

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 3RD JULY 2017, 7.30 PM
AT WEST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, WEST MALLING

Present: Mrs Trudy Dean (Chairman)
Miss Gwyneth Barkham
Mr Keith Bullard
Mr Larry Collins
Mr Steve Harriott
Mrs Linda Javens
Mr Ben Merchant
Mr Richard Selkirk
Mr Peter Stevens

Also present:
Mrs Sasha Luck (Borough Council)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
17/383	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Yvonne Smyth & Mrs Molly Potts from the Malling Society.			
17/384	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mrs Dean declared that she has an interest (non - pecuniary) in agenda item 10 (Downs Mail) as she chairs Malling Action Partnership, which pays for the Downs Mail insert.			
17/385	MINUTES of the meeting held on 5 th June 2017 were approved and signed			
17/386	MATTERS ARISING from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda – Mrs Javens reported that she is still concerned about the length of time it takes for the Drs surgery to answer the telephone. Mrs Dean confirmed that she is seeking an appointment with the Practice Partner.			
17/387	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS			
	Innovation fund – The sum of £7465.00 has previously been transferred from T&MBC to the Parish Council for signage (noticeboards and fingerposts) for the town. Quotes have been obtained for the manufacture of the signage but it has proven very difficult to find a KCC authorised contractor who is willing to install what is a relatively small amount of signage / noticeboards. It was agreed that the noticeboards only, be installed at this point and to contact KCC to see if they will allow a local tradesman to install. The location of the noticeboard near K2 carpet shop was discussed as to whether or not it should be inside the wall (in the flowerbed) or fixed into the pavement. Clerk to ascertain ownership of the flowerbed and discuss the need to re-apply for planning permission if the board were to be a) smaller b) inside the flowerbed rather than on the pavement.	Clerk	✓	
17/388	QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS			
	Mr Stevens reported that the bus service was deteriorating, with the bus service to the hospital often running up to 30 minutes late. Mrs Javens reported that the number 72 has not turned up on occasions. Members questioned if the service was being monitored.			

	It was noted that the number 72 now goes down Town Hill and not via the station and that the only bus that goes to the station is the 151 Nu Venture service.			
17/389	<u>POLICING MATTERS</u>			
389.1	Policing report – updated Kent Police crime figures were received.			
389.2	Other Policing Matters – It was noted that there had been reports of a fight between the people who sleep rough and congregate outside of Tesco. It was further noted that social services are aware of the gentleman who regularly sleeps in the town and that he is not usually involved in any trouble within the town.			
17/390	<u>LOCAL PLAN</u>			
	<p>Mrs Dean reported that T&MBC have truncated the consultation process and removed their second stage consultation and draft; T&MBC have used their discretion not to proceed with a second round of Regulation 18 consultations and will instead move straight to a Regulation 19 consultation. In view of this change in the timetable, it is now important to identify any additional issues that the Parish Council wish the Local Plan to address. Issues already raised by WMPC in their initial response were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the Green Belt. • Enabling a small affordable housing development outside of the right to buy, for people with local connections to West Malling and • Enabling a suitable site for development as dedicated business parking to relieve parking pressure in residential roads. <p>Members discussed other items deemed to be important to the town, these being,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the heritage of West Malling by planning controls incorporating archaeological exploration and retention and display of artefacts locally if possible. • To be able to ensure the vitality of West Malling as a market town, by preserving and enhancing the market square, supporting and enhancing shops and businesses with openings into the alleys, courtyards and car park and to be able to exercise some control over the balance of shop types. Supporting activities which attract shoppers and encourage them to stay and enjoy the towns, such as blue plaque scheme, Twitch Inn, Macey's Meadow etc. Supporting bus routes and services which bring shoppers to the High Street from surrounding communities, including from the West Malling train station. <p>Mrs Dean asked that members give further consideration to the above and to any other additional items that they feel should be put forward. It was noted that there would be some cross over with the above objectives and the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>It was noted that T&MBC will not publish the responses received to the initial consultation, but that they intend to publish their replies to those responses.</p> <p>To be discussed at the next planning meeting. Clerk to note for planning agenda</p>	Clerk	✓	
17/391	<u>CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT PLAN</u>			
	Mrs Dean proposed that the Churchyard Management Plan be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Mr Selkirk and agreed unanimously by members. The writing of the Management Plan was a joint effort between, David Green, the PCC and Mr Peter Stevens. Members wished to thank all those involved in the drafting of the plan.			
17/392	<u>DOWN'S MAIL</u>			
	<p>It was noted that the Downs Mail is still not being delivered to all houses within the Parish; St Leonards Street and Frog Lane are two of the streets which do not get a delivery. Members expressed frustration as much time and effort is taken to write the articles and they should be reaching all residents; in addition, the Parish Council (subsidised by Malling Action Partnership) pay £100 per month for the West Malling insert (this is every other month and therefore £600 in total).</p> <p>Previously, the Downs Mail have stated that problems of insufficient copies have arisen because of the number of new properties in the area.</p> <p>Clerk to write to Downs Mail to explain that we are still experiencing problems with delivery</p>	Clerk		

