

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2016, 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Mrs T Dean (Chairman)
Mr R Selkirk (Vice Chairman)
Mr K Bullard
Mr R Byatt
Mr S Harriott
Mrs L Javens
Mr B Merchant

Also in attendance:
Mrs Anne Turner
Mr John Collins

Mrs Carole D'Silva (outgoing Clerk)
Mrs Claire Christmas (incoming Clerk)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
16/558	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Smyth, Mrs Luck, Mr Luker, Mrs Potts (Chairman, Malling Society) Mrs Vago and PCSO Harrison.			
16/559	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None other than those routinely declared.			
16/560	MINUTES of the meeting held on 5 th September 2016 and 19 th September were approved and signed.			
16/	MATTERS ARISING from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda			
	AMENITIES MATTERS			
561.1	(495.1) Fence between Allotments & Macey's Meadow – work was substantially funded by a lottery grant and small shortfall was agreed would be met by the Parish Council			
561.2	(495.2) Letters to Allotment Tenants It was agreed that letters were to be sent to allotment tenants regarding good use of allotments			
561.3	(495.3) Hedge adjoining Woodland Close It was agreed that following a complaint from a resident, work to the hedge was undertaken.			
561.4	(497.9) Malling Society Meeting with Mrs Potts (Chairman of Malling Society) and Mrs Earl regarding Douces Manor / The Twitch Inn did not take place as the meeting was not pursued by the residents of Douces Manor			
561.5	At the meeting of the 19 th September the appointment of a new Parish Clerk was agreed. The new Clerk is to look into auto pension enrolment. Plans for outgoing Clerks retirement 'get together' are currently being discussed.	Clerk		
16/562	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS			

	<p>Music at Malling - Mrs Dean wished to congratulate Music at Malling on an outstanding event. The Parish Council are to write to the organisers to thank them for their fantastic effort.</p> <p>Appledene – Mrs Dean reported that diggers have been seen on the land and hedgerows have been removed. T&MBC are currently investigating the matter and considering enforcement action if appropriate.</p>			
16/563	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u>			
563.1	<p>Appledene – Residents expressed their concern at the cutting down of the hedge at Appledene. A copy of the Article 4 direction previously imposed on the owner of Appledene is to be requested from T&MBC so as to ascertain when it was issued, its effect and extent. Mr Selkirk expressed concern at the situation and said that the Parish Council take the situation seriously.</p>	Clerk	✓	
563.2	<p>Car parking – Residents raised on going car parking issues in Norman road in particular adjacent to Alma Road. There has been an instance of the road being blocked for up to an hour as larger vehicles are unable to pass parked cars. Residents were concerned about public safety. T&MBC are to undertake a new consultation about parking in Norman Road where it had emerged the road was too narrow for bay parking. Residents are encouraged to take photos and to leave comments on the Parish Council website under 'Car Parking'.</p>			
563.3	<p>Streetlighting – Mrs Javens enquired as to whether streetlight inspections look at dark areas within the Parish as she had identified a couple of areas. Mrs Dean said that this isn't currently being done but that it was a good idea for once the repair programme had been completed</p>			
563.4	<p>Path next to allotments – the wooden barriers have been removed without permission. Quote to be obtained for iron barriers to be installed.</p>	Ass Clerk		
16/564	<u>POLICING MATTERS</u>			
	<p>Police presence – Mrs Javens to contact PCSO Harrison to identify how residents should contact him now since the loss of the mobile patrol / surgery. Mrs Javens suggested an article in the Downs Mail column that she writes.</p>	LJ		
16/565	<u>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</u>			
	<p>There are 4 separate periods of road closure covering the 11th & 13th November 2016. A request was made for volunteers to assist as stewards on 13/11/16. It was agreed to ask Alan West if he would be happy to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council as he has done in previous years. WMPC would meet the donation to cover the cost of the wreath.</p>	Clerk	✓	
16/566	<u>LOCAL PLAN</u>			
	<p>The Local Plan has been published. Proposals have not changed from the officer's draft i.e. land behind Churchfields backing onto Offham Road is still included for about 80 houses. T&MBC did not include the London Road site as put forward by the Parish Council. T&MBC are running a series of consultation meetings. Mr Byatt and Mr Selkirk are to attend as representatives of WMPC on the 10th October 2016 (Angel Centre, Tonbridge) and 25th October 2016 (Aylesford Community Centre) respectively.</p>	Clerk	✓	
16/567	<u>REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES</u>			
	<p>To be deferred to next Full Council meeting to enable councillors to consider the suggested boundary map. Clerk to locate map that can be distributed to members</p>	Clerk	✓	
16/568	<u>PARKING LIAISON MEETING</u>			
	<p>Report from the meeting of the 19th September 2016. The Parish Council had proposed an initial two hours free parking which would still have resulted in the costs of the car park being recovered. The Borough Council officers had said that a free period is unenforceable.</p>			

