

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK  
ON THURSDAY ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair) Cllrs. Beck, Clifford, Fermor, Gilbert, Kings, Pethurst, Hartley and Warne.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Bunyan, Fairweather, Fletcher, Hall, Hatcher 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.

**77/19: Minutes of the Previous Meeting to be confirmed:**

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be adopted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

**78/19: Community Centre:**

Cllr. Veitch gave an update on the Community Centre. The legal documents had still not been completed. Borough Cllr. Sean Holden had written a strongly worded email to the Chief Executive of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to try and get a resolution.

**79/19: Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman reported that she had sent a letter to the Cranbrook in Bloom team to congratulate them on winning Gold. The result of the Britain in Bloom Competition had not yet been received.

Cllr. Veitch thanked everyone involved in the annual Apple Fair last Saturday and hoped that most of you were able to attend and enjoy it. Subsequently she had received an email from Stuart Cleary, suggesting that Cranbrook needs a Mayor and that Phil Mummery should be the first. Perhaps some thought to this could be given in the future.

Cllr. Veitch reported that she had attended the Parish Chairman's extra meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September. This was a presentation by Stephen Baughen followed by a question and answer session on the Draft TWBC Local Plan. Cllr. Veitch had provided Cllrs. Warne and Bunyan with notes for the session and the Clerks also have a copy in the office should anyone wish to view them.

As the Draft TWBC Local Plan is such an important document, it means that the Parish Council's response is also very important. Cllr. Veitch had provisionally booked an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, in order to agree the response. Cllr. Veitch commented that everyone is free to express their personal opinions directly to TWBC, ideally via their website if possible.

Further debate took place and it was agreed that Cllr. Warne contact Stephen Baughen, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Head of Planning to request an extension to the consultation period by at least one or two weeks. Cllr. Clifford commented that it would be really nice if an article detailing the response was able to appear in the next Parish Cake. Cllr. Warne reported that to try and help residents in Cranbrook & Sissinghurst understand the Draft Local

Plan, members of the NDP Steering Group had held a couple of information events in the parish. Several residents' groups have now been set up and are running workshop sessions both in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst to aid people who wish to respond. The feedback from these sessions had been considerable. Cllr. Pethurst agreed to circulate a document which would assist members identify areas of concern and help responses to the Draft Local Plan.

Cllr. Warne reported that Hawkhurst Parish Council were employing Richard Eastham, Ferial Urbanism Consultant to help with a concise response to the Draft Local Plan. Following discussion, the following motion was put forward:

**Cllr. Veitch proposed to set aside a budget of £3,000 to enable the Parish Council to get professional advice on the formulation of the Parish Council response to the Draft TWBC Local Plan, seconded by Cllr. Warne and agreed.**

In answer to a question by Cllr. Fermor, Cllr. Warne explained the new Limits to Built Development area at Wilsley Pound. Cllr. Veitch thanked all Councillors for their input regarding this important topic. Cllr. Veitch had attended a meeting with Alex Davies, of Berkeley Homes, the informal notes taken had been sent to the Chair of the Turnden Advisory Group.

She wished Lori Ham a speedy recovery and thanked Lynn Thirkell for so ably managing in her absence. Cllr. Veitch also wished those Councillors undergoing repairs a speedy recovery.

#### **80/19: Policy & Resources:**

Following the amendment of the minutes to read 8<sup>th</sup> October, Cllr. Beck proposed adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed. Cllr. Beck informed Councillors that an updated accounting system would start in November which is web based. The Councillors could have access to the accounts on a read only basis. Cllr. Clifford and Cllr. Hartley agreed to meet to discuss the possible future layout of the Weald Information Centre. Cllr. Veitch asked for permission to deposit historic records to the Kent History & Library Centre. The documents remain the ownership of the Parish Council and deposit is deemed temporary (initially) for 20 years. The records can be made available to the public and KCC may charge. KCC may charge for digital copies of the archived documents. This was agreed.

#### **81/19: Planning & Preservation Management:**

Cllr. Fermor referred to the minutes of the meetings held 17<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October and highlighted the discussions regarding Hartley Gate Farmhouse, Dulwich Preparatory School and Hartley Mount planning applications which had been refused.

#### **82/19: Burials & Properties:**

Cllr Clifford commended the Parish Warden on how he handled the difficult situation at a recent burial, this was endorsed by all present. Cllr. Clifford advised the next meeting was scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **83/19: Environmental Management:**

In the absence of Cllr. Fairweather, Cllr. Fermor read out the minutes of the meeting which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It was noted that Jane Fineman agreed to explore the option of separating the issue of ticketing vehicles and the removal of abandoned vehicles. She had

also agreed to investigate if it was possible to use the TWBC parking order in Jockey Lane to enforce a time specified limit and restrict use of the EV bays for charging only.