	and that as a large number of our residents are affected, consideration ought to be given to a discount.			
17/393	<u>KALC FIRE HYDRANT INITIATIVE</u>			
	It was agreed to adopt the KALC / Kent Fire and Rescue Service hydrants scheme. Volunteers will be needed to monitor the hydrants within the town, checking first that they exist as per the map provided and that they are in good repair; these checks are in addition to the usual checks that Kent Fire & Rescue do on a regular basis. It is anticipated that the checks would need to be done no more than once a month, with each volunteer checking a street or streets of their choice. Volunteers should contact the Parish Office on 01732 870872 Clerk to contact KALC / KFRS			
17/394	<u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>			
394.1	Accounts for payment - totalling £5061.90 were approved - see attached. It was noted that payments totalling £1235.40 had been approved at a quorate meeting of the Planning Committee on 27 th June 2017 since the previous Full Council.			
394.2	Financial Statement – was received – see attached.			
394.3	KCC – Inside Track – receipt was noted of KCC 'Inside Track' no. 246			
394.4	Communities Together Fund – Kent Police receive money by seizing and auctioning property from offenders, this scheme reinvests the money into the local communities that offenders have potentially harmed. The PCC has set aside £15,000 to be awarded to projects that bring communities together. The maximum grant available per project is £750 and the fund is open to local volunteer, community, charity groups and social enterprises that meet a certain criteria. For full details see: www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/commissioning/funds/communities-together-fund/ Clerk to notify TMCC and Macey's Meadow Committee.			
17/395	<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT</u>			
395.1	Amenities Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 th June 2017. Ownership and maintenance of bank in Ryarsh Lane (17/341) Complaint brought by residents of Ryarsh lane regarding the apparent lack of maintenance of the bank which is understood to be owned by T&MBC. Assistant Clerk to write to Michael Harris of T&MBC to ascertain who definitely owns the bank and the extent of their maintenance PROW MR116 Following consultation, KCC have now gone back to the landowner with the suggestion of the route being diverted diagonally Barnard Bench – graveyard (17/339.1) After discussion regarding the Barnard bench, Members thought the idea of removing the plaque and mounting on a wooden plinth and placed in the Churchyard was the best solution. The Parish Council do not wish to replace the bench. War Memorial (17/339.2) Quotes for repairing the memorial are awaited and the Assistant Clerk to obtain information of grants available.			
395.2	Highways Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 th June 2017 (17/361) A Boards on the High Street. KCC Streetworks team are currently considering steps that can be taken to ensure that shops and businesses use A Boards in the appropriate manner; in particular ensuring that there is			

