

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 18N LARKFIELD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), Mrs. M. Moore (Vice-Chairman), T. Bishop, R. Haffenden, P. Leale, J. Luque, S. Millson, R. Mitchell, R. Moore, R. Roud, Mrs. J. Sharpe and Mrs. M. Tatton

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. Mrs. L. Cook, Mrs. L. Hogben, Mrs. J. Manser, Mrs. A. Oakley and Mrs. C. Woodger

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDICES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendices of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

Cllr. Millson wished it to be recorded in respect of Cottenham Orchard that on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 he and 5 others attended at Cottenham Orchard and an audio visual recording was made in the north east corner of the site which registered nightingales as being present.

**MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman commented that Cllr. Mrs. Moore has now signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book as Vice-Chairman.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

(i) **Ratification of Planning Comments Submitted Since 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The List of Planning Comments submitted to the Borough Council had been circulated, this action was **RATIFIED**.

The Chairman commented on the details in respect of the Parkside development.

(ii) **List of Decision Notices Received since 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The List of Decision Notices issued by the Borough Council had been circulated along with an additional list circulated at the meeting were **NOTED**.

(iii) **Draft Local Plan Update**

The Chairman reported that letters have been exchanged between the Borough Council and the Planning Inspectorate and there are questions regarding factual inaccuracies.

**RATIFICATION OF PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING INCLUDING DIRECT DEBITS**

The List of Accounts paid out of Meeting and Direct Debits had been **CIRCULATED**, this action was **RATIFIED**.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's Report had been circulated by email, as follows:-

### **Forthcoming Dates.**

#### **Litter Pick.**

Firstly, I would like to remind that the next Larkfield Litter Pick will be this coming Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am from Church Farm, Larkfield. Return by 12noon.

#### **Open Spaces Walkover.**

Prior to the first lockdown we had talked of having one of our "walkovers" of our open spaces and allotments. We usually have one in East Malling and one in Larkfield. As these are outside events I think we can now proceed with these and following the email I sent round WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY meeting at 10am at East Malling Village Hall was preferred so that is now an arrangement. We will fix walk overs for Larkfield open spaces and allotments for August.

#### **Martin Square Public Toilets.**

I am pleased to report that the Rates bill has now been received and it is shown as NIL required as being "Public Lavatory Relief" being part of the Governments plans to abolish business rates on public toilet.

#### **Works at Holy Trinity Church, Larkfield.**

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I note the works have started and the temporary toilets have in fact been located within the churchyard at the top of the steps.

#### **Kent Downs Community Rail Partnership.**

The meeting took place at East Malling Station with myself, Roger Roud, and Michelle present. There was a discussion about a sign; possibly adopting the station if enough interest and the grants available; and we also asked if it could be arranged if we could look into the disused building on the London bound platform. The SE rep said he would try to get a key and arrange this. Michelle as our rep may wish to add further at the meeting.

#### **Monks Head Public House.**

It seems this may not be closing but a new manager appointed. It may be things will be clearer after the 21<sup>st</sup> June depending on what measures the Govt retains to deal with Covid.

#### **Lucks Hill verge.**

This was cut despite the agreement we thought we had reached last year to keep the major part as a wildflower verge with cutting only to keep the site lines and footway clear. Trudy is following this up as it seems no record was kept of our meeting last year and what was agreed.

### **Kings Hill Remainder Site.**

This site mentioned previously is in the current approved Local Plan with an emergency access to Teston Road. The previous planning application was withdrawn due to the greater prominence given nationally to ancient woodland. An amended planning application was submitted with the developers response to reduce the impact of the emergency access. The site is not in East Malling. I am expecting it to be approved soon.

### **Borough Warding Proposals.**

I hope to attend a virtual meeting about this at 6pm just before our meeting and will report further.

### **Village Hall Electrical Works.**

It be recalled that the works needed following an inspection were carried out to the Church Farm complex last year and now the works to both the main village halls have been completed. This is good as the hirers are starting to come back so it was good to get the rest of the work done. We did have money set aside for this expense.

### **East Malling Allotments.**

At a resident's request I inspected the fence between our allotments and properties in The Grange. The chestnut fence is ours and was put up when the allotments were laid out. Some allotment holders have put items against the fence and we will ask them to move these back as in parts the fence is leaning into the neighbours garden. However, I think the fence needs replacing so we will obtain an estimate for possible inclusion in next years budget.

### **New Hythe Railway Station.**

At the meeting at East Malling station we learnt that the lighting at New Hythe Station is to be improved at the expense of the developers of the former Aylesford Newsprint site.

### **Freighter Service for Household Waste.**

There is an interesting report from waste services to Tuesdays Street scene and Environmental Services Advisory Board. This records that the Saturday service whereby a freight lorry collected items of rubbish brought to it by the public is still being considered. It was suspended when the virus started. In Larkfield it used to stop at Willow Road and Larkfield Village Hall being well used and also at East Malling Village Hall. From the report I get the impression the officers are not keen on it returning.

### **The Pavilion at East Malling Playing Fields.**

I forgot to report to the last meeting that the inside inspection of this building provided at the instigation of the late Paul Lovering of the now defunct East Malling Cricket club did take place. It is now used by Paul Fincham and the football club. I was clear that work had taken place inside and rubbish removed. Paul said even though he was no longer landlord of the Rising Sun he did intend to be involved in running the football club and that the funds kindly supplied via Stuart Millson had been spent. He said further work was intended and there was a discussion about the outside work needed. This will need to be followed up.

## **REPORT BY BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported on the Kent Downs Rail Partnership and she is looking into the adoption of East Malling Station and will report back on this issue.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he attended a virtual meeting in respect of the Borough Wards Boundary Review. The Clerk was asked to obtain the presentation given by the Boundary Commission.

