



2/23

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM AT IGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden, (Vice Chair), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner and 2 representatives from Ightham PSA.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Hall.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Clark declared an interest in Sycamores as it is a neighbouring property.

3. MINUTES - The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. MEMBERS OF PUBLIC – Representatives from Ightham PSA introduced themselves and enquired about using the recreation ground to hold community events to raise money for the school. The PSA would like to run an event for the Kings Coronation on Sunday 7th May, with other community groups but are concerned about the lack of toilet facilities in the recreation ground. Cllr Willingham suggested that the Parish Council paid for 2/3 portaloos for this event and this was agreed by Councillors. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would fund portaloos for any larger community run events in the future on application. Portaloos can be situated to the side of the car park, Cllr Willingham will get a price from Oaks Plant Hire in Riverhead and will liaise with the Chair about delivery and collection. The PSA would also like to have fireworks display in the recreation ground in November and have already checked the date with The Clerk.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR/ BOROUGH COUNCILLOR/PPP

County Cllr Rayner reported that there would be substantial savings of around £45 million in the KCC budget and that there would be significant property sales. There is currently a Consultation about use of premises, but this will have little impact on Ightham as it is largely in urban areas. There will be an increase in Council Tax of 4.99%. Approx 66% revenue is spent on children’s and adult services and 70% KCC’s revenue budget is met by Council Tax payers. The Government contribution towards children’s services is reducing as a proportion of the total budget and with inflation at 10-12% and especially increases in energy costs, additional substantial savings will need to be made.

Cllr Willingham asked whether ID for voting was a Government initiative? Cllr Rayner said that it was a central Government initiative, however, it was being administered by TMBC as they deal with polling. Anyone attending a polling station will be required to produce photo ID when they vote in the 2023 elections. Anyone without a passport or driving licence can apply for photo ID via TMBC.

Cllr Rayner reported that the Lower Thames Crossing Consultation is open. There are some improvements that have been announced by Network Highways on Vigo Hill to aid the switch between M20 and M2, although this may not happen for a while, it will increase traffic on A227.

Plans for a Lorry Park at Nepicar have now officially been dropped.

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



The bus service reductions continue with 306 and 308 services being cut; here will no longer be early morning or late-night services and the day time services will be less frequent. Cllr Holden reported that the 6pm 222 service has also been cut which will affect after school clubs.

There is a Consultation open on the post 16 Travel Saver - Cllr Rayner said that there is no statutory obligation to provide funding for post 16 travel and the likely effect is that the cost of this ticket will rise from September 2023.

We are still awaiting news of the BSIP (Bus services Improvement) grant of £7million which can be used for capital projects for transport, such as creating apps. The grant cannot subsidise loss making bus services.

There are no further updates on the Local Plan and there will be nothing further until after the elections.

Borough Cllr Betts circulated a report in advance: Many leisure centre swimming pools across the UK have been closing due to the energy crisis but TMBC have been supporting both Tonbridge swimming pool and Larkfield leisure centre with the installation at Larkfield of 196 PV panels producing an estimated 96,000 kWh per annum, a similar project is planned for Tonbridge. This will enable the pools to be more energy efficient and significantly reduce their CO2 emissions but more importantly, remain open.

The re-rounding of garden waste was completed in November across the whole Borough.

TMBC residents recycling performance has improved by 4.8% and fly tipping reduced by 17% year on year.

Parish Cllr Mitchem reported that she had attended the PPP meeting where it had been announced that Voter Photo ID would be introduced for the 2023 elections.

It was also reported that there was a huge backlog of enforcement cases due to a lack of Planning Officers.

TMBC are waiting an update in the guidelines for the Local Plan following the Levelling Up Bill.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Temporary Road Closure - Copt Hall Road, Ightham - 20th February 2023. **HIP update-** We have now received quotes from KCC for the design of signage and gateways at locations Fen Pond Road, Ismays Road and Borough Green Road. Design costs are £1000 and signage and gateways approx. £2,000 each. Councillors expressed disappointment at the cost which has risen considerably since we first started discussing the project, nevertheless it was agreed by a vote of 4 to 3 that we should go ahead as planned. We have received recent speed data for Borough Green Road, Fen Pond Road and Ismays Road. with average speeds being compliant with the posted speed limits. Councillors noted that although the speeds were not over the limit, they were close to the limit and we still want to pursue speed reductions in the village.

Allotments –Update – The Clerk passed a copy of the signed lease for the Paddock to Cllr Willingham to countersign. The Clerk witnessed the signature, and a copy will be sent to the Tenant. The Clerk reported that the annual rent at some of the other allotments was due and will be writing to Tenants accordingly. The tree work has now been completed at the allotment gardens and Cllr Emmett reported that access to the allotments from the landway needs to be secured and he would meet with the Cllr Willingham to discuss this in due course.

Recreation Ground– The Clerk has been in contact with Wicksteed about a quote for the repairs suggested in the Rospa report. The Clerk reported that some repairs to the wetpour were needed, and

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it was agreed that she should contact Redlynch. The Clerk will check whether there are any further repairs required to timber work, Cllr Willingham has already repaired the seat in the children’s area.

