

ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Addington Village Hall, Park Road
held on Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 19:00hrs

Present: Cllr. Mrs. P. Garrett – Chairman, Cllrs: Mrs. A. Adams, Mr. M. Cole, Mr. P. Robinson, Mrs. C. Short

In Attendance: County Councillor Sarah Hohler (arrived 19:39hrs), Louise Goldsmith (Clerk)

65/23] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was received from Borough Councillors Martin Coffin and Robin Betts and Councillor Lorna Chalk and the reasons for absence were accepted.

66/23] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

67/23] MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was proposed and **resolved** that the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6 September 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

68/23] OPEN SESSION:

A member of the public has sent images to the Clerk of a Ferns lorry driving through the village.

69/23] REPORTS:

a) County Councillor:

County Councillor Sarah Hohler sent the following report.

On 21 September 2023 Members of Kent County Council agreed to confer and grant the Freedom of the County to the Ship's Company of HMS Kent. The following day the ship's crew marched through Maidstone in celebration, accompanied by the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines.

Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales, visited Kent to see the work of the Portage team. The Portage team support pre-school children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) by helping each child's learning and development through play.

LIBRARIES: more than 20,000 children in Kent registered for the Summer Reading Challenge this summer, including 3,000 new library members.

The prison library team won the National Library Awards Reading Award in a decision the panel said was unanimous. The team was nominated for the work they started in lock down and continue to develop to bring library services to prisoners in HMP Swaleside. The library provides a vital well-being opportunity for the prisoners.

FOSTERING: KCC is looking for foster carers who can truly make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children. It is Kent Fostering Service's priority to place young children in safe, nurturing and stable homes which are close to their friends, school and family. Anyone interested in fostering is welcome, regardless of their gender, their sexual orientation, their marital status, whether they have children or not, their ethnicity or religious belief. There are online events: 10am on Saturday 14 October, 7pm on Wednesday 15 November and Tuesday 12 December. For more information ring 03000 420 002 on weekdays from 9am to 5pm or look online at Kent Fostering.

FINANCE: There is a wide set of budget pressures across the sector. There are significant budget gaps and pressures in adult social care, children's services placement costs, home to school transport and with SEND. KCC is taking a number of management actions to address the in-year pressures and is making significant progress. The bigger challenge is the build-up of the longer term pressures for 2024-25 and beyond. To address this KCC is developing a medium term, and longer term, plan named 'Securing Kent's Future'. This plan will address the linkage of policy and practice and will include measures to address high cost placements, uses of technology, the cost base, the partnership with the NHS, and much more.

Initials:

UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children): the number of UASC in the care of KCC has been rising rapidly. This has, potentially, financial, service and safeguarding implications for KCC. In the current situation KCC is unable to discharge all of its statutory duties to all young people, whether UASC or citizen. KCC will continue to raise both the financial and service challenges with national government. The strongly held view remains that an effective operation of the National Transfer Scheme would enable KCC to deliver all of its duties. The Judicial Review proceedings against the Home Secretary regarding delivery of the National Transfer Scheme are due to be heard on 10 October 2023. SCHOOLS and RAAC: Tremendous proactive work has been done, which is a matter of pride for KCC. KCC has worked with the full range of Kent schools.

SEND: the Secretary of State for Education has approved KCC's application for two new special schools (in Swanley and Whitstable) which will serve children with Profound, Severe and Complex needs. More children will be able to go to a school that meets their needs and which is closer to where they live, which is good for both the children and their families and for the tax payer.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT: KCC will continue to deliver the Household Support Fund and will be supporting over 10,000 households with food vouchers. Information on help with energy bills will be available on the Kent Together page, as schemes are launched.

The KCC Money Advice Hubs continue to grow with more and more residents taking up this support. These projects have been short listed for awards in innovation and social inclusion.

b) Borough Councillor: There was no report.

c) Kent Police: The Clerk has circulated a copy of the current Kent Police report and advised that there were no reported crimes in Addington in September 2023.

70/23] 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 and cleaned this month and an update provided on WebNos.

2] Addington Park Lodge: The Clerk has been advised that there is a possible breach of planning conditions as the garage seems to have been converted to accommodation.

3] KALC Area Committee Ashford: It was noted that the Clerk has been appointed as Secretary to the KALC Area Committee Ashford and will be taking over the role in December 2023.

71/23] PLANNING

a) Applications: None to consider.

b) Approvals: None to consider.

c) Refusals:

d) 1] 23/01469/FL – The Caravan, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DH

Removal of existing caravan and outbuildings and erection of single 4 bedroom detached dwelling with associated hard and soft landscaping

e) Application Withdrawn: None to consider.

f) Appeals:

Appeal dismissed

1] TM/21/02135/FL/ APP/H2265/W/22/3291685– Offham Service Station, London Road

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. The Clerk was asked to find out what Enforcement action will take regarding the effluents from the site and drainage.

Appeal in progress

2] 22/00628/FL – Westbank, London Road, Addington.

Two storey side extension, alterations to roof including dormer window and alterations to porch roof – failure of T&MBC to give a decision within the appropriate time period. A decision is awaited.

g) Other Planning Issues:

1] 20/00030/USEH – Mayhill House, London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised hardstanding and caravan: There was no update on whether a site inspection has been arranged.

2] 22/00222/TPOT - Land to the side of the Jet Garage, London Road: A Replanting Notice has been served on the owner. The Clerk has reminded Enforcement that hardcore and other materials left on the site also need to be removed.

3] 23/00063/COM – Humphries and Parks, London Road: Enforcement have written to the owners requesting that light shielding is reinstated on the external lighting columns. The Clerk to check if the light shielding has been installed.

4] 23/00200/USEM Aldon Lane: The Clerk has advised Enforcement that the remaining caravan is still being stored on the site and has requested its removal.

5] Big Motoring World: It was noted that the Clerk has provided details of enforcement cases and the complaints from the Parish Council to T&MBC about the offloading of vehicles on to the A20 over many years to Borough Councillor Martin Coffin. Borough Councillor Martin Coffin has offered to challenge the recent decision of T&MBC to remove the planning condition that a turning circle with offloading facilities is provided onsite. It was agreed that the Clerk finds out if double yellow lines can be installed on this stretch of the A20.

6] Ferns Lorries: It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk passes on information about the lorries sighted going through the village to Ferns.

72/23] RESOLUTIONS

1. Financial:

- a) Annual Review of the Asset Register

Resolved: To adopt the Asset Register subject to the Clerk adding the beacon.

- b) Citizen Advice Bureau: Request for a donation

Resolved: To donate £100.00 to the Citizen Advice Bureau.

- c) To approve the Financial Statement for October 2023 and make arrangements for authorisation.

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

Balances as at 4 October 2023:

Unity Trust Account: £15,153.87

National Savings Account: £25,573.33

Receipts: T&MBC second half of Precept £11,500.00

Payments October:

Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary)	£684.00
HMRC	(Tax)	£171.00
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Expenses & email account reimbursement)	£197.26
Gel Creative	(Monthly website maintenance)	£150.00
Four Seasons Gardens	(Grounds Maintenance)	£188.56
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Reimbursement plans)	£ 24.60
Viking	(Paper and ink)	£ 55.73
ICO – Direct Debit	(Annual subscription)	£ 35.00
Unity – Direct Debit	(Quarterly charge)	£ 18.00
Total		£1,524.15

Initials:

73/23] PARISH MATTERS:

1] Highways:

a) Highways & PROW enquiries Outstanding:

- 1] Enquiry 720896: Bus stop layby junction of Trottiscliffe Road/A20. Reported to KCC the poor quality of the road surface in the layby and works are now programmed.
- 2] Enquiry 737267: Bus Layby, overhanging vegetation blocking the access to the postbox. The Clerk has re-reported.
- 3] Enquiry 743901: Flooding A20 at Merrythought. Roadsweepers have removed the debris left from the flooding.
- 4] Footpath bridge to the Angel Inn: A damaged gate and at least one railway sleeper bridge on the footpath have been reported.
- 5] 'Golfer Crossing' road sign on Trottiscliffe Road: The Highways Steward is checking whether permission has been sought and is required by the golf club for this new sign.
- 6] Advertising Van on motorway bridge: Noted that the van is back but is missing a number plate. The Clerk has reported this again.
- 7] Enquiry 744129: Jungle Café. A water leak has been reported to the water board and works have taken place. The gully is scheduled to be cleaned.

b) New requiring attention:

- 1] Large pothole on the A20 outside Merrythought.

2] Highways Improvement Plan:

Emma Tilbury, the Community Engagement Officer has advised that a site visit with County Councillors Sarah Hohler and Harry Rayner to discuss the speed limit on the A20 through Borough Green and Addington has not yet been arranged. Emma Tilbury has very recently received the results of two speed surveys that were carried out on London Road just past the Ford Lane junction (towards Sandy Lane) and after the A25 junction (towards the M26 roundabout), just before the layby. Results on approach to the M26 roundabout show average speeds below 30mph (85th% speeds below 35mph) and at Ford Lane average speeds were under 32mph (85th% speeds below 37mph).

Emma Tilbury has advised that KCC do not believe that a reduction in speed limit would be appropriate for this strategic route however Emma Tilbury has advised that it this is something that the Parish Council still wishes to pursue a site meeting can be arranged with all interested parties to discuss further. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a site meeting with Emma Tilbury and County Councillor Sarah Hohler to discuss the speed limit and the surface of the A20. Cllrs. Garrett and Short offered to attend the meeting with the Clerk.

