

**MINUTES OF a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT:

Mr. David Gaunt (DG- Chairman), Louise Leyden (LL), Ian Mills (IM),
Alison Prountzos (AP), Richard Vallance (RV)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Louise Goldsmith (Clerk)
County Councillor Sarah Hohler, Borough Councillor Piers Montague,
2 members of the public

62/21 Apologies for absence

Borough Councillor Ann Kemp and Cllr. David Goodworth. Cllr. Oliver Shaw attended the Parish Partnership meeting held on the same evening.

63 /21 Declarations of interest:

64/21 Minutes

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1 July 2021 as a true and accurate record.

65/21 Reports

a)County Councillor

County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised Members that KCC is investigating the issue of lorries arriving out of hours at the quarry entrance in Ford Lane and disturbing residents. Officers are planning to take a report on this to the Regulatory Committee. County Councillor Sarah Hohler has advised that at the beginning of 2021, a Traffic Regulation Order came into force using temporary powers given to KCC by the DfT, but not renewed on their expiry in June 2021. They were part of the campaign to “Keep Lorries out of Lives”, protecting residents of Kent from inappropriate parking in laybys, country lanes and residential roads. It has always been KCC’s policy that before a policy is applied to control lorry parking there is a need to encourage government and the private sector to develop lorry parks to accommodate them overnight. In 2018 KCC Officers prepared a list of potential sites on land that KCC owns. None of these have been developed but KCC was approached at that time by MOTO, a major motorway service operator, and discussions did take place about the perceived need for lorry parking facilities in Kent. In 2021 MOTO came forward with a plan to develop the land behind the Mote on the A20 for lorry parking. They approached TMBC for pre-application advice. The essence of the advice was that the site is in the Green Belt, close to the AONB and unlikely to be permitted for development. MOTO then approached the parish councils of Wrotham and Borough Green to brief them, and then approached KCC. They have since gone out to consultation online and with a leaflet. MOTO own the land in the apex of the M26 and A20 and would access it via a new roundabout on the A20. Two hundred spaces would be provided with a ‘facilities’ building and landscaping to shield the parked vehicles from public view. HGV drivers would be charged per night. KCC has pointed out that that this length of highway (top of Wrotham Hill to M26) is already very congested. MOTO’s current promotional literature relies to some extent on the conversations they had with KCC officers three years ago when it was acknowledged that there was a need for lorry parking in Kent and suggests that KCC approves their decision to plan for development at Wrotham. County Councillor Sarah Hohler is keen to highlight that this is not true and that KCC was unaware of their interest in the site until six weeks ago. KCC is interested

in their proposal, firstly because MOTO are proposing to contribute part of the solution to the problem of lorry parking in the county, and secondly because they are proposing to connect to our network. However, any planning proposal will be decided by T&MBC and not KCC who will just be a consultee. County Councillor Sarah Hohler also advised that the Fraud Team at KCC have spent two days training Civil Enforcement Officers in two districts on a new system aimed at tackling the fraudulent use of the Disabled Persons' Blue Badge Scheme'.

DG mentioned that there are now at least seventeen sailings a day from Calais to Dublin which is lot more than it used to be meaning less lorries are on the roads throughout Kent. At the request of IM County Councillor Sarah Hohler offered to find out why KCC has not encouraged T&MBC to take advantage of funding available to install CCTV to try and prevent fly-tipping. Trials are taking place in Maidstone with new cameras which will track the number plates of people fly-tipping. LL suggested that the fee structure for depositing certain types of waste at the refuse sites could be prohibitive and actually cause more flytipping. LL questioned the cost effectiveness of T&MBC having to pay contractors to collect flytipping versus not charging to deposit waste at the centres. County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised that KCC is doing a lot of publicity to try and educate people to use licensed waste collectors which should prevent any further increases in fly-tipping.