	<p>Agreed that the machines have generated complaints, a new pay by card machine is likely to be introduced.</p> <p>The car park site has seen a continued drop in use since May, a drop of 25%.</p> <p>Some shops are now reporting that business has returned to normal but have noted that shopping patterns are changing.</p> <p>Date of next meeting to be confirmed.</p>	Clerk		
16/	<u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>			
569.1	<p>Accounts for payment – totalling £6014.03 were approved. This total includes a total of £70 authorised under Section 137.</p> <p>Payments totalling £601.22 had been approved at quorate meetings since the previous Full Council.</p> <p>All councillors were to be registered as signatories unless debarred from doing so. New signatories to be added, Mr Richard Selkirk, Mrs Steven Harriott, Mrs Yvonne Smyth, Mrs Linda Javens, Mr Ben Merchant, Mr Richard Byatt, Ms Gwyneth Barkham and incoming Clerk Mrs Claire Christmas</p>			
569.2	Financial Statement was received and approved			
569.3	Financial Information – receipt was noted from KCC of ‘Inside Track’ no. 240.			
16/	<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT</u>			
570.1	<p>Amenities Committee – receipt was noted, for information, of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2016</p> <p>Health & Safety inspection of the playground play equipment had been undertaken.</p> <p>Allotment rents were referred to the F&GP Committee.</p> <p>Lime tree in Cricket Meadow was to be felled 4th October 2016</p> <p>Village green benches to be reported to T&MBC – check with Assistant Clerk as to if this has been done.</p>	Ass. Clerk	✓	
570.2	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee– receipt was noted, for information, of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2016.</p> <p>Allotment rents – it was a unanimous decision that there be a single increase of £5 to £30 in 2018 with the intention of raising rents by another £5 to £35 in 2019. It is the view of the Parish Council that allotments are not meant to be an income generator but that the Council needed to ensure that rents were looked at annually to avoid such a large increases in future.</p> <p>Christmas lights– response to T&MBC to be drafted expressing the support of the Parish Council for continuation of funding from the Borough Council and that the scheme should be applied the same way across the Borough in relation to contributions to all costs from all communities.</p> <p>Capping of Parish Councils – WMPC response to Government to be drafted on the following lines.</p> <p>A) Support for the opposition expressed by the LGA to the proposal to cap the highest spending parish councils.</p> <p>B) Parish Councils are almost totally reliant upon Council Tax income, spend their budgets overwhelmingly on projects in their own parishes and are closer to democratic accountability than any other level of local authorities.</p> <p>C) Parishes are liable to large percentage fluctuations on small budgets due to new projects or the actions of others. For example, due to the Borough Council’s move towards fairer funding, in 2017/18 Parish Rates in the T&MBC area will increase dramatically with little change to services, or the final cost to the Council Tax Payer.</p> <p>D) Cutbacks in recent years nationally to Borough and County Budgets have resulted in several functions being passed to Parish Councils to perform, resulting in extra costs to the Parish Budget, for example, libraries, public toilets, maintenance of highway verges and heritage buildings.</p> <p>Cricket Club - Letter to be written to the Cricket Club – Mr Selkirk asked that the draft committee minutes be amended to read that the club need to ‘register with the Information Commissioner’.</p>	Clerk	✓	
570.3	<p>Planning Committee - receipt was noted, for information, of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2016.</p> <p>Micro pub – No objections on the basis that the applicants install the quietest, suitable air con unit.</p> <p>Old Parsonage Court – Area 2 are going to do a site visit.</p>	Clerk	✓	

	Church Centre sale has now gone through, WMPC have asked for an evening meeting to discuss the new owner's plans.			
	Mrs Dean proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the meeting to conclude, this was agreed.			
570.4	<u>Anti-Social Behaviour Meeting</u>			
	The group had requested that the current benches in the ball park should be replaced with metal benches. Referred to Amenities Committee. The youths who congregate at the ball park have asked for the 'youth bus' to visit. Councils consent was given for it to be parked on the cricket ground provided it is properly supervised.			
570.5	<u>Malling Action Partnership</u> - No report			
570.6	<u>Rotary House</u> – No report			
570.7	<u>School Governors</u> - No report			
570.8	<u>Malling Society</u> – No report			
570.9	<u>Christmas Lights Committee</u> – No report			
570.10	<u>Chamber of Commerce</u> – The Chamber are no longer taking on subscriptions and are currently organising the Christmas lights. It was confirmed that Tesco are working alongside the Chamber in organising the lights as a community project. Date of Christmas lights to be confirmed.	Clerk	✓	
571.11	<u>KALC/NALC/ACRK</u> – to note receipt of "Parish News" September 2016 - circulated to all members.			
16/572	<u>MEETING DATES</u> Amenities Committee – Monday 10 October 2016 (concentrating on Churchyard) Finance & General Purposes Committee – Monday 21 November 2016 Highways, Transportation & Streetlighting Committee – Monday 17 October 2016 – TBC Planning Committee – Tuesday 18 October 2016 Macey's Meadow Advisory Committee – Wednesday 26 October 2016 Anti-Social Behaviour Meeting – Tuesday 1 st November 2016, 4pm @ WM CEP School			
16/573	<u>REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS</u> – No reports			
16/574	<u>REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u> Cnty Cllr Mrs Dean reported on: Budget Local transport plan Grammar schools Streetlighting to return all night by the end of November			
16/575	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u> Kings Hill newsletter - no questions raised.			
	There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.50pm. Signed..... Date.....			

