



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 in Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Thompson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura Maclaren and Cllr Val Springett; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were fourteen members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Time

Councillors were thanked; feedback on the consultation on the Code of Conduct was requested.

36. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lawrence Rustem (personal) and Cllr Chris Evernden (personal); apologies accepted.

37. Declaration of Interest. or Lobbying

Cllr English declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 being a Member of Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee so will not discuss or vote on planning applications other than to give procedural and technical advice.

38. Dispensations

None.

39. Items to be taken in closed session

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to consider the Villager of the Year in closed session.

40. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024

a) To consider the minutes of the previous meetings and if in order sign as a true record.
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record; Cllr English duly signed the minutes.

b) Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)
All matters on the agenda.

41. Visitors

a) Borough Councillor

MBCllr Thompson reported that he had been contacted about traffic issues and road works. He has also been consulted regarding Gypsy and Traveller matters and has been impressed with the calm and thoughtful attitude of residents.

b) County Councillor

Cllr English informed Members that the County Councillor had intervened in the traffic surveys as some residents were concerned the A249 closure would not give true data.

Cllr Maclaren said the Parish Council has raised this issue but the survey went ahead on the advice of KCC Highways. Another survey after the road closure will show the traffic impact on Detling and this is welcomed.

c) Police

PC Jacob Troth was unable to attend and sent the following report:

Police Activity:

Any local issues raised by residents that come onto the local list are dealt with by myself. At the end of January, an abandoned vehicle in DETLING which was causing an obstruction was called in by a resident and seized and removed by police. Initially it was suspected stolen, however, this transpired not to be the case, but it still caused disruption to an individual involved in criminal activity. Any suspicious vehicles called in by residents will likely be attended by myself. Since my arrest of the drug driver in DETLING just before the end of the year I have been through the village numerous times, however, have not come across any more offences being actively committed.

Crime trends:

Crime in the DETLING ward is low with no serious offences or obvious crime trends in or around the village of DETLING.

There is intel to suggest ongoing fly tipping issues around DETLING, one instance of which was committed by a large yellow LUTON style van.

Resident safeguarding:

Recently residents in BEARSTED and WEAVERING were targeted by an individual who was checking vehicles to see if they had been left unlocked and stealing items within. For residents to be reminded that to prevent themselves falling victim to opportunistic crimes such as this they should ensure they lock their vehicles at night as well as ensuring all outbuildings are locked and secured along with their homes. They should also consider CCTV and outdoor security lighting.

42. Planning

a) To receive an update

23/501591/FULL Appeal ref: PP/U2235/W/23/3324829

Windy Bottom Sittingbourne Road Detling ME14 3ES

Retrospective change of use of site to contractor depot and erection of new workshop and office buildings, together with removal of unauthorised hardstanding, new hard and soft landscaping and ecological enhancements (resubmission of 22/503709/FULL).

Appeal dismissed

23/505597/FULL Hillside House Pilgrims Way Detling ME14 3EX

Erection of a part single storey part two storey side extension.

Application refused.

b) Lynch Bank Farm

Cllr English reported that following concerns raised, he had met with the Head of Planning and the Chairman of the Planning Committee; and also with Sue King, Head of Enforcement, and she has agreed to attend the April Parish Council meeting.

43. Financial Matters:

a) Finance report

Received and noted.

b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500086	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll fees	30.00	6.00	£36.00
500087	Administration	Expenses			£81.15
500088-9	Staff costs				

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to make the payments; **SECONDED** by Cllr Springett: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c) To consider request from Community Store for a grant

Councillors considered the grant application.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to award a grant of £696.56 to Detling CIC trading as Detling Community Store; **SECONDED** by Cllr Springett: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. The grant money will be used in respect of the remaining loan repayment instalments.

44. Highways

a) To receive an update

Cllr Maclaren said the Council had informed Kent Highways that the A249 was going to be closed when they had scheduled the traffic surveys but were told that the parish would have to wait another year, so the Council agreed for the survey to proceed. There will be another survey and this will highlight the increased volume of traffic when the A249 reopens. Suggested sites for Speed Indicator Devices have been rejected; there are strict criteria. Parking is on the Highways Improvement Plan. The Council has had meetings with KCC Officers to consider different options to tackle issues within the village, including the local works at Ware Street. The work on the drains is nearly complete; the soakaway has been cleared and is being monitored to ensure it is deep enough; the gullies have been cleared; the drains have been cleared at the two junctions down the A249; National Highways with survey the drains on the A249. There is still an issue with flooding in Church Lane and after the bends in Hockers Lane. KCC Highways is exploring options with landowners for drainage ditches or other solutions.

Cllr English thanked Cllr Maclaren for her report and her sterling work.

b) Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group - to receive an update

Cllr Springett reported that the group has met and a spread sheet of issues for all the parishes has been drawn up, there are many issues affecting all parishes and solutions are being sought. Working with other parishes will have a greater effect.

c) To consider a Speed Watch scheme

Cllr Maclaren said the scheme would run independently and the equipment can be borrowed from the Police. A request for volunteers will be published in the newsletter.

45. Open Spaces

a) Monks Meadow and Horish Woods -To receive an update

Cllr English informed members that there will be a meeting regarding potential works proposed by the Nursery.

b) To consider quotation for fencing stakes

Cllr Thompson **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation from Jacksons of £116.20 for twenty fencing stakes.: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c) To consider quotations for play area repairs

Waiting for further quotation.

d) To consider replacement of flagpole

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to purchase a flagpole from NQ Display UK for £59.95: **SECONDED** by Cllr Springett: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

e) To consider quotation for posts

Waiting for response from Kent Highways regard the specification.

46. Princes Way Alley

Cllr English said there was nothing to report and alternative approaches are being considered.

47. Community Resilience

Cllr English said there has been some feedback. The final draft will be drawn up and it will be a robust document.

48. Land issues

Nothing to report.

49. Villager of the Year Award

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the Villager of the Year Award.

Members approved the recipient for the 2024 Villager of the Year Award.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 9 April 2024

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 9 April 2024