



3/21

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 16 March 2021 via Zoom

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, Cllr Rayner, Nikola Floodgate - Schemes Planning & Delivery Manager KCC and 1 member of the public.

- 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Betts
- 2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
- 3. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2021 were approved with a few typographical amendments. The Clerk will pass them to Cllr Willingham for signature.
- 4. **UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR, COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – Cllr Rayner was asked to give an update on our Highways Improvement Plan. Cllr Rayner reported that information from recent Highways meetings suggested that Highways Improvement Plans (HIP’s) were being put on hold due to central Government expenditure and redeployment of Officers to concentrate on other projects. These projects are now coming to an end and the situation is being advanced. In addition, “Vision Zero” a new initiative from KCC will affect the Parish Improvement Plans and Parishes will be asked to give their input into schemes. Cllr Rayner introduced Nikola Floodgate, Schemes Manager at KCC, responsible for managing and delivering traffic schemes. Ms Floodgate deals with requests for changes and accident hot spots and has a team of 28 full time staff. Ms Floodgate endorsed what Cllr Rayner reported and said that staff had been taken away for the Active Travel Fund projects. KCC received additional funding from central Government however it was only for strategic routes through the County. Ms Floodgate mentioned the Vision Zero Strategy which was out for consultation, ending 15th March. The Strategy is to reduce and eliminate people being killed or seriously injured on Kent roads. Ms Floodgate said that she would send the slides for circulation which give information on what is happening in Kent and those involved such as the Kent Police Transport Intelligence Team and Speedwatch.

When putting forward a scheme, Parishes first port of call should be the District Manager, Mark Simmons. There is a Highways Information Pack which shows how you go about making changes. Highways Improvement Plans started a few years ago to give Parishes a priority list of traffic improvements. Not all problems can be fixed however, Kent Highways will offer some potential solutions and try to help Parishes. The Highways Improvement Plan should outline what Parishes are trying to achieve, what the problems are and what the solutions should be. They need to be data driven and can include representations from Parishioners. There are 300 Parishes in Kent and 150 of these have had sites with someone killed or seriously injured and these. There are 28 Parishes within TMBC and 7 of those have had active HIP’s. Parishes are prioritised and there is a reasonably small team to deal with all of the issues. The common priority issues are speeding.

Cllr Willingham asked whether the team was also responsible for repairs and maintenance? Ms Floodgate said that her team only dealt with new changes to traffic schemes.

Cllr Hall said that Ightham Parish submitted their Highways Improvement Plan 2 years ago and nothing had happened; we had engaged a Traffic Consultant, and followed all advice however it hadn’t made it on to the Joint Transportation Board Agenda yet. Cllr Hall said that disruption to traffic due to a sink hole on A227 would generate more complaints from Parishioners and found the lack of

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action difficult to understand. Ms Floodgate said that she hadn't seen a copy of our Plan but noted that there had been some different approaches to putting forward Plans and recommended that we sent it directly to her. Cllr Rayner said that we weren't the only Parish that had encountered this inaction with our Plan and also mentioned that some Traffic Orders had been lost (including one for a 20mph limit on Oldbury Lane). Ms Floodgate said that the team doesn't have enough resources to deal with all Parishes, however, would set up a meeting with us within the next 2 weeks to talk about our Plan.

Cllr Emmet said that the issue in Ightham is that we have a 50mph limit on A25 however the side lanes are 60mph, sometimes speeds are only curtailed by the poor condition of the road. Ms Floodgate said that rural roads are difficult to manage; derestricted means that the speed should be safe rather than the maximum permitted, and the solution is education of drivers.

Cllr Hall said that we had reserved money to fund any signage etc.

Cllr Willingham gave thanks to Ms Floodgate and said that the Parish Clerk would be in touch to set up a meeting and send our Plan.

Cllr Rayner gave thanks to the Clerk for inviting Ms Floodgate to the meeting and said that it was timely as from Friday his involvement would have to be suspended due to purdah (pending the elections in May).

Cllr Rayner reported that TMBC had received a response from the Planning Inspectorate asking them to withdraw the Local Plan otherwise they would recommend that it didn't proceed. Today, TMBC had responded to say that they would not withdraw the Plan. Cllr Rayner speculated that TMBC may go for a Judicial Review and Cllr Hall asked what this would mean in planning terms? Cllr Rayner said the delay the Local Plan process would mean a postponement in our 5-year land supply.