The Chairman said that an email had been received from the Borough Council with suggested street names for the development of the Old Coal Yard, New Hythe Lane, they are as follows:-

Kingfisher Gardens  
Johnson Walk  
Coal Yard Close

After considerable discussion it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would like "Johnson Yard". The Clerk was asked to send this in and report back on any response.

The Chairman reported the draft proposals of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission had been issued and had circulated maps. Basically, Chatham and Aylesford would remain unchanged with Larkfield remaining in it. However, a new Maidstone-Malling seat was being proposed and Aylesford South plus Ditton would be transferred to it and taken out of Chatham and Aylesford. East Malling and neighbouring parishes and wards would go into the new Maidstone/Malling seat and the rest of the Tonbridge and Malling plus Edenbridge area would be a new Tonbridge seat. Full details of all the changes can be seen on the Boundary Commission website.

Cllr. Roud reported that his position as Mayor is becoming quite busy with many engagements taking place. He visited a Care Home at Quarry Hill Tonbridge which was very impressive with many facilities. He will be going on a river cruise.

Cllr. Roud attended a meeting the Area 2 Planning Committee, the latest phase of housing was discussed at length and the issue of electric charge points. No garages are being provided only car barns which could at a later date be converted into habitable accommodation was of concern.

Cllr. Roud expressed his concerns at the amount of pavement parking particularly in East Malling. It was felt that this is happening nationally.

Cllr. Roud attended the Street Scene meeting where the Bulky Refuse Collection was discussed and the Borough Council are thinking of getting rid of this service. Discussion took place regard the general waste collection service.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton mentioned the Summer Playscheme which should be taking place at the East Malling Centre is not now happening unless finance can be found and a suitable provider.

Cllr. Bishop reported on the latest situation in respect of the Leisure Trust taking on the management of the Leybourne Lakes Country Park and the building of the new café. It is very likely that the process will be delayed beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The Leisure Trust should also be taking over the Kings Hill Sports Club.

County Councillor Trudy Dean, although not present had sent the following report that had been circulated by email:-

1. I am pleased to say that the almost final costs for the 20mph scheme in Larkfield allow all the residential roads on the map which Syretta is circulating to be included within the 20mph zone. This includes the section of New Hythe Lane from A20 to the crossing at the lights north of the Fire Station and Kingfisher Road which KCC has so far been resisting. I have also been advised that a further £5k from my existing year's community Fund will bring Brooklands, Sheldon Way and possibly the Lakes within the zone also. I have authorised this extra spending, making a total of £38,500 spent from my Members Community Fund on this scheme.
2. The roads within the zone will be signposted and roundels marked on the road surface. Lunsford Lane has been excluded together with New Hythe Lane north of Kingfisher Road due to the need for further study on what can be safely achieved through engineered features such as chicanes or road narrowing without creating unacceptable tail backs. We are also awaiting details of what Pannattoni may be prepared to fund at the Bellingham Way Roundabout and New Hythe Lane/Lunsford Lane to keep lorries on Leybourne Way /A228 as promised.  
Lunsford Lane north of Leybourne Way is likely to require a separate consultation, and my view is that this should be part of the plans for the opening of the visitor centre which is likely to increase the popularity of the park.
3. Larkfield Library roof is being almost completely replaced and this will take some time before opening is possible. I am awaiting confirmation of the expected reopening date.
4. Larkfield Community Group are restarting their Coffee mornings from the Larkfield Priory Hotel from next Tuesday. They take place fortnightly at 10.30am and cost £5 per head including parking which require licence plate details to be registered at reception.
5. The concrete bollard at Mallard Walk has been replaced.
6. West Malling GP Surgery will now finally close for face to face consultation at the Hollies which has been sold for residential conversion. A prescription box will be retained in the High Street, for collection from either of the Leybourne or Kings Hill, or any named pharmacy.
7. I have asked Soft Landscaping at KCC to carry out dead brushwood clearance along the southern verge of Leybourne Way as it appears to be attracting litter and fly tipping.
8. The toilets at West Malling remain closed but are causing increased numbers of complaints of fouling of nearby areas including residential properties. A temporary grant from Government has been approved for reviving High Streets, and West Malling Parish Council has asked TMBC for permission to locate temporary portaloos in the High Street Car Park.
9. The A228 will be closed overnight on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for carriageway patching.
10. The next Clare Lake gardening tidy up and litter clearance will be from 10am at the school turning circle Clare Lane on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

11. Bazaar sale of Asiatic handcrafts work in fabrics in clothing, fabrics, jewellery, wood, leather, paper and metalwork, is open at the Pilsdon Community Barn, Water Lane West Malling from 10am to 5pm until June 6<sup>th</sup>.

12. Parents are being encouraged to register their children at school as soon as possible for Free School Meals as this also generates further 'Pupil Premium' money for the school to help their child's classroom work.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Millson reported that he attended a meeting of the Broadwater Action Group.

Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe expressed her concern at the number of unattended plots at Larkfield Allotments and wondered what action is being taken. If she is provided with a plan of the site she is prepared to mark those not being worked. The Clerk commented that letters are sent out to people on a regular basis but a certain process has to be followed.

Cllr. Mrs. Sharpe said that there is nothing on the website in respect of allotments and West Malling have a 5 year Management Plan on their website which she feels would be a good idea in respect of this Parish's allotments.

Cllr. Bishop feels that we should commence having Committee meetings again as soon as we know what is happening after the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 regarding restrictions, etc.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 7<sup>TH</sup> July 2021

### **CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.