

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2019, 7.30 PM
AT WEST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, WEST MALLING

Present: Mrs Trudy Dean (Chairman)
Ms Gwyneth Barkham
Mr Keith Bullard
Mr Richard Byatt
Ms Camilla Medhurst
Mrs Yvonne Smyth
Ms Min Stacpoole
Mr Nick Stapleton
Mr Peter Stevens
Mr David Thompson

Also present: Borough Councillor Brian Luker (until 8pm)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
19/69	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from Mrs Linda Javens and Borough Councillor Luck			
19/70	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none			
19/71	<u>MINUTES</u> – the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th January 2019 were approved and signed.			
19/72	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda (19/17.2) – Mrs Dean confirmed that she had not yet had the opportunity to attend a meeting with the East Malling & Larkfield Housing Association to discuss crime issues. (19/22) – KALC Community Awards Scheme – Mrs Dean confirmed that the recipients of the 2018 award had not yet received their certificate and that a suitable date was to be arranged.			
19/73	<u>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> – none			
19/74	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
19/75	<u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Stevens asked if members had also noted how slippery the pavement paving blocks are, in particular in the High Street, Swan Street and West Street. In addition there are a number of slippery slopes within the town. It was agreed that the 			

	<p>pavements would be mentioned in the Parish Report (which is to be distributed to all residents) and that residents would be asked to comment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Smyth reported that at the bottom of Frog Lane the area is now being used as parking with concrete posts having been installed. This is restricting emergency access. Mrs Smyth to take a photo and send to Clerk . • Ms Stacpoole asked if the trip hazard outside the Macey's Meadow gate on Norman Road could be repaired as the area is deteriorating. Mrs Dean explained to members that the insurance company have strongly advised the Parish Council against rectifying the defect as this may be seen as admitting liability but that she would speak with a member of the legal team at KCC with regards to the way forward. • Mr Byatt noted that following the utility works, the new tarmac in King Street is pink. WMGP - Mr Byatt asked who was in charge of communications since the resignation of Vicki Plummer. Mrs Dean explained that the workload was currently being shared. 	RB		
		YS		
		TD		
19/76	<u>POLICING MATTERS</u>			
76.1	Policing report – updated crime figures are being produced by Mr Bullard			
76.2	<p>Other Policing Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have more regular contact with the local PCSO. Clerk to ask for monthly meetings at the parish office. • It was further agreed that the Parish Council ought to have quicker notification of incidents that occur within the parish. Currently, social media/Kent online may be the first source of information. Clerk to write to the Chief Inspector of Tonbridge & Malling to ask what information is available to the council and how this can be communicated. 	Clerk	✓	
		Clerk		
19/77	<u>LOCAL PLAN/LEGAL ISSUES</u>			
	It was agreed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local Plan was submitted on January 23rd. The government will appoint an Inspector following which a date will be set for the Examination in Public. The Inspector will identify issues and ask people to respond/attend. • General discussion regarding the Examination in Public and issues of importance to WMPC • Bellway Application - General discussion regarding the possibility of seeking legal assistance in drafting a letter to be presented to T&MBC before the Area 2 Committee meeting. There was general agreement amongst members. Estimated costs of £2,000 - £,2500 to be halved with East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council. 			
19/78	<u>THE BIG CONVERSATION</u>			
	The consultation which is to review the future of the number 58 bus is open for comments from 22 nd January to 19 th February. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the option that retains a service to the hospital. Mrs Dean to draft.	TD	✓	
19/79	<u>CIVIC SERVICE</u>			
	It was noted that WMPC had received an invitation to attend the Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service at All Saints Church in Maidstone, on Tuesday 12th March 2019, 11am. Mrs Dean is unable to attend and unfortunately due to commitments, no others members are able to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.			
19/80	<u>TENTH ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS AWARDS 2019</u>			

