

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2019 AT CHURCH FARM AT 8.00P.M.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), Mrs. M. Moore (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. L. Cook, Mrs. L. Hogben, P. Leale, R. Mitchell, R. Moore, R. Roud, Mrs. J. Sharpe, Mrs. M. Tatton and Mrs. C. Woodger
Cllr. Mrs. Trudy Dean

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. T. Bishop and Mrs. A. Oakley
PCSO Suzi Leng, PCSO Jamee Salam and Mandy Harris (Community Warden)

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDIX OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendix of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 4th September 2019 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman

MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising

REPORT BY POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

The Reports by PCSO's Suzi Leng and Jamee Salam were **CIRCULATED** and Appendixed to these Minutes. (Appendix 1) and (Appendix 2).

REPORT BY COMMUNITY WARDEN

Mandy Harris, having given apologies, there was no report.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE

The Lists of Accounts for Payment for both the Main Account and Village Halls were **CIRCULATED AND APPROVED** and it was **AGREED** that the relevant cheques be **SIGNED**. (Appendixed to these Minutes).

REPORTS ON MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES HELD DURING SEPTEMBER

(i) **Planning and Development**

4th September 2019

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes and commented that the Appeal for a dwelling in the back garden of 278 Lunsford Lane has been permitted.

19th September 2019

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes and commented that a further £5,000 had been paid to West Malling Parish Council in respect of the fees for the Bellway Inquiry. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thornewell, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mitchell that this action be **RATIFIED**.

Cllr. Thornewell reminded members of the Public Meeting taking place at the East Malling Centre on Monday, 14th October 2019 commencing at 8.00p.m.

In view of this meeting taking place the Allotments and Open Spaces Committee on Monday is cancelled.

Cllr. Luque said that Thornhills are not accepting any new patients at present, they have 15,000 patients.

Cllr. Roud reported that Aldi are to open another supermarket in Maidstone. The application from Lidl for the former Kia site is expected this week.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he has met with a representative from Kier, in connection with the M20 Smart motorway works regarding an access from Larkfield Sportsfield onto the motorway for maintenance when required as there will no longer be a hard shoulder.

Local Plan – Appendix to these Minutes – the Borough Council are to consider points 1, 2 and 3 regarding the Examination of the TMBC Local Plan. Cllrs. Thornewell and Trudy Dean are to visit Buxton's Solicitors to seek advice particularly in respect of the Local Plan and the Green Belt.

It was **agreed** to increase the amount for Legal Fees in the 2020/2021 Budget for the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllrs. Trudy Dean, Michelle Tatton and Christine Woodger, the Clerk and all concerned with the Bellway Inquiry. Also thanks to the Legal team who acted on our behalf in this respect.

Cllr. Mrs. Trudy also thanked the Parish Council for supporting West Malling Parish Council in respect of the Bellway Inquiry.

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

(ii) **Amenities.** Wednesday, 11th September 2019

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes and commented that we are still pursuing setting up a meeting regarding the renovation of East Malling War Memorial.

Cllr. Moore reported that the No. 58 bus service is running well with the small buses, they are only using double decker buses for the school runs in the morning and afternoon.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodger asked whether further had been heard from Sam Honey at KCC about the status of MR114. Also, ask for an update of the clearance of MR116 along the diversion route which still hasn't been carried out.

Cllr. Thornewell commented that the Larkfield Community Group have now made alternative arrangements with regard to tables for the Picnic on the Rec next year.

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

(iii) **Allotments and Open Spaces**, Monday, 16th September 2019

Cllr. Roud presented these Minutes and commented that we are still awaiting the decision regarding the application for Whimbrel Green to have Village Green status.

The blue plaques have been taken from Clare Lake again, Cllr. Mrs. Dean has obtained some more but further discussion needs to take place at the Clare Park Steering Group meeting as to an alternative.

The Clerk commented that Martin and Daniel have removed the loose bricks and stones from the ragstone wall at Mill Street bounding South Ward Playing Field and they are being stored securely at Church Farm.

It was agreed that Cllr. Thornewell and Roud meet with the lady who is requesting a bench at Rocks Close Open Space.

Cllr. Roud said that plans are now being made for the Picnic in the Park 2020.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Parish Walk on Sunday 6th October.

Five people came on this walk despite the gloomy weather forecasts and the promised rain did not appear. We did a circular walk from the George Holding Centre via the country park out to Neville Park, Snodland and then back round via Horn Street and Birling Ashes. The path from Legge Lane also a bridleway down to the A228 is impassable due to overgrowth and I have emailed Sam Honey about this.

