



1/21

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 19 January 2021 via Zoom

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Clark (co-opted), Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, County Cllr Rayner, The Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Borough Cllr Betts
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE CLLR CLARK** – Cllr Willingham formally co-opted Cllr Clark who will take the place of Penny Cracknell. The Clerk will forward the necessary documentation to be completed –Acceptance of Office and the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests.
4. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 December 2020 were approved with one typographical amendment in Part 2. The Clerk will pass to Cllr Willingham to sign.
5. **UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR, COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Rayner reported that the TMBC Local Plan had failed on the Duty to Co-operate. We are awaiting details of the next steps from TMBC but it is thought that they will need to go back to the drawing board. There is likely to be another Call for Sites, the whole process can take 4-5 years. Cllr Mitchem asked what the cost had been and how it had been paid for? Cllr Rayner estimated that the whole process would have been in the region of £750k paid for by the Council Tax.

Cllr Rayner reported that he had asked KALC to set up a file on planning following an email from Ightham Parish Council to the Planning Department at TMBC regarding additional “material” documentation that we hadn’t been made aware of in relation to a planning application. Wrotham and Plaxtol Parishes had had similar experiences are there is a concern that developers may be able to take advantage of this.

At County level, much time has been taken up with Brexit and Covid. There are still some issues with customs and lorries moving between the lorry parking areas and the customs areas. This should resolve when drivers get used to the customs documentation.

The number of Covid infections in TMBC are falling fast especially in West Kent, generally there has been good adherence to the guidelines. There is now an asymptomatic testing facility at the Hop Farm and Larkfield. Vaccinations have now started at the Borough Green Surgery as well as the vaccination site in Sevenoaks.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Barbed wire at Longcroft Lodge footpath -Cllr Rayner said that this was being looked into as the barbed wire was deemed to be dangerous. The Clerk raised an issue with the hedges and street cleaning on Busty Lane – Cllr Rayner asked for the Clerk to send details and he would follow it up. Cllr Mitchem said that there were a lot of sandbags left on verges from signs that never seemed to be collected. Cllr Rayner said that they were the responsibility of the contractors.



Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 20.08

Potholes outside Charters, Copt Hall and Mickleton. Sign left at the top of Old Lane – A resident said that this remained from some flood investigation works last Autumn, there is a further site meeting on Monday 25th January and would ask KCC to take it then. Street Clean and road repair required by the substation on Mill Lane – The Clerk said that there was also a lot of fly-tipped waste around here and would report it. Branches on the verge in Back Lane – Cllr Willingham said that he would ask Anthony Edwards to clear. Cllr Holden said that many of the lanes needed to be cut back and cleared as some of the drains are now underneath the hedges, Rectory Lane was particularly bad. The Clerk said that she would report to KCC first for the hedges and then TMBC for street / drain cleaning.

Cllr Hall said that there were more cyclists using the lanes and some of the footpaths which was causing the surfaces to break up. The Clerk was asked to email KCC about the process for installing kissing gates.

Village Traffic Matters – Update - The Clerk said that she had submitted a summary of the Ightham Highways Plan to be published in the next Parish magazine. The Clerk reported that she had attended a TMBC Parking Highways meeting on 17th December. Parishes were encouraged to report cars parked on yellow lines, it was reported that a car has been parking at the top of The Street.

Scout Pavilion – Defibrillator - We are still awaiting a quote for a cabinet. The scout pavilion isn't being used at the moment due to lockdown.

Old Scout Hut – Update – We have received an email about the pathway being water logged and the paving slabs being uneven, Cllr Willingham said that he would go and have a look at it with a view to getting it repaired. We are still awaiting comments on the Lease and a second quote for the fire inspection and alarm. The Clerk reported that there had also been a problem with the electrics at Skips.

Ightham Football Club – Pitch Levelling – Cllr Holden reported that he had asked for a detailed quote breaking down the costs for levelling, drainage and the banking and seating. Cllr Hall asked what purpose levelling the ground would serve? Cllr Holden said that it would improve the recreation ground as an amenity and the school and community would benefit from having a flat surface. We have spent money on other village amenities and providing sporting/recreational facilities falls within our remit. We should see what the cost is before working out the cost benefit ratio.

Tennis Club - Update – We are waiting for a quote for some lights. It was reported that we are still waiting for Harpers to check the water pressure.

