

ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Pavilion, Park Road
held on Wednesday 4 January 2023 at 19:00hrs

Present: Cllr. Mrs. P. Garrett - Chairman, Cllrs. Mrs. A. Adams, Mrs. L. Chalk, Mr. S. Macdonald-Gay
Mr. P. Robinson

In Attendance: Louise Goldsmith (Clerk), County Councillor Sarah Hohler, County Councillor Harry Rayner, Borough Councillor Mike Taylor, Borough Councillor Piers Montague, Borough Councillor Martin Coffin and Borough Councillor Robin Betts

122/22] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was received from Borough Councillor Ann Kemp and Cllr. Short and the reasons for absence were accepted.

123/22] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION: None.

124/22] MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was proposed and **resolved** that the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2 November 2022 and the 7 December 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to take agenda item 129/22 (1) next. Standing Orders were lowered to allow Borough Councillor Mike Taylor to speak.

129/22 RESOLUTIONS

1, Parish Alliance:

Mike Taylor explained the background to the formation of the Parish Alliance. Borough Green, Platt, Ightham, Wrotham, Stansted, Plaxtol and Shipbourne Parish Councils have an informal arrangement based on trust and not a formal written constitution, to work together on issues that affect their parishes. Any costs are equitably apportioned on population statistics. The Parish Alliance has to date successfully challenged a number of issues affecting these parishes by working together as a joint body. Meetings are called when required. Mike Taylor suggested that Addington joins the Parish Alliance given that the village will be part of the new ward, Pilgrims with Ightham, along with some of these parishes following the elections in May 2023.

RESOLVED: For Addington Parish Council to join the Parish Alliance.

125/22] OPEN SESSION

County Councillor Harry Rayner reminded Members that KCC has reduced its funding for buses by £2.2m. The 58 bus service will cease to run in the day from February 2023 but will run in the morning and evening as a school bus. County Councillor Harry Rayner is canvassing for parishes to come together to arrange and fund a community bus service. Harry Rayner explained that the main bulk of the cost of the bus that could be used will already be met by its use on the school run, leaving it free during the day for a rural service. County Councillor Harry Rayner suggested, as an example, that a 58 bus route service could be offered to Addington residents one day a week. The cost of the service could be defrayed by a "start-up" grant from the Community Transport Grant Scheme. A 6 month pilot is proposed during which time individual parishes will need to widely advertise the service to try and generate enough bus use for the system to be self-funding long term. County Councillor Harry Rayner advised Members that Nu-venture, the bus operator, would be happy to "carry" the cost of keeping the routes active for a few weeks until any new scheme is agreed and implemented. The Clerk will obtain figures on the current use of the 58 bus service from KCC and will aim to seek the views of residents on this initiative through social media.

126/22] REPORTS:

a) County Councillor – County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised Members that KCC is arranging for speed and safety checks where side roads join the A20 in the vicinity of Seven Mile Lane. County Councillors Sarah Hohler agreed to support the Parish Council in a quest for a speed reduction on the A20. Purchases of new salt bins will be down to Parish Councils in future. KCC is considering the budget for 2023-2024 which is under immense pressure from rising costs in adult social care. County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised Members that Addington Lane is going to be closed on the 18 January 2023 for carriageway repairs. Cllr. Garrett asked if County Councillor Sarah Hohler could remind Highways that access will be required for the school bus service. County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised that she has not yet received a response regarding the quarry tax and hopes to receive an update from the KCC Enforcement Officer soon on what action is been taking regarding planning breaches at the quarry.

