

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22 January 2018 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr B Hinder (Chairman), Mrs A Brindle (joined meeting at item 5.2), Mrs P Brooks, Ms L Clarke, Mr J Constable, Mr I Davies, Mr V Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr G Hayday, Mrs W Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mrs K Macklin, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk Pauline Bowdery, Assistant Clerk Mrs M Fooks (left after item 5), Borough Councillor Derek Butler and 6 members of the public/press.

1. Apologies and absences

Mr T Harwood (absent).

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Various members notified the meeting that they knew one or two of the candidates standing for co-option.

3 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that he would be attending the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's annual Civic Service.

The Chairman congratulated the Clerk on her M2 Junction 3 report which KALC had passed to its Transport Advisory Committee as an "exemplar example" for other Councils facing similar issues/projects.

The Chairman notified members of the death of Steve Wright and paid tribute to his work, support and dedication to protecting the environment.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4 December 2017

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The Chairman proposed that due to the confidential nature of the following item (personal data) that the press and public be excluded from the meeting. **Agreed.** Members **agreed** that in future Co-option items should always be taken in private.

5. Co-option to Parish Councillor Vacancy (North Ward)

5.1 The three candidates were individually invited into the meeting to address members and councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Voting took place and **Mrs Anne Brindle received the majority vote and was appointed to the vacant position.** Members **agreed** Cllr Macklin's comment that the standard of the three candidates was extremely high and that it was refreshing to know that the community had such willing people.

The Chairman left the meeting to notify the candidates of the vote and to thank them for attending.

5.2 Mrs Brindle signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was invited to join the meeting.

6. Matters Arising From the Minutes

6.1 Minute 3051/4.1 Honour Boards. The report was **received and noted.**

6.2 Minute 3051/4.4. Local Nature Reserve Grove Green. A response is still awaited from MBC. **Noted.**

6.3 Minute 3052/11 Franklin Drive Play Area. Cllr Wendy Hinder notified members that the funding for the equipment and safety surface had been secured but that Gallaghers did not wish to undertake the tree work. The Clerk had approached MBC to see if it would undertake the necessary tree work. Members were informed that MBC would not gift the land to the parish council so a long-term lease agreement would need to be produced. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Macklin suggested that MBC be issued with a deadline by which to respond to the request for a long-term lease and members agreed that if a response was not received in 2 weeks then the issue had to be escalated. **Action: Clerk.**

An agenda item was requested for the March meeting for members to decide whether the parish council should include a statement in correspondence to MBC and KCC that a reply is required in 28 days with a warning that after this period the issue

will be escalated. **Action: Office.**

6.4 Any other matters arising from the minutes which are not on the agenda. None.

7. **Crime Report and Police Issues**

Received and noted. The Chairman expressed disappointed that no PCSO was present. Cllr Ivor Davies reported that the issue had been discussed at the recent KALC Police Liaison meeting and it will be 3-4 months before the new PCSOs would be working independently.

The Chairman to contact the Police to obtain clarification as to when PCSOs will be back attending the meeting. **Action: Cllr Bob Hinder.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8.36 pm for a member of the public to notify the council that extensive tree work had been undertaken at Abbey Court, on land adjacent to the A229. The Clerk was asked to investigate the status of the last planning application and report to the Environment Committee. **Action: Clerk.** Meeting reconvened at 8.38 pm.

8. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

- 8.1 Environment Committee meeting 4 December 2017. **Received and noted.**
- 8.2 Environment Committee meeting 11 December 2017. **Received and noted.**
- 8.3 Estates Committee meeting 12 December 2017. **Received and noted.**
- 8.4 Environment Committee meeting 8 January 2018. **Received and noted.**
- 8.5 Estates Committee meeting 16 January 2018. **Received and noted.**
- 8.6 F&GPC meeting 16 January 2018. **Received and noted.**

9. **Finance**

- 9.1 Payments made out of meeting 28.11.17-22.1.18. **Received and noted.**
- 9.2 Receipts for the period 28.11.17-22.1.18 **Received and noted.**
- 9.3 Account balances 15.01.2018. **Received and noted.**
- 9.4 Parish Councillor Internal Audit. Cllr Brindle volunteered to undertake the audit. **Action: Cllr Brindle and the Clerk.**

