

**MINUTES OF TROTTISCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2023 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT:

David Gaunt – Chairman (DG), Louise Leyden (LL), Ian Mills (IM), Alan Palmer (ALP), Alison Proutzos, (AP – arrived 7.48pm), Oliver Shaw (OS), Richard Vallance (RV)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Louise Goldsmith (Clerk),
County Councillor Sarah Hohler (arrived 8.03pm), 2 members of the public.

37/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Borough Councillors Robin Betts and Martin Coffin and the reasons for absence were accepted.

38/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

IM declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 43/23 (a).

39/23 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was **resolved** that DG sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 16 May 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

40/23 OPEN SESSION:

A member of public expressed their gratitude for the fact the footpath by Whittakers Cottage has been cleared.

41/23 REPORTS

- a) County Councillor: County Councillor Sarah Hohler reported on the following items:
- Gary Cooke became the new Chairman of KCC at the annual meeting.
 - Robin Gough, the Leader at KCC, has written to the Director General of the BBC and other senior executives outlining his 'deep concern' at proposals to cut local radio output in Kent. BBC's news strategy to focus on online content will reduce the number of weekday shows broadcast from the Radio Kent studios, stifling the ability of KCC and the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) to connect with residents effectively, particularly in an emergency.
 - Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has recently visited Kent Scientific Services, KCC's public analysis operation at West Malling, as part of a new government campaign to crack down on illegal vapes. The Prime Minister hopes to close a loophole which allows retailers to give away free samples to children. Health advice remains that vapes are an effective way to help adults stop smoking but the negative impacts of vaping in under-18s are unclear and more research is needed on its long-term effects. KCC is concerned about the growing popularity of vaping among children and young people and agree with the need for a review of packaging, marketing and promotion to make vapes less appealing to them.
 - Shaun the Sheep has been revealed as the new champion of Natural England's Countryside Code. Research has demonstrated that Shaun the Sheep is the perfect illustration for the next generation of explorers on how to respect,

protect and enjoy nature, whether in parks in towns and cities, at the seaside or in the countryside.

- From the 1 June 2023 all e-scooters are banned on trains due to a potential fire risk from the battery.
- Kent Archives and Local History Department is holding a number of free lunchtime talks over the summer period covering a wide range of topics. All talks take place between 1pm and 2pm in the Archives Search Room of the Kent History and Library Centre.
- Four waste centres in Kent are facing closure. Recycling centres in Dartford, Faversham, Maidstone and at Richborough near Sandwich would all shut permanently under one option. Other plans include shutting three sites and reducing hours at 10 others, as part of £55m worth of savings.
- KCC is in the process of organising a project to tackle food waste and reduce the impact of environmental waste.

County Councillor Sarah Hohler agreed to support any proposal to stop cars mounting the pavement in Taylors Lane.

- b) Borough Councillor: There was no report.
- c) Crime Report: The Clerk reported that PCSOs have now moved onto other roles within the organisation. Kent Police now have the 'Beat Team' which is made up of Police Officers who will be dealing with community engagement, problem solving and issues that are raised across Tonbridge & Malling. The team is still to get to full strength so there may be changes to the officers. The new beat officer for Weald Central ward is PC Emmanuel Dalli. Beat Officers hope to attend Parish Council meetings on a quarterly basis.

42/23] CLERKS REPORT/PAST MATTERS (Information purposes only)

- 1] The Clerk has checked the defibrillator and has reported this on The Circuit.

43/23 PLANNING

- a) **Applications:**

IM declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting

1] 23/00978/FL - The Eagle, Pinesfield Lane, Trottiscliffe, ME19 5EL

Single storey front and rear extensions and alterations to roof to create first floor accommodation incorporating front and rear dormers with Juliet balconies.

RESOLVED: No objection.

IM returned to the meeting

- b) 2] 23/00681/OAEA - Land Part of Wrotham Water Farm, off London Road, Wrotham

Outline application: Construction of a secure 24 hour truck stop facility for up to 200 HGVs incorporating a fuel station; amenity building of up to 1100 sqm; creation of a new access to the A20 via roundabout; landscaping and other associated works.

