

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT CHURCH FARM AT 8.00P.M.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), Mrs. M. Moore (Vice-Chairman), T. Bishop, Mrs. L. Cook, Mrs. L. Hogben, P. Leale, J. Luque, s. Millson, R. Mitchell and Mrs. M. Tatton
Cnty Cllr. Mrs. Trudy Dean
Mandy Harris Community Warden
Daniel Markham Resident of East Malling
Resident from Ditton

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. Mrs. A. Oakley, Mrs. J. Sharpe and Mrs. C. Woodger
PCSO Suzi Leng

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDIX OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendix of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th October 2019 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

REPORT BY POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

The Clerk commented that PCSO Suzi Leng is now the Police community Support Officer for East Malling and Larkfield.

PCSO had provided the Crime Reports for both East Malling and Larkfield which are Appendixed to these Minutes. (Appendix 1)

REPORT BY COMMUNITY WARDEN

Community Warden Mandy Harris gave her report as follows:-

Referrals from Social Services – Vulnerable and elderly people. Scam victims and problems with doorstep sellers. Also helping a hoarder clean and tidy up her house, this is an ongoing issue.

Fly tipping – Twisden Road and alleyways. Also obscene graffiti on the side window of the Bus Stop Café in Chapman Way.

A caravan to the rear of shops in Twisden Road, battered and shabby. Was informed that drug dealing is taking place from this caravan. This information has been passed to the Police.

Dog issues – dogs out of control and attacking other dogs, the information has been passed onto the Dog Warden.

Continuing drug dealing in areas of East Malling. She is aware of the situation and these are mainly Clarion Housing residents.

Mandy has attended a number of events since her last report, including:-

Keep Safe Event – Tesco’s; Drugs and Alcohol Event – Snodland; Over 55’s Advice Day – Holmesdale School; Professionals Meeting – Snodland; Help Me Out – East Malling Centre; TAMS Event – Tonbridge; Crossroads Event for people with mild or moderate dementia.

Also been carrying out reassurance visits in all areas.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE

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

ADOPTION OF RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019/2020

The Clerk reported that the Risk Management had been updated for 2019/20. It was **AGREED** this be **ADOPTED**.

REPORTS ON MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES HELD DURING OCTOBER

(i) Planning and Development

9th October 2019

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes and commented that the Heath Farm Appeal has been withdrawn but the other Liberty Appeals are going ahead commencing on the 3rd December 2019.

Cllr. Thornewell said he is still pursuing the issue of the vehicle crossover at 278 Lunsford Lane in respect of land ownership.

16th October 2019

Cllr. Thornewell which he felt were self-explanatory and it was **AGREED** both sets of Minutes be **ADOPTED** as true records of the Meetings.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

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

Patrick Whelan.

I attended Pat Whelan’s funeral at Vinters on the 29th October. He had in the past been a Parish Councillor and also a Trustee of St James Centre as well as East Malling KM correspondent. It is always the case at funerals one hears things about people which one did not know when they were alive and Pat lead a very varied life especially before coming to Kent having been born in Fife. It was said for a period he went round with a circus or fun fare.

Public Toilets in Martin Square.

It was reported to a meeting last night that all the Parish Councils except Hadlow have agreed in principle to take over the public toilets in their areas but the date they are aiming for at Borough is 1st April 2021. The proposed details will be Reported to Amenities and also when we get the information we have requested.

Martin Square Car Park.

The Borough Council are proposing to introduce charges for the car parks at Snodland, Martin Square, and Aylesford. Car parking charges are also proposed to be increased elsewhere in the borough. There will be a public consultation exercise about this and again this will be reported to the parish council when received.

Rubbish Collections.

There was what I can only describe as a “frank” exchange between councilors and the contractors at a borough meeting last night and promises were made to improve so that bins are collected on time and address the issue of “missed “ bins.

Around where I live bins were not collected on the Thursday in the second week and some were missed entirely but my impression is that there has been a patchy performance. Today as I write all the black bins around my area have been collected and I hope the position will improve as I think collecting bottles and cans especially from one’s doorstep is a big step forward towards improving local recycling rates.

