27/19: Planning & Preservation Management:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 21st May and 4th June and highlighted the applications the Committee had recommended to refuse.

She also advised that Cllr. Warne had been forced to resign from the Committee as she had been selected to join the Tunbridge Wells Planning Committee. With this in mind Cllr. Bunyan asked if any other councillors would like to consider joining the Committee, to ensure we were always quorate. Cllr. Kings offer was gratefully accepted. He was advised the next meeting was on 2nd July.

28/19: Burials & Properties:

In Cllr. Clifford's absence, Cllr. Veitch advised the next meeting was scheduled for 23rd July. Cllr. Bunyan reported that the exterior painting of the Vestry Hall had been completed. During the process it was noted that several tiles were missing from the roof. Repairs were undertaken whilst the scaffolding was in situ.

29/19: Environmental Management:

In the absence of Cllr. Fairweather, Cllr. Veitch advised the next meeting was a site meeting and was scheduled for 25th June.

She advised that we had received information from a resident raising concerns of overgrown vegetation on several public rights of way. These had been forwarded to Kent County Council and would hopefully be resolved soon.

She also reported that an article may appear in the Kent Messenger regarding graffiti on the children's play equipment on the Ball Field. It was mindless vandalism which was dealt with promptly.

30/19: Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Warne advised of a change in members of the Steering Group. Lee Hatcher and Garry Pethurst now take their place as parish councillors. Marion Cranmer and Laura Rowland have been co-opted to represent the community. Cllr. Warne referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May. It had been requested that a declaration of lobbying was included along with a correction to a member's name. These amendments had already been executed by the Deputy Clerk.

Cllr. Warne advised that there had been a lot of work undertaken on policy development in the last few weeks and more information was filtering out to the community through the communication working group. She invited questions.

In response to Cllr. Hall's question regarding the presentation by the Crane Valley Land Trust and what mechanism they will use to ensure assets could be locked in for perpetuity. Cllr. Pethurst suggested that different regulations may apply for land trusts to allow for covenants to be included. It was agreed the question would be better directed to the Chairman of the Trust.

In response to Cllr. Bunyan it was confirmed that any affordable homes built by the Land Trust would count towards the 50% target, provided they conform to the NPPF.

Cllr. Warne proposed adoption of the minutes, including the pre described amendments, this was seconded by Cllr. Pethurst and agreed.

31/19: Reports from Delegates:

a) CCAAC:

Cllr. Bunyan gave a precis of the last meeting and advised the next was scheduled for 24th July.

b) Age Concern:

Cllr. Warne advised they had been visited by the Tenterden Hub Manager, Spencer Goddard, primarily to ascertain if there was any more demand for use of their facilities. The next meeting scheduled for 19th June.

c) Tree Warden:

Cllr. Fermor raised concern about ash die back disease, and would undertake to write a report for the Environmental Management Committee to consider.

d) Cranbrook Museum:

Cllr. Hall advised there was little to report. Efforts to promote Cranbrook Museum are being increased whilst the Tunbridge Wells Museum remains closed.

e) KALC:

Cllr. Veitch advised the KALC Area Chairman's meeting was held last night. The Horsmonden Nostalgia group gave them a history of the Fuggles hop, which originated in Horsmonden. An update on other parish's NDPs was given, several of which are nearing Regulation 14 submission. Some parishes are doing site allocations, others have chosen not to. The minutes of all the meetings are held on the KALC website, to which all members should have access.

32/19: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk read out a report from PCSO Lee Jules which included reports of crimes in the Parish and notification of a crime prevention event day scheduled for Saturday 6th July at the front of the Co Op store. The Chairman encouraged the reporting of all crimes.

33/19: Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report.

34/19: Items for Information:

Cllr. Veitch advised that St Dunstan's Church is looking for donations towards the electrical rewiring of the church, £118,000 is needed and she encouraged everyone to help if they could.

Cllr. Veitch reminded Members that the Garden Safari was next Sunday. Cllr. Fermor advised her garden was open again this year.

Cllr. Bunyan reported that the Sissinghurst Flower Show was being held on Saturday 15th June, 2.30pm at Sissinghurst Primary School.

Cllr. Smith commented on the increase in fly tipping and was disappointed the Borough does not appear to have the resources to follow up incidents, even when evidence is provided.

35/19: Reports from Borough & County Councillors:

Cllr. Holden introduced himself as a Borough and County Councillor. He stated he would follow up on Cllr. Smith's concern regarding fly tipping. He would continue to lobby for a recycling site in this area.

He wished to note his sadness at the news that Freddie McLennan and Joe Atkins, two former pupils of Cranbrook School had died in a car crash in Bolivia.

He continued to press the highways department to clean the road signs and cut back vegetation ready for the Cranbrook in Bloom judging days.

He was pleased to report that the contractors resurfacing The Street in Sissinghurst have admitted their mistake in the laying of additional white lines and have agreed to rectify. He was also pleased to report that the impending closure of the A268 between Sandhurst and Hawkhurst for eleven weeks had now been reduced to six weeks following successful negotiation with SGN.

He advised of the efforts of his working group to remove HGVs from minor roads. A trial area is to be set up from the Leeds Castle road to Staplehurst and Headcorn so the only roads lorries will be able to travel on, unless they are doing business locally will be the A274 and A229. In response to Cllr. Smith, he was unable to say how this would be enforced.

His Kent Plan Bee, a pollinator strategy would be going to the next cabinet meeting for Approval. It was hoped it would mobilise the whole of Kent to look after the habitat for bees. A competition will be launched to design a logo.

He also advised of the Extraordinary Meeting of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to discuss the future of the new theatre plans, he would be voting against as he had never been convinced on the economic viability of the plans.

Borough Cllr. Dawlings advised that the Local plan is due for publication on 29th July.

Within his role on the Tourism Group he would be providing copy for the TWBC 'Local' magazine on Cranbrook and the three adverts in the Wealden Advertiser promoting local events would be repeated this year.

In his new position of portfolio holder for Finance and Governance, he felt he would be in a good position to ensure the previous leader's pledge of funds for the Community Centre is honoured.

He referred to the significant development earmarked for Tudeley and Paddock Wood in the draft Local Plan which is helping to keep the pressure off of us in the AONB.

He stated that he loathed the charge for green waste and anything that does not encourage recycling. The distance to the nearest recycling centre is too far, one is needed closer. At a TWBC cabinet meeting today it was agreed to write to the portfolio holder for waste and recycling at KCC and to lobby all county councillors in the relevant areas and parish councils to encourage them to do the same.

Borough Cllr. Warne declared that she had received her induction and training, she had also attended her first planning meeting.

The meeting was closed.

A governor of Cranbrook Primary School asked the Council to consider granting some funds to the School to repair fencing damaged by vandals. The Chairman agreed to contact the Chairman of the Governors to discuss available options.