b) Borough Councillor - Borough Councillor Piers Montague was pleased to report that normal recycling collections are now back on track. Garden waste collections and the bulky waste service are not expected to restart for some time as Urbaser is struggling to find and retain HGV drivers. Borough Councillor Piers Montague suggested that it is questionable whether the bulky waste collection service will ever be reinstated particularly as the rubbish collected is not recycled and T&MBC is one of the few remaining Borough Councils that offer this service. Urbaser is providing daily updates to T&MBC so that Officers can review the situation in light of the ongoing shortage of staff due to the national HGV driver shortage and Covid-related issues. Urbaser is now offering the highest rates of pay for HGV drivers in Kent to try and attract new drivers. Borough Councillor Piers Montague advised Members that T&MBC has decided to not appeal against the decision of the Planning Inspectorate regarding the rejection of the submitted Local Plan and will be looking to start the whole process off again including the consultation. Officers are anticipating to be allocated a further 3,000 more houses. There will be a mini call for sites but the key five strategic sites are to remain in the new Local Plan. Following a consultation on ward boundaries by the Boundary Commission Borough Councillor Piers Montague advised Members that it is looking likely that Addington and Trottiscliffe will join the Wrotham ward creating a ward with parishes in the north-west of the borough.

8.18pm County Councillor Sarah Hohler and Borough Councillor Piers Montague left the meeting

c) Kent Police - On the 9 July 2021 a horse box being used as a bar at the Angel Inn, Addington Green was damaged. On the 21 July 2021 a car parked on London Road, Addington was broken into but nothing was stolen. On the 10 August 2021 a catalytic convertor was stolen from a vehicle parked in Taylors Lane, Trottiscliffe. Sadly a young gentleman was found injured and subsequently died at the Kent Horse Show held last weekend at Meadow Crest Farm in Addington. Members also noted that during and since the pandemic there has been a 15% increase in the number of domestic crime cases. Sadly 35% of all reported crime is now domestic abuse cases.

d) KALC Area Committee - IM reported that Matt Boughton the new Leader at T&MBC introduced himself at the meeting held virtually on the 22 July 2021. Discussions centred on the development of a new Local Plan. The Clerk attended the KALC meeting held on the 25 August 2021 and advised that most of the discussion centred on the future format of the Parish Partnership meetings and the Parish Charter. The minutes of both meetings have been circulated.

- e) JPCTCG - The next meeting is due to be held on the 25 September 2021.
- f) Parish Partnership Panel - It was noted that OS is attending the meeting being held this evening.
- g) Trosley Liaison Group - There has been no meeting. The Clerk will find out when these meetings are due to recommence.
- h) Village Hall Committee - IM reported that the Village Hall Committee is holding a welcome evening on the 27 September 2021 aimed specifically at new people to the village. At this event shares will be issued for the proposed village shop and there will be a re-issue of shares for The Plough. A number of social events are planned. The Harvest Supper is due to take place on the 1 October 2021, the annual Barn Dance is booked for the 30 October 2021, the AGM for The Plough investors is on the 15 November 2021 and a black tie Christmas Dinner is taking place on the 4 December 2021. The Committee is in the process of obtaining quotes to re-seal the hall floor.
- i) Tree Warden - There was no report.
- j) Courts Committee Meeting - DGG and the Clerk met with Borough Councillor Ann Kemp on the 6 July 2021 to review the lease agreement and the 'Official Responsibilities 2008 document'. It was agreed that no changes were needed to the overall lease agreement. The Clerk has circulated an revised copy of the Official Responsibilities document to Members. The Clerk will arrange a Courts Committee meeting to discuss this document with the Tennis Club Committee and any Netball Committee. The Clerk has been approached by a local resident interested in setting up an adult Netball Club for the village. The Clerk has advised that the courts can be used for both netball and tennis but that a netball group would need to be a formal group with a Committee that would be willing to attend the Courts Committee Meetings and work closely with both the Parish Council and the Tennis Club Committee.