b) Borough Councillor – Borough Councillor Ann Kemp sent her apologies and has advised the Clerk that there is nothing to report other than Enforcement is not able to respond to a Freedom of Information Request for a copy of the report stating which trees were diseased at the ancient woodland adjacent to Seven Mile Lane. It appears that T&MBC did not give permission for any of the trees to be removed. Borough Councillor Piers Montague advised that the garden waste collection is back up and running following a disruption to the service during the recent cold spell. T&MBC has received £140,000 of Government funds to support schemes for hardship in the Borough including the food banks. The T&MBC initiative 'improve your health with one you' is going well. Volunteers are organising healthy walks across the Borough to encourage people to take exercise. Borough Councillor Piers Montague advised that T&MBC is looking for more volunteers to organise these walks. Cllr. Robinson offered the pavilion as a possible venue for respite for the walks. The 12 month pilot scheme with an enforcement company to clamp down on the dropping of litter seems to be going well. Specialist enforcement officers are working across the borough targeting litter and fly tipping hotspots using body-worn cameras to capture evidence. As hoped the income from fines seems to be paying for the service. Borough Councillor Piers Montague agreed that the 'silence' from Enforcement regarding the ancient woodland is frustrating for all concerned but advised Members that more information will be released when Enforcement have completed their investigations.

19:49hrs County Councillor Harry Rayner and Borough Councillor Mike Taylor left the meeting

Borough Councillor Martin Coffin advised Members that T&MBC is carefully considering the budget for 2023-2024.

Borough Councillor Robin Betts discussed the T&MBC Green Business Grant Scheme and advised that the scheme might be a source of funding for solar panels for the sports pavilion. Borough Councillor Robin Betts agreed to send information about the scheme to Cllr. Robinson. Borough Councillor Robin Betts offered to assist Members with preparing a Climate Change Action Plan and also offered to give a presentation about what T&MBC is doing about climate change. T&MBC is going to provide templates to Parish Councils to use to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan. These templates will be based on the Shipbourne Climate Change Action Plan. Cllr. Robinson agreed to send an initial draft of a Climate Change Action Plan for Addington to Borough Councillor Robin Betts for comment.

20:01hrs County Councillor Sarah Hohler, Borough Councillors Piers Montague, Martin Coffin and Robin Betts left the meetin

c) Kent Police – There was no report. It was **resolved** to ratify a decision in between meetings to send a letter of support to retain PCSO James Robinson in his role. Kent Police is looking to reduce the number of PCSOs from over 200 to 105.

127/22] CLERKS REPORT/PAST MATTER (Information purposes only)

1) Monthly check of the defibrillator – The Clerk advised Members that both of the defibrillators in the village have been checked this month and an update provided on WebNos. The Clerk will arrange for a new sign to be installed on the BT Box at the Jet Garage.

128/22] PLANNING

a) Applications: None to consider.

b) Approvals:

1] TM/22/02425/FL – The Sun House, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DH

Erection of a detached outbuilding.

2] TM/22/02185/FL – Edmont Place, London Road, Addington, ME19 5PL

Installation of 24 stand alone solar panels, removal of 24 leylandii trees and erection of a fence with planting of replacement trees and or shrubs.

c) Refusals:

1] 22/01977/FL – Mayhill Barn, London Road, Addington, ME19 5AN

Granny annexe above existing garage.

d) Application Withdrawn: None.

e) Appeal in Progress:

1] TM/21/02135/FL – Offham Service Station, London Road Addington

Temporary change of use of land to hand car wash and stationing of portacabin to act as staff welfare unit (3 years) – appeal against refusal decision. *In progress*.

f) Other Planning Issues:

1] 20/00030/USEH – Mayhill House, London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised hardstanding and caravans – Enforcement has advised that Investigations continue and a meeting about the site is to be held with the Development Manager next week.