Container repair – nothing to report, Cllr Willingham to action. **Jubilee bench** – the bench has been installed; The Coxcombe Committee will pay for installation and the Clerk will send an invoice for £100. The Clerk circulated some designs for a replacement memorial bench, however, it was agreed that we would contact the company that supplied the Jubilee bench for a quote for a similar style bench.

Tennis Club - Path Lights & Water Main – work has been scheduled for March.

Scouts Pavilion - Scouts reported that some new timers had been put on the lights. Scouts have reported that new fans are required in the pavilion showers at a cost of £300. The Clerk was asked to check whether it was a full repairing lease and investigate whether the Football Club could contribute. The Clerk reported that she had approached the Scouts about the high electricity bills and investigate whether we could share the cost. The Scouts confirmed that they were unable to vary the terms of their lease to put them at a financial disadvantage as it would contravene Charity Commission regulations. The Clerk was asked to circulate a copy of the lease and licence so that we can consider other options to try and reduce the energy costs. The Clerk will also call EDF to investigate whether we are /can be on the reduced tariff applicable to Scout groups.

Village Hall - Update - CCTV Solar Panels - Cllr Willingham reported that he had contacted another contractor for a quote and is waiting to hear back.

It was reported that the heating had been repaired at a cost of £1,200 and contractors were coming back to replace the pump in the boiler in the Committee Room. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the repairs.

Skips - Lease Renewal – The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Warners who had confirmed that the lease will automatically continue on the same terms when it ends in June and has communicated this to the Tenant. There will be a rent review in 2024.

Litter Pick – Saturday 25th February 10am – the Clerk has all the equipment and anyone taking part should meet at the village hall car park at 10am on Saturday. The Clerk has arranged for TMBC to collect the rubbish bags next week.

Flooding – Cllr Holden reminded the Clerk that flooding should be a standing item on the agenda and he would be attending a Kent Flood Forum meeting on Thursday where he would find out the steps required to undertaking the mapping of drains in the village.

7. FINANCE & POLICY

7.1 The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposer Cllr Clark, Seconded Cllr Emmett

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Gel Creative - (Standing Order)	£50.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 (Direct Debit)	£49.20
EDF – Electricity Scout & Football Pavilion (Direct Debit)	£206.00
Anthony Edwards - Maintenance Churchyard	£518.96
Anthony Edwards – Maintenance of Parish Council	£375.22
Norris & Fisher – Village Hall Insurance	£2,062.86
IT Solutions Kent Ltd	£72.00

Cheques

Clerks Salary and Expenses	£849.10
HMRC – Clerks Tax	£33.80
Ightham Village Hall – Rental	£270.00
Rodney Willingham – installation of bench and repairs to seat recreation ground (£100 to be invoiced to Coxcombe Committee for installation of bench)	£159.20

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7.2 Review of Policy Documents – The Clerk circulated the following policy documents in advance and it was agreed that they should be signed off and dated subject to some minor changes:

Standing Orders – No changes

Risk Assessment - No changes. Cllr Holden asked whether we should add water courses, but it was agreed that these would fall under the responsibility of KCC and / or riparian owners.

Financial Regs – One amendment to say that work for goods and services could be confirmed by email rather than by a purchase order which is in line with what we currently do.

Asset Register – Add the Jubilee Bench.

7.3 Approval of appointment of Marian Hemsted as Internal Auditor – The Clerk reported that she has met with Marian Hemsted who had sent a draft terms of engagement letter which was circulated. It was agreed that we would appoint Marian and the Clerk will send paperwork and a copy of the minutes confirming this.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Planning Applications

TM/23/00128/AGN - Mote Farm Land, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent Prior Agricultural Notification: Erection, extension or alteration of a building/road for agricultural or forestry use – “Permission not required”.

TM/23/00209/FL & TM/23/00210/LB – Corners, The Street Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9HH Demolition of 2 single storey rear extensions and garage structure. Erection of new replacement single storey rear extension together with internal alterations, including rear windows and doors, and erection of new single storey. “No objection.” The Clerk raised the question of rear access steps, but it was noted that we would not be able to agree to this at present due to the restrictive covenant and concerns about liability.

TM/23/00214/LDP - Little Oldbury Spring Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DN Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Erection of detached garage and 3no. storage sheds including associated parking, driveway and landscaping alterations. “We continue to believe that this is unlawful”.

TM/23/00217/TNCA - Blenheim Cottage, Trycewell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9HN H1- mixed hedge mainly consisting of holly and hawthorn. -trim all sides and reduce height down to 10ft. H2- conifer hedge trim top and sides. T1- conifer reduce height down to 10ft and trim sides. T2- hazel to reduce to previous points (around 6FT). T3- Hazel to reduce to previous points (around 6FT). T4- Goat willow fell to ground level. T5- Hazel fell to ground level.”No objection.”

TM/23/00179/TPOC- 27 Nutfields Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9EA 1 x Liquidambar (Blue dot on sketch plan) and 1 x Maple (Red dot on sketch plan) - Dismantle / Fell to near ground level. Liquidambar is too close to the conservatory. Maple is on the fence line close to the drive entrance (roots already disrupting the drive edge). Standing in Woodland W1 of Tree Preservation Order. “Cllr Hall to comment”.