66/21 Matters arising

- a) T&MBC Call for Sites/Development of the Local Plan - see item 65/21 (b).
- b) Bounday Review Update - see item 65/21 (b).
- c) Monthly Check of the Defibrillator - The Clerk has carried out the monthly check.
- d) Review of drainage in the tennis club car park- The contractor has excavated the area behind the clubhouse in the corner of the car park and there is no evidence of a soakaway which appears to be a design flaw in the original construction of the courts and car parking area and likely to be the cause of all the recent flooding issues. The Tennis Club Committee has secured a quote from Swanley Contractors Ltd to install an inspection chamber, excavate and run a drainage pipe from the car park kerb to the boundary, backfill and make good for £4,336.80 (including VAT). The Clerk will arrange a meeting to discuss the works required further with DGG and the Tennis Club Committee.
- e) Queen's Platinum Jubilee - On the 6 February 2022, the Queen will have reigned as monarch for 70 years. However, events will be held between the 2 and 5 June 2022. A four-day weekend will be created. The late May Spring Bank Holiday next year will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday, 3 June will be created. Members discussed the different ways in which the village could celebrate this event and agreed that a Committee to include representatives from the village organisations should be formed with the Village Hall Committee taking the lead and AP offered to represent the Parish Council. It was **resolved** that the Clerk should apply to the Pageantmaster for Trottiscliffe to take part in the lighting of the beacons expected to take place on the 2 June 2022.
- f) Communication with parishioners - The Clerk advised Members that other Parish Councils have created their own Facebook page and are using these to engage with

parishioners. IM advised that the Village Hall Committee has a Facebook page and offered to find out if the Parish Council could post announcements on this or whether it would be better for the Parish Council to have its own Facebook page and then link to other village pages.

- g) T&MBC Waste Collection Service – see item 65/21 (b).
- h) Presentation of KALC Awards arrangements – The Clerk suggested and it was agreed to invite the winners of the 2020 and 2021 awards to the next meeting to collect their certificates.

67/21 Finance & Policies

- a) Statement of payments to be made and income receive

Balances as at 2 September 2021

National Savings Account:	£ 1,730.93
Unity Trust Account:	£18,458.77
Natwest Accounts:	£ 0.00

Receipts: Allotment Rent - £150.00

Payments to be made electronically from the Unity Trust Account

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary 4 weeks) (05/08- 02/09)	£ 327.80
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Clerks Expenses)	£ 142.54
Four Seasons	(Maintenance)	£ 415.27
David Goodworth	(Allotment materials)	£ 290.65
Swanley Contractors Ltd	(Allotment new meter)	£ 429.60
Playsafety Ltd	(RoSPA inspection)	£ 111.60
SLCC	(1/3 membership)	£ 61.67
Viking	(New laptop)	£ 656.35
Kent Playing Fields	(Annual Subscription)	£ 60.00
L S Goldsmith	(Domain)	£ 20.00

National Savings Account – to transfer £8,269.07 from the Unity Trust Account to create a £10,000 Sinking Fund for the Courts Committee

- b) Payments for authorisation : It was **resolved** that the above payments be authorised to be paid electronically.
- c) Clerks' Salary – It was **resolved** that the Clerk will adopt the NALC Pay Award Scales introduced in April 2020 and be paid at level SCP 23. It was noted that the Clerk had not previously taken advantage of the pay award which came into effect in April 2020.
- d) Clerk's Conference 2021 – It was **resolved** to share the £60.00 (including VAT) cost of the Clerk attending the virtual conference on the 28 September 2021.
- e) Proposal to switch email accounts – Members **resolved** for the Clerk to open up new email accounts with a different supplier for the Parish Council. The website administrator is unable to stop the amount of SPAM the Clerk is receiving.

68/21 Members of the public

Two members of the public thanked Members for allowing them to use the recreation ground for their wedding celebrations and offered to contribute £100.00 towards a village event. A member of the public explained that a group of women are considering setting up a village netball group and welcomed the support of the Parish Council.