	It was noted that WMPC had received an invitation to attend the T&MBC award ceremony at Tonbridge Castle on 13 th February. The award is to recognise the litter picks undertaken by WMPC . Mr Byatt to attend.			
19/81	<u>STAFF MATTERS</u>			
	It was agreed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.			
	The terms of the Clerk's compassionate leave were agreed retrospectively.			
19/ 82	<u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>			
82.1	Accounts for payment - totalling £4995.04 were approved - see attached.			
82.2	To note the following payment made since the last Full Council Meeting £956.70 authorised at Finance & General Purposes Committee 21 st January 2019.			
82.3	Financial Statement – bank reconciliation as of 23 rd January was received – see attached			
19/83	<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT</u>			
83.1	Amenities Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 th January 2019. There were no questions			
83.2	Finance & general Purposes Committee – verbal report was noted, of the meeting held on 21 st January 2019. The following was noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries Registration & Archives Draft Strategy 2019 -2022 – response drafted and submitted by Ms Medhurst Banking arrangements to be reconsidered at a future meeting of the F&GP Committee. Assistant Clerk's laptop - quote from Wrotham Computers was agreed. 			
83.3	Planning Committee - receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 nd January 2019. The following was noted: 19/64 – Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan - it was agreed that WMPC would respond to the consultation stating that the draft plan is supported on the basis that it excludes the West Malling sandpit option. 19/65 – The Startled Saint – it was agreed that a request be made to the homeowner and or developer that there be some form of commemoration to mark the link with West Malling airfield. 19/68.2 Car Park Land West of Station Road North – a statement to be read at the Area 2 Planning Committee was agreed. <i>Subsequent to the meeting and at the request of Mrs Dean, a site visit has taken place and the application has been deferred to another Area 2 Committee, date TBC.</i>			
83.4	Macey's Meadow Advisory Committee - verbal report was noted, of the meeting held on 23 rd January 2019. The following was noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th March 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blossom Day will take place on Sunday 12th May 			
83.4	Malling Action Partnership – Mrs Dean confirmed that the blue plaque scheme is a MAP scheme.			
83.5	Rotary House – Mrs Dean reported that Penny Nicholls has left Rotary House			
83.6	School Governors – no report			
83.7	Malling Society – committee meeting date was to be confirmed.			
83.8	Chamber of Commerce / Christmas Lights Committee – a review meeting was held to discuss the Christmas lights festival.			
83.9	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Partnership Panel meeting – draft minutes of the meeting held on 15th November were received and the next meeting date of 7th February 2019 was noted. 			
83.10	KALC/NALC/ACRK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KALC T&M – it was noted that the KALC T&M AGM was to take place on the 23rd May at Ditton Community Centre. 			
19/84	<u>MEETING DATES</u> Amenities Committee – Monday 11 th February (concentrating on Churchyard) Highways Committee – Wednesday 20 th February @ The Clout, 9 High Street. Planning Committee – Tuesday 26 th February Macey’s Meadow Advisory Committee – Wednesday 20 th March			
19/85	<u>REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR -</u> Sandy Lane closed for 7 days from 25th March for a new gas supply. KCC have launched a Bus Feedback Portal were you can find and give feedback on the bus service. www.kent.gov.com/busfeedback Local Plan. Confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that they have received the Local Plan King Street the road works will be continuing for another couple of weeks Reported blocks missing from Ryarsh Road King Street junction by the carpet shop			
19/86	<u>REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR – see below</u>			
	There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.40 Signed..... Dated.....			

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West Malling Parish Council				
Accounts for Payment 4th February 2019				cheques to be drawn
Elm Header Account (cheque 2005) (Twitch - Quarterly charges for insurance, water & electricity. 4 of 4)				£ 62.61
Wrotham Computer Care Ltd (cheque 2006) (Laptop, Screen and Hard Drives)				£813.04 £975.65
			VAT	<u>162.61</u>
Streetlights (cheque 2007) (Invoice 10251 Maintenance contract 4 of 4)				£1,126.68 £1,352.02
			VAT	<u>225.34</u>
Gavin Jones Ltd (cheque 2008) Inv 2220 (Reinstatement of playing field after removal of conifer trees)				£249.00 £298.80
			VAT	<u>£49.80</u>
Mrs Claire Christmas - authorisation to pay via Faster Payments (Clerk - net salary for February £1429.84 + faxes £1.20 + sundries £1.50)				£1,432.54
Mrs Sarah Howard authorisation to pay via Faster Payments (Asst. Clerk - net salary for February)				£298.84
HMRC - authorisation to pay via Faster Payments (Deductions from salaries - February)				£497.58
Nest - authorisation to pay pension contributions by Direct Debit for February				
Employer's contributions				£ 35.00
Employee's contributions (Employees's contributions have already been deducted from salary)				£ 42.00
TOTAL				£ 4,995.04

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL					
Financial Statement to be presented to Full Council 4 February 2019					
Reconciliation					
Balance b/f from 2017/18					£ 91,892.24
<u>plus</u>					
total receipts 1.04.18-31.03.19					£ 142,663.72
<u>less</u>					
total payments 1.04.18-31.03.19					£ 116,197.34
				Total	£ 118,358.62
Deposit account					£ 91,095.71
Current account			£28,731.19		
	less unrepresented cheques		£1,468.28		
					<u>£ 27,262.91</u>
				Total	£ 118,358.62
Unrepresented Cheques			Date Issued		
5498	Kent Asbestos	£ 144.00		09/07/2018	
5564	ATC Squadron	£ 150.00		21/11/2018	
5576	Elm	£ 62.58		10/12/2018	
5590	Village Hall	£ 78.00		07/01/2019	
2000	CF Corporate	£ 122.68		21/01/2019	
2001	KCC	£ 683.38			
2002	Gavin Jones	£ 31.80			
2003	Malling Memorial	£ 16.50			
2204	Viking Direct	£ 102.34			
DD	Nest	<u>£ 77.00</u>			
		<u>£ 1,468.28</u>			

County councillors report February 2019

1. New police powers to tackle illegal Traveller camps.

Sajid Javid is to unveil tough new police powers to crack down on illegal Traveller sites on private land, potentially including a new criminal offence of trespass.