RESOLVED: Object. Although we acknowledge that a truck stop is needed on the M20 corridor we feel that there are no exceptional circumstances for a lorry park to be built on this site in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is at the base of escarpment of the Kent Downs. We are concerned about the location of the proposed access roundabout and the effect these additional vehicle movements will have on an already congested road network. This rural area is already congested with traffic which results in vehicles travelling at speed on lanes not built for this purpose

through the neighbouring villages. We remain concerned about air pollution and light pollution in our village. We feel that there are more suitable sites further down the M20 with better access and where unemployment is higher.

- c) **Approvals:** None to consider.
- d) **Refusals:** None to consider.
- e) **Withdrawn applications:** None to consider.
- f) **Planning Appeals:**
- g) **Other Planning Issues:**

1] Darrens Meadow Farm, Green Lane – alleged unauthorised work to form a new building. An update from Enforcement and the Borough Councillors is awaited.

8.28pm County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting.

44/23 RESOLUTIONS

1. Parish Infrastructure Statement

- a) To review the projects on the statement and to consider the next steps.
The Senior Development Obligations Officer at T&MBC has advised that T&MBC has received S106 funds from the developer for planning application. 18/03034/OAEA which could possibly be made available for projects in Trottiscliffe. The S106 funds allocated must be used for parks, gardens and outdoor sports projects. The current planning infrastructure statement for Trottiscliffe only has one project which is to replace the playground equipment. T&MBC had advised that the provision of play equipment would not be eligible for the S106 monies due to the definition of parks and gardens being separate from childrens play. Members reviewed the Planning Infrastructure statement and discussed the possible need for outdoor gym equipment to replace some of the apparatus recently removed.
RESOLVED: The Clerk to add the provision of outdoor gym equipment for the recreation ground to the Parish Infrastructure statement and to submit the revised statement to T&MBC.

2. Financial:

- a) Proposal to purchase a Tommy figure.
RESOLVED: To purchase a Tommy silhouette from the Royal British Legion for £175.00 which is to be used on the village green.
- b) Proposal to make a donation to the Tatler magazine
RESOLVED: To make a donation of £150.00 to the production cost of one edition of the village magazine, The Tatler,
- c) To approve the Financial Statement and make arrangements for authorisation.
RESOLVED: IM and DG to authorise the payments overleaf online. The accounts summary and bank reconciliation were also noted.

Balances as at the 6 June 2023

National Savings Account	£10,009.75
Unity Trust Account:	£16,775.61

Receipts: £19,529.00 of FCC Community Grant paid to Caloo

Electronic Payments

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Louise Goldsmith	Salary	£ 487.64
HMRC	Tax	£ 121.80
Louise Goldsmith	Expenses	£ 145.67
Gel Creative	Website maintenance	£ 100.00
Four Seasons Gardens	Grounds Maintenance	£ 427.84
Satswana	DPO Services	£ 180.00
Caloo	20% invoice MUGA	£3905.80
Redlynch	Replacement playground equipment	£ 795.36
Louise Goldsmith	Padlock and key	£ 47.98
Google	Email Accounts DD	£ 73.89
Total		£6,285.98

45/23 PARISH MATTERS:

1. Highways

a) Outstanding Faults:

- 1] Enquiry 701217 - Vigo Hill: Overhanging Trees. KCC advised that the request was passed to the landowner and that the works have now been completed.
- 2] Enquiry 726701 - Pinesfield Lane: The Clerk has reported a large number of potholes.
- 3] Enquiry 726703 - Church Lane: The Clerk has reported that the road surface has broken up outside the school.
- 4] Footpath by the cricket pitch: The condition of the footpath has been reported
- 5] Enquiry 726705 - Addington Lane: The Clerk has reported that the fingerpost on the village green needs remedial works

b) New Faults to be reported:

- 1] Taylors Lane: Clerk to report the condition of the road.
- 2] Recent diversions: The Clerk was asked to report the non-suitability of some of the roads recently used a diversion routes. It was agreed that Wrotham Water Lane and Pilgrims Way are not suitable for excessive traffic or lorries.
- 3] Quality of remedial works/pot hole filling and patching: The Clerk was asked to report Member's concerns about the quality of pot hole filling and patching works recently carried out on local roads. There is already evidence of the patching works and potholes breaking up. Members would like to understand what quality checks are undertaken.

c) Highways Improvement Plan:

The Community Engagement Officer has advised that KCC would be happy to put forward a proposal to extend the footway in Taylors Lane by the pond into the carriageway, making the footway wide enough to install bollards and visibly reduce the width of the road down to single file, for possible Local Transport Plan funding later this year. If successful, this would mean delivery of the project in 2024.

2. MUGA

Works to install the MUGA commenced on the 22 May 2023. DG reported that the contractor is making good progress and has completed the foundations. The kerb around the edge is currently been installed and the tarmac is due to be laid next week. Members agreed a relocation of one of the gates. The Clerk has received the

first invoice made out to the Parish Council from the contractor for 20% of the total cost. FCC Community Foundation will make the payment of the grant awarded to the Parish Council directly to the contractor and as advised by the FCC Community Foundation the Parish Council will pay and then claim back the VAT. The Clerk has submitted an update to the grant funder along with photos.

3. **Recreation and Playground:**

The Clerk reported that the remedial works are complete and that the contractor has submitted an invoice. The Clerk will ask the Village Hall Committee to transfer the funds as they have agreed to contribute towards the total cost of all the works. The next RoSPA inspection is due in July 2023.

4. **Allotments:**

The Clerk reported that most of the plots seem to be cultivated. The Clerk will continue to monitor the use and water consumption. It was agreed to review the annual fee at the July meeting. The Clerk will prepare a report for the July meeting comparing allotment rents in the area.

5. **Community Farm**

AP reported that following the resignation of David Urmston as the Farm Manager the future management of the farm has not still been resolved. A request for all the documents for the farm and accounts to be made available to the Trustees has not been fulfilled. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek some legal advice regarding some queries regarding the current lease.

6. **Trottscliffe School:** It was noted that ALP is now the Parish Council representative as a School Governor. ALP reported that the school is very much looking forward to making use of the MUGA.

7. **Community Bus Service:**

Nu-venture has suggested meeting later in June 2023 to review the operation of the shopper service and to consider whether any changes could be made to attract further users to travel.

8. **Waste Collection Service:**

The Clerk has reported to T&MBC Members' concerns about the duty of care of the waste collection operatives. The Waste Services department will discuss the complaint with the operatives.

9. **Village Website:** The Clerk reported that the website administrator has installed the new front page on the Parish Council website which now directs users to organisations within the village. All relevant information has also been transferred. The Clerk is trying to arrange for the closure of the old village website.

10. **Climate Change Initiatives:** The Clerk reported that the application to KCC for the installation of electric vehicle charging points for the village hall car park has been successful. The next step is for KCC to raise a contract.

46/23 REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

- a) **Courts Working Group:** It was noted that a meeting is due to be held tomorrow.
- b) **Village Hall:** There has been no meeting. AP will try and attend the meeting due to be held next week.
- c) **Parish Partnership Panel:** There has been no meeting.
- d) **Standards Committee:** There has been no meeting.
- e) **KALC Area Committee:** There has been no meeting.
- f) **Trosley Liaison Group:** LL advised that the events planned for the summer will be publicised soon. Some educational courses are also planned.

47/23] CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

a) For Information

- 1] Area 2 Planning Committee - 28 June 2023
- 2] Joint Transportation Board - 5 June 2023
- 3] Parish Partnership Panel - 15 June 2023
- 4] Standards Committee - 3 July 2023
- 5] KALC - 13 July 2023

b) New Requiring Attention: Nothing additional to consider.

48/23] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Community Farm
Allotment rent review
Works to land on Pilgrims Way

49/23] ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

None to consider.

50/23] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall at 7.45pm on Tuesday 11 July 2023.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.36pm

Chairman

Date.....