	<p>enough space for pedestrians to pass and that they abide by the Disability Act.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk reported that there had been a lot of interest in the new Speedwatch scheme and that online training could start very soon. It was agreed that St Leonards Street is a priority for Speedwatch.</p> <p>Miss Barkham volunteered to join the scheme.</p> <p>Road Closure Notices</p> <p>Mr Stevens noted the poor quality of the road closure notices that were being emailed through to the Parish Office by KCC; often the notices contained errors in the street names.</p>			
395.3	<p>Planning Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2017.</p> <p>(17/374.2) (TM/17/01621/TNCA - Orchard Oast 279 Broadwater Road West Malling ME19 6HT It was noted that this application fell within the Parish of East Malling and Larkfield.</p> <p>Planning training for West Malling members only was discussed. Clerk to contact CPRE and KALC.</p>			
395.4	Malling Action Partnership – grant received from KCC to pay for volunteer insurance			
395.5	Rotary House – no report			
395.6	School Governors – the date of the school fete was noted as the 15 th July 2017			
395.7	Malling Society – Kris Mercer had cleared the weeds from the Cascade and there was agreement that he had done an excellent job. Members wished to thank him for his efforts.			
395.8	Chamber of Commerce / Christmas Lights Committee – the date of the festival has been confirmed as 19 th November 2017. At the meeting held on 21 st June 2017, over 20 representatives of shops and businesses attended. Tesco have agreed to do the festival administration, whilst sub committees are to be set up to deal with other functions.			
395.9	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council – Parish Partnership meeting dates were noted. Mr Selkirk agreed to attend the meeting on the 7 th September 2017.			
395.10	KALC/NALC/ACRK – June Parish News received.			
17/396	<p><u>MEETING DATES</u></p> <p>Amenities Committee – Monday 10th July 2017 (concentrating on allotments)</p> <p>Amenities Committee – Monday 7th August 2017 (concentrating on Churchyards)</p> <p>Finance & General Purposes Committee – Monday 17th July 2017 (at The Clout, 9 High Street) - cancelled</p> <p>Planning Committee – Tuesday 25th July 2017</p> <p>Planning Committee – Tuesday 22nd August 2017</p> <p>Finance & General Purposes Committee – Monday 17th July 2017 (at The Clout, 9 High Street) - cancelled</p> <p>Highways, Transportation & Streetlighting Committee – Monday 21st August 2017 (at The Clout, 9 High Street)</p> <p>Macey's Meadow Advisory Committee – Wednesday 26th July 2017</p>			
17/397	<p><u>REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR</u></p> <p>See attached report</p>			
17/398	<u>REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u>			

	See attached report			
	There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.51 Signed Dated			

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL						
Financial Statement to be presented to Full Council 3 July 2017						
<u>Reconciliation</u>						
Balance b/f from 2016/17						£ 98,172.44
<u>plus</u>						
total receipts 1.04.17-31.03.18						£ 67,077.49
<u>less</u>						
total payments 1.04.17-31.03.18						£ 28,006.60
Total						<u>£ 137,243.33</u>
Deposit account						£ 90,414.75
Current account						£49,603.76
less unrepresented cheques						£2,775.18
						<u>£ 46,828.58</u>
Total						<u>£ 137,243.33</u>
<u>Direct Debits</u>						
Nest		£28.86				
Plusnet		£18.00				
BT		£122.08				
<u>Unrepresented Cheques</u>						
3.4.17	KALC	£	72.00			
17.4.17	Carole D'Silva	£	1,859.20			
22.5.17	ELM Ltd	£	639.98			
5.6.17	Outdoorsy	£	204.00			
		£	2,775.18			

Councillor's Report – Cllr. Luck

Road closures.

