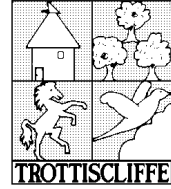


TROTTSCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2022 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) and Oliver Shaw (OS)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Charles Amis (Clerk), Borough Councillor Ann Kemp,

118/21 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was accepted from David Goodworth (DGG), County Councillor Sarah Hohler, Borough Councillor Piers Montague and the reason for absence was accepted.

119/21 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

120/21 Minutes

It was resolved that DG sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3 February 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

121/21 Reports

a) County Councillor – Nothing to report

b) Borough Councillor – Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised that Trottscliffe will be part of the Pilgrims and Ightham Ward which will in the future have two councillors. The Council Tax has increased by £5 for a band D property. The precept for Trottscliffe has risen by 17%. There is a housing strategy consultation on the T&MBC website which closes on 13th April. Electric vehicle charging points are being installed in Tonbridge. It was discussed if the electric vehicle charging point had been sourced for the village hall car park. **Action:** Ask LG if TPC had applied for a grant for an electric vehicle charging point. There was a collection point for supporting Ukraine at the masonic Hall in Wrotham where warm clothing and blankets can be dropped off. AK is waiting to hear back from T&MBC planning department regarding Darren's Meadow Farm. T&MBC will be increasing car parking charges across their car parks although Martin Square, Aylesford and Snodland remain free.

AK said the notice board outside the George PH had a bullet hole in one of the glass panels for the past 6 weeks. In the past it was decided that the notice board was not the parish council's responsibility. Action: Clerk to get quotes for replacing the glass panel. It was suggested that there should be a signpost for the Tennis Club. It was questioned if the village hall needed its own signpost.

8.14pm Borough Councillor Ann Kemp left the meeting

c) Kent Police – PCSO James Robinson sent a report and advised that there had been crimes of note where there had been thefts of vehicles on Taylors Lane on 9th February and Ford Lane

on the 10th February. **Action:** Clerk to invite PCSO James Robinson to a future parish council meeting.

LL said there was some fly tipping on the layby and verge of the Pilgrims Way. A business card and invoice had been found amongst the rubble and a neighbour had found a receipt and invoice which was handed into the police. **Action:** Louise Leyden to follow up with neighbour

d) KALC Area Committee - There has been no meeting. The next meeting is on the 24 February 2022. The health and wellbeing conference will be taking place on 22nd March.

e) JPCTCG - Cllr Gaunt will be attending the meeting on 28th March.

f) Parish Partnership Panel - There was nothing to report.

g) Trosley Liaison Group - LL had spoken to the warden at Lullingstone Country Park. The trees have been removed the bridle way. The holes on the bridle way are dangerous for horses. It was confirmed that Commority Road falls within Gravesham Borough Council and forms the boundary between Vigo Parish Council and Luddesdown Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to reply to Helen Shulver's email.

h) Village Hall Committee - IM reported that the village hall building has been completely redecorated during half term. The committee were getting a quote for new stage lighting as the current lighting is not effective.

i) Courts Committee Meeting - A virtual Courts Committee Meeting had taken place on 14th February. All of the parish councillors attending the parish council meeting did not support the proposed parking signs and the feeling was that tennis club visitors were already using the village hall car park as well as the tennis club's car park. The tennis club could put up a temporary sandwich board with no parking signs instead. All the parish councillors at the meeting felt the multiuser games area at Keys Croft was a good idea. It could be located where the playground and gym equipment are currently sited. The netball club could also be accommodated. The parish council would need to apply for a grant for the work to be carried out. **Action:** The clerk to ask a parish councillor at Cobham Parish Council to provide the names of potential funders.

122/21 Matters arising

a) Monthly Check of the Defibrillator - The Clerk has carried out the monthly check.

b) Queen's Platinum Jubilee - AP and LL are meeting with Claire Paine and Anne Gillett to plan for the events. There will be a cricket match from 2pm to 5pm on Friday. It is meant for villagers and Clare needs to confirm the numbers of players. The village hall committee have organised lighting the beacon. An evening event at the village hall has been planned for the Saturday evening. IM has applied to KCC for closure of Taylors Lane from the Plough PH to the George PH. There will be the big lunch on Sunday and live singing has been planned at the Plough PH car park. A risk assessment has been carried out but haven't applied for liability insurance. The proposed flagpole for the green will be twenty feet high and can be separated into two pieces so that it is easily stored. The flagpole could be stored at the George PH, the landlord would need to be approached, or it could be stored under the stage at the village hall. DGG had offered to put in a concrete base **Action:** Clerk to check with LG who owns the green. **Action:** AP agreed to approach Ferns Quarry to see if they would sponsor the green and provide champagne. The Woodland Trust had provided 420 trees for each household within the parish. The village hall would open from 10am to 12pm on Saturday 19th March for residents to pick up their tree. DGG will plant any remaining trees to fill gaps in the hedges. **Action:** IM agreed to draft a flyer to email around the parish councillors that could be delivered to each household.

- c) T&MBC Waste Collection Service - T&MBC had sent an email that said they were hoping to restart the brown bin collection. The last collection had been a month ago and T&MBC are losing money as residents cannot use the collection. This is due to the difficulty in recruiting and retaining HGV Drivers.
- d) Appointment of new Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer - Members noted that following a recruitment process Mr Charles Amis has been offered and accepted the position of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer from the 7 February 2022. A contract has been issued and signed by Mr Amis and DG.