Cllr. Veitch gave background information regarding the enforcement contract with TWBC and advised that past research indicated that it was not possible to use TWBC Parking Orders for Jockey Lane.

It was noted that a litter pick in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst would take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 9.30am all Councillors had been forwarded details.

Cllr. Fermor raised the question of the frequency of meetings. Cllr. Veitch replied that this was entirely up to the Chairman of the Committee to decide.

Cllr. Fermor proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be adopted, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed.

#### **84/19: Neighbourhood Development Plan:**

Cllr. Warne highlighted the decision to put on hold the NDP and concentrate on a response to the Draft Local Plan. She reported on the very good response to the Draft TWBC Local Plan events and thanked those who had helped with the organisation. Residents of Sissinghurst had become aware that there was a serious threat to the village should the proposed development at Capel not go ahead, as it was not in the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Cllr. Clifford asked for an article to go in the Parish Cake if possible, to keep everyone informed.

Cllr. Warne proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 be adopted, seconded by Cllr. Pethurst and agreed.

Cllr. Warne reported that she had a meeting with Helen Grant MP, regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and difficulties being experienced, she had agreed to take our case to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government – Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP.

#### **85/19: Reports from Delegates**

##### **a) KALC**

Cllr. Veitch reported that no meeting had taken place but the KALC newsletters had been circulated to all members. A suggestion for future discussion is that parishes might consider sharing resources.

##### **b) Katharine Elizabeth Wood Charity**

Nothing to report.

The following report from delegate Graham Holmes was read out:

**a) Cranbrook Tourism Group:** The final promotional page entitled “Discover Cranbrook” has appeared in the Wealden Advertiser. The recent edition of The Local magazine also included copy promoting Cranbrook Museum. The next meeting of the group will be 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**b) Transport Accessibility Group:** The Group held its Annual General Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Under Any Other Business delegates again raised concerns about the reliability of the No.5 bus service and the frequency of vehicle breakdowns. The matter will be discussed with Arriva at the next meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**e) Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group:** The High Weald AONB walk around Goudhurst was considered as very successful with some 24 people taking part. The walk began and ended at The Green Cross Inn where many of the walkers enjoyed lunch. Equally successful was the Group's presence at the Horsmonden Nostalgia Day where its stand attracted much attention. This was followed five days later by a power point presentation to the Horsmonden History Society. The next meeting of the Group will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**f) CCAAC**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September had been received and it was noted that a significant amount of discussion took place regarding the response to the Draft Local Plan.

**g) Age Concern**

Cllr. Warne informed Councillors that the AGM was due to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.

**86/19: Clerk's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**87/19: Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence to report.

**88/19: Reports from Borough Councillors:**

Borough Cllr. Warne reported that she had attended two meetings recently and confirmed that Members have voted not to proceed with the Calverley Ground Project. They had however, agreed to continue working cross party to seek other alternatives. Cllr. Warne updated the Committee on the Amelia Scott Centre which is running over budget by 16% and TWBC were also having difficulty getting contractors to undertake work.

**89/19: Items for Information:**

**a) KALC Finance Conference:** Cllr. Pethurst that he was attending this conference on Saturday.

**b) Mayors Toy Appeal:** Cllr. Veitch informed Councillors that the Mayor was needing somewhere to base the appeal from beginning of November.

**c) Mayors Christmas Carols:** Cllr. Veitch informed the Committee that this would take place on Tuesday 3 December at 1pm.

**d) Mayors Charity Bridge:** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1.30pm

**e) Resignation:** Cllr. Veitch informed all those present that this was her last meeting and she handed in a letter of resignation as the Chairman of the Parish Council and as a Parish Councillor to the Clerk. She explained that family needs and advice of friends and medical advisers have resulted in her decision to go now. Cllr. Veitch said it was time to hand over this responsibility to someone younger, with new ideas and energy. She had appreciated the honour and had tried to do her best for the council and the community. It has given her much pleasure to meet so many excellent people with whom she had have enjoyed working. Cllr. Veitch thanked Councillors for their support and friendship and in particular, thanked Cllr. Fletcher who has been a tower of strength throughout. She wished the Parish Council every success with projects and initiatives.

Those present at the meeting thanked her for all the time and effort she had given to the community and Parish Council.

The meeting was closed. Parishioners were invited to ask questions.

Members of the public present thanked Bridget Veitch for all her hard work and dedication to the community and the Parish Council.

A member of the Planning Sub Committee for CCAAC gave their views on the Draft TWBC Local Plan.