New Hythe Lane Larkfield 24th July for 30 days Gas Works

Broadwater Lane 24th July for 5 days S.E.Water

Norman Road from no24, 24th July for 29 days S.E.Water

Village Green "Hope Sign" needs cleaning under the glass

Arundel House, the planning permission expires 26th September for works to the windows, no plans have been sent in to date

County Councillors Report July 2017 – Cllr. Dean

1. New Hythe Lane closes for 30 days gas works.

New Hythe Lane is to be closed between London Road and the Fire Station, for gas connections, over a 30 day period from 24th July. The work is to be in 3 phases, from A20 to Morrisons, Morrisons to Laburnum Drive and lastly Laburnum Drive to the Fire Station.

I have asked if the proposed yellow box junction at the A20/New Hythe Lane crossing can be installed at the same time to avoid another closure. I also asked some time ago if TMBC and KCC could fast track the consultation on the peak hour parking restrictions in this stretch of road so that the new road markings and signage could be installed during the same closure. So far, only the yellow box junction looks possible. I also asked if Bellingham Way through the former Aylesford Newsprint site could be opened as a diversion temporarily, but was advised that this was not possible during demolition works for safety reasons.

2. New 2019 rubbish collection service from 2019

The Borough Council's rubbish collection contract runs out in February 2019. This means TMBC can now think about collecting different materials in different containers.

Last week, TMBC councillors heard about early plans to overhaul their system involving the following;

Weekly collection of food waste in a new kitchen caddy.

Fortnightly collections from existing green bins and boxes, of plastics, metal, cartons, glass, paper, card and cans.

Fortnightly collection of all other waste in the grey bin.

A new garden waste collection in a new 'Green Bin'. Residents choosing to receive this service will have to pay between £30 and £40 per household per year.

I think residents will be pleased with a weekly food collection, and very pleased that at long last plastics are to be collected from the doorstep. However, many people will struggle with five recycling containers, and many people will not want or be able to pay an extra charge for green waste. Wherever charging has been introduced for green waste, the amount collected has fallen to around half the previous level, which is a very backward step. Tonbridge and Malling is the only District in Kent without its own Waste Collection tip, so residents would be forced to travel to Tovil or Cuxton to dispose of it properly. In practice, it will end up in the grey bin instead and not be recycled."

Trudy asked the Borough Council to consider other alternatives so that the green collection could remain free of charge. She also asked for more details on what the position would be for people who cannot manage three bins and two boxes, the future of the bulky refuse container service and recycling banks in local car parks, and for people in flats where there is very little recycling at all. Officers said all these matters were still under discussion but the green waste charge would pay for the increased service of waste materials, and recycling service and make savings.

I have asked TMBC to ensure a full consultation with residents is carried out before decisions are made.

3. Manor Park Car Park West Malling ANPR starting Monday July 3rd.

Enforcement of parking charges at Manor Park West Malling will be by Automatic Number Plate recognition from Monday 3rd July and Penalty Charges will be made. Parking Charges remain the same at £1.30 Monday to Friday, £2 at weekend and Bank Holidays and £50 for an annual Season ticket.

4. Traffic Restrictions

St Leonards Street from High St to Teston Road, West Malling Speed reduction from 30mph to 10mph for up to 2 days on or following Sunday 2nd July for carriageway patching. Any road markings affected will be replaced.

Chapel St East Malling from no 21 to Rocks Road closure for up to 2 days from Saturday 8th July for ducting by Virgin Media.

Station Road Aylesford between Hall Road and Forstal Road overnight closure 21.00 to 05.00 for four nights from Monday 17th July.

New Hythe Lane will be closed for up to 30 days from 24th July (see article for details)

Broadwater Road will be closed outside number 93 for up to five days from 24th July for SE Water.

The Hop Farm Beltring A26 Temporary traffic restrictions all day between Monday 24th and Saturday 29th July for War and Peace show.

Norman Road West Malling closure for up to 29 working days from 24th July from Offham Road junction to outside number 24 to allow connections to the water main by South East Water.

(This is a long closure due to the depth of the excavations sand underground services in this stretch of road, and the need to ensure purity of drinking water.)

