

ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council Meeting held on the 3 March 2021 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 and Borough Councillor Ann Kemp

152/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None received

153/20] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none.

154/20] MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was proposed and agreed that the Chairman, sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3 February 2021.

155/20] REPORTS

a) County Councillor - County Councillor Sarah Hohler reported that she has recently received a number of complaints about the amount of traffic on the A20. Major roadworks were required to Seven Mile Lane following the collapse of the road which resulted in traffic being diverted down the A20. The number of lorries using the M20 post Brexit is as expected with approximately 4000 lorries a day leaving and entering Dover. The number of lorry drivers testing positive with COIVD-19 is reducing each day. Several HGV drivers have been clamped and fined for parking in villages on verges etc. following a new initiative by KCC. It is confirmed that the County Councillor elections will be taking place on the 6 May 2021 and from the 8 March 2021 County Councillors can carry out door to door leaflet drops. KCC will soon be launching new mobile libraries. County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised that the new mobile libraries are very spacious and light. KCC is carrying out surveillance on the routes taken by HGVs going to Europe and roads such as Seven Mile Lane which are heavily used by HGVs are being monitored. Seven Mile Lane, in particular has suffered with a lot of damage to street furniture. County Councillor Sarah Hohler has also raised the topic of the increase in litter on the verges with The Leader at KCC. KCC has advised that staff who normally do litter picking have had to help out with the general rubbish collection services because of illness and self-isolation. Cllr. Robinson discussed correspondence recently received from Highways England suggesting that trees do act as sound proofing from major routes and yet this was not a consideration when trees were ripped out by them for the expansion of the M20. County Councillor Sarah Hohler offered to write to Simon Jones, Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste at KCC, (copying in Tom Tugendhat) and suggest that KCC must insist on minimal cutting down of trees by Highways England when working on the strategic network. If tree cutting cannot be avoided then a re-planting programme needs to be agreed and actioned immediately. A pilot scheme is to be run on some roads as part of the new Vision Zero strategy to better understand average speeds which will also include the installation of speed cameras. County Councillor Sarah Hohler has nominated the A20 for the pilot scheme but has since been advised that only the stretch from the roundabout at the M20 to West Malling can be monitored as it has not been possible to find safe places to install the cameras on the stretch from West Malling to Seven Mile Lane. County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised Members that she will continue to push for the stretch of the A20 through Addington to be included.

b) Borough Councillor –Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised Members that T&MBC realise that litter and fly-tipping is currently a serious problem in the Borough. Officers have been visiting known fly-tipping hot spot sites and there is going to be a big campaign with posters and signs to try and stop fly-tipping. T&MBC is also trying to gain the support of KCC and a Strategy Report is going to be presented at Cabinet outlining the issues. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had advised Borough Councillor Ann Kemp of trees being removed on land which is believed to be in the process of being sold in Sandy Lane. Members are already concerned about trees being removed on the south side of the A20/Seven Mile Lane. Members are aware that Tree Preservation Orders are in place for both areas and asked if they are being actively assessed and managed by the Borough. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised that Enforcement has visited the

site in Sandy Lane to the rear of The Birches and had discussions with the landowner have measured the area where the trees have been removed and will be issuing a Replanting Order. Cllr. MacDonald-Gay asked if Borough Councillor Ann Kemp could find out if the Replanting Order would specify the type and size of trees to be re-planted. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised that Liz Guthrie at T&MBC gave permission for the diseased trees to be removed at the land on the south of the A20/Seven Mile Lane. Enforcement is preparing an Article 4 to stop any further development on the land. Cllr. Garrett advised Borough Councillor Ann Kemp that trees have already been felled at the woodland west of The Birches. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised Members that Council Tax is set to rise £5.00 per year for a Band D property.

20:39hrs Borough Councillor Ann Kemp left the meeting

c) Kent Police – The Clerk reported that there was no crime in Addington in February. There has been a spate of thefts from sheds in Ryarsh including one in Woodhouse Lane.

156/20] 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.

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

3] T&MBC Local Plan Development – The Local Hearing is still suspended. Cllr. Garrett advised that the Government could impose another 3000 houses on T&MBC if this Local Plan is rejected. This is of concern and it is also deemed that it is not possible to build that amount of new housing in the given timescale.