Consequently, the Local Authority would not be able to administer planning as there is no land supply and on appeal applicants would be likely to get planning consent.

Cllr Rayner said that he understood that TMBC were working on a plan B alternative Local Plan that would go with another call for sites.

Cllr Mitchem said that it was frustrating that everything that we tried to get off the ground was being delayed.

Cllr Rayner recommended that for our Highways Improvement Plan, we prioritised the more easily achievable elements such as 20mph limit in Oldbury Lane and the Oldbury Lane/A25 junction (where we have clear data) rather than the blanket 30mph limit. Cllr Holden said that he disagreed with this approach as the narrow lanes had many driveways onto them and there are a lot of near misses from residents trying to get out of their driveways onto derestricted roads. This should be compared to Tonbridge where he saw no data but the 20mph limit still went ahead.

Cllr Rayner recommended that we looked at the Vision Zero information and that we confirmed our list of priorities.

Cllr Willingham said that he had contacted the resident at Chapel View about garden waste.

Cllr Hall asked for an update on the sink hole on A227. Cllr Rayner said that there had been a burst water main in the sandy soil and this had undermined the road infrastructure which had had to be built up and secured. He thought that the repairs would take around 6 weeks, but he would confirm with the Clerk.

A member of public raised the issue of barbed wire on footpath MR614 which had been reported to PROW. Cllr Rayner said that the Officer had sent a response to the Parish Clerk and some improvements had been made to address the barbed wire however some improvements had yet to be made. The member of public said that he would take this up with PROW directly. Cllr Burgham reported that a dog had been injured on the barbed wire.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 20.26.

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5. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Barbed wire at Longcroft Lodge footpath MR614 - Request to meet the agent for the land owner - it was agreed that Cllr Willingham and Cllr Fielder would arrange to meet next week. Cllr Holden said that it was important that we find out about the A227 closure as the narrow roads aren't currently safe, particularly for residents coming out of their driveways and for school children walking home. In addition, the buses were unsure of their diversion routes. Cllr Willingham said that he would speak to the Contractors. Cllr Mitchem reported that after speaking with the Contractor at FCC Enviro who own Stangate Quarry, they had been out to clear the fly tipped waste along Mill Lane and Crowhurst Lane. There is a small amount left to be cleared and Cllr Mitchem has emailed him. Flooding and mud on Mill Lane has been reported to Highways. Various signs need to be collected. Potholes outside Rose Cottage on Ismays, Robins Rest and Leys Cottage on Back Lane and East side of Dark Hill on A25. Cllr Willingham reported that he had cleared some rubbish at the village hall lower car park and the clerk reported that she had reported fly-tipping and full recycling bins. A discussion was had about installing CCTV as the situation with fly-tipping hasn't improved, agreed this should go onto the next agenda. Rubbish on verges along A25 and A227 reported to TMBC. Fallen tree on Jubilee Crescent reported.

Footpath Maps quote – we have received a quote for 2 maps of £1,050. It was thought that this was too expensive. The Clerk was asked to see whether we could get the electronic version from KCC and try and order a copy ourselves via Amazon. Email regarding Southern Water – the Clerk had sent an email to Cllr Rayner. New salt bins in Oldbury - Cllr Fielder said that he would be happy to have one installed on his land near to the post box.

Gritter – Sharing Gritter - Defer to the next meeting.

Village Traffic Matters – Update - See above.

Pavilion – Defibrillator – We are awaiting a date for the carpenter to make a cabinet. The Clerk had circulated a breakdown for the electricity bills since the build and they averaged £150 per month. Mr Reid had explained that even the building wasn't in use, the building was kept at 8-10 degrees to stop damp, the lights were kept on at night and the 400 litres water had to be heated to a certain temperature and run once a week to prevent legionnaires disease (HSE guidelines).