It appears this is for Councils to pursue stronger action on private land only and won't include council land. Whilst this is a move in the right direction, it would not prevent damage to council land, or assist our taxpayers. The Daily Telegraph, Page: 1, 2 The Times, Page: 8

2. Government has clarified that in addition to action to use the M26, Manston Airport and part of M20 over which the Brock barriers will be put in place, they are also preparing to implement Operation Stack should all the other measures not prove sufficient after March 29th. The official document suggests that the hold ups could extend into several months. Schools and Care workers including Care Homes, been given advice in preparing for major road disruption which might interrupt the ability for staff to get to work, foodstuffs and fuel to be supplied. KCC staff unable to get to their usual place of work are being advised to go to Libraries to work instead.

3.. Larkfield Anti Social Behaviour Meeting held by Larkfield Community Group

It was good to see around 30 people at this meeting organised by Larkfield Community Group last Thursday evening. Suzi Leng our PCSO and Mandy Harris our Community Warden were on hand to explain their jobs. It was disappointing that Borough officers and Clarion Housing did not attend on the day. The Police reported that crime had fallen in the Larkfield area over the past twelve months, but accepted this could mean crimes were being under reported. They explained that the Police needed the help of residents in reporting incidents and registration numbers of offending vehicles so that the Police could follow up incidents.

The parents of young people involved in vandalism and intimidation had been visited, but action taken against some children was limited because of their age. I invited people to report to me the names of the offenders, so that action could be taken if they were truanting from school. I explained I am providing money from my KCC Councillors Community Fund to Scout groups in East Malling and Larkfield, and to Larkfield Football Club to help provide activities locally but people were right to be angry about the withdrawal of funds for Youth Work across the County.

I agreed to try to establish a similar group in Larkfield to the youth group meeting weekly in East Malling Community Centre, but funds were limited.

4. Police Emergency Phone Lines

I advised people who complained of the long waiting times for 101 to reply that Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott has suggested that people should try the anonymous free Crimestoppers number instead on 0800 555 111 or on line.

https://crimestoppers-uk.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9b6f6aub4AIVrr_tCh0JvA7gEAAYASAAEgKOYfD_BwE

5. Number 58 bus.

KCC wants to cut its subsidy to the 58 bus by shortening its journey length. It is the only bus which goes to Maidstone Hospital from Wrotham Heath, Addington, Trottscliffe, Ryarsh, Birling, Leybourne, West Malling, East Malling and Larkfield.

The KCC Consultation Document on the future of the number 58 service was published on Tuesday and you can fill it in on line, or if you want a paper copy you can pick one up at the exhibition (details below) or let me know and I will drop it off to you.

Two options are offered. The first is the bus terminating at Martin Square where passengers could change onto the 71 or 72 into Maidstone Town Centre. The second option is for the bus to terminate at the Hospital, saving 20 minutes on the current journey time of the bus. As I told KM TV, the 58 was needed because the Government put the hospital in a barmy out of the way place, with no commercial bus services. As I recently discovered, if you need to get to the Hospital as a patient or visitor without a car, a taxi will cost you about £10 each way from West Malling.

A public exhibition for the plans for the bus no 58 was held at East Malling Institute, Mill Street on today 1pm to 4pm. It was attended by about 40 people. I was concerned that there was no material on display boards. Copies of the Consultation Document with reply questionnaire had run out, only 28 having been printed. No list of people who attended was kept. The length of journey times is mis represented as it assumes that people would change services at Maidstone Hopsital to proceed to Maidstone under option 2. In practice they would change at Wealden Hall. People were advised by officers that they could vote not to change the service at all, which is not an option in the consultation document, and may in practice not be an option either.

Consultation closes on 19th February.

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/westmallingbuspilot/consultationHome>

6. Singing at Heart of Kent Hospice.

On Wednesday, Malling Community Choir joined other singers, staff and patients at Heart of Kent Hospice in what it is hoped will be a regular singing session. We had a bash at pieces by Adele, and the Monkeys, Amazing Grace, Stand By Me and an African lullaby. Singing is so good for everybody!

7. I am attending the Leybourne Park residents Association

tomorrow. They are asking TMBC about a residents parking scheme for Papyrus Way.