

**MINUTES OF a Virtual PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8 April at 7.45pm**

PRESENT:

Mr. David Goodworth (DGG- Chairman for this meeting), David Gaunt (DG),
Louise Leyden (LL), Ian Mills (IM), Oliver Shaw (OS)

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillor Sarah Hohler Borough Councillor Ann Kemp
Mrs. Louise Goldsmith (Clerk) 2 members of the public

01/21 Apologies for absence: None received.

02/21 Declarations of interest: None received

03/21 Minutes

It was resolved that the Clerk, on behalf of the Chairman of this meeting sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4 March 2021.

04/21 Resignation of Richard Wallis/Vacancies on the Parish Council

DGG reminded Members that Richard Wallis served over 30 years on the Parish Council and as Chairman for the last 6 years. Members expressed their disappointment over a sequence of events that led to the resignation of Mr. Wallis. DGG stated that he felt Mr. Wallis had acted firmly but fairly. Members would welcome an opportunity to thank Mr. Wallis in person for all his hard work when restrictions ease. The Clerk advised Members that the statutory period in which an election could be called will end on the 16 April 2021 and then the Parish Council can co-opt new Councillors. Members noted that a few local residents have expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. There are currently two vacancies. Members agreed that if more than two applications are received then virtual meetings could be held to interview the applicants. The Clerk will ask anyone interested to submit an email outlining why they would like to be a Parish Councillor and why feel they would be suited to the role.

05/21 Reports

a) County Councillor – County Councillor Sarah Hohler has witnessed that the new parking arrangements in the village hall car park for drop off and collection at the Montessori Nursery and school seem to be working well. Elections are due to be held on the 6 May 2021. KCC would also like the Government to extend the legislation to hold virtual meetings beyond the 6 May 2021 on the basis that it will be impossible to observe social distancing measures in some public meetings. The general feeling is that virtual meetings have worked well and have saved a lot of travel time.

8.14pm County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting

b) Borough Councillor – Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised Members that T&MBC is very aware of the problem of litter on verges and roads and would like to reassure Members that normal litter picking arrangements will resume soon. The priority has been to ensure that the household collection service has continued throughout the pandemic and litter picking staff have had to support staff shortages on the household collection service. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp expressed her disappointment that Mr. Wallis has resigned from the Parish Council.

8.16pm The meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak

A member of the public expressed concern about the number of diversion signs that have been left in the village. The Clerk explained that the Highways Steward is aware of the situation and that residents have also been reporting the issue.

8:18pm the meeting resumed. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp left the meeting

- c) Kent Police - The Clerk reported that four BMW wheels were taken from inside a van parked in Church Lane, Trottscliffe on the 12 March 2021. Theft from outbuildings continues to be a problem in the area.
- d) KALC Area Committee - IM attended the meeting held on the 25 March 2021. Kent Police also reported that there has been an increase in theft from outbuildings along with an increase in investigations into illegal puppy breeding in the area. There has also been a number of incidents involving quad bikes being driven on roads and private land. IM advised that grants are now available for residents to purchase CCTV to protect outbuildings. There has also been an increase in the amount of flytipping. KCC has launched a poster and radio campaign to encourage people to not fly tip. KALC would welcome an opportunity to include more green measures in the Local Plan if it is rejected by the Planning Inspectorate and has to be amended.
- e) JPCTCG - DG to attend the meeting due to be held on 15 April 2021. DG has circulated an invitation to a virtual Southern Rail Information Evening to Members.
- f) Parish Partnership Panel - No meeting held
- g) Trosley Liaison Group - No meeting held.
- h) Village Hall Committee - The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting and advised Members that the Committee hope to hold a free entry event on the recreation ground on the 17 July 2021. Local businesses will be invited to supply food and drink and entertainment. The Committee is planning to have a stand at the event where attendees will be encouraged to complete a survey to advise the Committee what events they would like held at the village. It is hoped to hold a panto again this year. The Committee has revamped the village hall facebook page with a new logo and graphics. Future projects include obtaining a WiFi connection for the village hall and a refurbishment of the roof and windows. The Chairman explained that the cost of installing solar panels has been prohibitive. The Committee has benefited from Government grants during the pandemic and has a healthy bank balance and will be looking to support the Church financially with their current project. The Committee is prepared to install and finance a fence at the front of the car park to complete the works and pay for the painting of the 'in' and 'out' markings on the tarmac. The drain at the back of the village hall has been overflowing and will need to be investigated. The Committee is due to hold a meeting next week.
- i) Tree Warden - There was no report.
- j) Courts Committee Meeting - There has been no meeting

06/21 Matters arising

- a) T&MBC Call for Sites/Development of the Local Plan - The Local Hearing is still suspended. T&MBC is expecting the Planning Inspectorate to reject the Local Plan. T&MBC intend to lodge an appeal to The Secretary of State if the Local Plan is rejected.
- b) Monthly Check of the Defibrillator - The Clerk has carried out the monthly check.
- c) Review of parking in the village hall car park - Members noted that the new system seems to be working well. LL kindly offered to replace the 'in' and 'out' signs with bigger signs for both exiting and entering the car park.
- d) Review of drainage - DGG is looking to obtain a second quote for the works required to improve the drainage in the tennis club car park.

07/21 Finance & Policies

a) Statement of payments to be made and income received

National Savings Account:	£ 1,718.56
Nat West TPC TCC Account:	£ 12,069.09
Nat West TPC Reserve Account:	£ 8,308.56
Nat West TPC Current Account	£ 198.17

Receipts: None

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary 5 weeks) (04/3- 08/04)	000498	£ 231.83
HMRC	(Clerk's Tax)	000499	£ 154.55
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Clerks Expenses)	000500	£ 109.94
Castle Water	(Allotment water)	000501	£ 188.35
Communicorp	(Clerk & Councils Direct)	000502	£ 12.00
KALC	(Annual Subscription)	000503	£301.34
Austin Plumbers Ltd	(Drainage Works)	000504	£1,155.00
Total			£2,153.01

Transfer from TPC Reserve Account to TPC Current Account: £2500.00

Cheques for signature TPC TCC Account: None to consider

- b) Cheques for signature: It was **resolved** that the above cheques be authorised.
- c) Annual Review of the Allotment Rents - Members **resolved** to increase the annual rent to £25.00 to ensure that the cost of maintaining the allotments and the water bills are covered. The land was gifted to the village for allotments on the basis that the Parish Council do not make a profit on the rental income but it was agreed that the current level of rent is not covering the maintenance costs.
- d) Review of policies - The Clerk will review all the policies on the website over the next few months and amend where necessary.
- e) AGAR/Internal Audit - The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor will be visiting on the 2 June 2021 to inspect the accounts and procedures of the Parish Council and hopefully sign off the AGAR.
- f) Bank Accounts - The Clerk will apply for an online Unity Trust Banking account.

08/21 Planning

a) Applications from T&MBC:

1] TM/21/00539/PDVLR - Chelidon, Taylors Lane, Trottiscliffe

Prior Notification for residential extension: single storey rear extension to a depth of 7.55m, eaves height of 2.5m and maximum height of 2.87m. *Resolved: No objection*

2] TM/21/00768/TNCA - Rouses Farm, Taylors Lane, Trottiscliffe

T1 Ash - two branches lopped back to the trunk; T2 Ash - one branch lopped back to the trunk; T3 Fir - one branch lopped back to the trunk; T4 Poplar - two branches lopped back to first knuckle; T5 Poplar - 2 branches lopped back to main stump; T6 Poplar - one branch lopped back to main trunk. *Resolved: No objection*

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

c) Approvals

1] TM/21/00048/FL - Coldrum House, Coldrum Lane, Trottiscliffe

Construction of ground floor front infill addition and first floor front extension in place of balcony

2] TM/21/00313/FL - White Gables, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe

Demolition of existing garage and construction of part single storey, part double storey side and rear extension incorporating enlargement of existing side roof dormer

d) Refusals: None to consider

e) Withdrawn applications: None to consider

f) Planning Appeals: None to consider

g) Other Planning Issues

Becketts, Pinesfield Lane – Members agreed to monitor the works taking place at the property Bramble Park – local knowledge suggests that the property has now been sold as a domestic residence.

The Clerk was asked to report the difficulties with downloading plans from the T&MBC planning portal which have been experienced in recent weeks

09/21 Highways, Footways and Footpaths

1] Reported Faults

i) Traffic calming - Works were due to take place to the speed hump table at the junction of Taylors Lane and Church Lane in March. The Clerk will follow up on this.

2) New faults to be reported

i) Potholes – KCC is investing £11million in repairing potholes and Members were pleased to see that several potholes in the village have been marked up for a repair.

ii) Pilgrims Way – Members noted that KCC has removed a number of trees along Pilgrim’s Way to support the long term management of this special habitat and landscape. Old Chalk New Downs is a Heritage Lottery Funded Project run by KCC who have been working with the Birling Estate to support them in managing this valuable chalk grassland habitat on the escarpment. The trees have been removed to widen the trackway to allow access for grazing animals.

iii) Footpath MR187 – The Clerk was asked to report that the decking on the footpath at Whittakers cottage needs attention. The Clerk was asked to find out if the landowners for this section of the footpath have reached any decision about diverting the footpath.

3] Highways Improvement Plan – Due to resourcing and the volume of parish councils, KCC is only able to offer assistance in delivering approximately one feasible highway scheme, per parish, per year. Members **resolved** to request the support of KCC in installing four village gateways as the highways project for this year. The Parish Council has limited funds available this financial year and thanked the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee who suggested they may be able to help fund the project.

10/21 Open Spaces, Recreation Ground and Allotments

1] Recreation Ground and playground – The Clerk reported that Four Seasons has completed the remaining remedial works to the playground equipment. The Clerk was asked to find out the code for the new padlocks. Two swings will need to be replaced shortly and the Clerk will obtain a quote for their replacement.

2] Allotments – The Clerk agreed to take on the project of obtaining a quote for a standpipe and meter to the boundary of the community farm.

3] Trottiscliffe School Update – There was no update

4] Community Farm – Members noted that both Daphne Rowlands and DGG have resigned as Trustees. It is understood that the school has nominated the Deputy Head to be a second Trustee representing the school. David Urmston, the Headteacher and Roger Gillett remain as Trustees. Members agreed to look to nominate a Trustee to represent the Parish Council when new Members have been co-opted. In the meantime DDG offered to draft a letter to circulate to Members for approval to be then sent to the Trustees to remind them of the terms and conditions of the lease.

11/21] Correspondence

a) For Information

- 1] Area 2 Planning Committee – 7 April 2021 - Cancelled
- 2] Joint Transportation Board – 7 June 2021
- 3] Parish Partnership Panel – 10 June 2021
- 4] Standards Committee – 9 June 2021
- 5] KALC Area Committee Meeting – 20 or 27 May 2021

b) On Circulation (email only)

- 1] Parish News – March 2021

c) Requiring Attention: Nothing to consider

12/21 Any Other Business:

Pilgrims/Pinesfield – KCC installing fibre as part of the Kent Rural Fibre Broadband Project.

13/21 Date of the Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday 6 May 2021 at 7.45pm

14/21 Any Confidential Matters There were none

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.44pm

Chairman

Date.....