

ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council Meeting held on the 1 July 2020 at 20:00hrs

Present: Cllr. Mrs P. Garrett – Chairman, Cllrs. Mrs. A. Adams, Mrs. L. Chalk,
Mr. S. MacDonald-Gay, Mr. P. Robinson, Mrs. C. Short
County Councillor Sarah Hohler, Borough Councillor Ann Kemp
1 member of the public

39/20] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Borough Councillor Piers Montague.

40/20 CO-OPTION – Deferred.

41/20] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr. Chalk declared a pecuniary interest in item 47/20 (a) (1)

42/20] MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was proposed that the Clerk, on behalf of the Chairman, sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3 June 2020.

43/20] REPORTS

a) County Councillor – County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised that other Counties have now stepped in to help with providing foster homes for unaccompanied child asylum seekers. It was reported that 32,000 children were back at one of the 450 schools in Kent last week, though the figure is estimated to be nearer 40,000 as not all schools reported their pupil roll number. The Kent Test has been put back to the 15 October 2020. KCC has now installed environmentally friendly solar panels on 603 buildings. The registration service is now open for the registration of births and weddings of up to 30 people can now be held. Last week just 11-12 new covid cases were reported per day in Kent. KCC has now financially helped 11,500 businesses since the pandemic began. 12 libraries will be opening from the 7 July 2020, one in each district and they will be open from 10am-4pm each day to allow users access to the internet. Users can order books through a click and collect system. Highways have been busy throughout the pandemic patching 89,212 square meters of road and filling 5,669 potholes. County Councillor Sarah Hohler was pleased to report that Highways England has responded to a complaint from a resident in The Paddocks and has given the homeowner 6 large leylandii trees to help screen their garden from the new gantry on the M20. The resurfacing on one lane on the A20 with a quieter surface will also help these residents with noise levels. County Councillor advised that there is fly tipping in the lay-by near to The Paddocks. Cllr. Robinson asked if County Councillor Sarah Hohler could find out if KCC are looking to devote any more resources to improving the broadband speeds in rural villages such as Addington. It would appear that some residents in Trottiscliffe have approached an internet supplier directly to get an improved service installed.

20:12hrs County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting

b) Borough Councillor - Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised Members that there was no update on when the Saturday freighter service would re-commence. T&MBC officers continue to work from home but the Customers Services counter at the Kings Hill offices will be re-opening on the 6 July 2020 for appointments. Residents can phone to book an appointment and a triage system will be in place to ensure that a physical appointment is needed. Cash payments will not be taken nor will any documents be printed and given out. The requirement to respond to planning proposals within 21 days will definitely be coming into play from the 1 September 2020. Cllr. MacDonald-Gay advised he had heard that the number of Borough Councillors may be reduced. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised that there is going to be a further Boundary Commission Review to possibly re-arrange boundaries because there is an imbalance of the population across wards. Members advised Borough Councillor Ann Kemp that there are still ongoing problems with the waste collection service. In particular food caddies and brown bins are regularly being missed. Members asked Borough Councillor Ann Kemp to raise their concerns with

T&MBC. Allowances have been given because of the pandemic but Members feel that the service is still really poor and that these issues should not be allowed to continue.

20:23hrs Borough Councillor Ann Kemp left the meeting

c) Kent Police – There has been no crime in Addington or the surrounding areas during June 2020. Members noted the advice given out by Kent Police on looking out for stickers placed above front and back door of properties. Apparently these are placed by scouts for burglars to highlight vulnerable homes such as those left all day with windows open.

44/20] MATTERS ARISING:

1] Monthly check of the defibrillator and any other update - The Clerk advised Members that both of the defibrillators in the village had been checked this month and an update provided on WebNos. The Clerk had obtained two quotes from local cleaning companies to clean the BT boxes and keep them free of debris and vegetation. Members **resolved** to accept a quote from a company called Squeak’N’Clean Services in Maidstone for £40.00 per visit per box. Members agreed that regular cleans would also help keep the BT Boxes sanitised. Members agreed that tri-monthly visits would be sufficient. It was also noted that the car wash operators continue to block the area adjacent to the defibrillator.

2] Speedwatch – A lack of volunteers means the scheme is unable to continue at the moment.

3] T&MBC Local Plan Development – Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised Members in item 43/20 (b) that the dates for the hearing have now been set for the 6-8 October, 3-4 and 10-15 November 2020.