10. **2018/2019 Precept and Budget.**

- 10.1 Members **received and noted** the F&GPC recommendation that there is a zero increase in the precept.
The Chairman proposed that **"this parish council agrees the 2018/2019 budget and that a precept of £107,437 be set"**. **Unanimously agreed.**
- 10.2 The Chairman and Clerk signed the relevant paperwork to apply for the precept. The Chairman thanked Cllr Ivor Davies for the work that he and the committee had undertaken to produce the budget and recommendation.

11. **Parish Hall Extension: Public Works Loan**

Members **received and noted** the F&GPC recommendation that the parish council apply for a Public Works Loan to fund 50% of the development and refurbishment at Beechen Hall.

Cllr Dengate proposed, Cllr Macklin seconded, **"Boxley Parish Council approves the application for a £90,000 Annuity Public Works Loan repayable over a term of 15 years."** **Unanimously agreed. Action: Clerk and office.**

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Ivor Davies and Vic Davies and the F&GPC and Estates Committee for all their hard work.

12. **Policies and Procedures**

- 12.1 Policies and Procedures Review Calendar (review). **Approved.**
- 12.2 Member numbers for committees. No request for changes to the current numbers have been received. **Noted.**
Councillor Wendy Hinder invited Cllr Brindle to join the Environment Committee and the offer was accepted. The Clerk was asked to produce a briefing note on who can be appointed to a committee. **Action: Clerk.**

13. **Reports from councillors/office**

Cllr Ivor Davies gave a report on the KALC Police Liaison meeting including the new Police volunteers scheme. The Clerk confirmed that the parish office downloaded the crime reports that appeared in the agenda.

14 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Borough Councillor Butler notified members that MBC is appointing a new Public Open Space and Delivery Officer to ensure that the Section 106 payments were allocated. Cllr Butler was asked to investigate what if any Section 106 monies may be coming to Boxley Parish/Ward.

Borough Councillor Wendy Hinder's report covering Franklin Drive Open Space, maintenance on Boxley Road Walderslade and her recent meeting with County Councillor Paul Carter concerning traffic issues in the North Ward.

15. **Matters for Decision**

15.1 2018/2019 Meeting dates. **Approved.**

15.2 End of World War 1 commemorative plaque. Item deferred to the next meeting. Members were reminded to submit any suggested words to the parish office.

Action: Councillors and office.

16 **Correspondence**

16.1 Thank you letter from Heart of Kent Hospice for the donation.

16.2 Thank you from Poppy Appeal. The poppy box in the office raised £45.09.

16.3 Thank you letter from Tunbury School for the redirected ASDA donation.

17 **Matters for Information**

17.1 KALC Parish Council News Dec 2017.

17.2 Gift of a Christmas Food Hamper. This was with the provider's permission re-gifted to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance. A letter of thanks was sent to the company and KSSAA has written a letter of thanks to the parish council.

17.3 ASDA Chatham donation. The small items were re-gifted to two local primary schools for their summer fetes.

17.4 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the KALC Maidstone Area Committee meeting 27 November 2017.

17.5 Draft Minutes of the 2017 KALC AGM 18 November 2017.

17.6 Local Government Financial Settlement NALC update.

17.7 Community Policing Volunteers.

17.8 E-newsletter from the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott.

18 **Items for Next Agenda**

Councillors' reports and requests for items to be included on the agenda to be submitted no later than 26 February 2018. **Noted.**

Items suggested for the next agenda.

Cllr John Constable planting and sponsorship of roundabouts.

The Chairman highlighted that the next Maidstone KALC meeting was scheduled for 5 March which was also the parish council meeting. Cllr Ivor Davies would attend as the representative of the parish council.

19 **Next Meeting**

5 March 2018 at Weaving Street Village Hall, Weaving Street, Grove Green ME14 5JP commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.21 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman..... Date.....