69/21 Planning

21:09hrs DG declared a pecuniary interest and IM took over as Chair

- a) Applications:
 - 1] TM/21/01864/FL - The Corner House, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe
Side extension within permitted development. *Resolved: No objection*
- b) Applications received after distribution of the agenda: None received
- c) Approvals:
- d) 1] TM/21/01221/FL - Littlefield Lodge, Pinesfield Lane, Trottiscliffe
Demolition of existing single storey rear extension, erection of single storey rear extension, single storey side to accommodate boiler and conversion of integral garage to habitable room to include bay window to front elevation
2] TM/21/00978/FL - Coldrum House, Coldrum Lane, Trottiscliffe
Construction of detached garden outbuilding to provide pool house for existing swimming pool and golf simulator room
- e) Refusals: None to consider
- f) Withdrawn applications: None to consider
- g) Planning Appeals: None to consider
- h) Other Planning Issues
 - 1] Land behind 1 Green Lane, application Community Asset - The Clerk is waiting for an update from T&MBC
 - 2] 21/00281/WORKH - Darrens Meadow Farm, Green Lane - alleged unauthorised work to form a new building. The Clerk has reported to Enforcement. Members remain concerned about the size and height of a building currently under construction on the site.
 - 3] 21/00301/TRCAH - The Nursery, Taylors Lane - alleged unauthorised access and removal of a tree. The Clerk has reported to Enforcement.
 - 4] Proposed lorry park at junction 2A off the M26 - see item 65/21 (a). A planning application is expected to be received this Autumn 2021.

70/21 Highways, Footways and Footpaths

- 1] Reported Faults
 - i) MR185 where it joins Green Lane the footpath is impassable - the Clerk has reported
- 2) New faults to be reported
Footpaths in general and in particular from the Church are impassable due to vegetation
- 3] Highways Improvement Plan - It was noted that Clare Venner has taken over from Ian Grigor as the new Schemes Planning & Delivery Project Manager and will be the main point of contact for safety related schemes. The Clerk suggested and it was agreed to request a virtual meeting with Clare Venner to discuss the current Highways Improvement Plan for Trottiscliffe.
- 4] KCC Highways Asset Management Plan - Members noted with interest the recently circulated KCC Highways Asset Management Plan
- 5] KCC Road Safety Strategy Launch Vision Zero 15 September 2021 - Members agreed to notify the Clerk if they are able to attend this launch which can be attended in person or virtually

71/21 Open Spaces, Recreation Ground and Allotments

1] Recreation Ground and playground – The Clerk reported that the RoSPA inspection took place in August 2021 and that the report has been received. The Clerk will work through the report and consider what remedial works are needed.

2] Allotments - The Clerk reported that a further standpipe and meter has been fitted at the boundary to the Community Farm. The Clerk will be taking readings each month and will submit these to Castle Water and will monitor the water use of the farm and allotment users over the next few months. The Clerk has received the allotment rent due this calendar year and has paid this into the Unity Trust Account. Mr David Jones is happy for the Clerk to take over the running of the allotments and collection of rent. The allotment rent covers each calendar year and the information on water use will be collated and presented when the Parish Council considers the budget and allotment rents for 2022/23 in December 2021. The Clerk has asked Four Seasons to inspect the boundaries of the allotments to see if any works are required.

3] Trottiscliffe School Update – There was nothing to report.

4] Community Farm – David Urmston has confirmed that AP has been accepted as Trustee for the Community Farm. AP offered to discuss the appointment of an additional Trustee with David Urmston. A Trustees meeting is expected to take place soon.

9.39pm 2 members of the public left the meeting

72/21] Correspondence

a) For Information

1] Area 2 Planning Committee – 22 September 2021

2] Joint Transportation Board – 20 September 2021

3] Parish Partnership Panel – 2 September 2021

4] Standards Committee – 11 October 2021

5] KALC Area Committee Meeting – 21 October 2021 AGM 13 November 2021

b) On Circulation (email only)

1] Parish News – August 2021

c) Requiring Attention:

1] KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres Booking System Consultation - noted.

2] Lower Thames Crossing Community Impacts Consultation – noted.

3] KCC Budget 2022-2023 Consultation – noted.

73/21 Any Other Business:

DG advised that Openreach is working on improvements to broadband in the vicinity of Church Lane with copper wire being replaced by fibre. Expected completion August 2022.

It was noted that a static caravan has been installed at Trosley Court Stables.

74/21 Date of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 7.45pm.

75/21 Any Confidential Matters: There were none

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.52pm

Chairman

Date.....