

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2023, 7.30 PM
AT WEST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD

Present: Mrs Trudy Dean (Chair)
Ms Gwyneth Barkham
Mr Keith Mann
Ms Sara Margetts
Mrs Yvonne Smyth
Ms Min Stacpoole
Mr Peter Stevens

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
23/137	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from, Mrs Javens; Ms Medhurst; Mrs Miles; Mr Thompson and Borough Councillor Paul Boxall,			
23/138	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> - none			
23/139	<u>MINUTES</u> - the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 th February were approved and signed.			
23/140	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> - none			
23/141	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> –</p> <p>Mrs Dean reported that Tim Macey, son of Percy Macey, has passed away following a short illness. The family has asked that donations be made to the parish council which would be safeguarded specifically to help with the upkeep of Macey's Meadow and future projects. Clerk to send condolences.</p> <p>Mrs Dean reported that she attended the funeral of Mrs Earl.</p> <p>Mrs Dean noted the recent house fire in the village of Offham.</p> <p>Mrs Dean reminded members that 'Greener West Malling' would be taking place on Sunday 12th March, 2 - 4pm.</p>	Clerk	√	
23/142	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
23/143	<u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u>			

	<p>Ms Barkham reported that West Malling library has feedback forms available for users of the service to complete. The completed forms will be sent to KCC for processing.</p> <p>Ms Margetts has been made aware that the Baptist Church is considering the possibility of turning the pre-school building (pre-school is now closed) into a community hub. Mrs Dean agreed that she would speak with a representative of the Baptist Church.</p>	TD		
23/144	<u>POLICING MATTERS</u>			
144.1	<u>Police Update</u> – receipt of the February police report was noted.			
144.2	<u>Other Policing Matters</u> - none			
23/145	<u>LOCAL PLAN</u>			
145.1	<u>Update</u> – Mrs Dean reported that TMBC have released a list of TMBC owned sites for which the recommendation to TMBC councillors is that they should not be included in the forthcoming Local Plan; the sites include the 2 West Malling car parks, Ryarsh Lane and High Street. This will be considered by the Finance, Regeneration and Property Scrutiny Select Committee at its meeting on 14 th March.			
145.2	<u>Green Belt extension petition</u> – Mrs Dean reported that the online petition had reached approx. 2550 signatures and 30 paper forms had been completed. It was suggested that an interim report be sent to TMBC in time for their next meeting.			
145.3	<u>Levelling - up & Regeneration Bill – reforms to national planning policy</u> – it was noted that WMPC's response was submitted on 2 nd March.			
23/146	<u>BRADBOURNE DEVELOPER CONSULTATION</u>			
	<p>It was noted that East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council's response to this consultation would probably not be available in time for WMPC to endorse their comments.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Mann would draft comments on the issues that will impact West Malling such as the spine road; comments to be circulated to all members and agreed prior to submission.</p>	KM	√	
23/147	<u>BUS SERVICES – NUMBER 58</u>			
	<p>Discussions are progressing regarding proposals for parishes to work together to fund a version of the number 58 and 70 bus routes; Cllr. Taylor having applied to KCC for a Community Transport Grant.</p> <p>Receipt was noted of the email from Cllr. Mike Taylor requesting that parishes fund a financial 'buffer' for the scheme and in the case of WMPC, the suggested sum is £100.</p> <p>This was agreed unanimously subject to clarification from KCC that this expenditure is a proper exercise of parish council powers.</p>			
23/148	<u>WEST MALLING PUBLIC CONVENIENCES</u>			
	<p>The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet received a response from TMBC regarding a Service Level Agreement or extension of the Licence for the King Street toilets.</p> <p>There has also been no update regarding the Title search required for the potential new toilet block within the Tesco car park.</p> <p>Clerk to contact TMBC again.</p>	Clerk	√	
23/149	<u>KCC COMMUNITY SERVICES CONSULTATION</u>			
	It was agreed that WMPC would respond to the consultation supporting the decision to keep			

	<p>open the Woodland's Children Centre. Community Services Consultation Let's talk Kent Deadline 26th March Clerk responded as follows:</p> <p><i>I am writing on behalf of West Malling Parish Council who would like to submit comments regarding the Woodland's Children Centre.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council supports the Centre remaining open as it is an essential base for a family hub. In due course, the Council would seek clarification on how the site will be managed moving forward.</i></p>			
23/150	<u>WEST MALLING CORONATION EVENT</u>			
	There was a general discussion regarding the event which is to be held on Monday 8 th May in conjunction with the Macey's Meadow blossom day event.			
23/151	<u>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING</u>			
	It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on the same date as the May AGM and Full Council – it is expected that this date will be 15 th May.			
23/152	<u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>			
152.1	Accounts for payment - totalling £9,078.81 were approved - see attached.			
152.2	It was noted that payments in the sum of £2373.38 were authorised at the Amenities Committee meeting held on 13 th February.			
152.3	Financial Statement – bank reconciliation as at 28 th February was received – see attached			
152.4	Zurich Insurance renewal – it was agreed that the Zurich policy be renewed at a cost of £2,688.42. Three quotes to be obtained for the next financial year.			
23/153	<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT</u>			
153.1	Amenities Committee - receipt was noted of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 th February. Details of the outcome of the insurance claim were noted. There were no questions.			
153.2	Planning Committee – receipt was noted of the agreed minutes of the meeting held on 10 th February and the draft minutes of the meetings held on 28 th February. There were no questions.			
153.3	Highways, Transport & Streetlighting Committee – receipt was noted of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 20 th February. There were no questions.			
153.4	Climate Change & Biodiversity Action group – Ms Stacpoole provided a verbal report of the informal meeting of the group which concentrated on preparations for the public meeting to be held on 12 th March. Arrangements for the public meeting were discussed.			
153.5	Broadwater Action Group – no report			
153.6	Malling Action Partnership – no report			
153.7	School Governors – no report			