2] 22/002222/TPOT - Land to the side of the Jet Garage, London Road – Enforcement has advised that T&MBC does have the name and address of the company that owns the site and that this was obtained via a Land Registry Search and that they have been corresponding directly with them. The question of the tree removal is still subject to an ongoing investigation which may lead to criminal prosecution. Enforcement has advised that the removal of the protected trees within the site was not approved by any officer at T&MBC, hence an investigation has been opened into the unauthorised removal of part of the woodland. Letters under caution have been sent to the owners/ representatives to ascertain the facts. Enforcement has advised that investigations are still ongoing and that it may take a while to determine if a prosecution is in the public interest. Enforcement is also investigating the hardcore material left at the site as it does not fully comply with the enforcement notice. The owners have not submitted any details to T&MBC of their future intended use of the site but Enforcement has made it clear to them that any future development of the land will require the benefit of planning permission and that no development should be undertaken until such permission has been granted. Members expressed their frustration with why T&MBC seemingly did not act at the time and stop the trees being removed. The Clerk was asked to contact MP Tom Tugendhat, who did request that a stop notice was served, for his thoughts on the conduct of T&MBC. The Clerk will also contact Woodland Trust for an update.

3] Aldon Lane, alleged encampment- Local knowledge informs us that the alleged encampment and truck have been removed from the site.

129/22 RESOLUTIONS

2. **KALC Community Award 2023**

RESOLVED: - To adopt the Scheme and to consider a nominee.

Financial

a) To receive the monthly review of the accounts and budget:

Members noted the review of the accounts and budget circulated by the Clerk. No further action required.

b) To approve the Financial Statement and make arrangements for authorisation

RESOLVED: To approve the Financial Statement and for Cllrs. Chalk and Garrett to authorise the payments online.

c) Budget 2023/24 Cllrs. Garrett, Short and the Clerk had prepared a budget document for circulation. A total estimated expenditure of £38,067 for 2023/24 which includes

£7,000.00 for community projects was agreed. Expenditure has also been forecasted for year 2024/25 and 2025/26.

- d) Precept request - It was **resolved** that the precept upon T&MBC for the financial year 2023/24 should not be changed and remain at £23,000.00. Any shortfall will be met from reserves. Despite the precept for the Parish Council remaining the same, changes to the tax base will mean that a Band D property will face an increase of 1.39% which equates to £0.73.

Balances as at 4 January 2023:

Unity Trust Account: £21,022.12
National Savings Account: £25,549.55

Receipts: None

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary – November & backdated)	£679.76
HMRC	(NI & Tax – December)	£175.24
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Expenses –including email account)	£189.63
Gel Creative	(Monthly website maintenance)	£100.00
Addington Village Hall	(Contribution to solar panels)	£5,000.00
Total		£6,144.63

130/22] PARISH MATTERS:

1] Highways:

a) **Highways & PROW enquiries Outstanding:**

- 1] Enquiry 606806: It is believed that the bollard lights on the A20 located on the islands near to Seven Mile which have not been working for over 18 months will be replaced this week.
- 2] Dying trees at East Street: The Clerk has reported the dying trees at the end of East Street to National Highways who planted the trees and have previously agreed to keep them watered. There has been no response and the Clerk has now contacted Tom Tugendhat, who was instrumental in getting the trees planted, to advise him of their demise.
- 3] MR172 - the Clerk has reported that the post is leaning at the entrance to the footpath on the north side of London Road.
- 4] Parking East Street – cars blocking the access for emergency vehicles: The Highways Steward has advised the Clerk that KCC are unfortunately not able to assist. Installing yellow lines would be costly and would probably not be effective as T&MBC would need to enforce them. The Parish Council do not have the power to put notices on cars advising them about parking. The Clerk has asked the PCSO to visit the area and place some parking advisory notices on the offending cars.
- 5] Enquiry 679264: Cars parked on the grass outside Heathfield, sight lines impaired. The Clerk has reported.

b) **New requiring attention:**

- 1] Potholes outside The Jungle Café.
- 2] Flytipping – the Clerk has reported two instances of fly-tipping in St Vincents Lane

2] **Highways Improvement Plan:**

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Community Engagement Officer to start the process of again of requesting a speed reduction on the A20 through Addington. The Clerk was asked to find out when the last speed surveys took place and whether these should be repeated.