4] East Street Footbridge, planting, light and noise issues – Cllr. Chalk advised that the supporting poles for 18 trees have been installed in readiness for them to be planted this week to help screen residents from the bridge. Members will make a decision about whether planting is required in the scrubland area to provide further screening in the Autumn. The Clerk has contacted Highways England again, copying in MP Tom Tugendhat, stating that the lack of good quality acoustic fencing affects the whole village and not just the residents in East Street and in any event all households pay the same taxes so should all receive the same level of service and therefore acoustic fencing should be installed. Highways England has advised that research carried out by the project team confirms that noise throughout the smart-motorway section is at the same level or better than it was prior to the start of construction. Prior to the start of construction an acoustic fencing design was undertaken throughout the stretch of the motorway to establish the acoustic fencing in each location. The design considered the positioning of the housing in relation to the motorway and whether there was existing fencing before determining the fence to be installed. Highways England has advised the Clerk that although it may look different visually all the fencing installed provides the adequate acoustic fencing for the particular location. Members discussed this information and disagree with the statement that the acoustic fencing in the vicinity of East Street is adequate. Cllr. Garrett advised that the fencing has not been changed since it was installed in 1971 and that traffic levels on the M20 have increased considerably since then. As mentioned in item 155/20 (a), County Councillor Sarah Hohler is going to write to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste at KCC to insist on the minimum of amount of trees being cut down in future strategic projects. County Councillor Sarah Hohler also agreed to share this letter with Mr Tom Tugendhat and ask for him to raise this issue with the Minister of Transport.

5] Proposal to consider employing a handyperson –The Clerk reported that two local residents could be interested in this role. It was agreed to wait until the lockdown measures are lifted to meet with the candidates and assess what needs to be done.

6] Broadband in the village –Stefania Renireo, Project Officer for Economic Development Growth at KCC has advised that the funding for the Kent Rural Fibre Broadband project will commence again in April 2021 The Officer has provided a list of postcodes in Addington with poor broadband speeds and advised that the overall superfast coverage in Addington is fairly good, especially around the centre of the village served by the BT cabinet on the A20 and around Sandy Lane where the majority of postcodes can receive superfast speed of over 30Mbps. There are no current planned structures from Openreach Commercial for Addington. Some of the postcodes listed are below 30Mbps due to the long line from the exchange and remote locations. KCC has advised that these households could take advantage of the new voucher scheme due to be launched in April from the Building Digital UK.

7] Parish Council Newsletter – The newsletter has been distributed to all households in the village. Cllr. Garrett thanked everyone involved in delivering the newsletter. The Clerk reported that 50 households have asked to be added to a circulation list for future editions. The website administrator has advised that the newsletter

cannot be uploaded to the website as it does not fit the new legislation. Each article has instead been published as a news item over a number of days. Members were in agreement not to hand deliver another edition of the newsletter. The Clerk suggested that the articles and news items from future editions of the newsletter could be published on the facebook page and on nextdoor.com. with details on how to request the electronic newsletter.

8] Census 2021 - The Clerk has circulated some information on the Census 2021 which is taking place on the 21 March 2021. Information will also be added to the website. Members noted that postcards about the Census have been delivered to households in Addington.

9] Fly-tipping – The Clerk has contacted Waste Services to find out if St Vincents is to be considered for CCTV coverage. T&MBC has advised that there is a long waiting list and that St Vincents is unlikely to qualify as the number of incidents is low compared to other areas. As soon as T&MBC offices are open again the Clerk will collect the new signs which will hopefully help. Cllr. Garrett mentioned an article in a recent edition of The Sunday Times about Maidstone Borough Council piloting Littercams which is a scheme to fine motorists for throwing litter out of their vehicles.

10] Vacancy on the Parish Council - The Clerk will advertise the role on the noticeboard and website again.

157/20] FINANCE

a) A statement as at 3 March 2021 was circulated:

Balances as at 3 March 2021:

Business Reserve Account	£ 24,803.33
Current Account	£ 315.07
National Savings Account:	£ 25,364.38

Receipts: None

Payments:

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cheque</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Number</u>
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary - February)	2140	£ 561.30
HMRC	(Tax – February)	2141	£ 140.20
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Expenses – February)	2142	£ 184.31
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Padlock & Ink)	2143	£ 70.52
Silver Pines	(Newsletter printing)	2144	£125.00
KALC	(Training course x 2)	2145	£120.00
Community Hearbeat Trust	(Annual Cellular rental)	2146	£144.00
Total			£ 1,345.33

Transfer from Business Review Account to Current Account: £1,400.00

b) Other matters:

1] Review of Standing Orders – the Model Standing Orders have not been changed this year and no amendments are needed. **Resolved:** To adopt the Current Standing Orders for Addington.