Martin Square Public Toilets.

Tim and I met TMBC on 12th September to discuss the possibility of the parish council taking over these toilets. We understood not all the meetings have yet taken place but so far only Hadlow has indicated they would not be willing to take on their toilets. At Wrotham they already own them and the arrangement whereby TMBC upkeep them will be terminated. The borough now envisage any transfer will be from 2021 and will put them in good order before any transfer. They will also pay all legal costs for the land transfer. We indicated the parish council would probably take them on rather than see them closed. We were promised paperwork setting out current costs and so forth. This is awaited and will be reported to Amenities Committee when received.

Bellway Planning Appeal

The planning appeal was rejected by the Inspectors decision of 3rd October after the August Public Inquiry. Copies of the decision letter have been circulated to all members and I would like to thank everyone locally who has been involved in the process including Christine Woodger for supply information about Quiet Lanes and Michelle Tatton for appearing to give evidence. And all those who contributed to the crowd funding effort. And not to forget the legal team who presented the

case on behalf of West Malling Parish council and ourselves. And to Val for the extra work in which she was involved.

We now turn our attention to the forthcoming Liberty appeals and the planning application for Forty Acres.

Forty Acres.

We have met the developers and discussed their application for up to 250 houses on this site. On the details we queried if there is a need for another village hall and details have now been provided to them setting out the current provision locally but indicating we would like to be involved in discussions concerning community provision generally if permission were to be granted. We also stressed our concern about the link road, apparently favoured by KCC, from the A20 through into Winterfield Lane which it was felt would increase traffic in the network of rural roads and lanes to the south. A set of representations on these issues has been submitted to TMBC as initial comments on the application as well as some comments on the Historical Report which concentrated on Leybourne rather than East Malling. More comments will be submitted via the Planning Committee on the principle of development of this green field site.

He promised public meeting has been fixed for next Monday 14th October at the Malling School and details of this evening meeting have been circulated.

Liberty Appeals

I have met the Chairman of Watringbury and Teston Parish Councils concerning the Public Inquiry in December and both parish councils are to submit letters to the planning Inspectorate in opposition. I stressed our particular opposition to the two East Malling green field sites.

Both parish councils are organising traffic surveys at the A26 and it is suggested we do one in Watringbury Road and Winterfield Lane for use of this and indeed the Forty Acres application so we can have some evidence to submit about the likely effect on East Malling. I would ask parish council to authorize these and cover the minimal costs involved. Michelle and I will give further details at the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton explained, arising from this report that Watringbury and Teston Parish Councils were proposing traffic surveys by Traffic Watch UK Ltd and it was suggested a survey in Watringbury Road and Winterfield Lane should be considered. The costs are estimated around £400. It was **AGREED** she make further enquiries and report back to the Planning and Development Committee. It would, however, be necessary to avoid any local road closures which might affect usual traffic flows.

REPORT BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Roud had nothing to report.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported that there has been a lot of feedback on the new waste collection service which is not really working at present, but hopefully it is teething problems.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the new contract which seems to have problems coping at present.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. TRUDY DEAN

Cllr. Mrs. Dean reported that the Thames Link service has been delayed because there is already a full timetable and no sidings at Ashford for the trains.

Cllr. Mrs. Dean has asked that the wooden bollards on the verge in Leybourne Way be replaced as many are broken and laying flat. Kent County Council are not going to supply or maintain these any longer.

Cllr. Mrs. Dean said that there is a petition in respect of the Green Belt, be careful if asked to sign this as it somewhat misleading.

Cllr. Mrs. Dean commented on tree work in Malling School grounds, no further work to be carried upon the instruction of residents of Clare Wood Drive.

Cllr. Mrs. Dean said that she has paid for a defibrillator at the café in Manor Park. Tesco are at present having tokens at the checkouts for Manor Park.

Owners of the Hungry Guest in West Malling are asking for views on the use of Arundel House.

At the Joint Transportation Board meeting traffic regulations are going out for consultation in Bondfield Road; Temple Way; Meridian Place; Papyrus Way; Brooklands Road; Chaucer Way; Woodpecker Road and Maple Close.

Cllr. Roud reported that the East Malling Partnership have been concerned about children on bikes causing and problems and there was an event at Larkfield Fire Station which was well attended where children with bikes could attend for advice and bike marking. They would really like a designated area to practice trick riding. Discussion took place on this issue.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 6th November 2019

CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35p.m.

Chairman
6th November 2019