Ightham Cricket Club – Update – Cllr Willingham reported that all of the work that the Parish agreed to pay for had been carried out so we could settle the final bill.

Busty Stream - Maintenance - Cllr Willingham and The Clerk had checked the Busty and both reported that it was clear and free flowing. Cllr Holden said that there was a good alert system provided by the residents via the WhatsApp Flood Action Group. Cllr Mitchem asked about digging out the silt? Cllr Willingham said that we had concluded that it would be too difficult due to getting plant to the stream. Cllr Holden said that the advice from KCC had been to leave the stream bed alone.

Flooding – Replanting at Chapel View - there was some discussion about whether this was necessary? Cllr Willingham had a quote for 1.5m hazel/hornbeam for £19 each, we would probably need 6-8 to fill the gap. Decision deferred.

Chapel Farm - Re-planting – nothing to report, the Clerk was asked to chase this up.

Recreation Ground – Cllr Willingham reported that he had asked for 2 quotes for a replacement fence along the Arboret boundary. The Clerk will order a new bin for the play area.

Village Hall - Update - the hall isn't currently being used and Cllr Willingham said that he had spoken to the Caretaker about doing some extra cleaning.

Crime Report/Neighbourhood Watch - Update – The Clerk reported that a car had been stolen from Trycewell Lane.

Climate Change - Update – It was reported that we had made an allowance in the budget for tree replanting in the village and it was suggested that we should get a Committee together to decide on



potential areas for replanting. It was suggested that Jubilee Crescent and the verge outside the Cricket Ground would be 2 options.

Allotments behind Common Road – Visual Tree Assessment quote – the Clerk reported that we had received a quote, this was accepted. The allotments agreements are now signed and up to date.

Leathercote Corner – Cllr Willingham asked who owned Leathercote Corner? Cllr Burgham said that he would investigate.

7. PUBLIC - A question was asked whether the Parish Council had made a decision about contributing to the tree work at the Scout Field. It was agreed that we would contribute half of the cost. It was reported that some of the barbed wire had been removed and the stable block had been knocked down.

A member of public asked for an update on the village traffic calming. The Clerk said that the plan was on hold due to Covid and that an article was going in the Parish Magazine to give an update.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Planning Applications

TM/20/02974/TNCA - Reduce crown T1 Yew Tree, removing 25% of foliage and shape remaining crown. Yew Tree Cottage, Trycewell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9HL. "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content."

TM/20/02886/TNCA - T1 Hazel to reduce height taking tree height to 10ft; T2 Beech to trim height and lateral spread Height 4m- Lateral 3m; G3 Sycamore to trim height and lateral spread - Height 4m - Lateral 2m. 9 Oldbury Close, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DJ. "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content."

TM/20/02831/LB - Listed Building Application: Installation of new services, internal walls, insulated wall/floor/ceiling linings, windows, glazed and solid doors, wood stove and flue to North West Range with associated minor landscape works; remedial works to existing building fabric - Mote Farm, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NT. "No objection."

TM/20/02898/TNCA - Removal of 10 Cobnut trees; Norwegian Fir and Blue Spruce trees to be felled and replant the area with fruit trees - Oldbury House, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DE. Cllr Hall questioned the need to remove the fir and spruce. "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content."

TM/20/02933/FL - Barnfield Cottage, Stone Street Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NH. Part demolition and works for the conversion of the existing riding arena building to a dwelling with the removal of the sand school and associated external alterations to the building, engineering works, access, parking, landscaping and ecological enhancement. *It was decided that we would look at the applications in more details before making a response.*

TM/20/02934/FL - Barnfield Cottage, Stone Street Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NH. Re-development of the previously developed site comprising demolition of an existing indoor riding arena and removal of an external sand school and the erection of a vernacular dwelling, with associated engineering works, access, parking, landscaping and ecological enhancement (revised scheme to that approved under TM/18/00396/FL). *It was decided that we would look at the applications in more details before making a response.*

TM/20/02965/FL - Hand Car Wash Ightham Farm Shop at Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Partial change of use of land to accommodate a tyre shop, including the erection of a canopy and regularisation of existing development including number and position of containers and canopies in connection with the established car wash business. "Objection on the grounds of insufficient space for stocking and disposing of old tyres and safety concerns about access – there is a double white line



on the A25 which would mean no right turn into the site from A25. Also object on grounds of inappropriate development in greenbelt.”