2] Review of Financial Regulations – The Clerk suggested that no amendments are currently required. The Clerk is keen to move to full online banking to include electronic payments. NatWest are not able to offer dual authorisation online banking. Members have already agreed to move the current account to Unity Trust Banking in the new financial year and agreed that the regulations will need to be fully reviewed and amended then. **Resolved:** To amend the financial regulations after the move to Unity Trust Banking.

3] Review of Risk Policy – The Clerk has circulated an amended Risk Policy. Cllr. Garrett had made one observation which has been incorporated. Members **resolved** to adopt the document.

c) Cheques for Signature – Approved

158/20 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None present

159/20] PLANNING

a) Applications:

1] TM/21/00111/FL – The Jays, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DE

Building of free standing timber garage to the rear of the property

Resolved: Object. We are concerned about the size of the proposed garage and feel this represents an over development of the site. We feel that the overall size of the garage is more in keeping with commercial use rather than residential. The access to the site is also a public right of way and we do not feel the structure is in keeping with the area and street scene.

2] Woodpeckers, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DE

Pine T1. The raising of the crown to approx. 18m.

Resolved: No objection

b) Applications received after distribution of the agenda: None received

c) Approvals

1] TM/20/01842- Londerek, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DE

Single storey rear extension, internal and external alterations and enlargement of rear dormer

2] TM/20/02805 – 2 The Links, Addington, ME19 5RX

Double storey and single storey pitched roof side extension including the demolition of existing garage

d) Refusal: None to consider

e) Withdrawn applications: None to consider

f) Planning Appeals: No new appeals

g) Other Matters

1] 16/00337/USEH - Jet Garage – The Clerk has reported to Enforcement that the car washing operations are operating outside the approved curtilage again. Enforcement has agreed to visit the site again when the hand car washing operations commence again. The Clerk was asked to find out if hand car wash operations are benefitting from government grants during the Lockdown.

2] 20/00030/USEH – Mayhill House, London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised hardstanding and caravans – Enforcement has advised that the report recommending enforcement action against the material change in use of land and stationing of a static caravan unit with ancillary hardstanding south-east of Mayhill House has been prepared. However, Enforcement has received a letter from a planning agent on behalf of the owners of Mayhill House which has indicated that they are intending to remove the static unit situated south-east of Mayhill House and Mayhill Barn. Enforcement have requested a date for when this is to be removed and will continue with serving an Enforcement Notice if this is not provided soon. The planning agent has defended the legality of the chalet building situated within the curtilage of Mayhill House. Enforcement is considering this information but do not think it will alter their original opinion of the building and its use (i.e a self-contained unit in the metropolitan green belt).

3] 20/00032/USEH The Vineyard Restaurant, London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised car washing activities –The Planning Inspector undertook their appeal site inspection on Monday 25 January 2021 however a Decision Notice has still not been received. Enforcement continue to monitor the site and have reported that it is still coned off and not in use.

4] 20/00324/WORKH – Adjacent the Vineyard Restaurant, London Road, Addington - alleged unauthorised work to form new porch and patio area. Enforcement has carried out a site inspection recently and noted the alleged works and are still carrying out their investigations.

5] 20/00325/WORKH - 26 Clearway – Enforcement has advised that photos have been received from the owners which illustrate that the garage is not occupied for residential use. A further site inspection is proposed.

6] 'Old Orchard' to the east of Aldon Lane – The Clerk has reported to Enforcement concerns about recent activities on the site involving a number of deliveries of soil and groundworks. Enforcement has advised that they are already monitoring the site.

160/20] HIGHWAYS:

a) Highways & PROW enquiries Outstanding: (as at 3 March 2021)

1] Enquiry 484292 – verges in St Vincents Lane are being eroded and dip in road outside the village Hall – *KCC has advised the Clerk that works to the road in the vicinity of the Village Hall are due to take place this month. The large scale patching has now been marked up. The*

Highways Steward has advised that works to the rest of St Vincents should take place during the year.