3] Renewal of Leases:

- a) Recreation Ground: A decision is awaited from the land registry regarding the recently submitted application which needed to be submitted before the lease for the recreation ground can be renewed.
- b) Village Hall: The solicitor has advised that the existing lease serves as both the trust deed and governing document for the village hall charity. The solicitor has suggested that it would be preferable to separate these matters out, so that the trustees would take a modern lease of the village hall and separately enter updated governing documents. It would also be an opportunity to consider incorporating the charity as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), if personal liability is a concern for the trustees. The newly formed entity could then enter the lease. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Village Hall Committee to consider these suggestions.

4] Climate Change Action Plan

The Clerk has prepared a draft Climate Change Plan and has circulated this for comment. It was agreed to place a copy of the report on the website and seek feedback from residents. County Councillor Sarah Hohler offered to circulate updates and newsletters from the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

5] Outdoor Gym Project

Cllrs. Garrett, Robinson and the Clerk met with The Great Outdoor Company on the 20 September 2023 to discuss the siting and specification of the outdoor gym. A final quote was then submitted to T&MBC who has since approved this project going ahead. A further site visit has now been arranged for the 11

October 2023 to consider an alternative location for the equipment so that it could be monitored by the CCTV system and so that users could possibly seek assistance from the pavilion if required.

6] 80 Year Celebration of D-Day and Operation Overload:

It was agreed that the Clerk should register the Parish Council's interest in lighting a beacon on Thursday 6 June 2024. The Clerk was asked to contact all the local organisations to see if they would be willing to attend and help out at the event.

7] Open Spaces

- a) Parking on the village green and bollard damage.

It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the damaged bollards on the village green to be replaced to stop vehicles parking on the green. It was noted that one vehicle is regularly parking on the village green.

- b) Annual tree inspection with the Tree Warden

Cllrs. Garrett, Robinson the Clerk and the Tree Warden have arranged to carry out the annual inspection of trees on public land on the 11 October 2023.

- c) Dying trees on East Street

The Clerk has advised MP Tom Tugendhat that the second batch of trees are now dying. MP Tom Tugendhat has written to the Chief Executive, Nick Harris, National Highways, for details of why this has happened and will update the Parish Council when a response is received.

- d) Remembrance Service on Addington Green

St Margaret's Church would like to hold an open-air ceremony on the green for Remembrance Sunday on the 12 November 2023. It was **resolved** for this event to take place subject to a risk assessment. The Tommy figure will be placed on the green for the period before and just after Remembrance Sunday.

- e) Nativity Scene on Addington Green

It was **resolved** that the Parish Council will give permission for St Margaret's Addington to erect a nativity scene on the village green for the month of December 2023 subject to sight of a risk assessment and insurance documents.

74/23] REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS:

- a) **Village Hall Committee:** The Clerk has received a copy of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in May 2023. The Village Hall Committee is seeking a new secretary. The next meeting will be held on the 18 October 2023.

- b) **Recreation Ground Committee:** Cllr. Robinson advised that the Recreation Ground Committee continues to seek funding for installing solar panels and hope to commence this project next Spring. Cllr. Robinson advised that the recreation ground is getting close to being carbon zero following the introduction of a series of initiatives. The Recreation Ground Committee has pledged its support to Move Together, Kent and Medway's strategy for sport and physical activity 2023-2027. In support of this the cricket club recently hosted a match between East Anglia Veteran Ladies against Kent third team.

- c) **Parish Partnership Panel:** There has been no meeting.

- d) **Standards Committee:** There has been no meeting.

- e) **KALC Area Committee:** Cllrs. Short and Garrett attended the meeting held on the 28 September 2023 and reported that Sarah Barker was elected and will continue as Chair and Chrys Short was elected and will consider as Vice Chairman of the Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee. Alison Eardley is the KALC contact for planning issues and Rachel Cox is able to assist with Climate Change queries. The Kent Resilience Forum is offering free online Emergency Planning training at 6pm on the 19 October 2023 which the Clerk will attend. T&MBC is moving some of its current systems over to a new system called Agile. In terms of planning there seems to be some drawbacks as comments from the public cannot be redacted and therefore cannot be uploaded. Agile appears to also not be able to provide notifications of planning proposals in your area. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk contacts the Borough Councillors for confirmation and advice about these possible constraints. It was agreed to take on board a suggestion that if the Parish Council objects to a planning proposal that a request is also made for T&MBC to remove any permitted

development rights. It was noted that the KALC AGM will be held on the 18 November 2023 and the Cllr. Short will be attending.

20:32hrs County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting.

75/23] CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

- a) For information:
 - 1] Area 2 Planning Committee: 1 November 2023
 - 2] Joint Transportation Board: 4 December 2023
 - 3] Parish Partnership Panel: 2 November 2023
 - 4] Standards Committee: 22 January 2024
 - 5] KALC Area Meeting: AGM 18 November 2023

- b) New requiring attention:
None to consider.

76/23] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

Bank Accounts and investments.

77/23] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 7pm in the village hall.

78/23] ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:

There were none to consider.

With no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 20:38hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____

Initials: