

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2022 AT CHURCH FARM AT 7.30P.M.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), Mrs. M. Moore (Vice-Chairman), T. Bishop, Mrs. L. Cook, P. Leale, R. Mitchell, Mrs. A. Oakley, Mrs. M. Tatton and Mrs. C. Woodger

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. R. Haffenden, Sharon Honess, J. Luque, S. Millson, R. Roud and Mrs. J. Sharpe

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDICES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendix of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 5th October 2022 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

REPORT BY POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

The above Report, prepared by PCSO Suzi Leng, was **CIRCULATED AND NOTED**.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

(i) **Ratification of Planning Comments Submitted Since 5th October 2022**

Planning Comments submitted to the Borough Council since 5th October 2022 had been **CIRCULATED AND NOTED**, this action was **RATIFIED**.

It was **NOTED** that the traffic survey figures for Chapel Street/Wateringbury Road in connection with the proposed development at Ivy Farm, have been submitted to the Borough Council.

(ii) **List of Decision Notices Received since 5th October 2022**

The List of Decision Notices issued by the Borough Council since 5th October had been **CIRCULATED AND NOTED**.

(iii) **Draft Local Plan**

The Chairman reported that all comments on sites within this Parish have now been submitted to the Borough Council. Also we have submitted comments on other sites including the West Malling Car Parks; land in Castle Way, Leybourne where boot fairs used to be held which is in the Green Belt. KCC should also be consulted as to how development of this site could increase traffic movements at this junction.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodger produced a document about the Quiet Lanes and Cllr. Mrs. Tatton agreed to scan this over to the Clerk so it could be submitted to the Borough Council.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENTS SINCE 5th OCTOBER 2022

The List of Accounts paid out of Meeting since the meeting on 5th October 2022 had been **CIRCULATED AND NOTED** and the action taken was **RATIFIED**.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported there is a streetlight in Wateringbury Road which appears to be on all the time.

Cllr. Mrs Woodger reported that the streetlight outside 185 Well Street is also on all the time.

The Clerk agreed to report these lights to Streetlights for inspection.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES HELD DURING OCTOBER

(i) Amenities, 12th October 2022

Cllr. Bishop presented these Minutes and mentioned about the projected increase in energy costs.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that the bridge on MR493 has now been repaired and produced a photograph showing the work that has been carried out which appears very satisfactory.

Cllr. Thornewell further commented that a Diversion Order was made on the 21st October 2022 for the footpath from the bridge on MR493 to Station Road, Aylesford.

The Parish Walk took place and only seven people attended.

It was **AGREED** these Minutes be **ADOPTED** as a true record of the Meeting.

(ii) Allotments and Open Spaces, 17th October 2022

Cllr. Thornwell presented these Minutes in the absence of the Chairman.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he attended the User Panel Meeting for Leybourne Lakes Country Park.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that we now have keys for the Pavilion at South Ward Playing Field and the Football Club will be obtaining estimates for required works to the Pavilion with a view to application being made by the Parish Council to the Football Association for a grant towards the works.

It was **AGREED** these Minutes be **ADOPTED** as a true record of the Meeting.

(iii) Planning and Development, 19th October 2022

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes which he felt were self-explanatory.

Cllr. Bishop reported that there had been a meeting with residents regarding the green at The Lakes which is a site allocated for housing in the draft Local Plan. Berkeley Homes have transferred to the Management Company who might try to register the green as a Village Green.

It was **AGREED** these Minutes be **ADOPTED** as a true record of the Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report had been **CIRCULATED** as follows:-

Country Park

I attended a meeting of the Users Panel at Larkfield Leisure Centre on 20th October and Martin Guyton reported on the country park which the trust took over in July.

He said in respect of the café there were still some outstanding works such as landscaping the bank by the lake and there is also an intention to provide a cycle rack. These and other snagging works were still with the Borough Council to deal with as they were responsible for the café construction.

He said the toilets in the car park will be closing at the end of this month now there are toilets in the café building.

With respect to the car park it was intended to bring a car parking management company to operate it based on number plate recognition replacing the current Borough Council system. New machines would allow payment via an App or tapping with a card. They were looking at a graded car parking pricing scheme based on time parked but prices were not yet decided by the trust.

The work to the stream was primarily the responsibility of the Environment Agency and the local Drainage Board. It was understood some clearance work may be carried out in coming months.

The operation of the café would be reviewed over the Winter months and feedback sought from customers.

TMBC Local Plan

Witt Michelle and Tim I attended the Leybourne Public Meeting which was addressed by Matt Broughton. Of the sites suggested for Leybourne were handed out and like in this parish several green were put forward by the Urban Capacity Study issued by the Borough's consultants. In Leybourne most belong to the Borough Council and Cllr. Broughton indicated as Council Leader he would not agree to any being developed. Outside of these I note the site of the Boot Fair and Circus off the A228 is put forward as a site. The meeting was not well attended as about only 20 Leybourne residents were there but I understand it was only advertised on Facebook.

Chaucer Way

I continue to receive complaints about the bushes overgrowing the pavements around Chaucer way and have again complained to the KCC.

The Chairman further reported that he attended a meeting of the London Green Belt Council which was chaired by the Orpington MP. The Government is considering that everything is up for review.

REPORT BY BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Mrs. Oakley said that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are to discuss a review of the Leybourne Lakes Country Park along with the Leisure Trust.

Cllr. Mrs. Oakley commented on the issue at the bottom of New Hythe Lane with the car meets that are taking place causing a problem with noise and anti-social behaviour. Tracey Crouch MP has become involved also the Police are well aware of the situation and PCSOs have attended on many occasions. Apparently the Police have placed orders on individuals, 4 over four weeks.

Cllr. Mrs. Oakley reported that there is a large backlog of Enforcement issues at present with the Borough Council.

Cllr. Bishop reported that a consultation is taking place as to the future of Tonbridge Castle and KCC have now left the building which has resulted in a loss of £120,000 in loss of rent.

Cllr. Bishop commented that at the Panatonni site there is a road named "Reed Close", this name is already on The Lakes development and Panatonni will have to re-name their road.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported that she attended the Community and Environment Committee where the relationship between the Borough Council and Housing Associations was discussed.

Cllr. Thornewell mentioned a site meeting that took place in Wouldham regarding a controversial site which is recommended for refusal by the Borough Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that he had met with a former Parish Councillor's wife, Joan Clark who had given him the first minute book for the Larkfield Village Hall Management Committee which was very interesting.

Cllr. Mitchell reported that there is a caravan parked on the road in Woodpecker Road which is not attached to a vehicle. The Clerk agreed to report this to PCSO Suzi Leng for her to investigate ownership.

Cllr. Mrs Tatton asked if anything further had been heard from the Borough Council regarding the ragstone wall in New Road that had been repaired, in her view unsatisfactorily.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodger commented on Solar Panels which operate in car parks in Spain which she felt were a very good idea and perhaps they should be considered for this country.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Members of the Public present.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 7th December 2022

CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.55p.m.