- 2] Enquiry 506566 - Breaking up of the road and trench appearing in vicinity of the Angel Inn and Park Road – *The Highway Steward is waiting for another quote for Traffic Management.*
- 4] Enquiry 524272 Londerek, East Street – hedges as you enter East Street are very overgrown and full of brambles. *KCC has attended and the soft landscaping teams are progressing works which are due to take place this month*
- 5] Addington Lane – The Highways Steward has cleared the build up of silt from the culvert twice recently to keep water flowing and has raised the issue with the drainage team to carry out more extensive works.
- 6] PROW 88335 - MR173 – tree blocking the footpath has been reported to PROW. A couple of residents have cut away part of the tree so that pedestrians can get through
- 7] Enquiry 549125 – Sandy Lane, opposite Braemar and west of The Birches, a possible dead tree and the canopy hanging across the lane and power cables has been reported. *KCC has attended and advised that there is no risk and no action is required*
- 8] Enquiry 549124 – Bollard at the junction of Trottscliffe Road and the A20 needs fixing to the ground. *The Clerk has reported and KCC has now repaired*
- 9] Enquiry 522637 - North side of Sandy Lane – The Clerk has reported that there are a number of diseased looking trees dangerously hanging over the power lines and road. *KCC has attended and advised that there is no risk and no action is required*
- 10] Quad bikers in the quarry – sighted again last week and now seem to be gaining access further up St Vincents Lane. Cllr. Robinson has reported the incidents to the PCSO and Ferns. PROW is also involved and considering installing a kissing gate in this vicinity to prevent any further access. Cllr. Garrett advised that PROW will need to prove it is not an all ability path. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council would support a request for a kissing gate at this location. The Clerk will advise PROW and it is hoped that Ferns will fund the project.

b) New requiring attention

- 1] Gate needs to be reinstated at the footpath to East Street from Addington Green
- 2] St. Vincents Lane near to The Hedgehogs the black and white edge markers have been damaged
- 3] South side of A20, opposite the beginning of the low ranch fencing, west of the entrance to Endeavour Park – a Chestnut tree appears to have dangling dead branches.

c) Other matters:

- 1] School bus issues with children crossing the A20 – A virtual meeting took place on Tuesday 16 February 2021 with KCC to discuss this issue. Cllr. Macdonald-Gay, the Clerk, County Councillor Sarah Hohler and County Councillor Harry Rayner attended. Stephen Pay at KCC was asked to explore with Go-Coach whether there was scope to reintroduce the Tonbridge / Tunbridge Wells school bus round the villages to provide the direct link or alternatively offer a facility to pick up and set down on the north side of the A20 thus avoiding the need for children to cross the road. Stephen Pay has since advised that Go-Coach remain resistant to running the vehicle around the villages but are happy to make arrangements to provide an option to set down and pick up on the villages side of the A20. Their preference would be to make use of the marked stop in the lay-by opposite the Beefeater further west towards Wrotham Heath which they would serve in the AM and PM. Students would then not need to cross the A20. If this is not considered to be appropriate then setting down and picking up on a Hail and Ride basis outside the Vineyard (i.e. at the same location as Nu-Venture use on the 558 service) is not off the table but is not their preference. Cllr. Macdonald-Gay explained that the suggested proposals do not benefit the school children in Trottscliffe. His concern is that secondary schools in Maidstone will become less accessible to Addington residents given the planned expansion at Kings Hill and Addington residents will therefore need to access secondary schools in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells so this bus service will become even more vital. It was suggested that a drop-off and pick-up point at the lay-by near to Seven Mile Lane would be better as school children would be able to walk back to Addington on a continuous footpath which is not possible with the suggested proposals. Members discussed a solution to this further in the item below.
- 2] Highways Improvement Plan – The Clerk has submitted an amended Highways Improvement Plan to KCC. Members discussed a suggestion from County Councillor Harry Rayner to appoint an independent engineer to give their views on highway issues such as the flashing speed sign at the junction of the A20

and Trottiscliffe Road and the issue with the school bus service. County Councillor Harry Rayner has advised that a number of the parishes in the area have used Les Henry Associates Highway Engineers to help them provide arguments to KCC as to why certain highway improvement measures cannot be ignored. It was **resolved** to obtain a quote from Les Henry Associates to advise on reducing the speed limit on the A20 and the requirement for a replacement flashing speed sign at the junction of the A20 and Trottiscliffe road and also the school bus service.

3] Telegraph Pole Installation – the Clerk was asked to contact the contractor installing telegraph poles in East Street to check on the exact location of the poles and that they are outside the conservation area, will not result in being a traffic hazard nor cause any visual impairment and will not damage the roots of trees in the area.