TM/23/00255/FL- Sycamores, Bates Hill, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9BG. Single storey side extension and internal reconfiguration. “We leave to TMBC to determine”.

TM/23/00335/TNCA - Glebe Cottage, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DG. To re pollard to below the old growth points one stem on a mature sweet chestnut that has previously been done after it looks like it was hit by lightning before. the re growth is heavily leaning over the garage roof. there was one limb that snapped out in the autumn and there's sign of fungus fruiting body's on the stem (although unidentified) “No objection.”

TM/23/00342/CNA - Land East Of Forge Cottage Forge Lane Seal Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0EU Consultation by Sevenoaks District Council (Reference 22/02881/FUL): Demolish existing store/garden room. Construction of a 4 bedroom detached house. “No objection.”

8.2 Planning Applications – APPROVED

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



TM/82/1138/R(ii)AB& - Proposed reprofiling of Stangate West Landfill Site and updated aftercare scheme pursuant to Condition (ii) of Annex B to planning permission TM/82/1138 and Conditions 2, 3 & 18 of planning permission TM/94/579 at Stangate West Landfill Site, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 8RA.

TM/22/02458/FL - Suppression of existing foul drain and installation of new package treatment plant serving 1 and 2 Mount Cottages - Land South Of 1 And 2 Mount Cottages, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.

TM/22/02685/FL - Demolition of existing conservatory and replace with single storey garden room extension - 18 Fen Meadow, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9HT.

TM/22/02631/FL - Partial demolition of existing storage unit, single storey extension, canopy and ancillary works - Celcon Blocks Limited, The Ightham Sandpits, Borough Green Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9JB.

TM/22/02611/FL - Rear infill extension to allow for enlarged kitchen and utility room. Replacement of existing garage with oak framed garden room. Construction of new double garage – Hawkwood, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9AY.

TM/22/02787/FL - Two storey side and rear extension with roof extension (revision of TM/20/01648/FL) – Glenna, Old Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9AH.

TM/22/02786/FL - Removal of existing rear conservatory, and replacement single storey rear extension - Tilers Rest Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9HA.

8.3 Planning Applications REFUSED

TM/22/02566/LDP - Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: new three bay garage and driveway with access to Upper Spring Lane - Little Oldbury, Spring Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9DN.

TM/22/02703/TPOC - Remove Sycamore standing in strip of land between the rear garden of 5 Nutfields at Redwell Lane. Standing in Woodland W1 of Tree Preservation Order - Former Redland Tileworks, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EH.

TM/22/02767/TPOC - T5-T18 Lapsed Beech Hedge - reduce trees back to hedge height at approx 2.5m because of structural flaws which limit their long-term viability. There are numerous structural issues as the trees are a lapsed hedge, heavy decline of one large tree suggesting root disease, various cavities at or around the roots and lower trunks the trees heavily overshadow Oldbury House. Pruning the trees will not address the light issue for the adjacent house as the trees will still be very dominant and regrowth will block even more light- standing in group G1 of Tree Preservation Order - Land Between Oldbury Hatch and Oldbury House, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – (* circulated in advance)

Request from the Tunbridge Wells Samaritans for a donation -£100 agreed for next month.

TMBC - Voter ID is being introduced at the Local elections in May - all electors have to bring suitable photographic identification in enable them to vote in a Polling station. To go in the Parish Magazine.

PSA would like to use the Recreation Ground on Sunday 7th of May to host a celebration for the Coronation – Agreed with other users.

KALC is running workshops for members of the public who may wish to become Councillors 21 February 2023 at 7-8pm and 21 March 2023 at 7-8pm – Clerk to attend and find out the process for completing and sending forms.

KCC - Services 306 & 308: Gravesend-Borough Green-Sevenoaks – Reduction services due to cost savings.

H+H - Proposal for a pedestrian walkway on the H+H Borough Green site to allow staff and visitors to walk safely on and off the site. We would not object to this if a planning application came forward as it is a good idea.

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



TMBC is launching an email newsletter to help keep residents and partner organisations up to date with important news from around the borough <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/newsletter>

KALC Elections Bulletin issue 2

KCC's Community Services Consultation 26 March 2023

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation - 2 March 2023

Local & Parish Elections - 4 May 2023 – Information briefing 1st March, 7pm

10. AOB

Cllr Mitchem reported the number of signs on A25 for the farm and tyre shop and a question whether people should be crossing the double solid lines when approaching the shops from Sevenoaks.

Cllr Holden reported that the lights on the Amhurst sign were distracting at night and should be reported to Kent Highways.

Cllr Fielder reported that there was still a leak on Oldbury Lane and the Water Co. were unable to find the source.

Cllr Willingham reported that he had been approached with quotes to fix flooding in Old Lane, however, as it isn't our land, they should go to Kent Highways.

Cllr Willingham reported that he had been approached by a tree surgeon to be considered for future tree work, this was noted and details passed to the Clerk.

The meeting went into Part 2 and closed at 10.10pm.

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