5. Fly Tipping

The Borough Council is warning householders to make sure any rubbish leaving their homes via contractors' vehicles is going to an approved disposal site. Fly tipped waste, sometimes closing entire roads, is costing councils a lot of money to clear . So they are now checking carefully to see if the owner can be traced and penalty charges imposed .

Contractors should provide a written statement of where it's going.

6. Eleven Plus and Choosing secondary schools

Applications for children to sit the Eleven Plus examination to get into a Grammar School y must be done by July 3rd. . It can be done online. The tests will be held on September 7th and results given around 12th October.

In choosing a secondary school, parents should check what transport help is available.

Even if you want a place at another school further away, **you must put down your nearest secondary school in your list of options**. If you do not do so, and you get your place at the school of your choice which is further afield, you will not be able to claim any transport assistance.

7. Brookfield Infant and Junior School admissions.

A formal consultation is now underway to make Brookfield Infant and Junior School 'linked' for admission purposes. This means siblings have priority over all other applicants save Looked After Children. It would be helpful if the Parish Council could write in support of this move.

KCC say that money from government for expanding existing schools has been cut so much that they cannot afford to create extra spaces at Brookfield Infant School this year. As a result about 20 children have been turned away for this September, some with brothers and sisters in the Junior School. Parents have been given places at Aylesford, Leybourne Chase and Snodland instead.

KCC say they are now relying almost entirely on developer money from large new housing estates to get new places opened in new primary and secondary schools. In our area that means the only primary schools that are not oversubscribed are at Leybourne Chase and Aylesford, both of which are some distance from the main built up areas of Larkfield, East and West Malling.

I fear this reliance on developer contributions will mean officers will favour large scale developments, and as a consequence children will be travelling further for primary schooling.

8. Gallagher test blasting at Blaise Farm quarry

A number of residents have complained of experiencing noise and vibration from local blasting activities. Blasting continues as normal at Gallaghers Hermitage Lane Quarry, Barming. Gallaghers are also removing increasing amounts from Blaise Farm quarry, the entrance to which is at the Offham end roundabout of the West Malling bypass. They recently applied to increase the power of the blasts and testing has been going on at times which are not made public. KCC say they are satisfied the effects of the blasts are well within those allowed by the regulations. I can provide an explanatory leaflet if anyone would like a copy.

9. The four Open Gardens in West Malling in June raised £3,186 and attracted 400 visitors to West Malling.

10 Guerilla gardening, green volunteers, environmental warriors...call them what you like, but if anybody fancies joining a group of volunteers wanting to tidy and plant up those little bits of Malling waste land that nobody seems to care for, please contact Richard Selkirk on 01732 874999

11 Forthcoming Events

Kent Police Open Day Kent Police College Coverdale Avenue Maidstone ME15 9DW Sunday 2nd July 10am to 4pm

Find out about crime busting with Police Dogs, Air Service Helicopter, Force Control Room, Custody cell, and Finger Printing. Parking accessed from Landsdowne Road.

Clare Lake Restoration Thursday The Malling School Wednesday July 5th . summer vegetation clearance, tidying up and litter picking. Bring tools like brooms, shears, secateurs and buckets for watering the new hedge plants. NO POWER TOOLS PLEASE. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the break. Contact Michelle Tatton Clare Lake Volunteer Coordinator 01732 521889

Bugsy Malone in the Angel Centre Tonbridge on Sunday July 8th by Georgia d'Arcy stage school who meet in West Malling Village Hall.

Inter Active Sports and Arts Day East Malling Centre Chapman Way on Thursday 17th August 10am till 1pm. Sports, Arts and Crafts for all to enjoy. If you would like to run a stall or stand contact Angela Borsos on angela.communityprojects@gmail.com or 07710 403882. Profits to NSPCC

Great Comp Music Festival, St Mary Platt, from July to September. Visit www.greatcompmusic.org

