

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2018, 7.30 PM
AT WEST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, WEST MALLING

Present: Mrs Trudy Dean (Chairman)
Miss Gwyneth Barkham
Mr Keith Bullard
Mr Richard Byatt
Mrs Linda Javens
Mr Ben Merchant
Mrs Yvonne Smyth
Ms Min Stacpoole
Mr Nick Stapleton
Mr Peter Stevens

Also present Cllr Sasha Luck

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
18/67	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from, Mr Larry Collins.			
18/68	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none, other than those routinely declared			
18/69	<u>MINUTES</u> of the meeting held on 8 th January 2018 were approved and signed following an amendment at 18/09.1 – which should read 'Mrs Dean'.			
18/70	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda – none			
18/71	<u>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>			
	Parish Council Meal - Mrs Dean thanked everyone who was able to attend the recent Parish Council meal; it is hoped that this will become a more regular occurrence.			
18/72	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> None			
18/73	<u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u>			
	Swan Street Café – Miss Barkham noted that the property which was previously Swan Street Café appears to have been let. Members are unaware as to who the new occupant is.			
18/74	<u>POLICING MATTERS</u>			
74.1	Policing report - Updated crime figures were not available.			
74.2	Other Policing matters – there were no other matters to report			
18/75	<u>THE ROYAL WEDDING 19th MAY 2018</u>			
	Previously, WMPC have helped to organise street parties to celebrate Royal events such as the Jubilee and the wedding of Prince William; members were asked to consider if such an event ought to be organised to mark the wedding of Prince Harry. It was agreed that, in principle, it would be a good idea that the occasion be marked and there was general			

	agreement that rather than a High Street closure, that perhaps a picnic in Macey's Meadow would be suitable. There is to be a meeting of the Orchard Project and it was suggested that this be raised at the meeting. Clerk to discuss with Mr Doyle.	Clerk	✓	
18/76	<u>LOCAL PLAN</u>			
	No update to be received.			
18/77	<u>WEST MALLING GROUP PRACTICE</u>			
	Closure of the West Malling site - Mrs Dean is awaiting a meeting with the business manager, Vicki Plummer; Mrs Plummer has been unable to schedule a meeting due to her heavy workload. It has been confirmed that the West Malling site will stay open for at least the whole of 2018 and that when the building is sold a Drs 'presence' will be kept in West Malling. Both a paper and online petition are now circulating which asks that the surgery stay open until new premises are found and that priority be given to the elderly and those with young children, should the appointment system be more limited in the future. The petition is to be sent to both the Patient Participation Group and the Partners at the surgery. It was agreed to endorse the paper petition which is being circulated on behalf of the Malling Society. Mrs Javens asked about community right to bid – <i>it was subsequently confirmed that the Drs surgery was not on the Community Assets List.</i> Members expressed concern about the natural level of anxiety amongst residents regarding the closure of the surgery and the rumours as to who may purchase the building. It was agreed unanimously that Mrs Dean write to the Clinical Commissioning Group	TD	✓	
18/78	<u>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 'COUNT THEM IN' CAMPAIGN</u>			
	It was agreed that WMPC give support to the RBL campaign to include a question within the census form which would identify former service men and women. This would facilitate the provision of support services to veterans. Link to Campaign: https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/count-them-in/			
18/79	<u>KENT MINERALS & WASTE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION</u>			
	The KMWLP consultation has identified a 'need' for soft sand – shortfall figures will be determined after a detailed technical assessment but could be as much as 5 million tonnes. KCC have completed a call for sites and are currently assessing two sites, Lenham and Ryarsh (called West Malling Sandpit). Mr Byatt attended a public meeting organised by Ryarsh Parish Council, where a KCC representative and residents were in attendance. It was agreed that West Malling Parish Council would respond to the consultation and would highlight in particular, traffic / difficult access and would ask what independent advice KCC have sought about the potential threats to health caused by soft sand and silica extraction. Link to the consultation as follows: http://consult.kent.gov.uk/portal/ . Deadline 28 th March 2018 Draft response below; to be further considered at F&GP on 19 th March 2018 <i>"West Malling Parish Council is concerned about the proposal to include "West Malling Sandpit, Ryarsh" as an allocated site for the extraction of soft sand in the Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan. Our primary concerns relate to identified need; traffic; pollution & health; and restoration of the site.</i> <i>We seek clarification and assurance on the following points:</i> <i>1) Although the current KMWLP refers to a "need" for 5m tonnes of soft sand, KCC has referred to "more recent calculations" giving a need of just under 2m tonnes. There is clearly a big difference between these two figures. We would like to see the need established definitively before any site is selected for inclusion and to understand whether this need is for Kent alone or also to meet demand from outside the county.</i>	RB	✓	