3] **Renewal Recreation Ground Lease:**

Roger Taylor from Wellers Hedleys has advised the Clerk that the solicitor dealing with the case is now on maternity leave and that he will now prepare the statement of truth for the land registry application.

4] **CF-2214 Grant Application Land Communities Fund for an outside Gym:**

Cllr. Garrett reported that unfortunately the application for grant funding from the FCC Communities Foundation for an outside gym has not been successful. Requests for funding have increased and there is limited funding available.

5] **Addington Quarry:**

There was no update on the alleged breaches of planning. Cllr. Macdonald-Gay reported that there has been further sighting of Ferns lorries in the village.

6] **Climate Change Action Plan**

The Clerk had circulated a copy of Shipbourne Parish Council's Climate Change Action Plan which was discussed at the recent KALC meeting. Cllr. Robinson agreed to send Borough Councillor Robin Betts some initial thoughts on a Climate Action Plan for Addington and it was agreed that the Clerk should take up the offer of a presentation on preparing a Climate Change Action Plan from Borough Councillor Robin Betts. It was agreed to form a working party comprising of Cllrs. Garrett, Adams, Robinson and the Clerk to be drafting a Climate Change Action Plan for Addington.

7] **Lower Thames Crossing**

It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk signs up for updates on the construction of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. Members remain concerned that these works will have a substantial effect on Addington in terms of an increase in traffic and pollution.

8] **Kings Coronation 6 May 2022:**

The Pageantmaster has advised all Parish Councils that beacons are not to be lit for the Coronation. The next lighting of Beacons is to be the 6 June 2024 as the principal leading event to celebrate D-Day 80, the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

9] **Open Spaces:**

a) **Planting of wildflower meadows** – Members agreed a quote of £791.60 (excluding VAT and skip hire) to just replant the border on the green and to extend it to the road.

b) **Ratification of a decision between meetings to erect a nativity scene on Addington Green**

It was **resolved** to ratify a decision in between meetings to give permission for St Margaret's Addington to erect a nativity scene on the village green for the month of December 2022. A copy of the Church's Public Liability Insurance was provided.

131/22] REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS:

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – Nick Scott from the Village Hall Committee has informed the Clerk that Home Start, the solar installer, has advised that the installation of the solar panels should be completed by the end of February 2023 and that the contribution of £5,000.00 from the Parish Council to the cost of the scheme is now due.
- b) **Recreation Ground Committee** – Cllr. Robinson advised that energy conservation measures are being implemented. The Committee is also researching grants for solar panel heating including applying for a grant from the England and Wales Cricket Board. The Committee will also apply for a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when the application process opens. Cllr. Robinson has also submitted a claim to T&MBC for discretionary business tax relief.
- c) **Parish Partnership Panel** – There has been no meeting.
- d) **Standards Committee** – There has been no meeting.
- e) **KALC Area Committee** – Cllr. Short has advised the Clerk that the presentation from Shipbourne Parish Council on their Climate Change Action Plan at the meeting held on the 15 December 2022 was excellent. It appears that other parishes are also struggling with getting updates from Enforcement at T&MBC and there was a suggestion that a new planning enforcement structure is being considered. The Area Committee is also writing to all Clerks to establish the extent of the sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge. KALC has circulated the Regulation 18 documents.

132/22] CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

- a) For information:
- 1] Area 2 Planning Committee – 18 January 2023
 - 2] Joint Transportation Board – 6 March 2023
 - 3] Parish Partnership Panel – 9 February 2023
 - 4] Standards Committee – 23 January 2023
 - 5] KALC Area Meeting – 23 March 2022

b) New requiring attention:

KALC Elections Bulletin Issue 1: Noted.

133/22] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

Community bus service initiative. Heating costs for the sports pavilion.

134/22] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 7pm in the Sports Pavilion Park Road, Addington.

135/22] ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:

There were none to consider.

With no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 20:53hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____

Initials: