

ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Addington Village Hall, Park Road
held on Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 19:00hrs

Present: Cllr. Mrs. P. Garrett – Chairman, Cllrs: Mrs. A. Adams, Mrs. L. Chalk, Mr. M. Cole, Mr. P. Robinson and Mr. D. Tighe

In Attendance: Louise Goldsmith (Clerk), Stephen Hill (Incoming Clerk).

81/24] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Borough Councillor Martin Coffin and the reason for absence was accepted.

82/24] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

Cllr. Robinson declared a pecuniary interest in 88/24 (a) (1).

83/24] INTENTIONS TO RECORD THE MEETING

A request from the incoming Clerk to record the meeting was agreed.

84/24] MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was proposed and **resolved** that the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4 September 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

85/24] OPEN SESSION:

No members of the public present.

86/24] REPORTS:

a) County Councillor

KCC is concerned that the new house building requirement will particularly hit 4-5 Kent Districts. (Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling , Dover. The impact of VAT on public schools is likely to be felt in Grammar Schools. There are 95 independent schools, many are prep schools with under 200 pupils. It is estimated that 50% of these could close, putting more pressure on primary schools in the state sector. School transport costs are now on budget as new processes have kicked in. There has been a long consultation on community wardens with the need to reduce expenditure while recognising the value the wardens bring to our more deprived areas. If you want a community warden, or an extra one, for your own area you may fund one. Contact communitywardenreview@kent.gov.uk and you will be contacted. A media release notes that up to 18,000 eligible Kent households are still not claiming Pension Credit. KCC's Leader is urging everyone who is entitled to claim Pension Credit to make sure they are signed up as soon as possible. Pension credit is, on average, £186 a month and can also open the door to other benefits. It is for those who have reached state pension age and are on the lowest income. There are a number of eligibility requirements but, as a starting point, if you are retired and have income of less than £218 a week as an individual, or £332 as a couple, you could be eligible. In recent years KCC have worked with our District, Borough and City Council partners to support them in adopting systems which enable them to identify people who may be eligible for Pension Credit but have not applied for it. In 2023 around 400 additional households were identified to complete an application, resulting in an average of £300 a month. In this County, Kent's pensioners could be missing out on up to an unclaimed £68 million. Kent's Money Advice Hubs, located across the county, are on hand to support and advise on Pension Credit eligibility and applications. The service can be accessed Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. You can also find more information and a link to the application process on the KCC website by visiting: www.kent.gov.uk/pensioncredit. Digital Kent has also launched a new initiative to help people get online who might not have access to technology, nor have the confidence to try. It's called Get Digital. There are free workshops and Digital Champions on hand to support. Know

someone who might benefit? For more information, visit: www.kent.gov.uk/getdigital, Wrotham Heath traffic lights, major repairs to water. The Lower Thames Crossing project has been delayed for a year with works now due to commence in 2026. Book loans at KCC libraries remain stable along with the public use of the internet and computers. Recent statistics show that 826,000 doctor appointments were offered across Kent and Medway but 34,000 did not turn up. Cllr. Garrett explained that many appointments are seemingly missed because letters are sent in the post which either do not arrive in time or are lost. Cllr. Robinson expressed his concern about the lack of a holistic traffic plan and the effect the new crossing is going to have on roads in surrounding areas such as Addington. Cllr. Coles expressed his concern about the increase in traffic from the proposed new housing on already congested roads.
19:17hrs County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting.

b) Borough Councillor

There was no report.

c) Kent Police

There was no reported crime in Addington in September 2024. The roof tiles of a property in Taylors Place, Trottiscliffe were damaged on the 7 September 2024.

87/24] CLERKS REPORT/PAST MATTERS (Information purposes only)

- 1] Monthly check of the defibrillator: The Clerk advised Members that both of the defibrillators in the village have been checked. Unfortunately, a new battery was required for the defibrillator in Trottiscliffe Road. The Clerk ordered a replacement battery along with some replacement pads and an update was provided on WebNos. The replacement battery has now been fitted. The Clerk has registered both defibrillators to the incoming Clerk on The Circuit.
- 2] The Clerk thanked the Parish Council for all their support and hard work over the last fourteen years.