4] Reinstatement of the footbridge over the M20 - The Clerk has received the following responses from Aone+/Highways England to questions which were raised at the last Parish Council meeting.

i) Q: Check the spec of acoustic fencing we are installing – A: *SMP environmental barrier is 3m high, the fencing we install will be of the same height.*

ii) Q: Concerns on the turning of the hammer head – A: *Our intention is to make a temporary turning area for the refuse trucks nearer the houses. We will use a temporary matting that will perform as a temporary surface to drive on. It may be that we need to look at a couple of low branches that may need pruning but it will work.*

iii) Q: Works area for the new spiral access to the bridge encroaches the parish green, how will this be reinstated? – A: *We will reinstate areas to be as we found them, some re-growing may be needed before it is exactly the same but we will make provision for it to be left as we find it.*

iv) Q: To be mindful of the housing nearby – A: *Our intention is to make a temporary turning area for the refuse trucks nearer the houses.*

v) Q: To review footpath and road northside in regards to clearance and road condition - A: *As mentioned the historic agreement was that we would do vegetation clearance only to ensure the good condition of footpath on the approaches to the bridge, this is a footpath only.*

Members noted all of the responses above but disagreed that the East Street North access is just a footpath and would like to see this re-instated as an access road. The Clerk was also asked to remind Highways England to look at keeping the public footpaths open during the installation works and consider how viable this will be. In addition, the Clerk was also asked to remind them that the land at East Street is a mixture of common land and village green and that there are restrictions on how these can be used for storing materials, creating a turning circle etc. The Parish Council is more concerned about the acoustics of the proposed barrier and not the height and would like more information on this. Highways England is still reviewing start dates and their environmental team have advised September 2020 is an optimal time to undertake the vegetation clearance. They will undertake a site walkover/nesting bird check in advance of the cutting to be certain no active nests are present.

5] Smart Motorway Junction 3-5 – Pressure will need to be placed on KCC to rectify all the damage done to the road surface of the A20 as a result of the night time closures on the M20.

6] Village event & Community Spirit – Members noted that the AngelSpace community event due to take place in July 2020 has been postponed.

7] Emergency Plans – planning for a pandemic – The Parish Council is waiting on KCC for guidance.

8] KALC Community Award – Staff at KALC continue to work from home and have not been able to distribute the certificates for the Community Awards this year which would have been presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Members agreed that it would be a nice gesture to hold a social distancing compliant event to congratulate Mrs. Joan Scott on the award. The Clerk will try and obtain a PDF of the certificate so that Cllr. Garrett can arrange to meet Mrs. Scott, observing, social distancing, and present the award.

9] Virtual Planning Meeting – Members agreed that it would be beneficial to have a date pencilled in for a virtual meeting to consider any planning proposals that need responding to in between meetings. It was **resolved** to pencil in a meeting for 8pm on Wednesday 5 August 2020?

45/20] FINANCE

a) A statement as at 1 July 2020 was circulated:

Receipts: None

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary - June)	2092	£ 561.30
HMRC	(Tax – June)	2093	£ 140.20
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Expenses – June & July)	2094	£ 214.54
SLCC	(50% of membership)	2095	£ 70.00
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Laptop reimbursement)	2096	£ 616.94
Fours Seasons Gardens	(Grounds maintenance)	2097	£ 452.10
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary - July) postdated	2098	£ 561.30
HMRC	(Tax – July) postdated	2099	£ 140.20
Lionel Robbins	(Internal Audit fee)	2100	£ 75.00
Addington Village Hall	(Contribution to roof repair)	2101	£1,264.80
Four Seasons Gardens	(Grounds Maintenance)	2102	£ 268.64
Bartlett Tree Experts	(Structural Integrity Report)	2103	£ 720.00
Total:			£5,085.02
Transfer from Business Reserve Account to Current Account: £5,100.00			

b) Other matters:

c) Cheques for Signature - Approved

46/20 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: A member of the public had emailed the Clerk his reasons for objection to planning proposal TM/20/01092/FL. A member of the public asked why the portacabin at the Jet Garage was considered to not be acceptable in terms of planning.

20:41 hrs Cllr. Chalk declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting

47/20] PLANNING

a) Applications:

1] TM/20/01092/FL – Woodpeckers, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DE

Construct an infill extension and construct a first floor to the bungalow with new roof.

Resolved: Object. We are concerned about the height of the proposed building given that the site is elevated. The use of non-permeable materials in the car parking area is of more concern. There is a steep gradient which will result in rain water cascading down the road and creating further problems for properties located on the other side of the road which already regularly suffer with flooding issues. Access for construction vehicles is also of concern and it is imperative that emergency and refuse vehicles can get through.