TM/21/00019/TPOC - The Ightham Club, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9HA. T1 Row of Conifer Trees - fell to ground level. *Cllr Burgham said that he would speak to the owner of Ightham Club about the tree application but it was proposed* "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content."

TM/21/00020/FL - Kelen Croft, Mill Lane, Ightham. Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9BH. Ridged roof with hipped gable end to garage roof, the footprint and location is unchanged from the previous approved planning applications. "No objection."

8.3 Planning Applications

Approved

20/02601/FL - New side extension with cat-slide roof to create an open-plan kitchen dining space. Adaption of timber clad service wing by in-filling an opening to create new secondary entrance. Demolition of non original outbuilding - Fishponds Place, Sevenoaks Road, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0HB.

20/02747/TNCA - T1 Oak - Remove lowest 3 limbs and suckers on trunk up to crown break, T2 Oak - Remove long extended branch over skips and suckers on trunk and T3 Sweet Chestnut - crown reduce whole crown by approximately 3m and tidy torn hanging branch. Remove suckers at base - Ightham Recreation Ground, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

20/02498/FL - Proposed loft conversion with link-pitched dormer to rear elevation and 3 No rooflight windows to front elevation – Hillcrest, 13 Spring Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9DN.

8.4 LOCAL PLAN – Borough Green Gardens Update - Update - See above

9. FINANCE & POLICY

The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Mitchem and seconded by Cllr Emmett

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Parish Clerk Salary & Tax January – (Standing Order)	£652.00
Gel Creative - January (Standing Order)	£50.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 November (Standing Order)	£46.20
Smurfit Kappa – Newspaper Bin rental village hall (standing Order)	£54.00
Axis Southern Ltd – Second phase construction Cricket Pavilion	£4,622.40
Steve Burgham – Reimbursement Expenses	£84.65

Cheques

Parish Clerk Expenses	£60.24
JH Service & Gardening – Grass Cutting	£240.00
Unity Trust Bank – Transfer	£20,000.00
Donation – West Kent Mediation	£100.00
Donation - The Counselling Centre	£100.00
Donation – Hospice in the Weald	£100.00
EDF – Electricity Old Scout Hut	£96.02
E-on – UMS Recreation Ground	£56.42
Teeability – Tree work advised in visual tree inspection & at Oldbury	£6,051.60
Clerk & Councils Direct Subscription	£12.00
R Willingham (reimbursement filling potholes in car park & replacement beech hedging)	£121.25

Deposit Account: £166,253, Current Account £34,759, Unity Account £14,086



9.2 Parish Precept – Agreement of budget 2021-22. The proposed budget and precept had been circulated in advance, a couple of questions were raised and the budget was agreed. It was agreed that we would not raise the precept this year. A 0% increase will mean that the precept will be for 2021/22 will be £124,000. The Clerk will send the precept request to TMBC, due 22nd January 2021.

9.3 Risk Assessment – The risk assessment has been circulated in advance and was agreed. The Clerk will upload onto the website and file for the auditors.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – (Please email Clerk if you would like to receive information) Request for donation for work at the scout field – agreed above that we would contribute half of the cost, this will be a donation under s.137 LGA.

KALC Newsletter December – Circulated

KALC Training Events – Circulated

Kent and Medway vaccination programme update - Circulated

Action Fraud - Coronavirus Scams Warning – The Clerk said that there were various scams circulating around vaccinations and that we should make parishioners aware.

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin

Local Government Bulletins

LGA Model Code of Member Conduct 23.12.20 – Circulated – The Clerk said that we were awaiting advice from NAL before updating the current code.

11. AOB

The Clerk reported that Borough Green Library would be re-opening but with limited hours.

Cllr Hall reported that a parishioner had written to Cllr Betts about damage to verges by the refuse trucks. Cllr Mitchem said that when she complained, Urbaser had repaired the damage.

Cllr Clark reported that some trees had been cut down opposite Ragstones and queried whether this required permission.

Cllr Clark said that the map by the bus stop could do with replacing. The Clerk will contact Kent Explore.

Cllr Mitchem said that there was a new initiative called Friends of St Peters, supporting the Church. There is an annual membership fee and various events are planned for 2021/22. The Clerk has put details on the website and noticeboards. The Church would also like to plant some daffodils on the verge outside the church and wondered who owned it. It was thought to belong to the Church.

The meeting closed at 22.04