88/24] PLANNING:

- a) Applications:
 - 1] 24/01386/PA: Merlins Brook, Park Road, Addington
Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q: Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling (Prior Notification).
Resolved: No objection, carried 4 in favour and 1 against.
 - 2] 24/01506/PA: Development Site at Shaw Hill House, Aldon Lane, Addington
Details of conditions 12 (tree protection) and 13 (construction methodology) pursuant to planning permission TM/22/01915/FL.
Resolved: The Clerk to request that any decision is deferred as there are no supporting document on the portal.
 - 3] 24/01517/PA: Development Site at Shaw Hill House, Aldon Lane, Addington
Details of condition 14 (noise report) pursuant to planning permission TM/22/01915/FL.
Resolved: No objection.
 - 4] 24/01378/PA: The Birches, Sandy Lane, Addington
Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Single storey extension to link existing outbuilding to main dwelling.
Resolved: No comment.
- b) Approvals:
 - 1] 24/01343/PA: Churchfield, Addington
Notice is here given that it is proposed to reduce the height of a row of trees (T1) by approx 50%, so to a height of 4.5 m. T1 consists of a row of 10 unkemp, straggly and ill maintained/ivy covered trees of mixed species with an average height of 9 m. They stand within the Conservation Area of land owned by The Seekers Trust, to the west of St Margarets church and have little amenity value, being almost totally out of view.
- c) Refusals:

- None to consider.
- d) Application Withdrawn:
None to consider.
- e) Appeals:
- 1] APP/H2265/D/24/3343956 1 Greenways, London Road, Addington: Appeal against decision of T&MBC to refuse planning application 23/03100.
 - 2] APP/H2265/W/24/3343331 Westbank, London Road, Addington: Appeal against decision of T&MBC to refuse planning application 23/03374.
- Other Planning Issues:
- 1] 20/00030/USEH – Mayhill House, London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised hardstanding and caravan: The Planning Enforcement Manager has advised that a site inspection is due in the next couple of weeks.
 - 2] 22/00222/TPOT – ancient woodland, land east of B2016: The Case Officer has been trying to get some information from the Forestry Commission about what should be planted but is still awaiting a response. Enforcement is now considering serving a replanting Notice. The incoming Clerk was asked to remind Enforcement that the hardcore on the site still need to be removed.
 - 3] 23/00200/USEM Aldon Lane: The Clerk has reported that a vehicle has been parked at the entrance on numerous occasions which suggests that the caravan is occupied. Enforcement have contacted the owner and a response is awaited.
 - 4] 23/02012/TPOC: Tree Preservation Order application: Hannah Parker, Development Manager at T&MBC, has advised that a decision will be issued by the 19 October 2024.
 - 5] Land West of Roughetts Road, Ryarsh: A planning application for the proposed extraction of aggregate sand is awaited.

89/24] RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Resignation of Cllr. Chrys Short:**
It was noted that Cllr. Chrys Short had resigned in between meetings. The Clerk had informed T&MBC and placed the Notice of the Vacancy on both the website and noticeboards. T&MBC has now confirmed that the statutory period has now expired and an election has not been called meaning that the Parish Council can now co-opt.
2. **Vice Chairman**
Following the resignation of Cllr. Short the position of Vice Chairman is now vacant. Cllr. Chalk was proposed by Cllr. Garrett and seconded by Cllr. Adams. Cllr. Chalk accepted the nomination and there were no other nominations.
Resolved: Cllr. Chalk was elected as Vice Chairman following a unanimous vote.
3. **Standards Committee**
Following the resignation of Cllr. Short T&MBC has requested that another Member is nominated to attend meetings of the Standards Committee.
Resolved: Cllr. Garrett to represent the Parish Council on the Standards Committee.
4. **Financial:**
 - a) **Proposal to revise the Bank Mandate**
Resolved: To remove Cllr. Short and the outgoing Clerk from the mandate and to add the incoming Clerk.
 - b) **Mazars: To receive a response from KALC**
The Clerk had forwarded some articles that has recently appeared in the press regarding Mazars to KALC for comment. A response has not yet been received.
 - c) **Proposal to purchase a projector**
The incoming Clerk presented some different options for a projector for the Parish Council.
Resolved: The incoming Clerk to purchase a Epson projector for £329.00, (carried 5 in favour and 1 against).
 - d) **To consider a quote for grounds maintenance works at East Street North**

Members considered a quote from the groundsman for maintenances works to East Street North. The quote includes works to clear the undergrowth on the access path and the track to the green, clear the bracken around the tree and remove the lower branches of the central tree which are overhanging the bench and to cut the hedge alongside the motorway.

Resolved: To accept a quote of £2,203.40 (excluding VAT) from Capel Groundcare for the above works and to request a price for ongoing maintenance. The incoming Clerk to ask KCC to continue to clear East Street North.

e) To receive the updated accounts for 2024-2025

The accounts were noted.

f) To receive and approve the Bank Reconciliation as at the 30 September 2024

The Bank Reconciliation as at the 30 September 2024 was received and noted and signed by Cllr. Chalk in accordance with the adopted Financial Regulations.

g) To receive the Financial Statement

RESOLVED: To approve the Financial Statement for October. Cllr. Garrett checked the invoices and it was resolved for Cllrs. Garrett and Chalk to authorise the payments online. The authorised schedule was initialled immediately below the last item by the Chair in accordance with the financial regulations.

Balances as at 9 October 2024:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Unity Trust Current Account: | £22,771.40 |
| Unity Trust Savings Account: | £22,038.32 |
| Total | £43,810.22 |

Receipts:

T&MBC Second Half Of Precept: £12,500.00

Unity Bank Interest: £149.87

Payments in October:

| <u>Supplier</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs L S Goldsmith | (Salary) | £993.61 |
| HMRC | (Tax) | £269.83 |
| Mrs L S Goldsmith | (Expenses,email reimburse) | £185.80 |
| Defib Store | (Defib and cabinet) | £1,692.00 |
| Gel Creative | (Monthly website maintenance) | £150.00 |
| Capel Groundcare | (Grounds Maintenance Monthly) | £236.80 |
| The Small Works Company | (Defib cleaning/Map maintenance) | £500.00 |
| Capel Groundcare | (Installation of new playground sign) | £63.60 |
| DD (ICO) | (Annual Subscription) | £35.00 |
| DD (Unity Trust) | (Quarterly Charge) | £18.00 |
| Total | | £4,144.64 |

90/24| PARISH MATTERS:

1] Highways:

a) Highways & PROW enquiries Outstanding:

- 1] Enquiry 751039: East Street North Trackway: see item 89/24 4 (d).
- 2] Enquiry 826512: Trottiscliffe Road, damaged sign: Works Completed.
- 3] Enquiry 826509: Trottiscliffe Road, damaged sign: Works Completed.
- 4] Enquiry 826507: St Vincents Lane, potholes: Reported and works due to be carried out.
- 5] Enquiry 834729: 50mph signs on London Road, near to Stubblesdown are faded in both directions.

Initials:

6] Enquiry 834732: The new traffic sign on the A20 near to Aldon Lane is facing the wrong way. It was noted that this has now been fixed.

b) **New requiring attention:**

St. Vincents Lane: large hole which is filling with water needs to be reported.
London Road East and South of Aldon Lane: The new lines need to be reinstated.
Western side of Ford Lane to Harpwood: The recently filled trench on the A20 is breaking up.

c) **Transporters offloading on to the A20**

The Clerk had contacted PC Mc Elligott about the potential hazard that when the transporters are parked up on the A20 that this also causes an obstruction in a westerly direction which does not allow for motorists to turn into St Vincents safely. PC Mc Elligott has advised that the vehicle(s) generally do not pose enough of a hazard for Kent Police to intervene as what they are doing does not meet the threshold for a dangerous position. Although the vehicles cause a hazard to road users, it is expected that a competent driver can safely manoeuvre around the transporter. It was agreed that the incoming Clerk should request no offloading road markings on this stretch of the road through the Highways Improvement Plan process. The incoming Clerk was asked to send the video, taken by Cllr. Tighe. of a car struggling to get past a transporter offloading on the A20 to PC Mc Elligott for comment.

d) **Parish Seminar**

The incoming Clerk attended the virtual seminar held on Wednesday 2 October 2024. KCC will not be sending slides until after the next session. It was agreed that the incoming Clerk should present a summary of the slides at the December meeting.

2] **Anima Training**

It was noted that the Clerk has contacted the West Malling Group Practice Patient Participation Group, (WMGP PPG), to find out if they would be willing to run a training session on Anima for Addington residents. The Clerk reported that five residents had expressed an interest in attending some training. The Clerk advised that the group is holding a training session on the 21 October 2024 in West Malling. It was agreed for the incoming Clerk to obtain further details about the venue and time and to then offer this date to the interested residents and advertise the date locally on the noticeboards and website.

3] **Defibrillator for the village hall/sports pavilion**

An order has been placed for the defibrillator and the cabinet. The Village Hall Committee has advised that they will be willing to arrange for the installation.

4] **Village hall car park**

The Clerk has contacted the landowner to see if he would be willing to donate to the Parish Council/community a 5m strip across the stretch of the road opposite the village hall car park to be used as an overflow car park. The landowner has been in touch with the Clerk and has suggested a site meeting to discuss the proposal. It was agreed for the incoming Clerk to arrange a meeting. Cllr. Robinson and the incoming Clerk to attend.

5] **Flytipping**

Members were pleased to note that there has not been any recent incidents of fly tipping.

6] **Open Spaces:**

a) Trees at East Street

Cllr. Chalk reported that UK Power Networks has recently trimmed back the trees down East Street. The Clerk reported that some of the trees at the end of East Street are suffering. It was agreed that the incoming Clerk should contact National Highways to remove a fir tree that has died. It was also noted that the row of laurels would benefit from some trimming. The incoming Clerk was asked to request that the grounds maintenance contractor inspects the trees planted by National Highways and provides a quote for any remedial works.

b) Request to hold a Remembrance Service on the village green on 10 November 2024

St Margaret’s Church would like to hold an open-air ceremony on the green for Remembrance Sunday on the 10 November 2024. 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.

91/24] REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS:

- a) **Village Hall Committee:** Cllr. Chalk reported that the fire risk assessment of the hall is due. The village hall is still on the old water supply which needed to be addressed. Cllr. Chalk was

Initials:

pleased to report that signatories on the village hall committee bank account have now been sorted out. The fixed electricity contract supply runs out on the 31 October 2024 and the committee is looking at alternative providers. The next project will be to update the CCTV.

- b) **Recreation Ground Committee:** Cllr. Robinson reported that the autumn renovation on the cricket square has been carried out. The golf club stepped in to provide equipment and manpower for the disc seeding to take place on the outfield. Following the recent RoSAP inspection all the brambles and nettles have been sprayed in the playground. Cllr. Coles has offered to help fix the bearings on the rolling log and shackle on the swing. The committee is going to hire a cherry tree picker to trim vegetation in the car park. It was noted that local resident Ryana Macdonald-Gay has won the England Emerging Young Player of the Year Award. Cllr. Robinson reported that the Addington Cricket Club has been successful locally and has been put forward for the National England and Wales Cricket Board Collective Awards 2024 for tackling Climate Change.
- c) **Parish Partnership Panel:** There has been no meeting.
- d) **Standards Committee:** There has been no meeting.
- e) **KALC Area Committee:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2024 will be circulated.

92/24] CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

- a) For information:
 - 1] Area 2 Planning Committee: 30 October 2024
 - 2] Joint Transportation Board: 2 December 2024
 - 3] Parish Partnership Panel: 21 November 2024
 - 4] Standards Committee: 20 January 2025
 - 5] KALC Area Meeting: AGM: 23 November 2024. Next meeting: 12 December 2024
- b) **New requiring attention:**
 - 1] The Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation on the New Priorities for Kent: It was noted that Cllr. Robinson has responded to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

93/24] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

To nominate a second KALC representative.

94/24] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 19:00hrs in the village hall.

95/24] ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: There were none to consider.

With no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 20:54hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____