School/ Old Scout Hut – Update – Lease – The lease has almost been finalised and is with KCC lawyers. Fire and broadband installation additional cost – The Clerk reported that she had received an email from school to say that the quote for the fire equipment didn't include fire extinguishers or telemetry to connect through into the existing School system to raise the alarm remotely. The additional cost is £1,304. It was agreed that the PC would cover the cost in return for an increase in annual rent by £130. The payments will be organised on signing of the lease. PPE – Cllr Hogarth said that she had been in touch with the school Governor who confirmed that schools had no additional funding for PPE. Cllr Hogarth suggested that we made a donation towards the cost of PPE and it was agreed that she should approach the Head to find out what their additional spend was. It was agreed that we would offer a cash donation of up to £200.

Ightham Football Club – Pitch Levelling – no update on a quote. The Clerk reported that the Football Club fixtures were starting on 3rd April subject to Covid restrictions.

Tennis Club - Update – Cllr Mitchem said that the water problem had been resolved and gave thanks on behalf of the Tennis Club for clearing the brambles. Cllr Willingham said that he was awaiting a quote for the lights.

Busty Stream - Maintenance - Nothing to report.

Flooding – Replanting at Chapel View - Cllr Willingham estimated that we would need to plant 15 hornbeam/ hazel shrubs at £19 each – this was agreed.

Recreation Ground – New fence along Arboret boundary – we have received 2 quotes, one for a stock fence and one for chestnut paling. It was agreed that we would accept the quote for the chestnut paling fence as we should replace like for like. The Clerk will email Tyrells and ask for the

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date so that she can let the owners of Arboret know. The Clerk has made a request for a new bin from TMBC.

Recreation Ground Car Park – Resurfacing quotes - we have received quotes for bonded gravel and tarmac plus markings following ongoing problems with potholes. The Clerk was asked to contact Latitude to see whether they had any suggestions and to check the planning conditions. It was agreed that we would defer to the next meeting and that we would need to put side funding from next year’s budget due to the high cost.

Village Hall - Update – Cllr Willingham reported that the hall had received some additional Covid grant funding from TMBC and this would be used towards remedial works such as new toilets.

Crime Report/Neighbourhood Watch - Update – The Clerk reported that there had been spate of dog thefts and vaccination scams.

Climate Change - Tree Planting – Cllrs Mitchem, Clark and Hogarth had done a recce of the village to find suitable places for tree planting and had identified Jubilee Crescent, the cricket field and the recreation ground. Cllr Mitchem had been in touch with Planet Plants to recommend species of trees. This can be done in the Autumn.

Allotments behind Common Road – Tree Inspection – The Clerk will check whether this has been done

Chapel Farm - Planting – Nothing to report.

Leathercote Corner – Ownership and hedge cutting – The Clerk reported that she had done a land registry search, but it was inconclusive and she was following this up. A decision will not be made until we establish ownership.

Bus Shelters – Common Road - Cllr Willingham reported that the bus shelter on A25 near to Common Road had been repaired. The Clerk had received an email from KCC to say that the bus shelter on Tonbridge Road was dangerous to maintain and therefore were proposing to remove it or hand over ownership to the Parish Council. It was noted that the shelter was not in a bad state of repair. It was agreed that we should raise this at the meeting with Highways. A decision will be deferred to the next meeting.

Dog Waste bins – Cllr Clark asked about getting additional dog waste bins around Mill Lane. The Clerk will contact TMBC.

6. PUBLIC - Nothing to report.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Planning Applications

TM/21/00469/TPOC - 12 Fen Meadow, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9HT. Poplar T1 to re-pollard back to previous points; and T2 Poplar to dismantle sections to near ground level. “No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content”.

TM/21/00453/FL – Arboret, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DD.

Two storey side and rear extensions. “No objection however question whether this would fall within permitted development”.

TM/21/00369/LDP – Reuters, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9AY.

Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: replace the front door and add a feature window over; replace two ground floor windows with one wide; replace patio doors. “No comment”.

Cllr Hall commented that there had been a lot of tree work around Common Road and questioned whether it needed permission. Cllr Willingham said that he would check although he thought that there was a swathe of TPO’s around Sandy Lane.

7.2 Planning Applications

APPROVED

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21/00383/NMA - Fir Bank, Coach Road, Ivy Hatch. Non-Material Amendment to planning permission TM/20/01747/FL: amendments to roof pitch and material, amendments to glazing size and position, amendments to garden design and omission of balcony on the south façade.

20/02752/FL - Redwell House, Redwell Lane. Single storey extension, first floor extension and demolition of garage.

21/00020/FL - Kelen Croft, Mill Lane. Ridged roof with hipped gable end to garage roof, the footprint and location is unchanged from the previous approved planning applications (16/00563/NMA and 16/01357/NMA).

21/00019/TNCA - The Ightham Club Sevenoaks Road. T1 Row of Conifer Trees - fell to ground level.

20/02965/FL - Hand Car Wash, Ightham Farm Shop At Sevenoaks Road. 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.

20/02886/TNCA - 9 Oldbury Close. 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.

WITHDRAWN

18/01627/TNCA - Land Adjacent to Oldbury Hatch, Oldbury Lane. Removal of 18 Beech; 1 Pine; 5 Hornbeam; 6 Acacia; 1 Oak; 2 Holly and 1 Silver Birch trees from garden to be replaced with various species.

REFUSED

21/00078/LDP - 5 Chapel View, Chapel Row. Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: erection of an outbuilding in the rear garden to be used for recreational use which is ancillary to the main dwelling house. Garden maintenance storage, children's playroom, family leisure. The proposed building is a timber framed, flat roofed and timber clad building at the rear of the garden. The building has a total height of 2.5 metres. The total area of the building does not exceed 50% of the total area of the land around the dwelling house. The building will sit on a 100mm thick reinforced concrete slab.

21/00079/FL - Felgarth, Coach Road. Proposed two storey side and rear extension with raised roofline, two storey front porch atrium, roof and internal alterations, garden patio alterations and garden outbuilding.

21/00083/FL - Conversion of existing residential outbuilding to provide a single dwelling, including access, landscaping and parking – Brackenwood, Pine Tree Lane, Ivy Hatch.

8.4 LOCAL PLAN – Borough Green Gardens Update - Update - Letter from PINS – See above.

9. FINANCE & POLICY

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

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Parish Clerk Salary & Tax March – (Standing Order)	£652.00
Gel Creative - February (Standing Order)	£50.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 (Standing Order)	£46.20
Smurfit Kappa – Newspaper Bin rental village hall (standing Order)	£54.00
TruePlan – Plan for Lease of the Oldbury Annexe	£60.00
Ray Fielder – Clearing Footpath	£70.00
Gel Creative – Domain renewal	£32.50

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**Cheques**

Parish Clerk Expenses	£62.62
JH Service & Gardening – Grass Cutting	£120.00
EDF- Oldbury Annex	£54.88
TreeAbility -Land behind Robin Hill Tree work	£302.40
ACRE Membership renewal	£80.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – Limited Assurance Review	£480.00
Caste Water – Water rates Pavilion	£30.55

9.1 GDPR – defer to next meeting.

9.2 Conclusion of Audit – The Clerk reported that the AGAR had been signed off with a comment that we review how we value our assets.

9.3 Review of Policy Documents – Resolution of valuations on the asset register – it was resolved that we should use original value in our assets list for the purposes of our AGAR. The Clerk said that she included original value, current value and value for insurance purposes in the register.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – (circulated prior to the meeting)

Ightham Music Festival – 26th June

NALC Chief Executives Bulletin

Kent and Medway Covid-19 vaccine updates

KALC News March 2020

KALC CEO Bulletin March 2020

KALC Strategic Meeting with Matthew Scott PCC and Kent Police 18th March 2021

ONS Census on 21st March & CANWK Census Support Service in Tonbridge & Malling

TMBC - Notification of adoption of Innovation Park Medway Local Development Order

Kent Police Rural Task Force Report and Rural Matters

KALC T & M Area Committee Meeting on 25th March – Climate Change

11. AOB

Cllr Hall said that he had received the Council Tax bill and noted the zero % rise for the Parish Council which should be communicated with residents.

The Clerk said that the school were planning an end of term party on 16th July - no objections were raised.

Cllr Mitchem said that the Coxcombe Fair was planned for 2022 and asked whether the Parish Council would consider paying for the road closure. It was agreed that Cllr Mitchem should start the application so that we could get an idea of costs.

The meeting closed at 22.09.

Signed.....Dated.....