153.8	<p>Malling Society – Ms Barkham reported that first meeting of the year will be held on 14th March at West Malling Primary School; representatives of the Royal British Legion will be giving a talk on the work of the organisation.</p>		
153.9	<p>Chamber of Commerce / Christmas Lights Committee – no report</p>		
153.10	<p>Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council:</p> <p>Parish Partnership Panel – draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th February were received and it was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 15th June.</p> <p>Mr Mann attended the meeting on 9th February and briefly reported to members discussions which took place regarding enforcement, ID for the May election and the Local Plan.</p>		
153.11	<p>KALC/NALC/ACRK/CPRE:</p> <p>KALC T&M meeting – it was noted that the next meeting is to take place on 30th March KALC News – receipt was noted of the February edition.</p>		
23/154	<p><u>MEETING DATES</u></p> <p>Amenities – Monday 13th March – West Malling Village Hall F&GP – Monday 20th March – Clout Planning – Tuesday 28th March– West Malling Village Hall</p> <p>April Full Council – 3rd April - West Malling Village Hall</p> <p>Macey’s Meadow Advisory Committee – Thursday 23rd March - West Malling Village Hall</p>		
23/155	<p><u>REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR</u></p>		
	<p>Cllr. Boxall had emailed his report to the Clerk which had been circulated to all members.</p> <p>Council Tax The council rates and precepts have recently been announced with KCC going for the full amount possible 4.99%. TMBC increased their part of the tax by 3%. Both councils are under real pressure to carry out their duty to provide statutory and vital services such as Social Care.</p> <p>New Café in Leybourne Chase called Bulunga Café. The coffee shop is in the grounds of Rosewood School on Teddington Drive and is being run by its students, to give their pupils a first taste of life in the commercial world. Skills learned interacting with customers will last a lifetime. The Cafe is open to public on Monday to <u>Thursday 8.30am to 3pm</u> and <u>Friday 8.30am to 2.30pm</u>.</p> <p>Sewage In February’s Full Council meeting, Borough Councillor Frani Hoskins successfully put forward a motion that TMBC should press the Government to toughen up on controls of water companies dumping sewage in our rivers. She calls on the Government to restore Environment Agency budgets to allow them to do their job, and increase the regularity of inspection of water companies and farms, rigorously prosecuting offenders. <i>It is shocking that every single river in England is now polluted beyond the legal limits. Government Funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate water companies has been cut by three quarters since 2011. On 26th January, Conservative MPs voted to delay an 80% reduction of harmful phosphates in rivers to 2038! We now understand that laws to enforce clean water are amongst those to be destroyed in the ‘bonfire’ of 4,000 EU Regulations which the Government plans. Most chemical pollution is caused by sewage discharges from water companies, usually following heavy rains. Southern Water released 184 spills into the River Medway and its tributaries in the Tonbridge area in 2021. It was fined £90 million after admitting illegal dumping of sewage. Last year, there were another 62 incidents of pollution. Whilst Tonbridge may seem distant from us, the River Medway flows on through Yalding Lock, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Larkfield, Snodland, and Peters Village out to the sea at Rochester. Many people enjoy the riverside during walks and picnics, and most</i></p>		

	<p><i>of us go to the seaside where the rivers end up. The best beaches and sea of north and East Kent, including Viking Bay Broadstairs, were closed last year due to sewage contamination.</i></p> <p>Recycling Centre From 1st April non Medway residents will no longer be able to use Cuxton tip. For residents of the Malling/Leybourne area your nearest facility is at Allington. To visit you need to book, go to KCC website and put HWRC in the search box to find out more. We have asked for better signs from the A20/junction 5 roundabout.</p> <p>WMGP Back in September WMGP and the Patient Participation Group conducted a survey to gain the views on their service provision with a total of 1,970 responses returned. Their findings are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There is a high degree of disappointment with Access to Appointments •There is a lack of knowledge and understanding regarding alternative health care providers and professionals that can provide appropriate and better and quicker access to treatment. •There are improvements to be made in the attitudes and behaviours of some reception staff. <p>To address these points WMGP have committed to work to free up more GP appointments by actively promoting the alternative service providers available to our patients. They will ensure all receptionists are fully trained to offer the wide range of alternative services to our patients, effective from Mid-April. Although 60% of patients felt receptionists are helpful they promise to work on their customer service skills to reduce the 37% who felt that our receptionists were unhelpful to below 10% by the end of 2023. Watch this space for much needed improvement!</p> <p>40 Acres development - I have reported that Skylarks are nesting on the field, these are protected by the endangered species act 1981. I am a waiting for TMBC to reply.</p> </p>			
<p>23/156</p>	<p><u>REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u></p> <p>Mrs Dean reported that children now need to live within 1.2 miles of the Malling School to be able to secure a place (on the basis that they do not have a sibling connection or fulfil other entrance requirements).</p> <p>Mrs Dean is receiving an increase in the number of transport request for residents wishing to get to the Drs surgery either at Leybourne or Kings Hill. Thought to be given to resurrecting a version of the Covid volunteer scheme.</p> <p>Banky Meadows – two local estate agents are advertising for sale ‘leisure plots’. Mrs Dean has contacted TMBC to ask that a stop notice be put in place.</p> <p>Mrs Dean reminded members that she has a grant of £5000 to be spent on trees in her division. End of March deadline.</p>			
<p>23/157</p>	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>TCPA – February newsletter was received Heart of Kent Hospice – email received thanking WMPC for their Section 137 donation of £300.</p>			
	<p>There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.37</p> <p>Signed..... Dated.....</p>			