161/20] REPORTS OF MEETINGS:

- a) Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Robinson reported that a virtual meeting is planned for next week. The Village Hall Committee and the Recreation Ground Committee is still working on installing an improved CCTV system but have hit a stumbling block as most modern systems require broadband. The village hall does not have broadband. Cabling starts this weekend and hopefully the broadband issue can be resolved. Cllr. Macdonald-Gay suggested that the broadband facility in the sports pavilion could support the system.
- b) Recreation Ground Committee – Cllr. Robinson advised Members that the faithful tractor which is over 40 years old is likely to need replacing in a couple of years. The Committee is mindful of this and considering funding options for a replacement.
- c) Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr. Adams attended the virtual meeting held on the 4 February 2021 and reported that T&MBC will hold a Climate Change Forum every six months. Litter enforcement and fly tipping have not been a priority as waste services are 10% down on staff due to illness and/or or staff self-isolating. It was deemed best to keep emptying bins rather than prioritise street cleaning. Kent Police reported that crime has gone down during the pandemic although cases of illegal puppy breeding, illegal gaming and thefts have risen. Thefts from outbuildings seem to be high in certain areas so the police have increased car and foot patrols in these areas which appears to be working. Sadly, Domestic and Child abuse calls have doubled during the pandemic. The response to Coronavirus continues and a vaccination centre has been set up in the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. KCC has tested 160,000 HGV/private car drivers. There are now test sites on the M11 and a further four on the M1/M25 and drivers who are tested positive are being put up in a hotel at Wrotham Heath.
- d) Standards Committee – There has been no meeting.
- e) KALC Area Committee – There has been no meeting. The next meeting is to be held on the 25 March 2021. It was noted that this is the same date and time as the KALC Planning Seminar.

162/20] OPEN SPACES:

1] Lantra Awards Tree Inspection Courses – The Clerk reported that Mr Tony Leach does not have the right qualifications to attend the advanced Lantra Tree Inspection course but can attend the Basic Course which will provide him with sufficient skills to act as a Tree Warden for the village. Members **resolved** to fund the cost of the course at £195.00 which is due to take place on the 26 March 2021.

2] East Street North Village Green, remedial and planting works – The Highway Definition Team at KCC has confirmed that the road is public highway and therefore will be maintained by KCC. The entire length of the road including the section that is restricted by a barrier will be subject to a walked annual inspection so that KCC can keep the road maintained in its current condition. Cllrs. Garrett, Chalk, Robinson and the Clerk met with Four Seasons on the 22 February 2021 to walk the village green. Cllr. Robinson offered to create a better access to this area for vehicles and machinery by using a digger to clear a route. Four Seasons were asked to quote to tidy up the hedge bordering the motorway and for an area to be planted as flower meadow. The quality of the soil and grass is so poor mowing of the area is not required. Should the area of flower meadow be successful the Parish Council may look to seed further areas. It was agreed to not replace the lectern which needs repairing. The base of the two benches have also rotted and it was not considered worthwhile refurbishing these. Cllr. Robinson offered to refurbish the iron benches that used to be around the old oak tree on Addington Green and to install these on this village green. Members agreed to wait until later in the year to consider the planting of any further trees or hedging.

3] Request to place a wooden cross on Addington Green for the Easter period Members considered a request from the Church for permission to erect a wooden cross on Addington green during the Easter period. It will be decorated with daffodils and messages of hope and pebbles for people to write their own personal message on. A risk assessment has been provided and covered by the Church's insurance. Members **resolved** to give permission to the Church.

163/20] CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) For information:
 - 1] Area 2 Planning Committee – 7 April 2021
 - 2] Joint Transportation Board – 8 March 2021
 - 3] Parish Partnership Panel – 10 June 2021
 - 4] Standards Committee – 9 June 2021
 - 5] KALC Area Meeting – 25 March 2021

- b) On circulation (electronically): -
 - 1] Parish News – February 2021

- c) New requiring attention:
 - 1] Vision Zero – The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2020 – 2026 - Cllr. Robinson has responded on behalf of the Parish Council
 - 2] T&MBC Air Quality Survey – Cllr. Robinson has responded on behalf of the Parish Council
 - 3] Proposal to replace current traffic signals with a roundabout at the South Aylesford Retail Park on the A20 – County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised Members that she is writing to the Cabinet Member to object to this proposal. Members were in agreement that funds available for this project would be better spent on the issue with the flooding of the road.
21: 46hrs County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting

164/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr. Robinson reported that officers from the Environmental Agency have been spotted in St Vincents Lane undertaking possible surveys in the area.

165/20] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

166/20] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday 7 April 2021 after the Annual Parish Meeting due to be held at 7.30pm

167/20 ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:

There were none.

The meeting was closed at 21:49hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____