Flooding.

Again, as I write the system in New Hythe Lane was due to be flushed out overnight in the area of The Monks Head after the road flooded there during the recent rains. We have reported the water again flowing down the side of New Road by

By the playing fields. It disappears into one of the roadside drains lower down so it is hard to say if road drain problem or the stream that exists piped under the pavement.

White Van in Chaucer Way.

I have chased borough again about the apparently abandoned white van in Chaucer Way with the flat tyre and now damaged wing mirror sticking out into the ro

Cllr. Bishop reported that Cllr. Mrs. Oakley had visited the toilets in Martin Square and has mentioned that there are trees overhanging them. Also, there is a cracked light that needs attention.

Further consultation has been deferred on the toilets at present.

Cllr. Luque mentioned the flooding in New Hythe Lane and he did see a sludge gulper in New Hythe Lane so whether this was connected it is unknown.

REPORT BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Bishop reported that he attended the meeting in respect of the highway improvements on the A20 between New Hythe Lane and Bell Lane, Ditton. The bus stop by Belle Court is now not being moved. The bus lane is to be extended on the approach to the New Hythe Lane traffic lights.

The bus stop on the London bound side is to be relocated to outside the Ali-Met restaurant and the bus lay-by by Bell Lane is to be removed.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported on the meeting in respect of the No.58 bus service, the number of passengers is down but the revenue is up, there is likely to be a problem with the bus lay-by on the A20 at Hall Road if it removed when the highway changes are made at this junction with Quarry Wood, as this is the changeover point for the No.58 service.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported that more spring bulbs have been planted at Clare Lake.

Cllr. Mrs Dean reported on the waste collection at the Borough Council – uncompleted routes should be collected the next day after normal collection day.

The Local Plan pre-hearing could take place in March 2020 but this is not yet confirmed.

Following the recent anti-social behaviour at The Farmhouse in West Malling, the Borough Council have imposed strict conditions and reduced the number of hours they can sell alcohol.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. TRUDY DEAN

Cllr. Mrs. Dean reported that at Blaise Farm Quarry there is a proposal to increase the amount of 100,000 to 175,000 tons. In 2013 there was a planning application in 2013 for an anaerobic digester at the site which was approved. There is a later version of the digester which is being considered.

KCC are preparing a Strategic Statement, like a manifesto for the whole of Kent County council, this will be subject to more consultation.

Cllr. Mrs. Dean has paid for a defibrillator at Manor Park.

The Christmas lights in West Malling are to be switched on the 1st December 2019 and the ones in Martin Square on 16th November 2019.

Cllr. Millson mentioned the Blue Plaque scheme and whether this could be re-addressed and perhaps the East Malling Conservation Group could think of suitable sites. Cllr. Mrs. Dean said that the one at Clare Lake needs to be fixed in a better way in order to stop it being removed.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Daniel Markham asked that the Parish Council put in strong objections to the proposed Wates Development at Forty Acres as he feels that the developer will try to be extremely persuasive in getting us to go along with them.

The Chairman said that his application is going to be difficult because of the 5 year land supply shortage, how do you counter a decision as they do not have this supply. It would be helpful if a date had been fixed for the Examination in Public of the Local Plan.

The Chairman felt that more should be said about the agricultural value of the site as it has been classed as good quality agricultural land. There might be mileage in the site being the land adjoining the listed Clare House, the Tree Preservation Orders on the site. There is the possibility

that if refused by the Borough Council they would not get an Appeal date before the Examination in Public of the Local Plan.

The Chairman said that these issues should be made an Election issue. There is an article in Downs Mail saying that the whole Planning system needs to be reviewed as the housing numbers are decided by Central Government not on a local level.

A resident from Ditton expressed his concerns about all the development in the area and the increasing amount of traffic on the A20 in this area.

Daniel Markham said that when Wates met with the Parish Council they said they had carried out a survey of the A20/Winterfield Lane/Lunsford Lane junction.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 4th December 2019

CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.37p.m.

Chairman
4th December 2019