

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 AT CHURCH FARM AT 8.05P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), Mrs. M. Moore (Vice-Chairman), T. Bishop, Mrs. L. Cook, Mrs. L. Hogben, P. Leale, J. Luque, Mrs. J. Manser, R. Mitchell, R. Moore, R. Roud, Mrs. J. Sharpe, Mrs. M. Tatton and Mrs. C. Woodger  
Mr. Ray Haffenden  
Cllr. Mrs. Trudy Dean  
Mandy Harris                      Community Warden

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**      Cllrs. S. Millson and Mrs. A. Oakley

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDIX OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendix of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**APPLICATION BY RAY HAFFENDEN TO BE CO-OPTED TO THE PARISH COUNCIL – LARKFIELD NORTH**

The Chairman reported that an application had been received from Ray Haffenden of Ingram Close, Larkfield to be co-opted to the Parish Council, this will fill the vacancy in Larkfield North.

The Chairman **PROPOSED** that Ray Haffenden's application be **ACCEPTED** and he be co-opted to the Parish Council. Ray Haffenden then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising.

**REPORT BY POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS**

The Tonbridge and Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter, as **CIRCULATED** was **NOTED**. (Appendixed to these Minutes).

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Mandy Harris reported as follows:-

Continuing with her referrals from Social Services and CSU at Kings Hill including the Heart of Kent Hospice, and covering East Malling, West Malling, Larkfield, Snodland and Tonbridge.

House visits to Scam victims in East Malling, Snodland Tonbridge.

Thanks to Roger Mitchell for being observant and bringing to her attention concerns while delivering medication to elderly gentleman with dementia and very vulnerable as standing in the doorway was a well-known drug user/alcoholic and tried to sign for the gentleman's medication. She brought this to the attention of the CSU Unit and informed the Adult Safeguarding Team. Carers now visit two or three times a day. Safeguarding twice a day and noticed his shopping has been taken out of the cupboards.

Dealing with anti-social behaviour – school children banging on windows of elderly residents – she approached them and has passed the name of a female to the Police Community Support Officer.

Helping hoarders clear their homes – slow process as they want it cleared but don't want to throw anything out.

Giving food bank items to local residents while their benefits are being assessed – some have to make an Appeal.

Dealt with 20 male youths on bikes at West Malling Station.

Attended a Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting – mostly Kings Hill residents. Complaints of cars driving past their houses throwing eggs at cars, smashing windows, etc. She is going to do some day and evening patrols giving a visual presence.

Attended Breakfast Club and Bowls. The Carers Café is still going strong and she has been approached to open one in West Malling.

### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE**

The List of Accounts for Payment was **CIRCULATED AND APPROVED** and it was **AGREED** the relevant cheques be **SIGNED**. (Appendixed to these Minutes).

### **REPORTS ON MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES HELD DURING FEBRUARY**

#### **(i) Planning and Development**

##### **5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes which he felt were self-explanatory but made comment that Kent County Council have still not responded on the former Kia site on highway matters.

The application in respect of the land to the rear of 95 Heron Road has been refused.

Comments have been submitted on the application for floodlighting at the Larkfield Football Club Site at 251A New Hythe Lane. Apparently, a Bat Survey has now been produced.

##### **19<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes which he felt were self-explanatory but made comment that the abandoned vehicle in Chaucer Way has now been removed.

The planning application to convert The Rising Sun Ph into apartments has now been approved.

Questions have been asked in respect of the proposal for housing on the Pinewood Depot site on the corner of Winterfield Lane/A20 and Cllr. Roud has asked that this application be called in to the Area Planning Committee.

A formal complaint has been lodged regarding the gates at Rocks Farm.

It was **AGREED** both sets of Minutes be **ADOPTED** as true records of the Meetings.

(ii) **Allotments and Open Spaces**, Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

Cllr. Thornewell commented that a formal agreement has been mentioned by Kier, the Contractor involved with the M20 Smart Motorway, regarding the steps at Redwing Close footbridge and at Church Farm giving access to the motorway.