	<p>2) <i>The proposal from the operator is that site traffic enters and leaves via the A20 and Roughetts Road. We believe it will be difficult for large lorries to enter and exit Roughetts Road onto the A20 safely, particularly where they have to cross a carriageway. We would like to know what mitigation measures the operator proposes to ensure traffic can move safely and whether other access routes have been considered.</i></p> <p>3) <i>There is understandable concern in surrounding communities, including West Malling, about the potential impact on health of mineral working at this site, particularly in relation to the extraction of silica sand. We would like to know what independent advice KCC has received on the potential health hazards of soft sand and silica sand extraction. We should also like to know what measures the operator proposes and/or KCC will insist on to ensure any adverse health impacts are eliminated.</i></p> <p>4) <i>The current designation of the site is "agriculture land" and the proposed restoration after 24 years is to "agriculture land". We would like confirmation of the planning status of the land following restoration. Our understanding is that mineral extraction is a "temporary land use" and the land does not become "brownfield" simply because it has been worked. We seek confirmation of this and that any subsequent development proposal would be treated as if the sandpit had never existed."</i></p>			
18/80	<u>SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENGLAND'S STRATEGIC ROADS</u>			
	<p>It was agreed to support the inclusion into the Highways England Road Investment Strategy 2020 -25 Road Strategies, the re-instatement of the missing slip roads in the vicinity of M25 Junction 5 Sevenoaks Kent. Clerk and Mr Bullard to draft response accordingly.</p>	Clerk KB	✓	
18/81	<u>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS</u>			
81.1	<p>To authorise engaging legal representation – 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. Twitch Inn – recommendation from F&GP Committee that initial legal advice be sought regarding outstanding service charges - agreed. Sum of £500 solicitors fees agreed as monies on account. It was agreed that Mrs Dean and Mr Stevens seek a meeting with Directors and Elm Management.</p>			
81.2	<p>To authorise possible property transaction - 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. Members discussed laying long term plans for the council's assets and reviewed the Community Asset Register of properties and agreed a way forward.</p>			
18/82	<u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>			
82.1	<p>Accounts for payment - totalling £4983.56 were approved - see attached. It was noted that payments totalling £844.20 had been approved at a quorate meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 22nd January 2018 since the previous Full Council.</p>			
82.2	Financial Statement – bank reconciliation as of 23 rd January was received – see attached.			
18/83	<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT</u>			
83.1	<p>Amenities Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018.</p> <p>(18/28) - Manor Park to Windmill Lane, Unmarked Path. It was noted that a resident has reported the removal of the above footpath to KCC. The landowner has not clearly marked the route. KCC replied stating that until the crops reach 6 inches high the landowner does not need to mark or spray the path again. Once the crop</p>			

	reaches the height they are obligated to mark out the path. The landowner has assured KCC that he will tend to this in the new year when it is not too wet.			
83.2	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2018</p> <p>(18/39) – St Leonards Well – a request has been received from the Malling Society concerning the renovation of St Leonards Well. Members had agreed that a letter be drafted asking that the Society contact the Conservation officer (via T&MBC) before any work is undertaken because this is a sensitive historical part of the town.</p> <p>(18/43) – A social media policy is to be drafted to govern the future use of social media and the WMPC website. Mr Byatt offered to assist with the drafting of the policy document</p>			
83.3	<p>Planning Committee – receipt was noted, for information of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2018.</p> <p>No questions</p>			
83.4	Malling Action Partnership – it was reported that MAP will probably take control of an East Malling project which trains ladies who wish to return to the workplace.			
83.5	Rotary House – no report			
83.6	School Governors – no report			
83.7	Malling Society – The resignation of Molly Potts as Chairman was noted and that Chris Mercer was now acting Chair.			
83.8	Chamber of Commerce / Christmas Lights Committee – no report			
83.9	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council – Parish Partnership Panel – the next meeting date of the 15 th February 2018 was noted. Mr Byatt hoped to be able to attend.			
83.10	KALC/NALC/ACRK - Draft minutes of the TM KALC meeting of 4 th January were received. The Community Led Housing West Kent event date of 9 th March was noted.			
18/84	<p><u>MEETING DATES</u></p> <p>Amenities Committee – Monday 12th February 2018 (concentrating on Churchyard)</p> <p>Highways Transportation & Streetlighting Committee – Monday 19th February 2018 (at The Clout, 9 High Street)</p> <p>Planning Committee – Tuesday 27th February 2018</p> <p>Macey's Meadow Advisory Committee – Wednesday 14th March 2018</p>			
18/85	<p><u>REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR</u></p> <p>See attached report.</p>			
18/86	<p><u>REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent KCC assessment of roads and potholes highlighted a backlog of £660 million. To facilitate a 'managed decline' of roads would cost £14 million per year – less used roads would be allowed to decline. To keep the roads in their current condition would cost £45 million per year and to improve roads would cost £50 million per year. Keep Britain Tidy – official weekend is 3rd & 4th March, however T&MBC are looking to participate during the whole month of March Clerk to note Amenities Agenda 	Clerk	✓	

	<p>There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.44</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Dated.....</p>			

Borough Councillor's Report

Monday 5th February we had a thin layer of snow. The T&M Council salted and gritted the car parks in West Malling at 9am

There are going to be small increases in the charges in the Bulky Refuse collection of £50 to £52 and an increase of the charge for requested bin emptying when not put out £17 to £18.

Quarry at Ryarsh, consultation will finish at the end of March

Lavenders Road closed 3rd February for 3 months

Asked Julie Beilby, Chief Executive of T & M if there is anything they can do about the closure of the doctors in West Malling. She will get in contact with the West Kent Clinical Commission Group, to see what is happening

10th February A228 Malling Road closed for 1 day 8am to 5pm.

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL			
Financial Statement to be presented to Full Council 5 February 2018			
Reconciliation			
Balance b/f from 2016/17			£ 98,172.44
<u>plus</u>			
total receipts 1.04.17-31.03.18			£ 133,179.47
<u>less</u>			
total payments 1.04.17-31.03.18			£ 96,958.51
		Total	£ 134,393.40
Deposit account			£ 90,716.69
Current account		£44,699.78	
less unrepresented cheques		£1,023.07	
			<u>£ 43,676.71</u>
		Total	£ 134,393.40
Unrepresented Cheques			
5317 ELM Ltd		£ 639.98	
5417 KALC		£ 155.09	
5429 ATC Squadron		£ 150.00	
5437 WMVH		<u>£ 78.00</u>	
		£ 1,023.07	