

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 13th APRIL 2017**

The Chairman read out the following statement:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

She welcomed everyone to the Meeting and reminded Members of the Public that this was a meeting to which they are invited but it was not a public meeting. If a member of the public wished to speak on an item on the agenda then she would close the meeting to allow them to speak but reserved the right to request that any significant questions be submitted in writing.

Cllr. Veitch advised that the meeting was being recorded as a Clerk's aid and that it was also being recorded by a Parishioner for their personal use.

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford, Cook, Fairweather, Fermor, Goodchild, Hartley, Holmes, Kemp, Swann, Borough Cllr. Hannam & County Cllr. Holden.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Hall, Smith & Warne.

253: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The Chairman proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th March be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Goodchild and agreed.

254: CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR:

Following the resignation of Francis Rook, a vacancy on the Parish Council had occurred. Due process had been followed, no call for an election had been made. A casual vacancy had been advertised with two written submissions of interest received to which all Councillors had received copies. Kim Fletcher spoke in support of his application by stating his aims and desires for the Parish and the experience he could bring to the council. Mr. Fletcher then left the meeting while Members discussed the two candidates. Several members spoke in support of Mr. Fletcher. Cllr. Bunyan expressed a sadness that we did not know more about the other candidate who unfortunately had been unable to attend. Members were issued with ballot papers and asked to indicate whom they would like to co-opt. The vote was counted by the Clerk, who stated the result was a unanimous decision in favour of Kim Fletcher. He was invited back to the meeting and congratulated. Cllr. Veitch requested that a formal letter of thanks be sent to the unsuccessful candidate for his interest and hoped she could persuade him to get involved in ongoing projects.

255: SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

Cllr. Fletcher signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office register and was given a Notification of Pecuniary Interest form to complete.

256: PROJECT STEERING BOARD:

Cllr. Veitch informed Members that she had received numerous recommendations and comments giving them all due consideration. To involve as many members of the community as possible she had advertised on the website and at the NDP Visioning Events.

Cllr. Warne had offered the names of several people with a wide range of skills. The Council Chamber had been booked for 7pm on the 2nd May when all those that had expressed an interest would be invited to introduce themselves with a process of self-selection being suggested. Cllr. Veitch invited all Councillors to attend also.

There were some outstanding legal and access issues to be resolved, although all correspondence has been positive, we have yet to receive anything in writing, however she remains confident that this can be achieved.

Cllr. Hartley stated he had been contacted by a concerned citizen that felt questions he had raised had not been adequately answered. Cllr. Veitch responded that she had not received any indication that the verbal responses given were not satisfactory and was happy to revisit the questions raised and respond in writing to that person.

In response to Cllr. Fairweather, Cllr. Veitch confirmed that we had submitted a planning application for land that we had not legal right of access too because the Co-Op would not enter into any further discussions until we had been granted planning permission on the site.

Cllr. Swann stated feedback he had received was incredibly supportive although people had voiced frustration as to “when we were going to get on with it”.

257: CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

The Chairman congratulated her fellow Councillors on all their hard work and successes of the last year.

She had attended Peter Jempson’s Memorial and Thanksgiving Service last Saturday, as did several of her fellow councillors. As requested, she had given a three minute eulogy on behalf of the Parish Council and was happy to provide copies of this to anyone who would like it. She had learnt much about Peter that she didn’t previously know, and his great personality and significant achievements were lauded.

She reminded all Members that they had been invited to the Armed Forces Service Day in St. Dunstan’s on Sunday 7th May and hoped they would be able to attend.

She advised there had been some changes scheduled for the Citizens Advice Bureaux opening hours which was due to financial reasons. They were reducing their availability from 5 days a week to 3 but were still maintaining the 24 hours per week requirement as set by Tunbridge Wells. In response to Cllr. Cook she did not know how much money was needed to restore the service to its previous level.

She reminded members of the date of the Annual Parish Meeting next Wednesday and highlighted the change of date for the Annual Parish Council Meeting to the 18th May which had been amended to avoid any clash with the NDP 3 Day Design Presentation evening.

She wished everyone a Happy Easter.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

258: POLICY & RESOURCES:

Cllr. Goodchild referred to the meeting held on the 11th April. Cllr. Fermor pointed out a typo on 97/16 which was corrected. Cllr. Goodchild highlighted the forthcoming litter pick and the promise of a bacon butty to all attendees. He proposed adoption of the report, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

259: PLANNING & PRESERVATION:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the Minutes of the meetings held on 21st March and 4th April. She highlighted the application from Cranbrook School which would result in a loss of 29 parking spaces which we had raised as a major concern, she hoped that TW planning officers give serious consideration to our comments. She confirmed that all the comments collected for the Common Road Reserved Matters application had been submitted to Tunbridge Wells.

260: BURIALS & PROPERTIES:

Cllr. Clifford advised that the next meeting was scheduled for the end of the month. He updated everyone on the tree surgery in St. Dunstan's, which was postponed until the autumn to accommodate the bird nesting season.

261: ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY:

Cllr. Holmes had nothing to report.

262: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:

Cllr. Holmes referred to the meeting held on 14th March and invited questions, none were raised. He proposed adoption, this was seconded by Cllr. Goodchild and agreed. Cllr. Fermor confirmed she would be writing to the schools requesting their co-operation in tackling litter.

263: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

Cllr. Kemp stated that the recent Visioning Events had been well attended with around 43 attendees at Sissinghurst and 70 at Cranbrook. Richard Eastham was in the process of collating the information for the interim report. He had produced a brief summary which highlighted the qualities and challenges of both Cranbrook and Sissinghurst. Engagement with key stakeholders such as David Hugget from Persimmon Homes resolving issues on Brick Kiln Farm were underway, it was hoped that similar discussions could be held with Countryside for the Corn Hall land. Kelvin Hinton - Planning Policy Manager at TWBC had been approached to open up the process to a delegation from the NDP. Cllr. Kemp proposed adopted, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

264: CCAAC:

Cllr. Bunyan referred to the meeting held on March 22nd. Kelvin Hinton had attended and answered questions on conservation areas. In response to Cllr. Veitch, it was confirmed that the Windmill sweeps would hopefully be returning in the summer.

265: KALC:

Cllr. Veitch referred to the meeting held in February and invited questions. Cllr. Bunyan raised the CAV and the introduction of charging for the collection of garden waste.

266: CLERK'S REPORT:

Deputy clerk reported on the crime statistics as provided by P.C.S.O. Lee Jules.

267: CORRESPONDANCE:

The Clerk read out letters of thanks from Cranbrook Museum and the Sissinghurst Flower Show, both of whom had recently received grants from the Parish Council.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

268: Cllr. Veitch encouraged everyone to report potholes. She also advised that the Clerks, Cllrs. Bunyan, Warne and she would be attending a briefing on the Draft Local Plan at TWBC on the 26th and 27th April, details are on their website.

269: Cllr. Cook reported that he had been speaking to the family of the late Peter Jempson and they had discovered some paperwork relating to his time as Chairman of this Council and that of his father when he was Chairman. Cllr. Cook had suggested that it was offered to either ourselves or the museum to ascertain if any of it was of historical or significant interest.

270: Cllr. Fermor asked for the condition of the hedges in the Jubilee Field to be considered at the next Environmental Management site meeting.

271: Cllr. Clifford referred to the new Parish Council magazine Parish Cake which was on schedule for delivery the first week of July by Royal Mail. He reiterated there would be no drain on Parish Council funds as it would not go to press unless all costs were covered. He assured Members that a recent misunderstanding regarding advertising would be resolved at a meeting with members of Trinity Church.

272: Cllr. Fairweather reiterated his thanks to Borough Councillor Hannam for his help in getting a new bin sited in Common Road next to the bus stop. He informed everyone that the newly acquired defibrillator had been installed on the wall of St. George's Institute and was available for use 24/7. He also wanted to thank Cllr. Bunyan for organising and staying the course including setting up and dismantling the consultation on the Common Road application, it was very well attended and on the whole very positive. He reported on the recent litter pick in Sissinghurst and thanked the Chairman and volunteers for their contribution to the event. He also thanked KCC Cllr. Holden for his efforts in getting the speed limits reduced in Sissinghurst and the surrounding area, the results were obvious and gratefully appreciated by the citizens of Sissinghurst.

273: Cllr. Swann advised that the Church Tower would be open on Saturdays from 11.00am till 1.00pm starting this week, it allows an amazing and interesting view over Cranbrook.

274: Cllr. Holmes advised that the decision to withdraw the Arriva No5 service on Sundays had gone ahead, however through the efforts of local campaigners the Stagecoach bus No 349 from Hastings to Hawkhurst had been reinstated and was to be extended to Cranbrook. The service started last week operating on Sundays and Bank Holidays, 5 times a day in each direction for a trial period of twelve months.

Cllr. Holmes raised concerns that the closure of the public conveniences in Crane Lane due to vandalism was still not being dealt with by TWBC. Cllr. Veitch advised that a grant of £600 was available to any retailer outlet that would open its facilities for use by the public.

275: Cllr. Goodchild reported that this weekend the Vine Church was celebrating his 20th Anniversary and as part of the celebrations members were taking part in the Cranbrook litter pick.

276: KCC and Borough Cllr. Holden encouraged people to report pot holes. He was happy to assist with any particularly bad cases. He also reported the cost of adult social care threatened to engulf the social care budget of public authorities, which is the major cause of the increase in Council Tax this year.

KCC have engaged in Social and Transformation Plans to try and integrate the NHS and Social Care Service. He applauded the intervention of a local resident in highlighting the issues with poor signage placement at the Waterloo Road entrance to the town and was pleased that this had now been successfully resolved.

He reported that he had secured £10,000 of KCC funds to be directed into the new sixth form centre at Cranbrook School and £3,500 to allow Cranbrook Primary School to create a fence corridor reducing traffic congestion during school drop off and collection times.

He also wished to pay contribute to work done by Francis Rook as a Councillor for this Parish.

277: Cllr. Hannam referred to the report on the waste contract including the possible inclusion of kerbside glass collections and advised that negotiations were ongoing. A vote at the Cabinet Advisory Board agreeing to the £30 charge for garden waste collection was unfortunately carried.

Decision day for the new development to house the Borough Council was due in November, he felt that although the Town Hall was a magnificent building it was no longer fit for purpose and that any new building could be self-funding by letting out additional office space. A public consultation on the planning application was due to start.

He was delighted to receive the honour of being invited to speak about his passion for Mediaeval Science at St. Dunstan's Day on the 17th May and encouraged anyone interested in Mediaeval Science and religion to go along.

The Chairman closed the Meeting to allow Parishioners to speak.

A Parishioner was disappointed that questions he had posed and also submitted in writing at the March Full Council were not minuted. The Clerk advised there was no legal requirement to record questions posed.

A Parishioner requested clarification on the difference between a Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. An explanation was given by the Clerk.

A suggestion to improve how the Council's finances are illustrated to further clarify earmarked funds, cash balances etc. was also raised.