20:45hrs Cllr. Chalk returned to the meeting

b) Decisions:

1] TM/20/00821.FL – Southfields and adjoining Land St. Vincents Lane, Addington

Demolition of disused stables and erection of open sided pool house to an outdoor swimming pool (pool granted planning permission and is under construction) *Refused*

2] TM/20/00819/FL – Ivanhay, Sandy Lane, Wrotham Heath, TN15 7SB

Demolition of existing house/garage; construction of new house/garage and associated hard/soft landscaping. *Refused*

3] TM/20/00807/FL – Woodgate Farm, Woodgate Road, Addington

Demolition of two existing storage buildings (Class B8) and the erection of three dwelling houses (Class C3). *Refused*

c) Other Matters

1] 16/00337/USEH - Jet Garage – The Clerk and Members have been monitoring the site and the Clerk has reported several breaches. The Clerk has been contacted by a few local residents who have reported that trees have been trimmed back by the owner of the woodland. A takeaway food cabin has been seen on the site. Some local residents have contacted the Clerk about their concerns about this cabin and asked whether it requires planning permission. The Clerk has reported the activity to Enforcement and asked if planning permission would be required. Members asked the Clerk to report to Enforcement again that the car washing activities are not being restricted to the confines of the garage and continue to spread across the site and the old road and that the access to the defibrillator is regularly blocked. The Clerk advised the member of the public that the portakabin used by the car wash operator had to be removed because it was placed on the old road and not within the confines of the garage.

3] 20/00032/USEH The Vineyard Restaurant, London Road, Addington – unauthorised change of use to car wash at these premises. An Enforcement Notice was served on the car wash on the 25 June 2020. The Notices becomes effective after 28 days and they will have 21 days to comply with the requirements of the notice which is to cease the use and remove all arising's and associated equipment. Members noted that there is now clear evidence of the water from the car washing activities killing the bushes on the verge down to Sandy Lane.

4] 20/00081/USEM – land near Regents Court/Park View, London Road, Addington – regarding alleged unauthorised change of use to motorcycle track. Enforcement has visited the site and observed the motorcycle track. The location was established as off of Teston Road, Offham (adjacent to Mount Cottage) rather than the address it is currently registered to. Enforcement has therefore requested a land registry search for this piece of land to establish ownership. Once they receive the details they will check for any relevant permission and if necessary raise the matter with the landowner. Cllr. Adams reported that the motorcycle noise is almost every afternoon. The Clerk has also received a couple of complaints about the noise from the motorbikes from residents in The Clearway.

5] Truck blocking East Street – The Clerk has reported that a truck parked in East Street is regularly blocking the road and preventing access for emergency vehicles and the waste collection lorries. Cllr. Chalk reported that it is a different truck now parked in this spot but that the same problems are arising.

6] Stubblesdown – Members noted that in recent weeks a number of cars have been advertised for sale in this location. The Clerk will monitor the situation.

48/20] HIGHWAYS:

a) Highways & PROW enquiries Outstanding:- (as at 1 July 2020)

1] Enquiry 425724 – the standing light at the junction of the A20 and Trottscliffe Road. *The portal suggests the works are now complete. Members agreed to let the Clerk know.*

2] Enquiry 484292 – verges in St Vincents Lane are being eroded. *Enquiry attended to but more works required*

3] Enquiry 506566 - Breaking up of the road and trench appearing in vicinity of the Angel Inn and Park Road. *KCC has advised that the area in question does not currently meet the requirements for intervention but will be monitored. Cllr. Robinson reported that there is definitely a trench appearing and the Clerk was asked to re-report this.*

4] Enquiry 506564 - A20 – broken drain cover end of the slip road on the A20 close to the junction with Ford Lane. *The enquiry has been passed to the Water Board to fix*

5] Enquiry 506565 - A20 – 2 large potholes west of the entrance to Endeavour Park. – *the KCC portal suggests that the works are completed which is not the case so the Clerk will re-report.*

6] Repairs to the noticeboard on Addington Green – Cllr. Chalk advised that her husband is willing to help with the repairs.

7] PROW 7145550 – footpath to the church gate, the wooden railing is also now down as well as the sign

8] Enquiry 495574 the flashing ‘slow down’ light approaching the junction with Trottiscliffe Road needs attention as the lights are not all the same intensity - the *KCC website says works completed. The Clerk was asked to re-report as this is not the case.*

9] Sign near to Seven Mile Lane roundabout – the Clerk to report that this is still facing the wrong way and suggest it could actually be removed.

b) New requiring attention

1] Endeavour Park – 3 heavy duty posts missing on the western corner of the A20/Endeavour Park verge

2] A20, west of the jet garage – a water leak has been reported on this section of the road

c) Other matters:

1] Big Conversation Update – No update.

2] School bus issues with children crossing the A20 – County Councillor Sarah Hohler is still trying to set up a meeting with the bus companies.