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

Cllr. Thornewell commented that he proposes to cancel the March Meeting of Allotments and Open Spaces and Finance and General Purposes and postpone the Planning and Development Committee Meeting until Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's Report was **CIRCULATED**, as follows:-

#### **A20 1977 Jubilee Seat.**

I am pleased to report that we held a metal seat in parts in store and Ditton Parish Council have agreed it can be used to replace the removed seat on the A20 parish boundary. They have collected the seat for re-painting and installation. This will replace the old one we provided jointly and which they removed due to its poor condition

#### **Warren Wood Nature Area.**

I am also pleased to report that on 17<sup>th</sup> February Kings Hill Parish Council have re-registered their sports area and Warren Wood Nature area as community assets with TMBC. This will now last till 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025. It becomes a material planning consideration

#### **Old Coal Yard Site, New Hythe.**

KCC have now responded to the planning application saying they have no objection subject to certain conditions. We have renewed our comments stressing the need for a pavement from the site frontage on Leybourne Way round to New Hythe lane as well as good landscaping of this frontage given the hawthorn hedge currently existing.

#### **Larkfield Leisure Centre.**

We are the freeholders of this site. It is understood on removing the roof some corrosion of the framework was found and its replacement has delayed the contract by some 3 to 4 weeks. Completion is now said to be due in mid-June.

#### **Lidl, London Road, Ditton.**

The Borough website shows Aylesford Parish Council has now objected to this application on highway and air quality grounds. KCC appear yet to have made a response.

#### **Teston Road.**

I met KCC officer Mark Simmonds last Wednesday on site and was sorry to learn by the time you receive this he will have moved from his current role. He showed me a map showing the public road runs to the old airfield boundary close to if not at the point the peripheral path

runs around the airfield, now Kings Hill site. There is, in fact a footpath arrow pointing down Teston Road.

I pointed out that bridleway MR115 meets Teston Road beyond the now first set of gates hanging open and has been marked by KCC footpaths with a bridleway sign. (As has the other end at The Heath) Members may recall we asked for this to be done some time ago. It was also noted there is a newly restored access to private land to the south of the road further along Teston Road beyond where MR115 emerges, and that the trees which overgrew across the road had been cut back and some of the blocks have been stacked on top of each other just beyond this point to prevent vehicular access beyond them.

He understood our view that the position needs to be regularised so the route is “closed” officially to vehicles but kept open for pedestrians and horse-riders plus cyclists. We discussed various legal mechanisms. We need to follow this all up and to talk to the other affected parish councils about the position.

#### **House building figures.**

Kent Online reports that the government records that between 2016 and 2019 that 2451 homes were built in Tonbridge and Malling against the “target” of 2095 meaning it was 17 per cent over target. Maidstone was 35per cent over target. We need to investigate this further!

Mention was made that it be checked that the Carnation Green is listed as an Asset of Community Value.

#### **REPORT BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Bishop reported that the refurbishments works at Larkfield Leisure Centre are behind schedule.

Cllr. Roud reported that he attended the Public Engagement Meeting which was very much gauged towards Kings Hill.

Cllr. Bishop reported that staff at the Borough Council have been provided with laptops in order form them to work from home if necessary due to the COVID-19 Virus.

Litter picks will be taking on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March in Larkfield, meeting at Church Farm at 10.00a.m. and on 21st March in East Malling.

#### **REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. TRUDY DEAN**

Cllr. Mrs. Dean reported on the COVID-19 Virus and the confirmed case at Maidstone Studios where KCC have a Social Services Office.

Cllr. Mrs. Dean reported that the West Malling GP Surgery will close on 19<sup>th</sup> March. There is an Open Day at the Kings Hill premises on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 between 2.00p.m. and 3.00p.m.

More Park – The Church will not be sold but the rest of the buildings are still up for discussion. No decision has yet been made in respect of The Hermitage.

Wooden Bollards in Leybourne Way – Trudy Dean is hoping to replace these from her Community Fund.

SIDS – Speed Indicator Devices – at present Cllr. Mrs. Dean has £23,000 available towards replacements or new equipment. She has been asked to fund the speed surveys in West Malling.

Parking Charges – The proposed increase in parking charges in West Malling has now been waived, the question of no charge in Borough Green on Saturdays for parking yet it is charged in West Malling is still being discussed.

VE Day Street Party – it is proposed to hold a Street Party in West Malling on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 with a Spitfire flyover.

Affordable Housing – Trudy attended a meeting regarding Affordable Housing particularly for key workers, i.e. teachers, nurses, etc. KCC only now provide housing for special needs.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**      Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

### **CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

Chairman