123/21 Finance & Policies

- a) Statement of payments to be made and income receive
A statement will be presented at the next meeting.
- b) Payments for authorisation: No payments to be made electronically.
- c) Review of signatories on Unity Trust Account: The new Clerk needs to be set up as an authorised user on the Unity Trust bank account and presented a form for the current signatories of the Unity Trust Account who are DG, IM and OS.

7 Members of the public:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

8 Planning

- a) Applications: None to consider
Applications received after distribution of the agenda: None to consider.
- b) Approvals: None to consider.
- c) Refusals: None to consider.
- d) Withdrawn applications: None to consider
- e) Planning Appeals:
 - 1] Orchard End, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, ME19 5EB has appealed the planning decision. The street scene is wrong, and all the properties are quite different. There is a Juliet Balcony on the front which is due to be finished in slate. The owners removed a large tree from the front garden. The property is outside the village conservation area.
- f) Other Planning Issues
 - 1] Land behind 1 Green Lane, application Community Asset - T&MBC has now assessed the nomination, considering relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 and has confirmed that the proposed nomination is agreed. The site will now be added to the Borough's List which is accessible via the Borough Council's website. T&MBC will be informing the landowner of this nomination and they may request for a review of this decision within eight weeks of the date of the notification.
 - 2] 21/00281/WORKH - Darrens Meadow Farm, Green Lane - alleged unauthorised work to form a new building. There has been no update from the Planning Enforcement Team. The Clerk was asked to request an urgent update and to also report that the building has also possibly been built in a different position to that approved.

9 Highways, Footways and Footpaths

1] Reported Faults

a) 606795 – Pilgrims Way. LL reported that the subsidence has been tarmacked and the Clerk has reported the potholes to KCC.

b) Bollards around The Green – The bollards have been knocked over. Claire Venner had suggested installing concrete bells around the green instead. **Action:** Clerk to ask Claire Venner about the installation of concrete bells.

New faults to be reported

a) Footpath MR187 – dangerous fence installed by landowner. **Action:** Clerk to report to KCC Rights of Way team.

b) Bridleway MR 185 -

c) The overhanging trees on Church Lane needed to be cut back. RV had already written to KCC who said there wasn't any issues. Action: Clerk to send a letter to the owner of Bramble Park.

d) The smell along Vigo Hill has returned. There is an ongoing drainage issue that floods over the steps which hold back the sewage from running all the way down Vigo Hill. The sewage is coming up to the manhole covers.

2] **Highways Improvement Plan** – The Parish Councillors were unhappy with the village gateways on Addington Lane and Taylors Lane. The verge along Taylors Lane is not wide enough for a gateway to be put on both sides and KCC would only be able to install a gateway on their land. It was suggested that the gateway should be further along Taylors Lane towards the Pilgrims Way and Vigo Hill junction. The new bollard installed by KCC is not clean and needs to be removed. There are leaves and brambles by the new gateway where KCC have not been able to cut the verge although KCC said this would be cut back. Addington Parish Council has historic looking signs on their gateways but there are too many signs on their gateways. Offham have spent £250,000 on their village gateways.

3] There was no update for Addington Quarry.

4] KCC has circulated a bus funding reduction consultation with a list of bus routes that are funded by KCC but are socially necessary. This is because KCC's Supported Bus Budget has been reduced from £6.5 million to £4.3 million. One of the proposals is that Route 58 that is the only bus that serves Trottiscliffe and Addington with Maidstone would be cut including all of the school journeys. Understandably the parish councillors were unhappy regarding the loss of the bus route. More parents would be using their cars to take their children to school. **Action:** AP to send the consultation to Deb Lorton who has an elderly mother residing in the village and who knows most of the elderly residents who rely on the bus service.

10 Open Spaces, Recreation Ground and Allotments

1] **Recreation Ground and playground** – **Action:** The Clerk will ask a parish councillor at Cobham Parish Council for the names of potential funders for replacing the playground.

2] **Allotments** – There was nothing to report.

3] **Trottiscliffe School Update** – There was no update. **Action:** Clerk to write to the school

4] **Community Farm** – AP advised that a Trustees Meeting will be taking place on 9th March. The polytunnels had been blown over by the strong winds and the ground was still very muddy.

5] **Memorial Bench** – DG would like to place a memorial bench for his father near to the beacon. The bench will be made from recycled material. **Action:** DG to prepare the footings for the bench.

11 Correspondence

a) For Information

- 1] Area 2 Planning Committee - 23 February 2022
- 2] Joint Transportation Board - 7 March 2022
- 3] Parish Partnership Panel -26 May 2022
- 5] KALC Area Committee Meeting **Action:** Clerk to find out the date for the next KALC area meeting

b) Requiring Attention: Nothing additional.

12 Any Other Business:

DG would like to place a memorial bench for his father near to the beacon. Members thanked the current Clerk for all her hard work and wished her every success in her new role.

13 Date of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Thursday 7 April 2022 at 7.45m.

14 Any Confidential Matters: There were none

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10pm

Chairman

Date.....