3] Highways Improvement Plan - Following a meeting with the Scheme Planning and Delivery Team at KCC in January 2020 the Parish Council has been advised that KCC has set aside £2,000 from the small works budget to spend on safety measures in Sandy Lane and St. Vincents Lane to include ‘Slow’ warning signs and Glasdon village gateway features. Design work is programmed to start in Q3 of this financial year. The Clerk was asked to remind KCC that they offered to address the obscure signage at the junction of Church Road and the A20. Some of the signs need to be raised as road users and in particular lorry drivers struggle to see them.

49/20] REPORTS OF MEETINGS:

a) Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Chalk reported that a social distanced meeting was held last week to discuss the re-opening of the village hall. The committee aim to re-open the village hall on the 1 August 2020 and are currently preparing a risk assessment. The onus will be on the hirer to make sure that they put into place measures to address Covid-19. Unfortunately, the fabric chairs cannot be used and will be replaced with the old plastic chairs and paper towels will be provided in the toilets. The nursery school in the village hall plans to re-open on the 1 September 2020. The village hall committee has, with the aid of a £10,000 grant from T&MBC, completed the works to the roof at a cost of £12,648. It was a requirement of the grant application that a third party contributed 10% of the total cost which the Parish Council had already resolved to do.

b) Recreation Ground Committee – There has been no meeting. The committee intend to re-open the playground on the 4 July 2002 in line with guidance from the government. The committee will conduct a risk assessment and will be putting up a sign giving advice on staying safe whilst using the equipment. A couple of branches also need to be removed from trees which are hanging over the equipment.

c) Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr. Adams attended the virtual meeting held on the 11 June 2020 and advised that there was a lot of objections and discussion on the new requirement for consultation on planning proposals to take place within 21 days and that hard copies of planning documents will no longer be sent to Clerks. It was noted that these proposals will be a challenge for some parishes as extra meetings may be needed to consider planning proposals. T&MBC reported that they were well prepared for remote working and that over 90% of officers are now working from home. Members were pleased to hear that T&MBC has supported 12 families in the borough by providing them with a much needed computer and software. Cllr. Adams offered to circulate her notes from the meeting and the Clerk will circulate a copy of the minutes when available.

d) Standards Committee – There has been no meeting

e) KALC Area Committee – There has been no meeting. All courses and training are now virtual. Members were in agreement that they would find it helpful with attendance if these courses could remain as virtual post the pandemic. Members noted that NALC has issued a template risk assessment for Parish Councils to consider adopting to address issues arising from Covid-19 but were in agreement that this document applies more to larger Councils. The current edition of the

Parish News contains some useful advice on scam which could help others and should therefore be placed on the website.

50/20] OPEN SPACES:

1] 3 year review of the old Oak Tree on Addington Green – Members considered a report from Bartlett Consulting with the results from a Resistance Micro Drill test carried out on the old oak tree on Addington Green to establish the internal structural integrity of the tree. The report suggests that cambial dysfunction is affecting a large proportion of the lower stem and buttress area which is influencing the trees ability to respond to the presence of the fungal pathogen. There is also active wood decay in the south western quadrant of the stem attributed to the presence of another fungus, Ganoderma applanatum. Bartletts have advised that despite this the tree is structurally stable but given that the fungal pathogen is of a persistent action and large portions of the cambium is dysfunctional they anticipate further degradation of the tree stem over time. Bartletts recommend a plant health care programme to help retain the tree given its importance in the landscape to be followed by a re-inspection in 3 years time. Members **resolved** to accept a quote for £180.00 for a phosphite treatment. The Clerk will let residents of the green know the results of this survey. Members are delighted to see that the wild flower meadow border on the village green is in full bloom and looking so beautiful. The Clerk will place some photos on the website.

51/20] CORRESPONDENCE:

a) For information:-

- 1] Area 2 Planning Committee – 12 August 2020
- 2] Joint Transportation Board – 21 September 2020
- 3] Parish Partnership Panel – 3 September 2020
- 4] Standards Committee – 12 October 2020
- 5] KALC Area Meeting – TBC

b) On circulation (electronically): -

- 1] Parish News – June 2020
- 2] Kent Police Newsletter

c) New requiring attention:

- i) New Model Code of Conduct Consultation – consultation for Code of Conduct. The Clerk was asked to re-circulate for Members to send comments on before the 31 July 2020.

52/20] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

A20 – concerns raised about trees overhanging the A20 and their overall condition
Cllr. Robinson is addressing the issue with moles on the green again.

53/20] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

Assessment of trees on the A20
Waste collection service - review

54/20] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 8pm.
Provisional date set for a virtual planning meeting on 5 August

55/20] ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: There was none.

The meeting was closed at 21:25hrs

SignedChairman Date